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FIA hosts farewell reception for Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das



Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das speaking at the farewell reception, hosted by FIA, July 18

FORDS, NJ (TIP): The Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut in collaboration with the Indian American community, hosted a farewell reception July 18 for Riva Ganguly Das, India's Consul General in New York, at the Royal Albert's Palace in Fords, NJ. *contd on Page 3*

Ram Nath Kovind elected as the 14th President of India

NEW DELHI (TIP): Ram Nath Kovind has won the presidential election after securing over two-thirds of the total electoral college votes. Mr Kovind will be sworn-in as the 14th President of India on July 25. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Ram Nath Kovind for winning the presidential election. PM Modi tweeted: "Congratulations to Shri Ram Nath Kovind Ji on being elected the President of India! Best wishes for a fruitful & inspiring tenure." Flowers and extra security had arrived at the former Bihar governor's home in Delhi long before the official announcement and sweets were passed around at his *contd on Page 32*

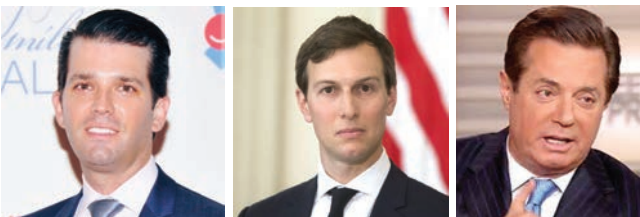


BJP president Amit Shah congratulates Ram Nath Kovind on being elected as the 14th President of India. PM Narendra Modi looks on. Kovind will be sworn-in on July 25 *Photo courtesy PTI*

Trump's son, son-in-law, former campaign manager to appear before US Senate Committee

To answer Lawmakers' questions about the Trump campaign's Russia connection in 2016 Elections

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Donald Trump's son Donald Trump Jr, son-in-law Jared Kushner and former campaign manager Paul Manafort have been asked to appear before US Senate committee on July 26 to answer questions about the campaign's alleged *contd on Page 32*



President Donald Trump's son Donald Trump Jr, son-in-law Jared Kushner and former campaign manager Paul Manafort will appear before US Senate Committee to answer Lawmakers' questions about Trump campaign's Russia connection

Dream Hotel Group Signs New Delhi Location

Dream New Delhi to Feature 187 Keys and Food Hall Concept by Renowned Chef Todd English

NEW YORK CITY, NY (TIP): Renowned hotel brand and management company Dream Hotel Group, on July 17, signed a hotel management agreement with chairman of *contd on Page 32*



Joining to celebrate the signing today were Dream Hotel Group chairman Sant Singh Chatwal, Dream Hotel Group CEO Jay Stein, Todd English, celebrity chef and restaurateur, who will extend his food and beverage partnership with Dream Hotel Group, Sachin J. Joshi, film maker, actor and Chairman of Viiking Ventures; Rabinder Pal Singh, CFO of Dream Hotel Group *Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia*

Independence Day Special Edition

The Indian Panorama invites articles and advertisements for the special edition to mark 70 years of India's Independence. Please email to salujaindra@gmail.com or mail to P.O. Box 190067, S Richmond Hill, NY 11419. For any inquiries, please call 646-247-9458.

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION: AUGUST 2, 2017

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“Thank you for the tremendous support I got from you”, said Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das in her farewell to Community

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The Indian Consulate in New York organized an official farewell for outgoing Consul General Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das on July 19th at the Consulate Ball Room in New York. The event was attended by a large number of people from all walks of life and prominent community leaders. Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin, Permanent Representative of India at the UN, Consuls General of Japan and Bangladesh, Assemblymen David Weprin and Raj Mukherji were among the dignitaries.

In her brief address, Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das, who will be taking over as Director General of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), said that she is happy for her new role but will miss New York and the community. "I want to thank you all for the tremendous support I got from you", she said.

In his address Raj Mukherji,



With Assemblymen David Weprin and Raj Mukherji (extreme left) by her side, Ambassador Das warmly thanked the gathering for their support to her
Photo / Paras Chettri

Assemblyman in the New Jersey State Legislature who represents the 33rd Legislative District, praised Ms Das for her 'humbleness' and talked about many of her successful initiatives, including conversion of PIO cards. "It was a pleasure and privilege to work with her. Now that she is going back to Delhi, it's good for India but tremendous loss for us", said the Bengali Assemblyman about the First Bengali Consul General of New York.

Assemblymen David Weprin, a Democratic member of the New York State Assembly, representing District 24 in Queens since 2010, spoke about the many accomplishments of Ambassador Das. "In a very short period of time, she made a big impact", said Weprin.

India's current Ambassador to Peru Sandeep Chakravorty, who has been appointed as the new CG, will be taking over charge on August 3rd.

NYS Resolution on 100th Anniversary of Abolition of Indian Indentureship presented to Consul General Riva Ganguly Das



IDC members Harbachan Singh and Santram Dukhbanjan, NYS Assemblyman David Weprin, CG Amb Riva Das, IDC President Ashook Ramsaran, and Harpreet Toor

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): New York State Assemblyman David Weprin, accompanied by Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), presented to Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das the NYS Resolution #701 adopted by NYS Legislature on June 21, 2017 in recognition of the March 3, 2017 observance of the New York Indian Consulate's recognition of 100th Anniversary of the abolition of Indian Indentureship. The presentation took place on Wednesday July 19, 2017 at the Indian Consulate in New York.

Vegetarian Vision Kick off for annual Convention emphasized importance of Vegetarianism



Lighting of Lamp - (L to R): Mark Becker, Mike Desai, Vinod Shah, Kenny Desai, H R Shah, Dr. Navin Mehta, H K Shah, Chandra Mehta, Malti Shah, Naveen Shah, Animesh Goenka, Flora Parikh

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The press conference and the kick off ceremony for the annual convention of the Vegetarian Vision, being held on September 9 and 10, was held at the Indian Consulate, on July 14th, 2017. The chairman and founder H K Shah narrated the beginning of the organization and presented a vision for the future.

Chandra Mehta, President of Vegetarian Vision, spoke about the benefits of plant based diets on human health and the effects on planet earth's environment and the global warming.

She appealed to the community to come and join in the noble cause to make the convention, being held on September 9 and 10, successful.

On the occasion, a power point presentation about the proposed convention was also made.

A question answer session followed and the Vegetarian Vision officials emphasized importance of vegetarianism.



Organizers

FIA hosts farewell reception for Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das



Presenting a plaque to India's Consul General in New York, Riva Ganguly Das (center left)



A photo album was presented by FIA to Ambassador Das on the occasion

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Ambassador Das, who assumed charge in New York in March 2016, was recently named Director General of Indian Council for Cultural Relations by the Government of India, and is scheduled to leave for New Delhi later this week.

The event, attended by more than 250 members of the Indian American community in New York and New Jersey, was hosted by FIA and sponsored by H R Shah, Dr Sudhir Parikh, Albert Jasani, AAPI (American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin), Drs Sanjay and Kavita Gupta, TV9, Anil Bansal, The Indian Panorama, Malini Shah and FOKANA (Federation of Kerala Associations in North America).

Many speakers, including FIA chairman Ramesh Patel and president Andy Bhatia, H R Shah, chairman of TV Asia, Anil Bansal, chairman of Indus American Bank, and Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, President of Indo-American

Press Club recounted how Ambassador Das had steadfastly interacted with the Indian American community. Speakers also pointed out that Ambassador Das was instrumental in co-sponsoring the International Yoga Day celebrations this year with the New York City Public Advocate's Office and the Parks Department. Despite her short stint in New York, Ambassador Das was also credited with engaging several US Congressmen and Senators as well as New York city elected officials.

"When we had a welcome dinner for you over a year ago, there were more than 500 people and at your farewell dinner today we have much less," said Andy Bhatia. "It is because many are sad to see you leave so soon and have decided not to be here and have you see them in tears."

FIA chairman Ramesh Patel was exuberant yet emotional while introducing Ambassador Das at the event. "

"You have been very helpful and gracious to the cause of FIA and India Day Parade and we wish you all the best," said Patel.

Ambassador Das joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1986. A post-graduate in political science from Delhi University, Das was a lecturer at Delhi University before joining the Indian Foreign Service. Following her first foreign posting in Spain, Das has had stints in Nepal, Bangladesh, China, The Hague and Romania. In her remarks, Ambassador Das lauded the FIA in "showcasing Indian culture to mainstream communities in New York, aiding in better understanding of Indian immigrants." She pointed out that it was imperative a direct channel of communication always existed between the Indian Diaspora and the Indian Consulate in New York. "I have always tried to encourage fortnightly meetings between the Indian Consulate and Indian organizations, both cultural and corporate,

to be able to understand the concerns of the Diaspora."

Among FIA partner organizations represented at the event included, FOKANA (Federation of Kerala Associations in North America), TANA (Telugu Association of North America), Haryana Global Chamber of Commerce, Asian Indian Chamber of Commerce and AAPI (American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin), BAJANA (Bihar-Jharkhand Association of North America).

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

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

Season of Parades arrives in Tri-State Area

NEW YORK (TIP): It's a season of parades to mark India's Independence. India won independence, on August 15, 1947 from the British colonial rule, after an almost 100 year's grim struggle for independence.

The day of independence is of great significance in the life of the Indian nation. Whereas the day is celebrated with enthusiasm all over India, the Indian Diaspora in various countries across the world celebrate the day, as they do their social, religious and cultural events.

The Tri-States of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut have a sizable population of people of Indian origin. Their love of India-their country of origin is deeply reflected in their festivities on various occasions, including Independence Day of India.

Come August, and you have a number of organizations preparing to celebrate India's Independence Day. In fact, the month of August is a season of parades to mark India's Independence.

In the Tri-State area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, the FIA parade is the oldest. The Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) of the tri-state area is one of the largest esteemed umbrella organizations in the Indian community. Established in the year 1970, the FIA has blossomed into a commendable organization that has become an effective mouthpiece and mobilizer for the community. Since 1981, the annual India Day Parade is held in New York City. On each Sunday after August 15, since 1981, it has hosted the India Day Parade. The underlying theme of the parade each year is showcasing Indian culture to mainstream communities in New York, aiding in better understanding of immigrants.



The parade begins on East 38th Street and continues down Madison Ave until it reaches 28th Street. At the review stand on 28th Street, the grand marshal and various celebrities greet onlookers. Throughout the parade, participants find themselves surrounded by the orange, white and green colors of the Indian flag. They can enjoy Indian food, merchandise booths, live dancing and music present at the Parade. After the parade is over, various cultural organizations and dance schools participate in program on 23rd Street and Madison Avenue until 6PM.

The 37th Annual India Day Parade on August 20, 2017 will begin at noon on 38th Street and Madison Avenue and end at 26th Street. Food court and sponsor booths will be on 26th Street, between Park and Madison Avenues while the cultural programs will continue through 6 pm on Madison Avenue, between 24th and 26th Streets.

Rana Daggubati and Tamannaah Bhatia,



both stars of the recent massive Bollywood hit "Baahubali 2: The Conclusion," had confirmed their participation in India Day Parade this year. In a first, the Indian Consulate is sponsoring a float this year to showcase India's Northeast, its different cultures, tea gardens and investment opportunities. As in earlier years, a massive crowd is expected to converge on the India Day Parade, which organizers claim is the largest such event outside of India's celebration of the country's independence.

The second major one is IBA New Jersey Parade. For nearly two decades, the Indian Business Association (IBA) has served the New Jersey Indo-American community. IBA has garnered international fame as the host of the Annual New Jersey India Day Parade. Over 35,000 people attend every year and over 100 organizations throughout New Jersey participate in this historic event. It begins on Oak Tree Road in the township and ends in the Iselin section of Woodbridge. The 13th IBA



parade will be held on Aug 13th from 2-7 pm. From 2004 through 2010, there was a single parade along Oak Tree Road, starting at Grove Street and ending near Route 27 in Woodbridge.

In 2012 India Day New Jersey split into 2 parades after dispute between Woodbridge and Edison groups. For six years, there was just one parade, organized by IBA, which obtained permits in both townships. But days after the 2010 India Day Parade, the Oak Tree Business Association swooped in and got a permit to have a parade the following year in Edison. In 2011 two parades were planned but one didn't happen due to rain.

The youngest parade is the Floral Park - Hillside parade in Queens. Last year, The Floral Park-Bellerose Indian Merchants Association (F-BIMA) hosted a grand festive parade in Bellerose to mark the 70th Anniversary of India's Independence. This year the parade will be held on August 12th. It will start at 2 pm from 263th Street to 236th Street on Hillside Avenue in Queens.

Long Island's India Day Parade in Hicksville was also very popular. The parade came into existence 6 years ago when some of the leading members came forward. But the Hicksville parade is not being organized this year.

Indian American Organization HAF Helps Serve Pakistani Refugees with Medical Services



The refugees suffer from a wide range of physical and mental health conditions

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Hindu America Foundation (HAF) in partnership with the Sindhi Alliance, recently provide critical medical services to Pakistani Hindu refugees living in makeshift settlements and camps in Jodhpur, India. HAF raised \$17,600, which is being disbursed as an ongoing grant to the Universal Just Action Society (UJAS), the primary non-governmental organization working with Pakistani Hindu refugees in Jodhpur.

So far, \$8,533 has been used to help the refugees through the following initiatives:

- Engaged with government stakeholders and assisted 900 refugees complete registration for migrant health cards to facilitate admission into health facilities that provide services beyond the scope of the health clinic
- Established and staffed a health clinic in Jodhpur; hosted several medical camps in settlements; and provided medical consultations, medicinal support, and vaccinations
- Held hygiene awareness and health education seminars and distributed health/hygiene education materials
- Created community health and hygiene committees in three refugee settlements to empower refugees to take initiatives to improve community health

The refugees suffer from a wide range of physical and mental health conditions, such as situational depression, anxiety, psychosomatic disorders, high incidence of respiratory disease, hypertension, malnutrition and lifestyle disorders, and infectious diseases. Women, children, and elderly refugees, in particular, remain vulnerable to various health risks and face psycho-social trauma from their experience of suffering religious persecution and fleeing their homes. Many of the refugees avoid going to healthcare facilities due to their illiteracy and lack of health awareness, as well as an absence of civil and legal documents required to access basic facilities. They also fear harassment if they disclose that they are Pakistani nationals.

Ms. Kaalu, a 67-year old woman that fled Pakistan and is now living in a refugee settlement in Aaganwa village in Jodhpur, for instance, is one of many refugees that has received assistance through this project.

Ms. Kaalu and her family, including her husband, son, daughter-in-law, grandson, and granddaughter, are struggling to survive economically and are dealing with several health issues. She had been experiencing chest pain for at least a month, but due to a lack of health education and awareness and an inability to access a medical facility, she was unable to receive adequate care for her condition. She indicated that she avoided going to government hospitals out of fear that she would be turned away as a refugee without proper identity documents and because of her poor family economic conditions.

When UJAS organized a health camp at her settlement, she was identified as a priority patient in critical health condition and was seen by a first aid doctor and the UJAS team helped facilitate her access to Mahatma Gandhi Hospital, Jodhpur. Ms. Kaalu is now hopeful that she will be able to receive proper treatment to alleviate her critical health conditions and live a happy and healthy life again.

Indian Americans among top investors in residential property in US

MUMBAI (TIP): A Times of India report published July 21 says that the pall of gloom owing to protectionist policies has not kept Indians residing in the US from investing in real estate. By purchasing residential property worth \$7.8 billion during the 12-month period ending March 2017, Indians emerged as the fifth largest investors in real estate in the US. Backed by mortgage finance, these properties were largely acquired for use as primary residence or for use by a child studying in the US.

Chinese nationals were the biggest buyers, purchasing residential property worth \$31.7 billion in the same period. They were followed by the Canadians, British, Mexicans and, lastly, Indians.

Between April 2015 and March 2016, Indians had invested \$6.1 billion and occupied third place on the list of biggest buyers. However, a surge of investments from other nationalities resulted in Indians slipping to fifth position in 2016-17.

The bulk of buyers from China, India, and Mexico were working and residing in the US, while most buyers from Canada and the UK were non-resident buyers, adds the report, "2017- Profile of international activity in US residential real estate" released recently by the National Association of Realtors (NAR).

More than a third of the Chinese buyers purchased residential property in California. Compared to the other



major foreign buyers, Indians were not as concentrated in any state in the US and the location of their jobs largely determined their purchase. While California, New Jersey, Texas, Massachusetts, and Kentucky were top destinations, more than two in five Indian buyers purchased in another state.

In aggregate, foreign buyers purchased \$153 billion of residential property in US between April 2016 and March 2017, which is a 49% jump from the figure of the corresponding previous period of \$102.6 billion. In terms of number of units, foreign buyers purchased 2.84 lakh residential properties in US in April 2016-March 2017, up 32% from the previous period's figure of 2.14 lakh properties.

On an average, foreign buyers paid \$536,852 for their properties, 12% more than the average price during the previous 12-month period. The average purchase price of properties bought by Indians was \$522,440.

"The political and economic

uncertainty both here and abroad did not deter foreigners from exponentially ramping up their purchases of US property over the past year," said Lawrence Yun, NAR's chief economist. "While the strengthening of the US dollar in relation to other currencies and steadfast home-price growth made buying a home more expensive in many areas, foreigners increasingly acted on their beliefs that the US is a safe and secure place to live, work and invest," he added.

While a stronger dollar makes it more expensive to purchase US property, fears of a further weakening of a local currency against the dollar prompts some foreign buyers to accelerate their purchase.

Referring to the value of the Indian rupee, the report says it depreciated modestly (by 2%) relative to the dollar over the entire survey period. However, post-demonetization in November 2016, which caused a severe liquidity squeeze, the rupee reversed course and began to appreciate.

From November 2016 to March 2017 (the end of the survey period), the rupee had appreciated nearly 3% against the dollar. Data from June 2017 shows that the rupee had strengthened nearly 5% against the dollar from November 2016, suggesting that terms could improve for Indian buyers of US real estate next year. **(Source: TOI)**

Indian Origin Man Sentenced for Citizenship Fraud

NEW YORK (TIP): An Indian American Gurpreet Singh (37) of Watertown, New York, was sentenced on July 14 in federal court in Syracuse to three months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release, following a jury trial in January where he was convicted of knowingly obtaining U.S. citizenship through unlawful naturalization, announced Acting United States Attorney Grant C. Jaquith and James C. Spero, Special Agent in Charge, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Buffalo, New York.

Because of this conviction, Singh's U.S. citizenship will be revoked by law.

The trial evidence showed that Singh, who is originally from India, repeatedly affirmed to United States Citizenship and Immigration (USCIS) authorities that he had not committed any crimes for which he was not arrested. Immigration authorities later learned that the defendant sexually abused a 9-year-old child during the same time-period he was applying for U.S. citizenship. Evidence presented at trial demonstrated that Singh deliberately failed to report his criminal activity to USCIS because he knew that USCIS would not have approved his naturalization application if the agency had known about his crimes. Singh pled guilty in New York state court to a single count of sexual abuse of a minor child, after he had become a naturalized U.S. citizen. Singh was arrested by the City of Watertown (New York) Police Department the day after his naturalization ceremony in April 2012.

While on supervised release following his prison term, Singh will be required to register as a sex offender and will be prohibited from having direct contact with children under the age of 18 (other than his own) and from going to places where children under 18 are likely to congregate, such as parks, libraries, and schools, without prior permission of a probation officer.



Fourteen Indian Americans to receive M&A Emerging Leaders Awards

NEW YORK (TIP): Fourteen Indian Americans will receive this year's M&A Advisor Emerging Leaders Awards. They are - Weil Goshal & Manager LLP. Partner Sachin Kohli, Deloitte Consulting LLP Senior Manager Karthik Krishnamurthy, Kaley Jessen PC LLD Shareholder Anshu Pasricha, Raymond James Managing Director Sanjay Patel, Berkery Noyes Managing Director Vineet Asthana, Simanor LLC. Senior Director Sri Geedipali, SSG Capital Advisors Director Neil Gupta, Ernst & Young LLP partner Raghav Rao, PJT Partners Managing Director Ketan Shah, Deloitte Consulting Senior Manager Simon Singh and Kramer, Levin Naftalis & Frankel Special Counsel Anupama Yerramali, Ballard Spahr Senior Associate Amit Kakkar, Ernst & Young LLP. Partner Sid Khosla.

The M&A Advisor, renowned globally for its recognition and presentation of leading M&A, financing and turnaround professionals, created this recognition awards program to promote mentorship and professional development amongst the emerging leaders of the industry.

"The Annual M&A Advisor Emerging Leaders Awards was born as the 40 Under 40 Awards in the United States in 2010 to recognize and celebrate the achievements of young M&A, Financing and turnaround professionals who had reached a significant level of success and made a notable contribution to their industry and community. With the expansion of the Emerging Leaders program to the United Kingdom, and Europe in 2016, the 2017 US award winners join a truly global network of outstanding young professionals", said David Fergusson, President and Co CEO of The M&A Advisor.

The 2017 Award Winners have been chosen from a pool of prominent nominees for their notable accomplishments in business and in service to the community. Evaluation and selection of the nominees was completed by an independent judging panel, Added Fergusson.

"It is our belief that the Emerging Leader Award winners will continue to have a significant effect on the advancement of our industry.

Through the support of business, philanthropic, academic and personal development experts, we are establishing a connected "leadership community" with the mandate to empower these successful young professionals to improve the life experiences of others through their career." On Tuesday, September 19th, The M&A Advisor will host a black tie Awards Gala at the New York Athletic Club in Manhattan to introduce the Emerging Leaders Award Winners to the business community and celebrate their achievements.

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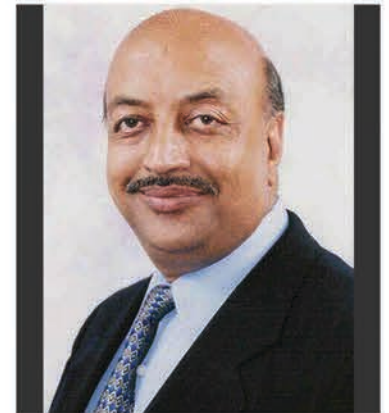
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County Executive Candidate Laura Curran Interviewed by Indian American Voters Forum

MINEOLA, NY (TIP): Indian American Voters Forum made history when its panel consisting of prominent community leaders interviewed Laura Curran, the Democratic Party nominee for Nassau County Executive, with more such interviews in the pipeline. The purpose of the prescreening session was to determine the candidate's election platform, experience, and electability, as well as her understanding of the issues and concerns of the Indian community.

The interview was moderated by Varinder Bhalla, chairman of the Indian American Voters Forum with a panel consisting of Dr. Ajay Lodha, former President of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, Dr. Sunil Mehra, former President of AAPIQLI and India Association of Long Island (IALI), Ratna Bhalla, former Deputy Commissioner of Nassau County, Gunjan Rastogi, Vice President of IALI, Sunil Modi, former President AIA NY Chapter, Beena Kothari, former President IALI, and Vijay Verma, a philanthropist and entrepreneur.

"In view of recent corruption scandals in Nassau County and Oyster Bay, what specific steps will you take to ensure there is transparency and accountability in your administration; and corruption is rooted out in our government?" asked Dr. Lodha.

Curran's response: "Launching a new era of transparency, I will appoint an independent inspector general to oversee all contracts; every county check written to a vendor will be posted online. I plan to hire the best and the brightest to work in our government and all hiring decisions will be made based on what you know and not on who you know."

"NIFA was brought in the year 2000, temporarily to oversee the County's finances and put its fiscal condition in order. Seventeen years later, NIFA is still there with no improvement in the situation. What is your approach to solve the ongoing fiscal problems of Nassau County?", Dr. Mehra enquired.



Gunjan Rastogi, Vice President IALI; Sunil Modi, former President AIA NY; Varinder Bhalla, Chairman, I Indian American Voters Forum; Dr. Ajay Lodha, former President AAPI; Laura Curran; Ratna Bhalla; Dr. Sunil Mehra, former President of IALI & AAPIQLI; Beena Kothari, former President IALI; Vijay Verma, Successful Entrepreneur.

Curran, a former trustee of Baldwin school board, claims she has her plan. "At the governmental level, we will make our best efforts to grow the tax base, attract businesses to Nassau County and develop affordable housing so our young professionals don't leave. We will also look at the entire budget line by line."

"All of us like to bet on a winning horse. What are your chances of winning the primary against George Maragos in September and then winning against Jack Martins in the general election?", asked Bhalla. Curran declared, "I am the official nominee of the Democratic Party and have been endorsed by Congressman Tom Suozzi, Congresswoman Kathleen Rice and former Congressman Steve Israel, as well as Assemblyman Charles Lavine and State

Senators Todd Kaminsky and John Brooks. I also have the support of the Working Families Party and several Labor Unions." As per reports filed with New York State Board of elections, Curran raised nearly three quarters of a million dollars compared to less than \$3,500 raised by her opponent George Maragos.

Responding to Gunjan Rastogi's question about appointment of Indian Americans in her administration, Curran assured the panel that all high level appointments will be merit based and not political and serious consideration will be given to qualified Indian Americans. She also assured the panel that she would take steps for increased contracting opportunities for minority businesses.

Curran, a second-term legislator from Baldwin, submitted 27,304 signed petitions, believed to be the most ever submitted by a Democratic county executive candidate. The Democratic nominee also submitted petitions to run on the Working Families and Women's Equality lines. Her opponent George Maragos, a Republican turned Democrat who is serving his second term as comptroller, submitted 20,241 petitions. The winner of the September primary will face former state Senator and Republican nominee Jack Martins in November.

Curran patiently answered tough questions on several issues - including high property taxes and hate crimes - to the satisfaction of the interview panel.

Indian American Voters Forum is a bipartisan committee of community activists, not beholden to any political party. Founded in 2003, the Forum has conducted debates among candidates running in the local elections, and has also been instrumental in recruiting several congressional leaders to join India Caucus in US Congress.

For more information about this news release, please contact Varinder K. Bhalla at VarinderBhalla@gmail.com or 516.680.8037.

Ria Money Transfer adds Tens of Thousands of Locations to Indian Network

To Serve World's Largest Diaspora Group

o Ria launches partnerships with three of India's leading cash remittance payout agents

o Customers in India gain access to tens of thousands of new locations to receive remittances from friends and family in the United States

o Partnerships provide Ria's customers with a high-quality cash payout network in the top remittance receiving country in the world



NEW YORK (TIP): Ria Money Transfer ("Ria") the third largest money transfer company in the world and subsidiary of Euronet Worldwide, Inc. (NASDAQ: EFFT) has signed direct partnership agreements with three of India's leading cash remittance payout agents, Paul Merchants Limited, Weizmann Forex Limited and Transcorp International Limited.

Ria's new principal agents are well-recognized in India and each have more than 15 years' experience in the money transfer sector. With the addition of these agents, Ria will upgrade its cash payout network during the next 12 months by adding tens of thousands of high-quality retail and non-banking financial company (NBFC) locations across India. The robust and ubiquitous payout network will provide Ria with increased brand recognition, while providing tremendous convenience and accessibility for beneficiaries to easily receive cash remittances.

Speaking at a press event in New York, Juan Bianchi, CEO & President of Ria Money Transfer, said: "Indians make up the largest diaspora group globally and India is still the top receiving market for family remittances, receiving \$62.7 billion in 2016.

"Today, Ria has one of the best services in the United States to send money to India. Millions of households are largely dependent on these transfers for family maintenance, savings and investment. We are proud to be the link that connects our customers in the US to their loved ones in rural and urban centers across India. We welcome our new partners to the Ria family."

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The 2017 South Asian Spelling Bee Bay Area & Dallas winners announced

NEW JERSEY (TIP): Continuing its quest for the best speller in the community, the 2017 South Asian Spelling Bee (www.SouthAsianSpellingBee.com) traveled to California last week and Texas this past weekend with stops in the Bay Area and Dallas.

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 Bay Area Regional, Rutvik Gandhasri (13) of San Jose, California was the regional champ, Rishik Gandhasri (11) of San Jose, California, was the first runner up, and Emaad Sohail (12) of Bakersfield, California, was second runner up.

At a hotly contested Bee in Dallas, Pranav Chemudupaty (13) from Pearland, Texas bagged the regional champ, and for the first time in the South Asian Spelling Bee history Pavani Chittimsetty (11) from Bentonville, Arkansas and Abhijay Kodali (10) from Highland Village, Texas were declared co-first runner-ups.

The initiative is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year and is open to children of South Asian descent up to 14 years of age. The aim is to give South Asian children a chance to test their spelling skills in their core peer group while also learning crucial life skills that contribute to the overall development of the speller.

Organized by Touchdown Media Inc., the South Asian Spelling Bee was held in 8 locations across the United States. Apart from Bay Area, and Dallas regional centers include Chicago, Seattle, Washington, D.C. Metro, Charlotte, Boston, and New Jersey. 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 again, 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



Bay Area. Rahul Walia, Founder of South Asian Spelling Bee, Emaad Sohail (Second Runner Up), Rutvik Gandhasri (Regional Champion), Rishik Gandhasri (First Runner Up).



Dallas. Pavani Chittimsetty (First Runner Up), Abhijay Kodali (First Runner Up), Pranav Chemudupaty (Regional Champion), and Rahul Walia Founder of South Asian Spelling Bee.

Bee 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.

contd on Page 32

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GUEST COMMENT

The new President, Ram Nath Kovind

As India's 14th President, Ram Nath Kovind will be expected to play the important role of safeguarding the spirit of the Constitution and the foundations of our parliamentary democracy. Unlike his immediate predecessor Pranab Mukherjee, Mr. Kovind moves into Rashtrapati Bhavan after a stint in a Raj Bhavan. Arguably, it is a Raj Bhavan, and not the office of the Vice-President, that is the best preparatory ground for the non-ceremonial duties of the President, particularly those that may involve invoking the office's discretionary power. After general elections that produced hung Lok Sabhas, former Presidents R. Venkataraman, Shankar Dayal Sharma and K.R. Narayanan adopted different procedures to decide who would have the first shot at forming the government. Venkataraman and Sharma invited the leader of the single largest party, with varying results. While Rajiv Gandhi declined Venkataraman's invitation in 1989, A.B. Vajpayee accepted Sharma's invitation in 1996, only to see his government last no more than 13 days. In 1998, Narayanan ascertained the support Mr. Vajpayee had before calling him to form the government. Like these predecessors, Mr. Kovind may be involved in situations with no set precedent. Also, while the use and abuse of Article 356, and the imposition of President's Rule, are now monitored closely by the higher courts, as President he will necessarily have to use his own discretion should the Union Cabinet send such a recommendation. On contentious pieces of legislation, he can be extremely influential when he counsels caution, using his moral authority and the weight of his public office.

Mr. Kovind secured an impressive victory, receiving more than the number of votes pledged to him, signifying acceptance levels that go beyond the NDA's political spectrum. Once the names of the candidates for the election were known, much of the interest centered on the support he would garner from Opposition parties not affiliated to the Congress. That he did win substantially more votes vindicates the faith the BJP's leadership placed on his candidature. To the BJP's credit, it did not choose a dyed-in-saffron member of the Sangh Parivar. Mr. Kovind's candidature may have been a strategic political compromise. On the one hand, it ensured the wider support that the BJP wanted and, on the other, it wasn't entirely politically neutral, not enough anyway to allow the Congress or the Left parties the satisfaction of a consensus candidate. He is a Dalit, and his nomination was intended by the BJP to signal a socially inclusive agenda. But as President, Mr. Kovind will have to rise above political and social identities. He will be called upon to apply his mind and distinguish between settled conventions and questionable precedents in arriving at decisions. The office of the President was not conceived as merely a ceremonial post. The discretionary powers that he has demand a delicate balance without slipping into being either an unthinking rubber stamp or an overzealous interventionist. *(The Hindu)*

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AS I SEE IT

Bluster as foreign policy: Hostility has left neighbors unmoved



By Sandeep Dikshit

An unnamed US navy top brass sought to enlighten us about the end game behind the recent week-long excitement in the waters of the Bay of Bengal involving navies of the US, India and Japan. "They [China] will know that we are standing together and that it is better to stand together," he said at the end of the war-like maneuvers involving, as breathless defense correspondents put it, three aircraft carriers for the first time.

Like all naval exercises this comes with a name, this one is called the Malabar. It began in 1992 as India began reaching out to the other side of the Cold War divide and has now assumed proportions that are the interest of every sea-faring nation in the world because it involves Japan, India and the US with a very interested onlooker in Australia, all of whom disagree with Beijing's modus operandi of reworking the power equations in the region.

Astute as they are, the Chinese would have noticed that the famed US aircraft carrier Nimitz came for the exercises with a leaner complement of accompanying warships. The Japanese contributed two warships. More than war-fighting machines, they remain symbols of Shinzo Abe's overturning of Japan's post World War law forbidding its participation in international conflicts. Australia, which was kept out of the Malabar exercises, is still reorienting its navy for a blue water role.

Clearly, the comforting words of the American naval officer and the temporary presence of a number of warships in the Bay of Bengal can have no impact on the border standoff on the India-China-Bhutan tri-junction or dampen the Sino-Pakistani tango where Beijing has promised to do the heavy lifting for a massive infrastructure buildup that straddles Indian Kashmir.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently jet-setted to the US, Russia, Spain, France and Germany, all with a thriving military-industrial complex. Very few have responded to his call to manufacture military hardware on Indian soil, partly because most would not wish to rework their equations with China.

The belligerent realists who have come to dominate the Indian foreign policy may draw comfort from the Donald Trump's maiden defense budget that has a few lines about India. So far India has largely bought surveillance and detection equipment from the US while going slow on offensive platforms like fighters, tanks and submarines.

Both sides have their reasons. The US had abruptly suspended the Malabar exercises after India conducted the nuclear tests in 1998. As part of US sanctions at that time, Pentagon even ordered the British to seize Indian Navy's helicopters that had come for repairs because they had American

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Rebonding: Joint naval exercises are symbolic of changing equations

parts. India's strategic planner learnt their lessons. Just like they were left stranded after the US withdrew military assistance in 1965 (and unwittingly left a vacuum filled by the Soviet Union) after India had clashed with Pakistan, they realized military trade with the US can be halted anytime if it conflicts with American foreign objectives.

The proximity brought about by the foreign policies of successive Indian administrations has caused those apprehensions to recede. There is even talk of the US transferring its F-16 manufacturing facility to India. But the US will not easily offer any of the top-end offensive military platforms without a demonstrative expression of strategic closeness.

This could be tactical such as positioning Indian armed forces in Afghanistan. But to get into the real meat of the US arms industry, this is inadequate. Even countries in a client-patronage relationship with the US like Pakistan have been let down on crucial occasions (Kargil War) or rewarded for their occasional usefulness with a few military toys that are grossly inadequate for a full-fledged war.

The US would ideally like to sink a long strategic hook into India that makes the alliance irreversible. One element - signing of three military agreements - has been on the table since the Manmohan Singh-AK Antony era. The duo withstood immense American pressure to sign these agreements because that would have meant an irreversible entry into critical defense systems that countries with independent foreign policies try to prevent.

The Modi government has succumbed to the easiest of the three military agreements. But even its complexities have meant that the two sides could not operationalize the pact for the Malabar exercises. The signing of the other two pacts will certainly cause the Russians to turn lukewarm in supplying top-end military hardware to

India.

With neither a credible sea denial strategy in hand or adequate military platforms to deter China, it was inevitable that the bluster in foreign policy would have a short shelf life. The Army Chief made a show of muscularity by dashing to Sikkim when the faceoff with the Chinese began. Three weeks later, he has reverted to expiating on Kashmir.

This approach has brought negative returns with Pakistan as well. High on Chinese backing, utility for the Arabs and Russian mending of fences, Islamabad has little appetite for dialogue on New Delhi's terms. The attempt to square Pakistan's meddling in Kashmir with reciprocal interference in Balochistan has suffered a massive blowback with the arrest of the former Indian Naval officer. Nepal too is not looking too good and India has been left with too few diplomatic tools to turn the situation around. The antipathy with China could have been best avoided when Nepal was looking to balance India's testiness with approaches to Beijing.

This cul de sac may have persuaded Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar to complain that the Dokalam military standoff between India and China has blown out of proportion due to "supra-nationalism" - beyond the authority of one national government. Apart from the usual suspects and slogans - boycott of Chinese manufactured goods, annexure of Kailash Mansarovar - the Foreign Secretary may also be hinting at the wind being provided to the sails of hyper-nationalists by foreign strategic experts with the single point agenda of showing up China poorly.

India has been hedging against Chinese dominance for nearly two decades. But its policy makers eschewed bluster towards China in favor of painstaking incremental diplomatic dexterity. The three years of belligerence may have turned the clock back.

After globalization's promise



By Pulapre
Balakrishnan

'Hyperglobalist' has been used to describe the dramatic increase in international trade witnessed for about a decade and a half from the early 1990s up to the global financial crisis of 2008. The imagery intended is one of an increasing connectedness among nations leading to a virtuous cycle of economic expansion.

By a trait common to every generation, we tend to assume that ours is somehow unique, in this case with respect to globalization. However, if we are to take the long view, we would find that this is no more than a conceit. Starting sometime in the last quarter of the 19th century, for close to 50 years, the world saw an expansion in trade that was actually as great or even greater than during the recently concluded phase. Then had also occurred an unprecedented movement of capital and of people. British capital flowed into building the railways across the world, immigrants moved from Europe to the United States and Asian labor was moved to the sites of deployment of western capital.

End of a phase

So, the facts are that the world has seen the waxing and waning of global traffic in goods, capital and people. To be precise, the phase of high trade starting 1870 came to an end with the First World War and was to revive, slowly, only after the Second. Then, following the collapse of East European communism in the early 1990s, there was a resurgence in global trade. Now even this phase has somewhat abruptly ended with the global financial crisis.

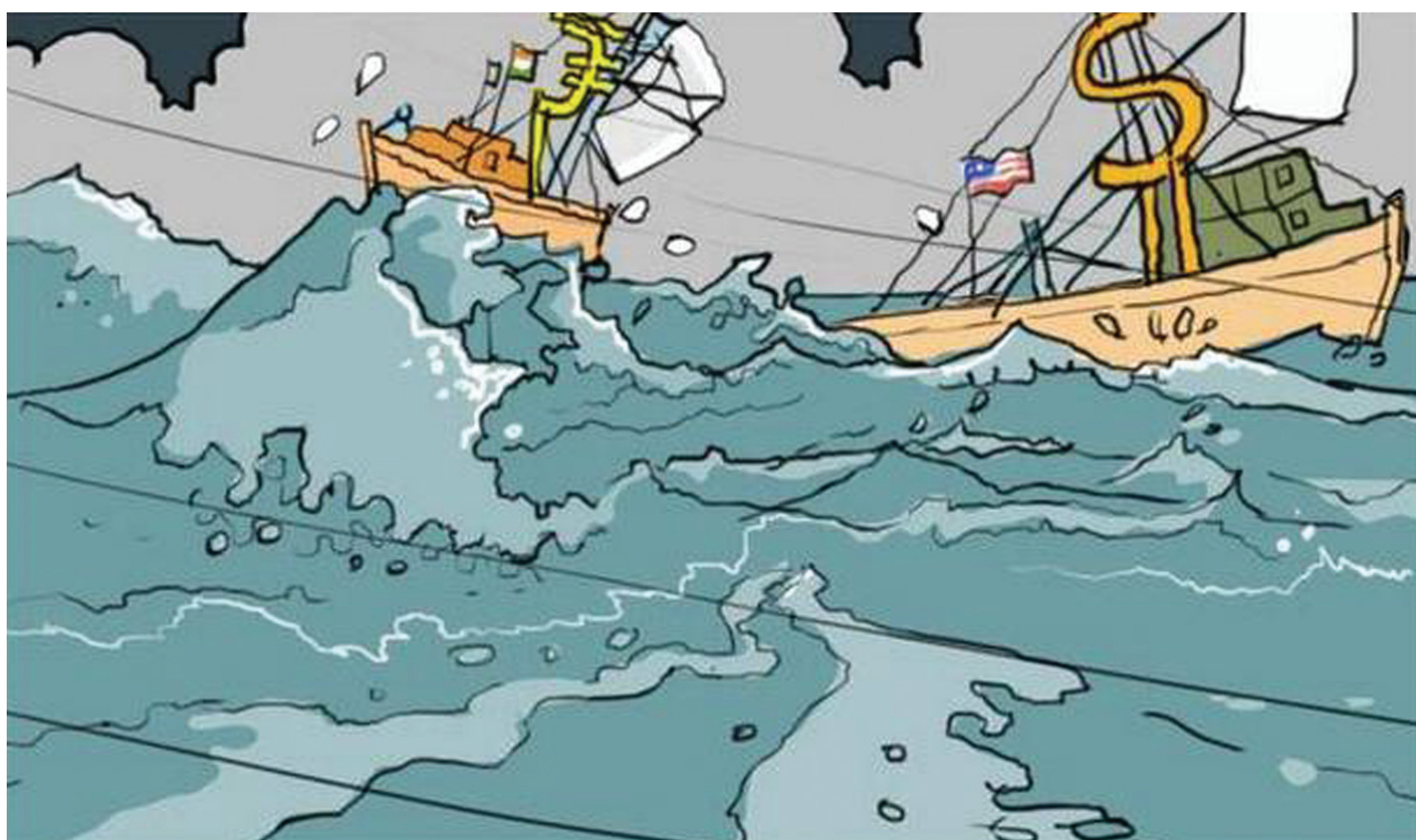
Economists who study trade flows have gone to the extent of claiming that hyperglobalisation was a one-time event unlikely to be repeated. Though some may hold that we ought to shun economists offering predictions with as much diligence as we should beware of enemies bearing gifts, it may pay us to heed their prognosis, for were it to be true, it has implications for economic possibilities in India. Note that even if vigor were to return to the global economy 25 years from now, that would still account for a significant chunk of the working life of an Indian, for which period alternative economic opportunities would have to be found.

Role of technology

What underlies the skepticism expressed regarding a revival of global trade? The view is based on the observation that especially 19th century globalization was underpinned by technological advances that facilitated trade. The advent of the telegraph is alluded to along with the invention of the internal combustion engine. The former enabled the communications infrastructure intrinsic to trade and the latter enabled the fast, reliable and cheap transportation of goods across seas. These advances, we are told, dwarf anything since, including the Internet, in terms of their capacity to expand trade. And, none is foreseen in the immediate future.

This account of how advances in technology fueled trade is of undoubted relevance but remains partial in that it leaves out the role of the growth in demand for these technologies. It was, after all, the growing market for British goods as Indian manufacturing was dislodged following military conquest and as British capital

Recognizing the diminished tempo of globalization, India's economic policymakers must address the growth of the home market, which is the demand for goods and services emanating from within the country. The immediate points of action and the appropriate instruments can be identified without much strain on our ingenuity. In the short run or the present, when the global economy is sluggish, only domestic investment can move demand", says the author.



flowed into the laying of a rail network in parts of Latin America and Africa that provided the demand for development of cheaper communication and transportation technology. Therefore, it may as well be said that trade expanded as the demand for goods grew. However, it is yet true that when global demand expands, countries can exploit the demand route to grow their economies. This was the great promise of globalization held out to the developing countries in the 1990s. Now, what does all this have to do with us in India today? A great deal, actually.

The slowdown and India

If the world economy is set to grow slowly for the foreseeable future, a premise of much of the economic policy in India since 1991 would have to be replaced. It had been assumed then that globalization was here to stay and India had only to hitch onto its current to ride to prosperity. This India has even successfully done in phases since. Now, however, we need to recognize that the game may have changed substantially - even if not irrevocably, as the experts claim. The shift that has taken place is visible most in the IT industry. Quarterly growth only inches forward there and insecurity grips its particularly young workforce. In retrospect, we can see the hollowness of the boast that had made the rounds a decade ago that India need not bother with manufacturing when it could leapfrog into a service economy led by IT exports. Now, "bricks and mortar" is no longer something to be spurned and soiling our hands may be part of the business of

earning our living for some time to come.

Recognizing the diminished tempo of globalization, India's economic policymakers must address the growth of the home market, which is the demand for goods and services emanating from within the country. The immediate points of action and the appropriate instruments can be identified without much strain on our ingenuity. In the short run or the present, when the global economy is sluggish, only domestic investment can move demand.

In India, we have been witnessing slowing or depressed private investment for close to five years by now. There is a view that this has to do with tight monetary policy. It is true that the real lending rate for firms has been rising as inflation is falling. Such a policy stance can be justified only by resorting to the claim that the Reserve Bank of India knows something about future inflation that we don't, in particular that inflation is set to rise again soon. Barring this possibility, there is a case for cutting the repo rate now, and there is a clamor for this. But there are reasons to doubt the potency of such an action, one each from the supply and the demand sides. Given that they hold non-performing assets, the banks are extremely wary of lending. Any significant resumption of lending by banks may be hostage to their first resolving the bad loans problem. Ditto with the firms, which are themselves debt-laden. Are they likely to take on more of it, just because it is offered at a lower rate, before cleaning up their balance sheets?

On public investment

Independently of the 'twin balance sheet problem', Keynesian economics has long recognized that lowering the rate of interest may not do much for private investment if the expected rate of return is depressed. The slowing of both global trade and domestic manufacturing may have had precisely this effect by lowering the long-term expectations held by private investors. We do, however, know how to buoy up flagging demand. You do this through public investment. In response to the argument heard at the highest level of policymaking that there are no viable projects to be had, one need only refer to a recent news report on the state of our roads and bridges. It is reported that 23 bridges and tunnels on India's national highways are over 100 years old, of which 17 require rehabilitation or major maintenance. As many as 123 other bridges in the country require immediate attention and 6,000 are "structurally distressed". Infrastructure is unique in that spending on it raises aggregate demand and when it actually comes on stream, it raises the productivity of investment elsewhere in the economy. 'Roads and bridges' are a metaphor for the public infrastructure that the Indian economy can fruitfully absorb today. For the country's political leadership, the task is no longer to find trading partners to hug but to buckle down to the heavy lifting of expanding physical infrastructure.

(The author is Professor of Economics, Ashoka University and Senior Fellow, Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode)

Pakistan man thanks India for son's successful cardiac surgery

HYDERABAD (TIP): Lahore-bound 34-year-old Kamal Siddiqui is getting home but with good memories, flooded by the generosity and kindness of the Indian people. His infant son Rohaan underwent a complex heart surgery in India, thanks to external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj, who heard his plea and granted a visa to the Pakistan family to visit India for treatment.

"My experience in India has been very nice. The reception we got was more warm than expected," Kamal Siddiqui told TOI. "Rohaan is fine," he said after the infant got operated upon at a hospital at Noida.

In May this year, Kamal Siddiqui had made a fervent plea to the minister to grant his family a visa so that his son Rohaan could be brought for medical treatment to India. Sushma responded to Siddiqui and a visa was granted to the family.

On July 21, Rohaan underwent a successful cardiac surgery. "Today Rohaan underwent a complex but successful cardiac surgery. Thankful to Jaypee Hospital and people of India for their support and care," Kamal had said.

"Had a great day today. Rohaan was discharged from hospital," Siddiqui said on Tuesday thanking Sushma Swaraj, Dr Rajesh and Jaypee. "Thank you India. God bless all," he added. (PTI)

Myanmar insists no North Korea links as US envoy visits

YANGON (TIP): Myanmar has no military ties with North Korea, a Myanmar official said on July 17, as a US diplomat responsible for North Korea arrived for talks in which he is likely to seek assurances on efforts to isolate it.

Ambassador Joseph Yun was set to meet Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and the military's commander in chief in the capital, Naypyitaw, on Monday, according to the U.S. Embassy in Yangon.

Yun attended a conference in Singapore over the weekend focusing on tension on the Korean peninsula over the North's unrelenting nuclear and missile programmes.

Ambassador Joseph Yun's trip to Asia was announced after North Korea's test on July 4 of an intercontinental ballistic missile that it says can carry a large nuclear warhead and some experts believe has the range to reach Alaska.

Myanmar is the only other stop on his trip, pointing to concern in Washington that Myanmar's army, which used to have ties with North Korea, continues to give succour to Kim Jong Il's regime.

The United States did not inform Myanmar what Yun would discuss, said Kyaw Zeya, permanent secretary at Myanmar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"They are not very specific from the very beginning but we understand he is the special envoy on North Korea," Kyaw Zeya told Reuters.

Myanmar was complying with UN resolutions on North Korea, he said.

"It's normal relations between the two countries," said Kyaw Zeya. "As I understand, there's no such relations between military to military. Definitely not."

The United States in May asked Southeast Asian countries to do more to isolate North Korea, and efforts have increased after its July 4 ballistic missile test.

RESIDUAL POCKETS?: Myanmar's former ruling junta, which, like North Korea, was also widely shunned by the outside world over its suppression of human rights, was known to have ties to North Korea, which included sending missile experts and material for arms production to Myanmar.

Myanmar insists that arms deals and other military relations with North Korea stopped before its transition to a nominally civilian government in 2011.

Nobel laureate Suu Kyi took power last year amid a transition from full military rule. But the military could still have "a few residual pockets" with links to North Korea, the then top U.S. diplomat for East Asia, Daniel Russel, told a congressional hearing in September.

In March, the US Treasury levelled new sanctions against the Myanmar army's procurement body, the Directorate of Defence Industries (DDI), under the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Act Sanctions.

The DDI was previously sanctioned in 2012 and accused of materially assisting North Korea's regime, but had fallen off the sanctions list in October after the Obama administration dropped most measures against Myanmar in recognition of a successful political transition.

But despite Suu Kyi leading the civilian administration, Myanmar's military remains free from civilian oversight.

A 2008 constitution drafted by then-ruling generals keeps the army central to politics. (Reuters)

Pakistan SC warns Sharif's children of 7-yr jail if papers found forged

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The children of Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif could face up to seven years in jail if it was proved that they had submitted fake documents to the Panama panel probing the money laundering allegations against the family, the Supreme Court warned on July 20.

The apex court heard the Panamagate scandal case for the fourth consecutive day since the hearing began on Monday, following submission of a report by the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) on July 10, which was tasked by the court to probe allegation of corruption against Sharif and his family.

"The punishment for submitting forged documents in the court is seven years in jail," warned the three-member panel of judges.

The JIT among other things has observed that some of the documents submitted by the children of Sharif, 67, were tampered with.

A trust deed provided by the prime minister's daughter Maryam Nawaz and executed in 2006 was written in Calibri font which was not commercially available till 2007. It was also notarised from an office in London on Saturday which is officially an off day, raising concern about the authenticity of the document.

Similarly, Government of Dubai has revealed that the documents of Gulf Steel Mills provided by the prime minister's son Hussain Nawaz were forged as there was no record of those documents.

Justice Ejaz Afzal is heading the probe panel comprising Justice Sheikh Azmat Saeed and Justice Ijazul Ahsan.



They also warned Salman Akram Raja, the lawyer of Sharif's children, against a media trial in the case after some of the documents presented by him were leaked to media and were discussed in talk shows yesterday.

"You have been conducting a trial in the media and the documents (submitted to the court) have already been discussed in the media," said Justice Saeed.

"There is a media dais outside, you should give your arguments there as well," he told Raja, who assured the court that he had not released any documents to media.

Meanwhile, Raja presented his arguments in details. The arguments were still going on when the court adjourned the proceedings till tomorrow.

The judges today again asked the Sharif family to provide the money trail of its various businesses in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UK.

"The main question is where did the money for these businesses come," asked the panel.

Later, Fawad Chaudhry, member of a legal team representing Imran Khan of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), told media outside the court after the hearing that the hearing might be completed by tomorrow.

"For us the case is over. Sharif would have to go home and then jail for corruption. His children would also land in jail for forgery," he said.

Minister of State for Information Marriyam Aurangzeb said that the prime minister has been vindicated as there is no proof of any corruption against him.

"The prime minister was accused of money laundering and corruption but none of the allegations have been proved," she said.

The scandal surfaced when the Panama Papers leaks last year revealed that Sharif's sons -- Hassan Nawaz and Hussain Nawaz -- and his daughter Maryam -- owned offshore companies which managed their family's properties. The assets in question include four expensive flats in Park Lane, London.

Opposition parties allege that the London flats were purchased through illegal money which Sharif and his family have rejected. However, they have been unable to satisfy the court about the source of money used to purchase these properties. (PTI)

Convictions in major Thai human trafficking trial

BANGKOK (TIP): A Thai court found dozens of people guilty of human trafficking offences today in a mass trial exploring links between corrupt officials, including a senior army general, and the grim but lucrative trade in Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants.

Thailand's junta launched a crackdown in May 2015 on a network funnelling desperate migrants through southern Thailand and onto Malaysia, holding some for ransom in jungle camps.

It unspooled a crisis across Southeast Asia as gangmasters abandoned their human cargo in the camps where hundreds died from starvation and malaria, and at sea in overcrowded boats which were then "ping ponged" between Thai, Malaysian and Indonesian waters.

Rights groups long accused officials of ignoring - and even orchestrating - the trade in humans through Thailand's southern provinces. The area was the crucial link in a criminal trail that stretched from Myanmar to Malaysia.

The crackdown revealed a lattice of military, police, local political and mafia figures acting as traffickers, agents and logistics men, all soaking up cash from some of Asia's poorest and most vulnerable migrants.

On Wednesday judges at Bangkok Criminal Court began delivering a stream of verdicts for the 102 defendants. One other accused died while on remand.

The offences include human trafficking, ransom and murder. All deny the charges.

Media were barred from the court itself, relying instead on an audio relay of the complex proceedings.

Judges placed heavy reporting restrictions on much of the testimony, citing national security concerns. But the case has still lifted the lid on the power networks dominating southern Thailand.

Army Lieutenant-General Manas Kongpan, a top figure in



the security apparatus covering the south, is the highest-ranking official on trial.

In 2013 he was promoted to head the Internal Security Command (ISOC) for the south. Current junta leader Prayut Chan-O-Cha was army chief at the time.

Another well-connected alleged kingpin is Pajjaban Aungkachotephan, better known as Ko Tong or 'Big Brother Tong'. Police accused him of using private Andaman Sea islands, close to tourist spots such as Koh Lipe, to shift boatloads of migrants to the mainland, where they were packed into lorries and taken to the fetid camps straddling the Malaysia border.

An army captain, four ranking police officers, a nurse and several officials, including the mayor of Pedang Besar in Satun province, are also among the accused.

By the lunch break a drip feed of 38 defendants had been convicted for a range of offences including human trafficking and slavery. Among them were guards at the jungle camps where migrants were held, including a Rohingya man who acted as an interpreter, and a string of local officials. (AFP)

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OJ Simpson Granted Parole

Early release from Prison in early October likely

NEVADA (TIP): A Nevada parole board, on July 20, unanimously granted O.J. Simpson early release from the Lovelock Correctional Center. The former football star could be free as soon as October 1.

Simpson, 70, has served nine years of a nine-to-33-year prison sentence for the 2007 armed robbery and kidnapping in Las Vegas.

"Are you humbled by this incarceration?" Simpson was asked by a member of the parole board.

"I wish this never would have happened," he replied, adding later: "I am sorry that things turned out the way they did."

The board told Simpson his 1995 acquittal wouldn't be a factor in its decision. On Thursday, he told the parole board: "I've done my time. I've done it as well and as respectfully as I think anybody can ... I want to get back to my kids."



The former football star has served nine years in prison for the 2007 armed robbery and kidnapping in Las Vegas.

Indian American Golfer Sahith Theegala wins Sahalee Players Championship



Theegala is a rising junior at Pepperdine

SAN JOSE (TIP): Indian American Golfer Sahith Theegala of Chino Hills, Calif. birdied the first playoff hole to win the 23rd Sahalee Players Championship (SPC), outlasting Min Woo Lee of Australia. The elite amateur championship was held at Sahalee Country Club in Sammamish, Wash.

After 72 holes, the two players were tied at 3-under par, and went back to play the par-5 18th hole again. Theegala hit his second shot to the back edge of the green, hole high. Lee flared his second shot into the trees on the right, and after a free drop from an embedded lie punched a remarkable 150-yard shot through the trees to 45 feet from the hole. Lee then two-putted for par, and Theegala dropped a 5-footer for birdie and the win.

Theegala started final round with a five-shot lead, but with the swirling winds adding to already difficult final-round playing conditions, the day quickly became a game of survival. The scoring average for the final round was 77.27.

Theegala is a rising junior at Pepperdine, finishing his sophomore year as WCC Co-Player of the Year and selected as semifinalist for the Jack Nicklaus Award. He qualified for this year's U.S. Open at Erin Hills, and in two weeks will compete in the 51st Pacific Coast Amateur Championship, being held at Chambers Bay in University Place, Wash.

The SPC was rated an "A" event in the World Amateur Golf Rankings (WAGR) before taking a hiatus last year while the club hosted the KPMG Women's PGA Championship, and each year the event draws an international field of the finest amateur players. Five of the previous 13 SPC champions have gone on to win the Ben Hogan Award, given to the nation's top collegiate golfer and the list of previous SPC participants now playing on the PGA Tour continues to grow each year.

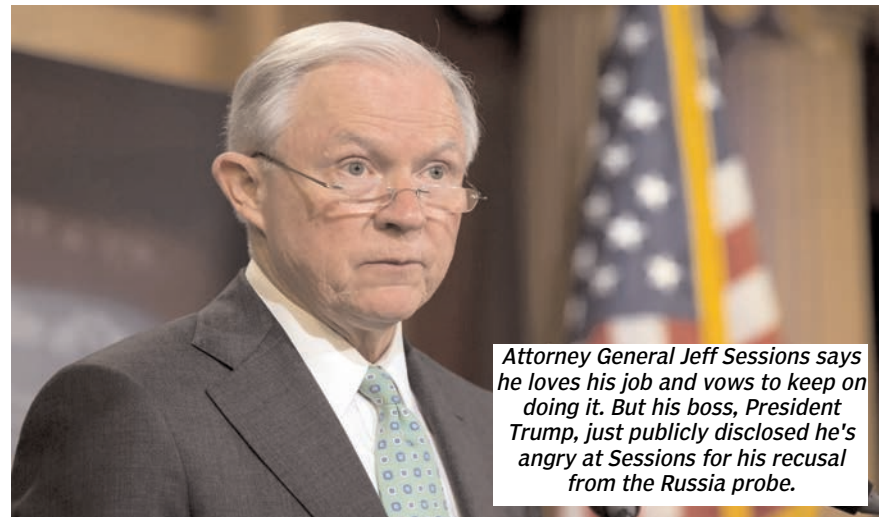
Past champions of this prestigious amateur championship include Kyle Stanley, Casey Martin, Peter Uihlein, Nick Taylor, Daniel Summerhays, Ryan Moore, Chris Williams, Arron Oberholser and Jason Gore, among others, all of whom would go on to win the PGA or European tours. The SPC scoring record at Sahalee is the 16-under 272 (68-69-68-67) shot in 2004 by Moore, a native of Puyallup, Wash.

Sahalee Country Club has been the site of the SPC since 1992, and has hosted numerous top-level events in golf, including the 1974 PINGA Men's Amateur, 1978 Pacific Coast Amateur, 1998 PGA Championship, 2002 WGC-NEC Invitational, 2010 U.S. Senior Open, and 2016 KPMG Women's PGA Championship.

An Unfazed Jeff Sessions decides to stay on despite Trump's annoyance with him

WASHINGTON (TIP): Attorney General Jeff Sessions says he plans to stay on the job. That wouldn't be news except that in an interview with The New York Times, July 19, President Trump openly criticized Sessions for recusing himself from Russia investigation. Trump said that if he knew then what he knows now, he wouldn't have nominated Sessions to be the attorney general. "Sessions should have never recused himself, and if he would - if he was going to recuse himself, he should have told me before he took the job, and I would have picked somebody else", Trump said in the interview.

Sessions said that he had the "honor of serving as attorney general," and that he plans "to continue to do so as long as that is appropriate." Asked whether he could keep running the Justice Department given Trump's comments, he responded: "I'm totally confident that we can continue to run this office in an effective way."



Attorney General Jeff Sessions says he loves his job and vows to keep on doing it. But his boss, President Trump, just publicly disclosed he's angry at Sessions for his recusal from the Russia probe.

Meanwhile, President Trump has no plans to fire Jeff Sessions, his spokesperson said Thursday, July 20, even after his extraordinary attacks cast doubt on the fate of the attorney general and Robert Mueller, the special counsel leading the Russia

investigation.

While Trump still disagrees with Sessions' decision to recuse himself from the Russia investigation, White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said, "clearly, he has confidence in him, or he would not be attorney general."

"Zee making the world a better place", says FCC's Ajit Pai

WASHINGTON D.C. (TIP): Zee entertainment launched an annual program to identify and honor individuals and organizations who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the media & entertainment sector.

Chairman Ajit Pai, was conferred with the inaugural "Zee Entertainment National Leadership Awards" at a special event on Capitol Hill this past week. He is the first Indian American to lead the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the US. Zee Entertainment is the biggest multicultural programmer in the United States with 35 networks in 14 languages.

Amit Goenka, CEO International Broadcast Business said, "The selection of our inaugural honoree was not a difficult choice as he demonstrated a great commitment to promoting and protecting consumer interests particularly in our case in the areas of healthy living, wellness, news and entertainment."

The exclusive, by invite-only event saw more than 200 people in attendance from Washington DC's power corridors which included nearly 25 congressmen and other very notable dignitaries. The 44-year old Republican attorney, Ajit Pai came across as very affable, conscious of his humble beginnings and deeply appreciative of his meteoric rise to the top of the federal agency. At the event, Pai acknowledged Dr. Subhash Chandra's incredible achievement in creating a company like Zee, quite literally from nothing into the multimedia conglomerate that entertains about a billion people worldwide, despite the many roadblocks. Where people did not have the option to watch Bollywood movies at home in the US, Zee pioneered and changed the way people had access to content from India accessible to the Indian diaspora across the world 20 years ago.



In continuation with Zee's ethos; "Vasudhaiya Kutumbakam" (The World is my Family), Zee speaks not only to the Indians here but also to millions of Americans via Z Living which is a Health & Wellness network. It is America's fastest growing network and stands firm behind its mantra "Prevention is better than cure". Zee also speaks to the millions of Latino audiences in the country through its unique Bollywood in Spanish channel; Zee Mundo.

An extension to this core belief in Health and Wellness, Zee has a one of its kind Natural Wellness Center, YO1 which stands for Yoga and Oneness. The idea behind this Wellness Center which is spread over 1300 acres in upstate NY is to focus on bringing our mind, body and soul as one. Along with Entertainment, Zee strongly believes in giving back to the community with its initiatives like Sarthi, ZEE is Green, Ekal Vidyalaya and the DSC foundation which just donated 1 Billion dollars for social entrepreneurship causes. The Zee is Green initiative was

conferred a special Excellence award at IAA Olive Crown Awards 2016 for its leadership in various environmental projects. Also, Ekal Vidyalaya popularly known as A People's Movement has been educating 1.5 million students across 54,000 free schools in India.

Since Zee Entertainment has become synonymous with the Indian culture and Indians globally, it was a natural choice for the republican party to engage and partner with Zee Network to engage the Indian diaspora during the Trump Presidential campaign, Zee not only effectively planned and executed a 360 degree campaign, but it also coined the winning phrase; Ab ki Baar Trump Sarkar (This time, A Trump Government). The Republicans were smart enough to understand Indian Americans influence on the larger canvas, said Sameer Targe. Efforts included a Bollywood gala in NJ which had Donald Trump as the keynote speaker and Zee's own SRGMP singers who were the real crowd pullers.

(Press Release)

Indian pharma companies with their plants in the US make it big

NEW YORK (TIP): An Economic Times report says the US markets account for over 40 percent of the total revenue of the top four Indian drugmakers. Many members of the Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) have their own plants in the US, even though their main revenue comes from Indian imports.

Here's the list of top five Indian companies which have plants in the US.



SUN PHARMA: The Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd is the largest Indian pharma company in the US, which is also functioning in more than 150 countries all over the world. The company was established by Dilip Shangvi in 1983 and was acquired by another pharmaceutical giant Ranbaxy in 2014.

Sun Pharma has two plants in New Jersey and has one each in Philadelphia, Detroit, Wilmington, and Chicago. The company markets a large basket of generics in the US, with a strong pipeline awaiting approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA). The USFDA sent a warning notice to Sun in December 2016 about nine violations at its manufacturing plant in Halol, Gujarat.

The company requested the USFDA to withdraw approval for 28 Abbreviated New Drug Applications (ANDAs) belonging to its wholly owned subsidiary Ranbaxy Laboratories.



LUPIN: Lupin Ltd is a transactional pharmaceutical company based in Mumbai founded by Desh Bandhu Gupta.

It entered the US generic pharmaceutical market in 2003 as Lupin Pharmaceuticals Inc with the ANDA approval for Cefuroxime Axetil Tablets. It is the fifth-largest generic pharmaceutical company in the US by prescription-led market share and is one of the fastest growing pharmaceutical companies in the US. Headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland, the company has plants in Somerset and New Jersey.

Lupin received more than 75 FDA approvals till now and it's US brand business contributed 9% of total US sales whereas the generics business contributed 91 percent during the financial year 2014-15.



DR. REDDY'S LABORATORIES: Dr. Reddy's Laboratories was founded by Dr K Anji Reddy in 1984 and is based in

Hyderabad, Telangana. The company manufactures and markets a wide range of pharmaceuticals in India and overseas. It began as a supplier to Indian drug manufacturers and later focused on getting approval from drug regulators such as the USFDA.

Dr Reddy's have plants in Shreveport and New England, and it is the first Indian company to launch the generic drug, fluoxetine with 180-market exclusivity in the US. In 2001, Reddy's completed its US initial public offering of \$132.8 million, secured by American Depositary Receipts and the company is also listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

The FDA issues a Form 483 letter to Dr Reddy's in December 2014 over concerns discovered during an inspection of its Srikakulam facility. No specific violations were mentioned in the letter.



CIPLA: Cipla is one of the largest pharma companies in India headquartered in Mumbai. In the US, Cipla is headquartered in Miami and has a plant in Long Island.

The company primarily develops medicines to treat cardiovascular disease, arthritis, diabetes, weight control and depression and other medical conditions. Founded by Dr. Khwaja Abdul Hamied as The Chemical, Industrial & Pharmaceutical Laboratories in 1935, the company changed shorted its name to Cipla Ltd in 1984.

USFDA approved Cipla's bulk drug manufacturing facilities in 1985 and under the leadership of founder's son Yusuf Hamied, the company became a global icon for its role in defying Western multinational pharmaceutical companies in order to provide generic drugs for AIDS and other diseases to treat poor people in the developing world.



AUROBINDO PHARMA: Aurobindo Pharma Limited was founded in 1986 and commenced operations in 1988-89 with single unit manufacturing semi-synthetic penicillin in Puducherry. The company is now headquartered in HITEC City, Hyderabad, and manufactures generic pharmaceuticals and active pharmaceutical ingredients.

The company makes tablets in its plant in New Jersey and is now gearing up for a second plant in the US after Trump called on to increase local manufacturing.

Amazon sells Hanuman leggings despite past Hindu protests on trivializing Hindu gods

NEVADA (TIP): Upset Hindus are seeking apology and urging online retailer Amazon.com for the immediate withdrawal of leggings carrying images of Hindu deity Lord Hanuman; calling it highly inappropriate. "Hanuman the Great" Women's Leggings are selling at Amazon.com for \$48.00 - \$58.00 and are described as: "ultimate fashion statement to express your style".



Hindus have protested and contacted Amazon.com many times in the past over what they felt was trivialization of Hindu deities on various products sold on its website and had been mostly successful in persuading the company to remove those. Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, in a statement in Nevada, said that Lord Hanuman was greatly revered in Hinduism and was meant to be worshipped in temples or home shrines and not to adorn one's legs. Inappropriate usage of Hindu deities or concepts for commercial or other agenda was not okay as it hurt the faithful.

Zed, who is President of Universal Society of Hinduism, also urged Amazon.com President Jeffrey P. Bezos to offer a formal apology, besides withdrawing Lord Hanuman leggings, as this was not the first time for the company to offer such products which were deemed offensive by Hindu devotees. Zed further said that such trivialization of Hindu deities was disturbing to the Hindu world over. Hindus were for free artistic expression and speech as much as anybody else if not more. But faith was something sacred and attempts at trivializing it hurt the devotees, Zed added. Rajan Zed suggested that Amazon.com and other companies should send their senior executives for training in religious and cultural sensitivity so that they had an understanding of the feelings of customers and communities when introducing new products or launching advertising campaigns.

Indian American Congressman's Amendment to Review Integrity of White House Security Clearances passed unanimously

WASHINGTON (TIP): Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi of the House Oversight Committee on July 19 successfully introduced an amendment ordering a review of White House security clearance procedures by requiring the National Background Investigations Bureau to report to Congress on the process for conducting and adjudicating security clearance requests for the Executive Office of the President. The Krishnamoorthi amendment comes in the wake of Senior Advisors to the President Jared Kushner and Ivanka



The Krishnamoorthi amendment establishes the first comprehensive review of Trump White House security clearance vetting procedures

Trump, former National Security Advisor Mike Flynn, and Attorney General Jeff Sessions all omitting significant information about foreign contacts from their applications for security clearances. The measure passed the Oversight Committee by a unanimous voice vote and amended H.R.3210, a resolution regarding the national backlog of security clearance investigations. Congressman Krishnamoorthi released the following statement on the passage of his amendment: "It seems every day we learn of more undisclosed foreign contacts with senior Trump administration officials. In just the last two weeks, we have learned that Senior White House Advisor Jared Kushner failed to disclose his participation in a meeting with a Kremlin-connected Russian lawyer and her associates, including a former Soviet intelligence officer and an individual linked to a federal money laundering investigation. This is just one example of a foreign contact Mr. Kushner failed to disclose when he reportedly omitted more than one hundred from his SF-86 security clearance application. My amendment would require the Director of the National Background Investigations Bureau to report to Congress on the processes by which senior administration officials apply for and receive security clearances. Access to our nation's secrets should demand the highest levels of scrutiny and the strictest adherence to security procedure to protect against compromise by hostile foreign powers.

Mr. Kushner and other senior administration officials repeatedly failed to disclose their foreign contacts, including those with hostile powers. It is essential that we determine whether this failure puts them or our nation at risk." Krishnamoorthi represents the 8th District of Illinois and serves on Government Reform and Education and Workforce panels and also as the ranking member on the subcommittee on Health Care, Benefits, and Administrative Rules.

Indian American Congresswoman Jayapal, Congressman Cicilline Introduce Resolution of Inquiry for Release of Documents Pertaining to Possible Obstruction of Justice

WASHINGTON (TIP): After the Department of Justice released a heavily redacted, single-page document confirming that Attorney General Jeff Sessions lied to the FBI about his contacts with the Russian government, House Judiciary Committee members, Representatives Pramila Jayapal (WA-07) and David Cicilline (RI-01) introduced a resolution of inquiry requesting the Trump administration release any and all information pertaining to Attorney General Sessions' involvement in the firing of FBI director James Comey in violation of his recusal and related matters.

"For six months, we have watched the Trump administration make a mockery of our laws and the highest office in our land while our Republican colleagues refuse to allow hearings on obstruction of justice and collusion with Russia," said Rep. Jayapal. "Our resolution of inquiry will force the House Committee on the Judiciary to consider allegations of obstruction of justice involving the Justice Department. The Senate Judiciary Committee is taking action on the matter. We need the Republicans on our committee to wake up and take these issues seriously. We have a duty as members of Congress and the Judiciary Committee to exercise oversight over the administration and the Justice Department."

"We've known for a while now that Paul Ryan and the Republicans don't want to work with us on just about anything. That's true for jobs, tax fairness, infrastructure, workforce training, and health care," said Rep. Cicilline. "But what's most outrageous is that they don't even want to work with us to make sure the American people know the truth about allegations of



Jayapal and Cicilline introduced a resolution of inquiry requesting the Trump administration release any and all information pertaining to Attorney General Sessions' involvement in the firing of FBI director James Comey

obstruction of justice involving the Justice Department. There is no more serious responsibility than protecting our democracy and the American people deserve members of Congress who take this responsibility seriously."

The two representatives demanded that House Republicans wake up and conduct oversight of the Trump administration. Attorney General Sessions has failed to disclose his meetings with the Russian government, largely ignored his recusal from the Russia investigation and helped to fire the FBI Director under false pretext. On July 13, the Department of Justice released a document that suggests the Attorney General failed to disclose any contacts with foreign governments on his security clearance application. The Jayapal-Cicilline Resolution is designed to obtain information about these and other systemic problems at the highest levels of the Trump administration. The Majority has refused to conduct even basic oversight of the Department of Justice. This resolution will force the issue, and leave each member to choose

whether the House Judiciary Committee will begin to address these urgent problems or continue to be complicit in the administration's undermining of justice.

Jayapal and Cicilline will closely follow ongoing developments specifically pertaining to the role of Donald Trump Jr. and Jared Kushner in potential collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia. If the administration fails to be more forthcoming about these troubling developments, Jayapal and Cicilline plan to amend the resolution to demand more transparency and accountability to the American people.

SUKHPAL KHAIRA IS LEADER OF OPPN IN PUNJAB ASSEMBLY

CHANDIGARH (TIP): Bholath MLA Sukhpal Khaira was chosen as the Leader of Opposition in the Punjab Assembly today, with majority of the 19 other Aam Aadmi Party MLAs recommending his name in a one-on-one meeting with national party convener Arvind Kejriwal in New Delhi.

HS Phoolka, who had resigned as the Leader of Opposition to focus on fighting cases of the 1984 anti-Sikh riot victims, also backed Khaira.

Khaira got preference over other contenders after about 15 MLAs met in Chandigarh on July 17 where they agreed to support him on the ground that he was the only experienced legislator. One of the main contenders, Nazar Singh Mansahia, withdrew his name in Khaira's favour in the meeting itself.

Three MLAs, it is learnt, expressed strong reservation against Khaira's name today, arguing that he would nurture his personal agenda more than toeing the party's line and ideals. However, when Kejriwal and MP Bhagwant Mann announced that majority of the MLAs were in favour of Khaira, all MLAs gave their consent. The Leader of Opposition gets a Cabinet Minister rank and status. Talwandi Sabo MLA Baljinder Kaur was another contender for the post.

Party sources said the Delhi leadership felt that the party may get divided if Khaira was not given a chance. Khaira, at present the Chief Whip of the party, had openly protested against the selection of Bhagwant Mann as state party president.

Khaira faces a daunting task as he has to keep the party flag high in the Assembly, besides ensuring discipline. His first challenge would be to find a way out of privilege action against him by the Speaker. Khaira had during the Budget Session last month gone live on Facebook from the Assembly, against the rules. He was suspended for the session. A privilege committee will hear the allegation against him. Meanwhile, commenting on his election, Khaira said it was a moral victory of hard work and truth against sycophancy and money power. Khaira had remained a Congress MLA from 2007 to 2012. His father Sukhjinder Singh was an Akali leader who remained Education Minister twice.

Will decide on early hearing in Babri Masjid dispute case: SC



NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on Friday, July 21, said it would take a decision to list for early hearing a batch of petitions challenging the Allahabad High Court verdict in the Ram Temple-Babri Masjid land dispute case.

"We will take a decision on it," a bench comprising Chief Justice JS Khehar and Justice DY Chandrachud said when BJP leader Subramanian Swamy mentioned the matter for urgent listing and hearing.

Swamy said the main appeals against the Allahabad High Court order were pending for the last seven years in the apex court and they required urgent hearing.

He also said that a separate petition had earlier been filed by him seeking enforcement of his right to worship without much hassle at the site.

He also said that he had been allowed by the apex court to intervene in the matter and is seeking expeditious disposal of the cases.

The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court had in 2010 ruled a three-way division of the disputed 2.77 acres area at the disputed site in Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh.

The three-judge bench, by a 2:1 majority, had said the land be partitioned equally among three parties, the Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and 'Ram Lalla'. *Source: PTI*



India-Japan civil nuclear deal finally comes into force

NEW DELHI (TIP): India completed the process of its civil nuclear agreements, as the landmark India-Japan civil nuclear agreement entered into force on Thursday, July 20.

Foreign secretary S Jaishankar and Japanese ambassador Kenji Hiramatsu exchanged diplomatic notes, marking operationalisation of the pact, the external affairs ministry said.

The civil nuclear cooperation agreement was signed last November during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Tokyo after over six years of negotiations.

The entry into force comes a few months before Shinzo Abe's scheduled visit to India in September this year. Prime Minister Modi and Abe had a meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Hamburg on July 8, where they reviewed the state of bilateral relations. Abe is expected to formally begin the ground breaking for the high-speed train project to run from Ahmedabad to Mumbai.

"This agreement is a reflection of the strategic partnership between India and



PM Narendra Modi shakes hands with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe.

Japan and will pave the way for enhanced cooperation in energy security and clean energy."

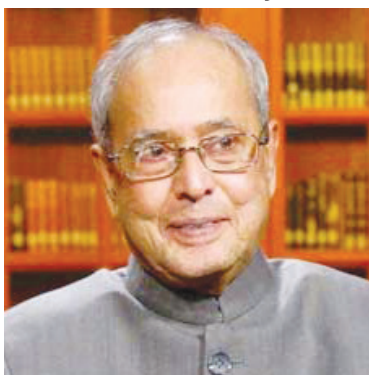
"The landmark agreement seeks to promote full cooperation between the two countries in the development and uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes on a stable, reliable and

predictable basis," external affairs ministry spokesperson Gopal Baglay told reporters.

The deal allows Japan to export nuclear technology to India, making it the first non-NPT signatory to have such a deal with Tokyo.

Source: TOI

Pranab's farewell will span 3 days



NEW DELHI (TIP): With Ram Nath Kovind winning the presidential elections on Thursday, it is time to bid farewell to outgoing President Pranab Mukherjee, who will move out of the Rashtrapati Bhawan officially on July 25, making way for Kovind to take his place in the highest constitutional office of the country the same day.

After new President Kovind is sworn in on July 25 morning, and the Mukherjee and he have switched chairs, both of them will come down to the Central Hall of Parliament together where Kovind will make his acceptance speech. After that, accompanied by a cabinet minister Mukherjee will drive down to his new home in Lutyens' Delhi at 10, Rajaji Marg, and Kovind will head for Rashtrapati Bhawan.

There are at least three farewell gatherings planned for President Mukherjee. PM Narendra Modi will host a dinner at the Hyderabad House with his full council of ministers to bid adieu to Mukherjee.

The next day, MPs will give Mukherjee a send-off over high tea at the Central Hall, hosted by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.

Israel to partner DRDO for developing missile defence system for India

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a major upgrade to its defences, the Indian Army has signed a MoU with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to raise one regiment of the advanced Medium Range Surface to Air Missiles (MRSAM). The army plans to have a total of five regiments of this air defence system, which will be deployed opposite to China and Pakistan.

The MRSAM marks a paradigm shift in the capabilities of the Indian Army. The system can shoot down enemy ballistic missiles, aircraft, helicopters, drones, surveillance aircraft and Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft. Meant for the Army Air Defence, the MRSAM is an advanced, all weather, mobile, land-based air defence system.

It is capable of engaging multiple aerial targets at ranges of more than 50 km. Each MRSAM system comprises a command-and-control system, a tracking radar, missiles, and mobile launchers.

Each regiment consists of four launchers with three missiles each. So five regiments will have 60 missiles.

A MOU has been signed between the army and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for one regiment.

"The MOU marks the beginning of the development of the MRSAM in the configuration required by the army," said a defence ministry official, adding that the entire project is worth Rs 17,000 cr.

Earlier this year, the Cabinet Committee on Security headed by PM Narendra Modi approved a proposal for procuring the MRSAM system for the army. According to the proposal, the army will induct five



regiments of the system.

The system will be jointly developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and DRDO with the involvement of private sectors and DPSUs. "The system will have majority indigenous content, giving boost to the Make-in-India initiative.

The participation of Indian companies in producing MRSAM will empower them in the field of hightech weapon technology.

Last July, the IAI and DRDO conducted three flight tests of the MRSAM at the integrated test range off the Odisha Coast. The missile successfully intercepted moving aerial targets in all three tests. The MRSAM is a land-based variant of the long-range surface-to-air missile (LRSAM) or Barak-8 naval air defence system, which is designed to operate from naval vessels.

Source: TOI

Pak targeting kids, villagers near LoC, says DGMO

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday accused Pakistan of "deliberately targeting" villages and school children in ceasefire violations across the Line of Control, which remains volatile with the two armies exchanging heavy fire on a daily basis in Jammu & Kashmir.

Indian director general of military operations Lt-General A K Bhatt told his Pakistani counterpart Major General Sahir Shamshad Mirza over the hotline to exercise "strict control" over his troops and instruct them to refrain from any "nefarious activities".

During the telephonic conversation at about 3.30pm on Thursday, Lt-Gen Bhatt said Pakistan army troops had deliberately targeted villages and also fired at school children in the Nowshera sector of Rajouri district when they were being evacuated from the area on Tuesday.

"The Pak army DGMO was told such activities did not behove any professional army. The Indian Army, as a professional force, takes due care to avoid targeting of civilians and the Pak Army was expected to do the same," said Army spokesperson Colonel Aman Anand.

The Pakistan DGMO was also



A resident living near the border points out damage caused to the wall of a government middle school by mortar shelling from Pakistan at Jhanghar area near the LoC.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Indian DGMO Lt-General A K Bhatt told his Pakistani counterpart to exercise "strict control" over his troops
- Lt-Gen Bhatt said Pakistan army had deliberately targeted villages and also fired at kids in Nowshera sector

informed about "the spate in ceasefire violations which also included "calibre escalation (use of heavy weapons), coupled with incidents of sniping and attempted infiltration" by terrorists backed by his force. Over 240 ceasefire violations by Pakistan along the LoC have been recorded this year.

ED summons Shah Rukh for FEMA violation

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued notices to actor Shah Rukh Khan and his wife, Gauri Khan, for alleged violations in Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) to the tune of Rs 73.6 crore and asked them to appear before it on August 23.

Actor Juhi Chawla is also being probed in this case.

SRK had appeared before the law enforcement agency in 2011 and 2015 to record his statement. The ED had sent a show-cause notice to Khan, Gauri, and Chawla in March.

What is the forex case?

- SRK formed a start-up Knight Riders Sports Pvt. Ltd (KRSPL) in 2008 to acquire IPL franchise rights of cricket team Kolkata Knight Riders. He owned 10,000 shares initially.
- The entire shareholding of KRSPL was with Red Chillies and Gauri Khan. After the success of IPL, about two crore additional shares were issued by KRSPL, of which 50 lakh shares were issued to a Mauritius-based company owned by actor Juhi Chawla's husband Jay Mehta, The Sea Island Investment Ltd (TSIIL), at Rs 10

per share, and 40 lakh shares were issued to Chawla. Khan owns 1.1 crore shares.

- Chawla later transferred her 40 lakh shares to TSIIL at Rs 10 per share as against a much higher market value. Thus, TSIIL owns 90 lakh shares at par value while the actual cost of share at the time of issue/sale was between Rs 86 and Rs 99 per share.
- The ED alleged that Khan undervalued his shares, which cost a forex loss of Rs 73.6 crore to the government.



No sympathy for lynching in the name of cow: Govt

NEW DELHI (TIP): Facing attacks over lynching incidents, the government on Thursday asserted that killings in the name of cow "sentiments" was unacceptable and said the state governments should take stern action against those indulging in such violence.

Finance minister Arun Jaitley, who was replying to a debate on lynchings in the Rajya Sabha on behalf of ailing home minister Rajnath Singh, made it clear that the central government could not be blamed for violence by "some people" as it was the responsibility of the state governments to deal with such issues. "The government's stand is clear: Nobody is allowed to do that (lynching in the name of cow protection). There is no rationalisation, no arguments of sentiments being hurt can be an explanation for this. And, the government is absolutely committed," he said. He said "no amount of sympathy" will be shown for those who indulge in lynching and "law will certainly take its own course."

Jaitley was replying to the debate on 'situation arising out of the reported increase in the incidents of lynching.

DOKLAM CRISIS: INDIA PUSHES FOR DIALOGUE WITH CHINA

NEW DELHI (TIP): India on June 20 played cautious and maintained that talks were the way forward when it came to resolving the month-old Doklam standoff. China has maintained that Indian troops need to withdraw as a precondition for any 'meaningful dialogue' to begin.

Gopal Baglay, official spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, today chose not to directly answer questions on the Chinese precondition for talks but emphasised that 'diplomatic channels' had not been impeded. India's response to the situation so far has been mellow, in contrast to the Chinese posturing which has been overly aggressive.

The spokesperson said Bhutan wants China to go back to the status quo that existed on the ground before June 16 and in essence India also wants that status quo to be restored. Speculation has been rife that differences between India and Bhutan have arisen over the Doklam crisis.

"Differences between India and China should never become a dispute...We've said diplomatic channels are available and have been available. To the best of my understanding they have never stopped," said Baglay when asked whether India will approach any international bodies such as the UN to intervene in the dispute.

Earlier in the day, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj made a strong statement in the Rajya Sabha and demanded that China withdraw its troops for the talks to begin. "We are saying that if a dialogue is to be held, then both should withdraw (their troops)," she said. The Chinese action "is a challenge to our security", Swaraj said, adding that India was not doing anything unreasonable.

She added that foreign countries are with India. "They feel that China is being aggressive with a small country like Bhutan. Bhutan has protested, including in writing. All the countries feel India's stand is right and the law is with us," Swaraj added.



External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj

Beijing 'threatens security' at tri-junction

- In the Rajya Sabha, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said China intends to unilaterally change the status of the tri-junction with Bhutan, posing a challenge to India's security
- On the standoff at Doklam, she referred to the written agreement between India, China and Bhutan in 2012 that the three nations would together decide on the boundaries at the tri-junction point
- She said China had been constructing roads earlier too, but now they had brought in bulldozers and excavators. "We are saying that the matter can be resolved through talks, but both sides have to first take back their armies," she said

Mayawati's resignation accepted

NEW DELHI (TIP): BSP supremo Mayawati's resignation from the Rajya Sabha has been accepted by Chairman Hamid Ansari. Officials said Mayawati had submitted a fresh resignation letter as per the prescribed format, which was accepted by Ansari today.



Accusing the BJP and the Chair of not allowing her to raise the issue of anti-Dalit violence in Uttar Pradesh, Mayawati resigned from the House on Wednesday. The three-page resignation letter she submitted was rejected as it was not in the requisite format. As per the format, the resignation letter should be brief and should not mention reasons. The resignation move is seen as an attempt by Mayawati to consolidate her core Dalit support base and re-establish herself as the community's preeminent leader after facing a massive defeat in the UP Assembly poll earlier this year. There is also a speculation that she might tie up with Lalu Prasad Yadav's RJD to augment her falling political fortunes.

The BSP could win only 18 seats while the BJP came to power by winning more than 300 of the 403 seats in the Assembly poll. The BJP had termed her resignation as a "drama" and pointed out that her tenure in the House was anyway coming to an end early next year.

PM visited 49 countries in last 3 years: Govt

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has travelled 49 countries in the last three years during which India signed a number of agreements on a range of topics, the government today said.

In a written response to a question in the Rajya Sabha, V K

Singh, the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, said the prime minister visited eight countries in the first second half of 2014, starting with Bhutan.

This year, the prime minister has visited 10 countries in the last seven months.



MEET INDIA'S 14TH PRESIDENT

RAM NATH KOVIND'S JOURNEY FROM
MUD HOUSE TO RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

NEW DELHI (TIP): In the fourth week of May, Ram Nath Kovind was called to New Delhi to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The 71-year-old assumed that the meeting had something to do with his gubernatorial assignment in Bihar but was surprised to be told that he was one of the nine names being considered for the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA's) presidential candidate.

Unlike some of the other nominees, Kovind's name was not discussed in the media. Even his closest friends and relatives had no idea that Kovind could succeed Pranab Mukherjee as India's President, until

**FORMER BIHAR GOVERNOR
WINS WITH 66% VOTES,
PROMISES TO WORK FOR ALL
THOSE STRUGGLING TO MAKE
A LIVING**

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief Amit Shah announced the Dalit leader's candidature following the party's parliamentary board meeting on June 19.

Kovind's ability to keep a low profile was not the only reason that Modi and Shah handpicked him. By making Kovind, a Dalit from Uttar Pradesh, the BJP-led NDA's presidential nominee, Modi and Shah took the Opposition by surprise, which was forced to recalibrate its strategy to name Congress leader Meira Kumar, daughter of Dalit icon Jagjivan Ram, as its nominee.

But the damage was already done to Opposition unity. Kovind's candidature led to a split in the Opposition, with the Nitish Kumar-led Janata Dal (United), Naveen Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal, and several other regional parties announcing they would vote for the NDA candidate.

If the move caused hiccups in the JD (U)-Rashtriya Janata Dal and Congress 'grand alliance' in Bihar, it also contributed to Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati quitting her Rajya Sabha membership. Ever since performing miserably in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, Mayawati has been in search for a cause that could help her reclaim her party's Dalit support base. The choice of Kovind has strengthened BJP's newfound support among non-Jatav Dalits.

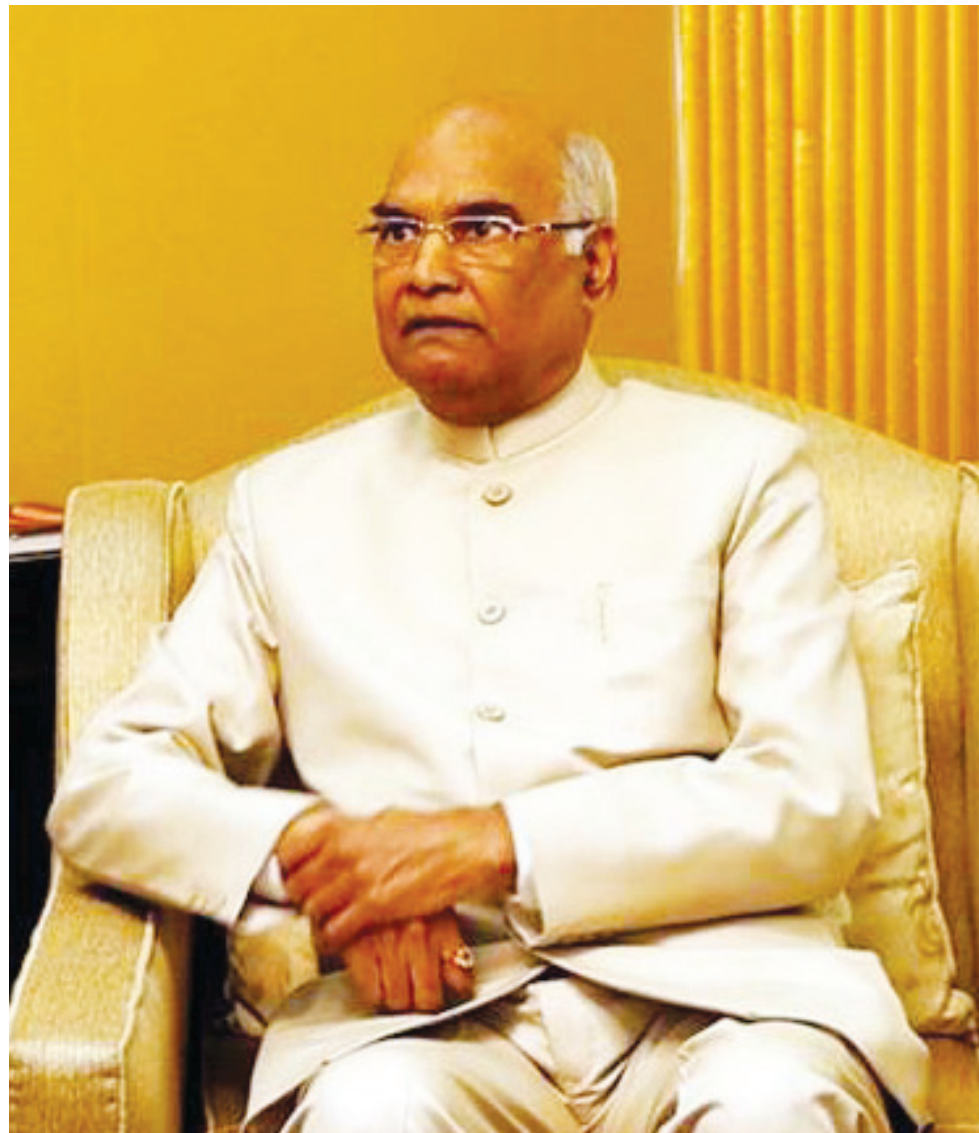
On Thursday, July 20, the result after the counting of votes was on expected lines. Kovind received 65.65 per cent of the electoral college votes. Congress leaders claimed Kumar's were the second-highest number of votes that a runner-up had ever received in the 13 previous presidential elections. But there was some embarrassment for the Congress, with some of its legislators in Gujarat having voted not for Kumar but Kovind. There were instances of cross-voting in favour of Kovind in some other states, too.

Kovind would take the oath of office on July 25. He is only the second Dalit, after KR Narayanan (1997-2002), who would become India's head of state.

After the result's announcement, an emotional Kovind reminisced about his journey from a mud-walled house in Paraunkh, his ancestral village in Kanpur Dehat, to become the 14th President of India.

He said he never aspired to be the president, and that "tireless service" to his society and country had brought him to this position.

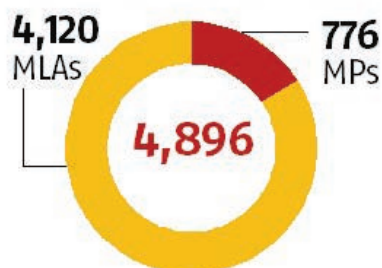
The President-elect said: "It is raining a lot

10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT
THE NEW PRESIDENT

1. Born on October 1, 1945, in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur Dehat, Ram Nath Kovind was the youngest among three brothers. After graduating in law from a Kanpur college, Kovind had gone to Delhi to prepare for the Indian Administrative Services. He failed to pass it twice but made it in third attempt. He, however, did not join as he was selected for the allied services and started practising the law.
2. He entered politics in 1994 when he became a member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh and served as an MP for two consecutive terms till 2006.
3. Married to Savita Kovind, Ram Nath Kovind has a son Prashant Kumar, and a daughter, Swati.
4. Kovind, an advocate by profession, used to practice in Supreme Court and Delhi High Court.
5. He had represented India in the United Nations in New York and addressed United Nations General Assembly in October 2002.
6. In 1977, Kovind had worked as the private secretary of then Prime Minister Morarji Desai. Later Kovind had also served as national spokesperson of BJP.
7. On August 8, 2015, Kovind was appointed governor of Bihar.
8. He is a former President of the BJP Dalit Morcha (1998-2002) and President of the All-India Koli Samaj as well as the SC/ST representative at IIM-Calcutta.
9. Kovind served as a member of the Board of Management of Dr. BR Ambedkar University, Lucknow. He was also a member of the Board of Governors of Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata.
10. He had donated his ancestral house in his native village in Kanpur as baraatghar or community house to the village.

PRESIDENT'S ELECTION IN NUMBERS

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES



4,851

TOTAL VOTES POLLED

Value of total votes polled:
1,090,30077*
INVALID VOTES21
MPs56
MLAs

■ Ram Nath Kovind ■ Meira Kumar

702,044
Value of votes367,314
Value of votes2,930
No of votes1,844
No of votes1,069,358
VALUE OF TOTAL
VALID VOTES

65.65 %

34.35 %

4,774

Total
valid votes

1,069,358

Value of total
votes polled

534,680

Quota for
election
(halfway mark +1)

in Delhi today and it reminds me of days when I would stay in my paternal village. It was a 'kachcha' home of mud walls. The straw roof would not be able to stop water during rains. We all brothers and sisters would huddle

around a wall, waiting for the rains to stop.

"There would be so many Ram Nath Kovinds in the country today, getting drenched in rains, doing farm work, labour and sweating it out so that they can get their

evening meals. I want to tell them that this Ram Nath Kovind of Paraunkh village is going to Rashtrapati Bhavan as their representative."

With Kovind's election, and M Venkaiah Naidu set to be the vice-president, it will be for the first time in 70 years that the two constitutional heads as well as the head of government, the prime minister, will be associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Kovind is also the first BJP member to be elected the president of India.

Kovind has been a two-term Rajya Sabha member (1994-2000 and 2000-2006). He has also been a BJP spokesperson and the head of its Dalit Morcha. Months before the Bihar Assembly polls in October 2015, Kovind was made the Bihar governor. He has been a lawyer and associated with RSS' Dalit outreach for over 40 years. He has also served as a member on the board of management of Ambedkar University, Lucknow, and was a member of the board of governors of the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata.

Kovind is married and has a son and a daughter. His wife, Savita, had accompanied him during his election-related campaign across India over the past one month.

Source: Business Standard



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DEEPIKA PADUKONE: HONOURED TO BE A NEW ACADEMY MEMBER

Deepika Padukone is one of the newest members the Academy of Motion Picture of Arts & Sciences (AMPAS) and the actress says she feels honoured to be included in the Class of 2017.

The 31-year-old actress, who made her Hollywood debut with Vin Diesel's "xXx: Return of Xander Cage", took to Twitter to share her excitement.

"Honoured to be a new #Academymember. @TheAcademy #Classof2017," Deepika tweeted.

Following two years of sharp criticism and back-to-back ceremonies with an all-white slate of acting nominees, AMPAS last month invited a record 774 new members from 57 countries around the world to join the organisation's ranks. Apart from Deepika, Priyanka Chopra has also joined the Academy Class of 2017.

Other Indian stars who have been invited to join the Academy and vote in the Oscars include the likes of, megastar Amitabh Bachchan, Aamir Khan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, filmmakers Goutam Ghose, Buddhadeb Dasgupta, Salman Khan and Irrfan Khan.

Source: PTI

THERE'S OBSESSION FOR FEMALE'S BODY EVERYWHERE: TAAPSEE

Actress Taapsee Pannu, who has apologised for her comment on southern cinema's midriff craze, says the obsession for a female body exists everywhere. The actress, who made a strong statement about how a woman's "no means no" with the hard-hitting drama 'Pink', was trolled after she featured in a comic video wherein she spoke about how in her debut Telugu movie 'Jhummandi Naadam' (2010) director K. Raghavendra Rao had a coconut thrown at her navel to add "sensuality".

It's a sequence oft repeated in the filmmaker's films - but there are usually flowers or fruits instead of a coconut. "There's an obsession for a female's body everywhere. Do I need to name some songs in Bollywood that have some weird obsessions? It's not just there (in the southern film industry)," Taapsee said in an interview.

"I was just sharing my experience because I have seen that in south, and that glamour bit has not happened with me in Bollywood yet," added the actress, who has featured in films like 'Baby' and 'Naam Shabana', apart from 'Pink' - all of which saw her portray intense characters.

Taapsee says that her comment in the video was "misconstrued" by the media which led to it being blown out of proportion. She apologised nevertheless because she wanted "peace". She says it has become hard for celebrities to express their views "as some part of the media has become trolls".

"People thought I was trying to humiliate the director who launched me, which obviously was not the case. I am not that stupid. I always give credit to him (for my career) and have always said that he is a man with the Midas Touch."

"He is known to launch very big stars. Why will I go and be hurtful or disrespectful towards him? Some people just don't know how to interpret what one says and they manage to see the glass half empty." It's because she "can't stand so much hatred" that she then decided to issue an apology.

"It's like you step on someone accidentally, and you apologise for it even when it wasn't intentional." Yet, Taapsee enjoys the social media platform as it gives her accessibility to her fans.

Source: IANS



MOVIE REVIEW



LIPSTICK UNDER MY BURKHA

CAST: Konkona Sensharma, Ratna Pathak Shah, Aahana Kumra, Plabita Borthakur

DIRECTION: Alankrita Shrivastava

GENRE: Comedy

DURATION: 1 hour 58 minutes

STORY

Four ordinary women, inflicted by silly societal norms, have to steal, lie, cheat and hide in order to lead the lives that they rightfully deserve.

REVIEW

In the final moments of Lipstick Under My Burkha, as the four protagonists face the explosive consequences of their perceived rebellions, we hear firecrackers bursting in the background. Director Alankrita Shrivastava uses the backdrop of Diwali to tell us that the lives of these women may be going up in flames, but they'll go out with a bang.

It is with this skilled assuredness that she tells the stories of her heroines: Shireen (Konkona) is bogged down by a chauvinistic husband who only wants to hump her mechanically, but she finds her release in her day job; Leela (Aahana) uses sex to live out her fantasies and manipulates her men; Rihana (Plabita) is cloaked in her burkha, but dreams of ripped jeans, bad boys and Miley Cyrus's brand of liberation and Usha (Ratna) has been deemed asexual owing to her age, but hides erotic books in religious tomes — both ushering her to (different types of) climaxes in her life.

What is so scandalous (or "lady-oriented") about the lives of these women, is unclear. In fact, Shrivastava's bravest act is simply opening the doors and showing us what goes on behind them. Behind the closed doors of a conservative Muslim girl's room, where she dances sans music to let out the rage; behind the closed doors of a couple's bedroom, where the woman is supposed to be a latent victim to her husband's libido; behind the closed doors of a girl's beauty salon, where intimate advice is doled out as smoothly as the underarm hair is waxed off and behind the closed doors of an older woman's bathroom where she runs a tap to muffle the moans of her desires.

The women portraying these lives on screen give Lipstick... its true color. Plabita and Aahana are instantly relatable and light up the screen. Konkona's helplessness makes you think about every woman who is a second-class citizen in her own home. And Ratna's infatuated Usha, a woman in the throes of passion, will make you look at older women in a new light.



ASHLEY GREENE: I AM PROBABLY THE MOST UNTRADITIONAL BRIDE

Actress Ashley Greene said she would be the most unconventional newly-wed as she is not someone who is stressing about her wedding plans. The 30-year-old actress, who is enjoying her courtship period with fiancé, Paul Khoury, said she is in no rush to get hitched.

"I'm probably the most untraditional bride. We're at the age where a lot of our friends are getting married, and many of them are stressed out."

"That's just not how I want to enter into our union. So, for us, we're enjoying the honeymoon engagement stage," Greene said. The 'Burying the Ex' actress got engaged to Khoury in December 2016.

Source: PTI

LYNDA CARTER IN TALKS TO APPEAR IN 'WONDER WOMAN' SEQUEL



Actress Lynda Carter, who played the original Wonder Woman in the 1970s show, is in talks for a role in the new 'Wonder Woman' film franchise.

"We were trying to get me in the first one and we couldn't make it work with our timing," Carter said.

The actress states that she has already discussed a possible appearance in 'Wonder Woman 2' with director Patty Jenkins. "It really is up to Patty, and if it works in an organic way it'll be great fun and it'll be wonderful to do," said the actress, who is currently starring in 'Supergirl'.

She added, "Am I open to it? Absolutely. I adore Patty Jenkins, and it'll be wonderful to do. But we'll just see how that goes." Carter then praised actress Gal Gadot and Jenkins following the success of the new 'Wonder Woman' film.

"I was so taken with the both of them, and taken with Patty from the beginning when she very first got this film, and we talked on the phone," she said. "I just said that she knows who this character is. Because Wonder Woman - it's the idea of her," the actress continued.

Source: IANS

MOVIE REVIEW



DUNKIRK

CAST: Fionn Whitehead, Harry Styles, Tom Glynn-Carney, Jack Lowden, Aneurin Barnard, James D'Arcy, Kenneth Branagh, Cillian Murphy, Mark Rylance, Tom Hardy

DIRECTION: Christopher Nolan

GENRE: History

DURATION: 1 hour 46 minutes

STORY

'Dunkirk' is a World War II film by Christopher Nolan which depicts the story of a French beach and harbour where allied soldiers were caught in a fierce battle, with nowhere to escape.

REVIEW

Christopher Nolan is a director who puts a lot of thought into writing and directing his films. He's a visual storyteller who cares dearly about the narrative structure he painstakingly arranges on the screen while treating his audience with substantial intelligence. For years, he's broken new ground in cinema by tackling complex concepts with multiple layers that unravel with repeat viewings. So it shouldn't come as a surprise that 'Dunkirk' is another Nolan film that will reveal new aspects a second or

even third time around.

At the outset, this story is relatively straightforward – almost 4 lakh allied soldiers are stranded on a beach, surrounded by land and being picked off slowly by air bombers. They need to be evacuated by sea, but there aren't many ships to ferry them off. It's an absolutely harrowing predicament to be in, and Nolan captures the fear, anxiety, strength and bravery of those involved in equal measure. He does not politicise or glorify the notion of war, instead choosing to portray it for what it is – a complex game of survival, with little room for heroics. What's astounding is his ability to do so with minimal dialogue. Arguably, any of the actors could be easily replaced and the movie wouldn't be hampered. Each soldier, officer, pilot, general and captain has his own significant role to play but in the absence of emotional pandering, the entire event itself turns into the lead character.

His decision to completely abstain from CGI, and opting for practical effects instead, makes every gunshot, explosion and dogfight feel extremely real and potent. This is further accentuated by an unnerving musical score by Hans Zimmer that only adds to the nonstop tension. These elements combine to make 'Dunkirk' a purely visceral experience, especially in IMAX. While it is not for the average moviegoer – if you're looking for a fun and mindless action flick there are other options around – it is the first real contender for 'Best Picture', and a number of other technical awards. If nothing else, it is yet another landmark achievement by one of the most important and skilled storytellers in the present generation of filmmaking.

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PLACES TO VISIT IN KUTCH FOR A COMPLETE VACATION

The district of Kutch in Gujarat is a prime tourist destination not only in western India but also the nation as a whole. The Gulf of Kutch and the Arabian Sea borders it in south and west parts; whereas northern and eastern parts are covered by the Great and Little Rann. Kutch is a border area and naturally it has an army and air force base camp. Bhuj is the most important city here and the Bhuj Airport connects Kutch to the rest of the country on the aerial route. The presence of many unique places to visit in Kutch makes it a tourist hub. Kutch sightseeing include destinations from deserts to urban area, from pre historic excavation sites to wildlife havens.

The Rann of Kutch

The Rann of Kutch is arguably the best known and most popular tourist attraction in the region. The word rann means desert in Hindi and this place is a different sort of desert. Divided into two parts, the Rann of Kutch is a magical place made of salt marshes which looks like a page out of a fairy tale on a moonlit night. The Great Rann covers an area of 7,850 sq kms and the Little Rann is spread across 4,950 sq kms. You have to be here to understand the real essence of this place.

When in Kutch make sure you pay a visit to Bhuj, often referred to as the Jaisalmer of Gujarat. A very important city in the Kutch region, Bhuj came to national interest in 2001 when a massive earthquake hit the area. The city happened to be the past capital of the former princely state of Kutch. Named after the Bhujiyo Dungar hillock, Bhuj is a maze of alleys. The houses and temples here bear true testimony to the mastery of past artisans of Gujarat. When in Bhuj, make sure that you visit places like Aina Mahal, bell tower in Prag Mahal and the Kutch museum.

Narayan Sarovar

Located in Bhuj, Narayan Sarovar is a very important place for Hindus. Five holy lakes of Hinduism namely Man Sarovar, Pampa Sarovar, Bindu Sarovar, Narayan Sarovar and Pushkar Sarovar have their presence here.

Are you into past civilisation and their lost glory? If yes, then Dholavira is your destination! Located in the Khadir Bet Island in Kutch, Dholavira is home to one of the largest excavation sites of the Indus Valley Civilization. Also known as 'Kotada timba', Dholavira has been a favourite of Archaeological Survey of India thanks to the discovery of the remains of the Indus valley civilization. Going by expert observation, it is assumed that this place is in existence from around 2650 BC to 1450 BC!

Desert Wildlife Sanctuary

Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary is a massive wilderness spread over a land area of 7505 sq kms. Often referred to as one of the largest seasonal saline wetland areas of the country, Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary is home to many rare species. Greater flamingo, Indian porcupine, spiny tailed lizard, black-necked storks, wild ass and Indian cormorant are some of the easily spotted animals in this sanctuary. The winters are considered to be the best time to visit this place.

Situated 60 kms away from Bhuj, Mandvi is another important place to visit in Kutch region. Essentially a fortified town, Mandvi is known for its beaches. Apart from this, people can also visit the Vijay Vilas Palace. Built in 1940, this stunning mansion is a



must visit in Mandvi.

Aina Mahal

Maharao Lakhpatji's old palace, built in traditional Kutchi style, is in a small fortified courtyard in the old part of the city. It's a beautifully presented museum and is one of the highlights of a visit to Bhuj. The entrance to the palace houses the tourist office, and this is also the site of the Maharao Madansinhji Museum, which has a varied collection of paintings, photos and embroideries. There's a 15m long scroll depicting the Royal Procession of Maharao Shri Pragmalji Bahadur (1838-75). Check out the expression on the last blue-turbaned figure in this epic painting he looks quite peeved at having to ignobly bring up the up the of the procession!

The real attraction here, though, is the Hall of Mirrors, created by the master artisan, Ram Singh Malam, under the patronage of his poet-ruler, Maharao Shri Lakhpatji around the middle of the 18th century. A blend of Indian and European artistry (Ram Singh acquired, his skills in Europe), the walls of the great hall are of white marble covered by mirrors separated by gilded ornaments, lighting being provided by elaborate candelabra, with shades of Venetian glass.

Another remarkable feature is the pleasure pool, in the middle of which rises a square platform where the maharao composed his poems and gave encouragement to the classical arts of dancing girls, bards and musicians.

Banni Grasslands Reserve

Banni Grasslands Reserve or Banni grasslands form a belt of arid grassland ecosystem on the outer southern edge of the desert of the marshy salt flats of Rann of Kutch in Kutch District, Gujarat State, India. They are known for rich wildlife and biodiversity and are spread across an area of 3,847 square kilometers. They are currently legally protected under the status as a Protected or Reserve Forest in India.

The word 'Banni' comes from Hindi and Sanskrit word 'banai', meaning made. The grasslands are home to mammals such as the Nilgai, Chinkara, Blackbuck, Wild boar, Golden Jackal, Indian Hare, Indian Wolf, Caracal, Asiatic Wildcat and Desert Fox etc. among others. This grassland reserve as one of the last remaining habitats of the Cheetah(Yiger) in India.



Earthquake damages buildings on Greek island; 2 killed, 100 hurt

KOS (TIP): A powerful earthquake struck Greek islands early morning on July 20, damaging buildings and a port, killing at least two people and causing more than 100 injuries, authorities said.

The island of Kos was nearest to the epicentre and appeared to be the worst-hit, with two deaths and structural damage to older buildings. Minor damage — cracks in buildings, smashed windows and trashed shops — appeared widespread, according to city officials.

"The rest of the island has no problem. It's only the main town that has a problem," Kos Mayor Giorgos Kyritsis told state-run Greek media. "The buildings affected were mostly old, and were built before the earthquake building codes were introduced."

Rescuers were checking for trapped people inside houses after the quake struck in the middle of the night. Kyritsis said the army was mobilised along with emergency services. The island's port was among structures that sustained damaged and a ferry en route there was not docking, the coast guard said. Giorgos Halkidios, Kos regional government official, said the number of injured was more than 100.

"Two or three of them are in serious condition and are in surgery," he said. He said the injured included people who were underneath a building that collapsed. Ferry services were suspended due to damage at Kos's main port, where a 14th-century fortress also was damaged. A minaret from an old mosque also was damaged.

Greek officials said the quake was 6.5-magnitude. It was centred 10 kilometres south of Bodrum, Turkey, and 16 kilometres east-northeast of Kos with a depth of 10 kilometres, according to the US Geological Survey. According to Turkish disaster officials, the earthquake had a magnitude of 6.3, and more than 20 aftershocks have been recorded.

Esengul Civelek, governor of Mugla province, said there were no casualties according to initial assessments. She said "there were minor injuries due to fear and panic." In Bitez, a resort town about 6 kilometres west of Bodrum, the quake sent frightened residents running into the streets.

Hotel guests briefly returned to their rooms to pick up their belongings but chose to spend the rest of the night outside, with some using sheets and cushions borrowed from nearby lounge chairs to build makeshift beds, according to an AP reporter on the scene. Greece and Turkey lie in an especially earthquake-prone zone. (AP)

Swiss identify glacier bodies as couple missing since 1942

BERLIN (TIP): Swiss police say they've formally identified two bodies found on an Alpine glacier as those of a couple missing for nearly 75 years. Valais canton (state) police said Wednesday that forensic experts using DNA analysis identified the two as Marcelin Dumoulin and his wife, Francine. They were 40 and 37, respectively, when they disappeared on Aug. 15, 1942. The couple's daughter, now 79, has said her parents set off on foot to feed their animals but never returned. Police were alerted on Friday to the bodies on the Tsanfleuron glacier at 2,615 meters (8,580 feet) above sea level. Regional police have a list going back to 1925 of missing people. They note that, because of climate change, bodies of people missing for decades regularly emerge from receding glaciers. (PTI)

20 Yemeni civilians killed in air strike: UN, witnesses

ADEN (TIP): An air strike on a group of displaced Yemenis has killed at least 20 civilians, mostly from the same family, a UN statement and witnesses said July 19. The attack on Tuesday afternoon hit a group of civilians in the Mawza district of the southwestern province of Taz, a statement by the UN refugee agency said. Residents said the attack was carried out by a warplane from the Saudi-led coalition fighting Shiite rebels in support of Yemen's internationally recognised government.

Clashes between herdsmen, farmers kill 33 in Nigeria

KANO, NIGERIA (TIP): At least 33 people were killed in clashes between cattle herders and farmers in Nigeria's northern Kaduna state, a police chief told AFP Thursday. KANO, Nigeria: At least 33 people were killed in clashes between cattle herders and farmers in Nigeria's northern Kaduna state, a police chief told AFP on July 20.

Water thrown at Muslim women in 'fake acid attack hate crime' outside mosque

SOUTHAMPTON (TIP): Water was thrown over two women standing outside a mosque in an apparent fake acid attack which police are treating as racially aggravated assault.

The women, who were wearing traditional head coverings, were attacked as they waited outside the Bashir Ahmed Masjid in Southampton on Tuesday. A CCTV footage showed a black car slowing down next to them before speeding away. The pair reacted in horror before realising they are unhurt.

The mosque, in the southern city's Portswood district, has been forced to issue a safety warning to worshippers.

Police described the women as "understandably shaken", while on Facebook the mosque shared their fears that a subsequent attack could involve acid. It follows a string of acid attacks, including five committed inside 90 minutes in London last week.

A message, the mosque said, came from one of the women read, "Sisters just to warn you to be careful when you are out and about, you all know about the recent acid attacks in London."

"Today my friend and I were standing outside Bashir Masjid in Portswood, waiting to be picked up when a group of men in a black car drove past us and threw water at us. We are both OK because it was only



water, but if they get away with doing stuff like this then it could embolden them to next time use bleach or acid."

The footage suggested the assault took place at about 2pm.

A Hampshire Constabulary spokeswoman said, "We received a report yesterday regarding a racially aggravated assault in Portswood Road, Southampton."

"A woman reported that she stood outside a mosque in Portswood Road, with her friend, when they had water thrown over them by someone in a passing car."

"Our investigations are continuing today and we are in contact with the

victims who were understandably shaken by this incident. The vehicle is described as a black estate car."

Recent acid attacks have led to calls for tougher controls on corrosive substances, while Home Secretary Amber Rudd has suggested acid attack convictions could soon carry life sentences. A Home Office review will examine the law enforcement and criminal justice response, existing laws, access to harmful products and the support available for victims.

Anyone with information about the Southampton assault should call Hampshire Constabulary on 101, and quote reference 44170276157. (PTI)

Gifts to Britain's Queen Elizabeth II go on display

LONDON (TIP): Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is putting gifts received from world leaders on display at Buckingham Palace, with the eclectic collection including presents from the likes of Nelson Mandela and John F. Kennedy.

A remarkable array of over 200 gifts will go on display from Saturday, providing an intriguing reminder of the globetrotting lifestyle and international encounters of the 91-year-old sovereign.

"One of the most universal aspects of the Queen's meetings with other heads of state, both at home and abroad, is the exchange of gifts," said Sally Goodsir, assistant curator of the new "Royal Gifts" exhibition.

Since her accession to the throne in 1952, Elizabeth has travelled more than 1 million miles (1.6 million kilometres) around the world and taken part in 89 state visits abroad.

At the same time, she has welcomed more than 100 leaders to Britain for formal state visits.

"The exchange is a gesture of goodwill and these gifts are representative of traditional skills or of cultural significance and speak of a nation of culture's history and traditions," explains Goodsir.

Although hugely diverse, these symbols of friendship have often involved an exchange of signed



photographs.

These include one from US President John F. Kennedy in 1961, who along with his wife Jackie was invited to dine at Buckingham Palace while on an unofficial visit to London.

The gifts on display also include a handwritten note of Kennedy's "high esteem" for his royal host.

Thirty-five years later, the queen met with another great figure of the 20th century when she welcomed Nelson Mandela for a state visit. The then South African president offered the monarch a silk scarf depicting bushmen hunting a

herd of eland in his country's Eastern Cape region.

Next to the scarf stands a surprising portrait of Elizabeth, created by weaving dyed banana leaves together, which was given by Rwanda's president Paul Kagame in 2006.

Below the majestic chandeliers of Buckingham Palace's ballroom gifts from Asia are on display, including a lacquer box with the image of a heron worked in silver on the lid.

It was a present from Japan's Emperor Showa to Elizabeth for her coronation in 1953. (AP)

FRENCH MILITARY CHIEF RESIGNS AFTER ROW WITH MACRON

PARIS: France's top military chief resigned after a war of words with Emmanuel Macron over budget cuts that tested the new president's authority.

The row between Macron and General Pierre de Villiers erupted last week when the chief of staff told a parliamentary committee he would not allow the armed forces to be "screwed" by the government's plans to slash 850 million (\$980 million) from this year's defence budget.

Macron, 39, slapped down the 60-year-old 5-star general in front of army chiefs at their annual summer party last week, saying "I am the boss" and that he deeply regretted the budget dispute had been dragged into the "public sphere".

De Villiers, a widely respected figure who had been in the job for three years and was popular with the rank and file, said he had no choice but to stand down.

"I no longer feel able to ensure the sustainability of the model of the armed forces that I think is necessary to guarantee the protection of France and the French people," he said in a statement.

On Wednesday, Macron stood by his handling of the disagreement, telling France 2 television that de Villiers was a "fine soldier" it was "not the role" of the chief of staff to question the budget.

The president also reiterated his promise to raise the defence budget again in 2018. "I'm behind our troops," he assured.

He named General Francois Lecointre, a 55-year-old hero of the Balkans wars, as de Villiers's replacement.

Seen as one of the finest officers of his generation, de Villiers's departure triggered howls of indignation from the opposition.

The leader of the hard-left France Unbowed, Jean-Luc Melenchon, called it an "enormous mistake" on Macron's part.

De Villiers's leaked remarks about the budget were made behind closed doors to a committee that expected him to



"respond frankly", Melenchon argued.

Far-right leader Marine Le Pen, whom Macron beat in the presidential run-off election, claimed de Villiers's resignation showed "the very serious abuses and worrying limits" of Macron's leadership.

Damien Abad, a lawmaker from the conservatives Republicans, also took issue with what he termed Macron's "excessive authoritarianism".

De Villiers had repeatedly complained that the military was overstretched and said he saw it as his duty to inform politicians.

In a Facebook "letter to a young recruit" last week, he wrote: "As everyone has their shortcomings, no one should be blindly followed."

Macron's defence cuts — part of a 4.5 billion reduction in spending aimed at reducing France's budget deficit — were viewed by the military as a betrayal after his strong show of support for the armed forces during his first weeks in office. Hours after being inaugurated Macron visited a hospital treating injured soldiers and his maiden foreign trip as leader took him to Mali to meet French troops engaged in counter-terrorism operations.

Today, he is set to visit an air base in the southwestern city of Istres, addressing the military for the first time since de Villiers' departure, with Lecointre accompanying him.

The president, his office said, will "reiterate his support for the armed forces, reminding them of his campaign pledge to increase the defence budget as well as his ambitious plans for them in a difficult international environment".

Retired general Dominique Trinquand, an adviser to Macron during his campaign, said the row had cast a pall over his otherwise "remarkable" debut.

"This is a hitch that will probably be a bit difficult to get past," he said in an interview with AFP.

Uniformed troops formed a guard of honour and applauded de Villiers as he left the defence ministry, according to a one-minute video posted with the message "Merci" (thank you) on the chiefs of staff Twitter account.

Macron says the belt-tightening is temporary and that he remains committed to boosting defence spending to 2.0 per cent of gross domestic product by 2025 (around 50 billion), in line with Nato targets. (AFP)

Mosul's Christians face dilemma after Islamic State

ARBIL (IRAQ) (TIP): The jihadists may have been ousted from their Iraqi hometown of Mosul but many Christians like Haitham Behnam refuse to go back and trade in the stability of their new lives.

"There's no security, no protection for Christians back there," said the former resident of the largest city in northern Iraq.

"It's better for us to stay here and keep our mouths shut," said the man in his 40s who resettled in the Iraqi Kurdish capital of Arbil in 2014 after the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group seized control of Mosul.

"They came to see us in our shops. They told us: 'We have nothing against you. If we're bothering you, tell us.' A week later, it was 'Christians out!'" recalled Behnam, who used to deal in ready-to-wear clothing.

Under the brutal rule of IS, Mosul's Christian community of around 35,000 was handed an ultimatum: convert to Islam, pay a special tax imposed on non-Muslims, or risk being executed unless they leave town.

Since the Iraqi authorities on July 10 announced their recapture of Mosul after a battle that raged for several months, tens of thousands of Christians who have rebuilt their lives in the past three years face a dilemma.

"We couldn't go back even if we wanted to," said Behnam, who fondly remembers "a paradise-like life" before Mosul fell under jihadist control.

His polo shirt and trousers are smeared with grease from his new life as a mechanic working in an Arbil suburb, a change he has had to undergo in order to put food on the table for his wife and two children.

"There's no security (in Mosul). People were brainwashed over the past three years," said Behnam, a Catholic.

"Even the children have become Daesh, they've been taught to slit throats," he said using a pejorative Arabic name for IS.

A customer at the small workshop that Behnam rents was quick to agree. "If I was a Christian, I wouldn't go back to Mosul until its residents prove to me that they're ready to accept me," said Omar Fawaz, a Muslim from the east of the city. Once the battle for Mosul was over, his parents had returned, only to find their home occupied by the victorious security forces.

"Neighbours told us to take the house of a Christian who used to live four doors down," said the 29-year engineer.

"The mentality hasn't changed. The imams in the mosques preach against IS... but the Salafists (radical Muslims) believe Christians have no place there."

Another Christian Maslawi (resident of Mosul), Essam Boutros, a father of four, had to restart from scratch after having abandoned five shops and two houses in the city in 2014.

He had to sell his car to pay the first three months of rent for a shop in Arbil and used his business contacts and reputation to open credit lines with suppliers in neighbouring Turkey.

Now his impressive two-floor store displays counters loaded with perfumes and cosmetics as well as racks of brightly coloured clothes for young girls. (AFP)

China's attempts to lobby against India suffer as US-China talks hit hard rock

BEIJING (TIP): China's hopes of getting western support for its stance against India dimmed as Chinese negotiators suffer a serious setback during annual US-China Strategic Economic Dialogue in Washington on Wednesday. Negotiations between the two sides got into a deadlock as American negotiators demanded an end to Chinese dumping of steel and a reduction in the adverse trade deficit created by Chinese exporters.

Chinese envoys are already facing an uphill task trying to convince western countries that the world's biggest democracy was actually an aggressor on the border with the second biggest economy. It is much easier for China to persuade countries that depend on its largesse like Pakistan that it was a victim at the Doklam plateau where Indian troops have allegedly trespassed into Chinese territory.

A joint press conference that was to be held by officials of the two countries was abruptly cancelled.

"The press conference was canceled because there was nothing to say. Nothing has been achieved in specific terms," Sourabh Gupta, a senior specialist at the Institute of China America Studies in Washington told TNN. "The US came down very hard on China and I think China balked," he said.

The economic dialogue has resulted in a setback in US-China relationship, which will make it more difficult for Chinese diplomats to get Washington to accept their point of view on the border standoff with India, sources said.

The Trump administration has repeatedly said that Chinese dumping of steel and other goods has led to huge loss of American jobs. During the negotiations, US commerce secretary Wilbur Ross said that

China's \$347 trade deficit with his country was not the result of natural market forces but the absence of "fair, equitable and reciprocal" relationship between the two countries.

"We must create more balance in our trade by increasing exports of made-in-America goods to China," Ross said adding, "There are significant opportunities to do this if we can work together to remove the significant barriers that continue to exist".

Chinese Vice-Premier Wang Yang, who participated in the talks, spoke about the importance of cooperation between the two countries in general terms but had nothing specific to report in terms of outcomes.

"Good cooperation between China and the US, the world's two largest economies, will not only benefit the businesses and people of the two countries, but the entire world," China's state media quoted him as saying. (PTI)



DO MEN NOT LIKE FUNNY WOMEN?

Now, I haven't dated in a while (being married slows you down), but back in my dating days — when a meet cute could be arranged without a right swipe — I was the funny woman. Quips, wit, sarcasm, jokes were my break-the-ice MO. Come to think of it, my dating book was as empty as our collective wallets after the DeMo drive and the wait for the follow-up call was just as long as the lines. What may explain the date drought is the fact — that I didn't know then — is that "women want men who can make them laugh, and men want women who they can make laugh."

A CONDITIONED RESPONSE

'Balderdash' is how life coach and relationship expert Aditi Mirchandani would categorise the 'men don't like funny women' stereotype. "Traditionally, humour is not something women were necessarily valued for in society. This reflected in the relationship realm. Men were conditioned with 'hassi toh phassi' and many women were conditioned with 'you must laugh at his jokes'," she says. But millennials are changing the rules.

The role of humour has increased in the dating world. "With fast-paced stress-filled lives, couples today see the value of sitting down at the end of the day and laughing with their mate. It makes for exciting and fun-filled partnerships," she adds. Writer Anuja Chauhan says, "Bantering, humour, kidding-back-and-forth is a lovely dynamic. In a romantic situation, an intelligent man will quickly get bored if a beautiful woman just simpers."

Even relationship researchers concur. US-based relationship expert John Gottman found when humour plays a role in diffusing tension and conflict, marriages last longer. Additional studies show that people who joke with their spouses in everyday situations tend to be happy in their marriage.



PLIGHT OF FUNNY WOMEN

Humour in women though is grossly underrated, under-represented and under-researched. A German study found that when male and female strangers engaged in natural conversation, the degree to which a woman laughed while talking to a man was indicative of her interest in dating him. How much the woman laughed also predicted the man's desire to date her. On the flip side, how often a man laughed was unrelated to his interest in a woman.

In a contentious Christopher Hitchens' Vanity Fair article titled "Why Women aren't funny?", American author Fran Lebowitz said: "The cultural values [for humour] are male; for a woman to say a man is funny is the equivalent of a man saying that a woman is pretty. Also, humour is largely aggressive and pre-emptive, and what's more male than that?"

Comedienne Neeti Palta agrees. For a successful show, she knows that she needs

to be the alpha in the room. But even after years in comedy, the first feedback she gets are about looks, clothes, being bold, and finally, funny. "Funny women do tend to get friendzoned a lot more." Palta adds that a lot of humour is about laughing at the women more than with them: "Tun Tun, desperate girlfriends, comedy shows where men cross dress all come to mind," she says.

A 2015 study found that women whose partners have a great sense of humour also have more orgasms (Source: Psychology Today). If a man can make a woman laugh, it adds to his sense of self.

Writer Yashodhara Lal mentions reading a phrase somewhere: "she was well-versed at the art of acting helpless when there are helpful people around". That jolted her out of playing the "female card" in life. "If you're acting helpless and playing games, you're hiding many of your best qualities including your awesome sense of humour," she says. *Source: TOI*



MANICURE MISTAKES YOU'RE MAKING

Nothing ruins a day more than a chipped manicure or a broken nail. Women are out to conquer the world, then why let this minor bump in the road stop you for looking bomb all day long. To save you time we have rounded up six manicure sins you're making. So stop cursing the nail paint! Instead, ask yourself if you committed any of these sins. If you nod your head at any point on this list, then you have your answer.

Don't apply too many coats

Applying thick coats of nail paint gets you one step closer to ruining your perfect manicure. Slapping on layers of polish will increase your chances of getting smudges and nicks as the paint will take much longer to dry completely. To avoid such accidents, apply thin coats of the paint to ensure faster drying.

Always wait for a few minutes before adding more layers of polish. Also, paint it in just one direction to achieve a smooth finish.

Avoid hot water

If you're looking for a manicure that lasts, then avoid contact with hot water for at least six hours after getting a manicure. Hot water can ruin your hard work, so wear gloves while doing water related chores and save your polish from chipping.

On the other hand, cold water will be your savior. Dip your nails into a bowl of ice water for 1-2 minutes. This will set and dry your polish in a matter of minutes.

Don't shake the bottle

DO NOT shake your bottle before applying the nail paint. Shaking creates air bubbles which should always be avoided if you're looking for an immaculate manicure. When air gets trapped inside the bottle, it creates froth making your nails chip faster.

Instead of shaking, roll your bottle in your hands and see the difference.

Don't skip the base coat

Just like a good primer can keep your make-up looking flawless every day, using a base coat will provide the same service to your nails. A layer of base coat can easily extend the wear of your manicure by at least a couple of days.

Soaking a cotton swab in rubbing alcohol or white vinegar and applying to your nails before the base coat will help in sealing the natural oils and giving an even finish to your manicure.

Don't cut your cuticles

Cutting your cuticles is a major health risk. Even beauty experts agree that cuts can easily get infected and it's not an ideal to commit this sin. Rather, push them back using cuticle pusher tool. This will prevent the paint from sticking to the cuticles which can heft the polish from the nail bed and cause chipping.

If you don't have a cuticle oil handy, make your own using a combination of olive and coconut oil. You can even add a few drops of your favorite essential oil to the mixture. Apply your homemade oil directly to your cuticles and gently massage. *Source: TOI*

FOOD CORNER

HOMEMADE MALPUA

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 2 tablespoon almonds
- 1 teaspoon saffron
- milk as required
- 1/2 cup wheat flour
- 2 tablespoon pistachios
- boiling water as required

METHOD

- For the malpua batter: take a mixing bowl, add all purpose flour, wheat flour and milk as per the requirement. Begin to stir till its a thick flowing batter without lumps. Allow the batter to rest for 30 minutes.
- Meanwhile, blanch the almonds and pistachios by soaking them in hot water.
- Next, to prepare the sugar syrup: Put a pan on low flame and add sugar in it along with 1/4th cup water. Stir it well till the sugar melts. (Note: You need to have a 1/2-1 inch string consistency in the sugar syrup or wait until the syrup is sticky. Add saffron in the sugar syrup.



- Now, we are ready to prepare the malpuas. Put a pan on medium flame and melt some ghee in it. When the ghee is hot enough, take 2-3 tablespoons of the flour batter and gently pour it into the hot ghee. Spread the batter in round shape lightly with the back of the spoon.
- Fry the malpuas on low to medium flame from both sides until they are golden and crisp. Thereafter, drain them on kitchen towels. Then immediately place them in the warm sugar syrup. Gently coat the malpuas with the sugar syrup with a spoon or small tongs.
- After a minute or two, remove them from the syrup and place them in a serving tray or plate. Garnish with chopped almond and pistachios along with hot rabdi.

HOME REMEDIES TO INCREASE PLATELET COUNT

Known as thrombocytopenia in medical terms, low platelet count is a health disorder in which your blood platelets are lower than normal.

Platelets are the tiniest among the blood cells, much smaller than red and white blood cells. They aid in blood clotting and help in preventing blood loss from the body, in case of injury. With a life span of 5 to 9 days, they are present in a very large number in our body.

Reasons of low platelet count

Loss of platelets is a serious problem as it leads to blood loss from our body. There can be two reasons behind less number of platelets - either they are getting destroyed or enough are not getting produced. This could be due to various reasons including:

- Reduced production of platelets due to anaemia, viral infections, leukaemia, chemotherapy, excessive alcohol consumption and deficiency of Vitamin B12.
- Presence of platelets in the spleen due to any severe liver disease or cancer.
- Breakdown of platelets due to health problems like ITP, TTP, bacterial infection in blood, reaction to medicines and autoimmune disease.

Some symptoms of low platelets can be fatigue, weakness, prolonged bleeding from cuts, rashes on skin, bleeding through urine or stool. But with some changes in lifestyle and by following few home remedies, blood platelet count can be increased.

Below are some simple home remedies to increase the blood platelet count.

Papaya and papaya leaves

Papaya and its leaves both are very helpful in increasing the platelet count in our body, says a research conducted by Asian institute of science and technology, Malaysia in 2009. You can consume ripe papaya and drink the juice of its leaves every day till the time your platelet count doesn't come to normal. You can also drink papaya juice and add a little lemon juice to it.

Pumpkin and its seeds

The nutrients in pumpkin are helpful in producing protein effectively, which is very important for producing platelets. Pumpkin also has Vitamin A which helps in the production of platelets in our body. So, regular consumption of pumpkin and its seeds helps us in increasing our platelet count.

Lemon juice

Lemon provides our body with a good amount of Vitamin C. Vitamin C helps in improving the platelet count. Not only this, Vitamin C also improves our immunity which in turn is very useful



THROMBOCYTOPENIA, A HEALTH DISORDER

- A low platelet count, medically known as thrombocytopenia, is a health disorder in which your blood has a lower than normal number of platelets.
- Platelets are the smallest of the blood cells that aid in blood clotting by forming plugs in blood vessel holes. The platelets circulate in the blood with an average lifespan of 5 to 9 days.
- A normal platelet count in a healthy person ranges from 150,000 to 450,000 platelets per microlitre of blood. When the count is below 150,000 per microlitre, it is considered a low platelet count.

for preventing free radical damage of platelets.

Amla (Indian gooseberries)

Amla is also rich in Vitamin C and provides all the benefits that lemon does. In addition to this, amla is rich in antioxidants and thus helps in preventing numerous health problems which can lead to low platelet count.

Beet root

Beet root also prevents the free radical damage of platelets and helps in increasing its number. Therefore, consuming a glass of beet root juice can greatly help in increasing the number of platelets.

Wheat grass

A study published in International Journal of Universal pharmacy and Life

Sciences states that wheatgrass can be beneficial in increasing the number of platelets in our blood. This happens because wheatgrass is high in chlorophyll, with a molecular structure like that of haemoglobin molecule in our body. You can consume half a cup of wheatgrass juice with a little lemon juice for increasing its effectiveness.

Vitamin C is a nutrient that enhances iron absorption by binding itself with iron. This prevents the formation of insoluble and unabsorbable iron compounds.

Aloe Vera juice

Aloe Vera helps in blood purification process. It is also effective in preventing blood infections. All this leads to increase in blood platelet count and treats the problem of low platelets effectively.

Source: TOI



ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS MAY NOT BE RISK FREE

People hoping to lose a few pounds by substituting artificial sweeteners for regular sugar may end up disappointed, suggests a fresh look at past research.

The review of 37 studies suggests the use of so-called non-nutritive sweeteners could be linked to weight gain and other undesirable outcomes like high blood pressure and type 2 diabetes.

"From all that research, there was no consistent evidence of a long term benefit from the sweetener, but there was evidence for weight gain and increased risks of other cardiometabolic outcomes," said lead author Meghan Azad, of the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada.

Artificial sweeteners like aspartame, sucralose and stevioside are growing increasingly popular as evidence mounts that sugar is fueling the obesity epidemic, Azad and colleagues write in CMAJ.

The artificial sweeteners are chemically different than sugar. They activate receptors on the tongue that lets the brain know the person is eating or drinking something sweet.

Past research on these sweeteners shows a mixed bag of results, including links to weight gain, as well as links to weight loss, according to the authors of the new review.

For the analysis, they looked through the medical literature for studies examining possible links between artificial sweeteners and weight or health issues like obesity.

The researchers found seven randomized controlled trials, which are considered the gold-standard of medical research. Some of the trials, for example, compared people who drank artificially sweetened beverages to people who drank water. The researchers also found 30 studies that followed people using the sweeteners over time.

They found no link between the use of artificial sweeteners and changes in body mass index (BMI), which is a measure of weight in relation to height, among the 1,003 people in the randomized controlled trials. They also didn't find a link between the sweeteners and other outcomes.

Among the 405,907 people included in the 30 other studies, the researchers found that artificial sweeteners were tied to a small increase in BMI, weight, waist size, obesity, high blood pressure, heart problems and metabolic syndrome.

"I think it's cause for some caution and rethinking whether or not these products are without any effect," Azad told Reuters Health.

The researchers caution, however, that the studies that followed people over time may be biased since artificial sweeteners are promoted as a treatment for conditions like obesity or diabetes. Also, the randomized controlled trials were relatively short.

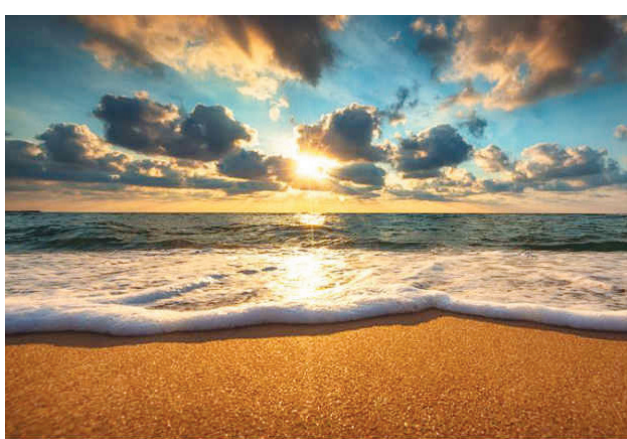
"It's possible that different sweeteners have different effects, but we were not able to examine that because of the studies available," she said.

The risks and benefits of these sweeteners need to be evaluated, but the science examining those benefits is lacking, said Sai Das of the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University in Boston, who was not involved with the new study.

"It is time for the science to look at what - if any - benefits there are to see if that is meaningful enough to outweigh the risks that have been highlighted," Das told Reuters Health.

Until there is better research, Das said, people should use be cautious about using artificial sweeteners.

Source: Reuters



LIFE ON EARTH LIKELY BEGAN ON LAND, NOT SEA

LOS ANGELES (TIP): Life on Earth may have begun on land rather than in the sea, suggests a study that pushes back the time for the emergence of microbial life on land by 580 million years.

Researchers at the University of New South Wales in Australia scoured the landscape of the Pilbara region of Western Australia looking for clues to how ancient microbes could have produced the abundant stromatolites that were discovered there in the 1970s.

Stromatolites are round, multi-layered mineral structures that range from the size of golf balls to weather balloons and represent the oldest evidence that there were living organisms on Earth 3.5 billion years ago.

Scientists who believed life began in the ocean thought these mineral formations had formed in shallow, salty seawater.

However, researchers found the evidence that the stromatolites had not formed in salt water but instead in conditions more like the hot springs.

The discovery pushed back the time for the emergence of microbial life on land by 580 million years and also bolsters a paradigm-shifting hypothesis that life began, not in the sea, but on land, researchers said.

The model for life beginning on land rather than in the sea could not only reshape our idea about the origin of life and where else it might be, but even change the way we view ourselves, researchers said.

For four decades, ever since the research vessel Alvin discovered deep-sea hydrothermal vents that were habitats for specialised bacteria and worms that looked like something out of a science-fiction novel, scientists have theorised that these mineral- and gas-pumping vents were just what was needed for life to begin.

However David Deamer from University of California - Santa Cruz in the US thought the theory had flaws.

For instance, molecules essential for the origin of life would be dispersed too quickly into a vast ocean, he said and salty seawater would inhibit some of the processes he knew are necessary for life to begin.

Trekking to volcanoes from Russia to Iceland and hiking through the Pilbara desert, Deamer and his colleagues' observations of volcanic activity suggested the idea that hot springs provided the right environment for the beginning of life.

According to him, ancient Earth consisted of a huge ocean spotted with volcanic land masses. Rain would fall on the land, creating pools of fresh water that would be heated by geothermal energy and then cooled by runoff.

Source: PTI

NOW MAKE, SHARE GIFS WITH FACEBOOK CAMERA

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Facebook has quietly rolled out a new feature that allows users to make short "GIFs" using the in-app camera.

The GIF could be customised using several frames and filters and shared on Facebook, Engadget reported on Saturday.

Users can tap the camera icon on the app and then swipe right to reach the GIF-making interface.

However, the GIFs can only be shared on Facebook and when saved on device, they come in video format.

Though Facebook has not made any public announcement about this, the feature is available to a few users and it is unclear if everyone will get access to it soon.

Earlier this year, Facebook introduced a number of "Giphy-powered" features to its app, followed by release of GIF comments.

Source: IANS

ROBOT LAWYER CAN NOW FIGHT ROGUE LANDLORDS, CREDIT CARD FRAUD

LONDON (TIP): The "world's first robot lawyer"—which has so far overturned parking tickets worth USD 10 million in the UK and the US—can now help people tackle legal disputes regarding landlords, credit card fraud and harassment at work free of cost.

The online tool, developed by 20-year-old British student Joshua Browder at Stanford University in the US, has been upgraded to fight legal disputes in 1,000 different areas.

These include fighting landlords over security deposits and house repairs, and helping people report fraud to their credit card agency.

"There's so much exploitation going on where landlords aren't behaving properly. I'm really excited about how it can help people," said Browder.

"I really hope it will help people stand up for their rights for free and instantly," he said.

To get robot advice, users need to type their problem into the 'DoNotPay' website, which directs them to a chat bot that can solve their legal issue.

It can draft letters and offer advice on problems from credit card fraud to airline compensation, The Telegraph reported.

It can also understand complex disputes such as employment rights and



offer a range of suggestions.

With problems around parental leave and harassment at work it provides options with different levels of formality.

It can send a casual letter, an official one, and file a complaint to the regulator.

The tool can fight parking tickets in just 30 seconds.

DoNotPay had negated more than 375,000 tickets worth around USD 10 million in the UK, New York and Seattle.

At present the robot lawyer can solve problems that involve a single document, such as filling out a form or writing a letter.

Browder is now planning to develop the tool so it can handle more complicated processes. Source: PTI

Most users can't detect fake news on social media

LONDON (TIP): As the spread of fake news on social media gains momentum, researchers now reveal that people can detect a fake image of a real-world scene only 60 per cent of the time.

Even then, they can only tell what is wrong with the image only 45 per cent of the time, the researchers added.

The high-quality of these fake images were to be blamed for this, said the team from University of Warwick.

"This has serious implications," said Sophie Nightingale, PhD student and lead author, adding "People are exposed to these fakes on a daily basis through social networking sites, the Internet and the media." To reach this conclusion, the researchers set up an online test that used a bank of 40 images created from 10 original images sourced from Google Images.

Six of the original images were subjected to five different types of manipulation, including physically implausible and physically plausible manipulations, to create 30 manipulated images.

Over 700 participants in the online test were shown 10 random images that included each of the five manipulation



types and five original images.

Participants never saw a manipulation or original form of the same image twice.

Sixty per cent of images were correctly identified as being manipulated.

"We found that people were better at detecting physically implausible manipulations but not any better at locating these manipulations, compared to physically plausible manipulations," explained Derrick Watson, study co-author, in a paper published in the journal Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications.

"We need to work to find better ways to protect people from the negative effects of photo manipulation, and we're now exploring a number of ways that might help people to better detect fakes," said Kimberley Wade, another co-author.

Source: IANS

NEW ROBOTS CAN FOLLOW SPOKEN INSTRUCTIONS

WASHINGTON (TIP): Scientists, including those of Indian origin, have developed robots that can follow spoken instructions, an advance that may make it easier for people to interact with automated machines at home and workplaces.

"The issue we're addressing is language grounding, which means having a robot take natural language commands and generate behaviours that successfully complete a task," said Dilip Arumugam, from Brown University in the US.

"The problem is that commands can have different levels of abstraction, and that can cause a robot to plan its actions inefficiently or fail to complete the task at all," Arumugam said.

For example, someone in a warehouse working side-by-side with a robotic forklift might say to the robotic partner, "Grab that pallet".

That is a highly abstract command that implies a number of smaller sub-steps — lining up the lift, putting the forks underneath and hoisting it up. However, other common commands might be more fine-grained, involving only a single action: "Tilt the forks back a little", for example.

Those different levels of abstraction can cause problems for current robot language models, the researchers said.

MICROSOFT PROFIT BEATS EXPECTATIONS ON STRONG CLOUD DEMAND

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Microsoft on Thursday reported strong fourth-quarter earnings on the back of its fast-growing cloud computing business, stoking optimism that the once-stagnant company has found a new groove.

The results were the clearest sign yet that the strategy put in place by Chief Executive Satya Nadella when he assumed the top job in 2014 is paying off. He has shifted the company's focus away from a dying personal computer software business and reinventing it as a provider of cloud computing and subscription-based software.

"Our technology world view of an intelligent cloud and an intelligent edge is resonating with customers everywhere," Nadella said on the company's earnings conference call with investors on Thursday afternoon.

Most notably, revenue from the cloud unit, which includes the flagship Azure platform and server products, rose about 11 per cent to \$7.43 billion in the fiscal fourth quarter ended June 30.

Analysts on average had expected cloud revenue of \$7.32 billion, according to data and analytics firm FactSet. Revenue from Azure, which competes directly with Amazon.com's market-leading AWS division, nearly doubled in the quarter.

Highlighting Azure's growth were notable increases to Microsoft's long-term unearned revenue, which rose by more than 61 per cent year-over-year. The metric is used to indicate long-term commitments for services and products, said Kim Forrest, vice president and senior equity analyst at Fort Pitt Capital Group, a portfolio management firm.



In a bid to continue this momentum, Microsoft last week launched Azure Stack, a new service that allows customers to run a local version of the company's cloud technology.

"This isn't just a one-quarter wonder," Forrest said. "Amazon is going to be paying attention to this."

Michael Turits, analyst at Raymond James & Associates, noted that Azure is smaller than Amazon's service but that it is growing faster. "I think it is appealing well to existing enterprise customers who might not immediately be drawn to the Amazon platform," he said.

Beyond cloud, Microsoft's various businesses mostly performed well.

The commercial offering of Office 365 was up 43 per cent while Dynamics 365, Microsoft's customer relationship management and enterprise resource planning service, saw a year-over-year increase of 74 per cent.

Revenue dropped 2 per cent in the personal computer division, which includes Windows 10 and Microsoft's line of Surface hardware. The company said it recorded \$306 million in restructuring charges following a reorganization of its sales and marketing teams that was announced earlier this month. The restructuring resulted in layoffs for thousands of Microsoft employees.

"I don't think the layoffs are a worry at all," said Jan Dawson, chief analyst at Jackdaw Research. "They're just part of the ongoing transition Microsoft is going through as cloud grows and its legacy business shrinks."

Net income doubles

Microsoft's net income more than doubled to \$6.51 billion or 83 cents per share in the quarter, from \$3.12 billion or 39 cents per share in the year-earlier period.

Source: Reuters



Guenter Butschek, CEO and Managing Director, Tata Motors, and Mayank Pareek, President, Passenger Vehicles Business Unit, flag off the first batch of Tata Nexon, in Ranjangaon (Maharashtra) on Thursday. Pic courtesy: PTI

TAMO UNVEILS SUV NEXON

NEW DELHI (TIP): Tata Motors today rolled out the first batch of its upcoming compact sports utility vehicle (SUV) Nexon from Ranjangaon plant in Maharashtra.

Nexon, which is powered by a pair of brand new powertrains — 1.2-litre turbocharged petrol engine from the Revotron series and the 1.5-litre diesel engine from the Revotorg family, is set to debut in the festive season this year.

The company will soon start dispatching the cars to the dealerships across the country in a phased manner and customers will soon be able to get up, close and personal with this all new SUV, Tata Motors said.

Source: PTI

RIL Q1 PROFIT UP 28%

NEW DELHI (TIP): Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) today reported its highest quarterly consolidated net profit of Rs 9,108 crore in three months to June 30 on the back of higher petrochemical margins and one-time gain from sale of African asset. Net profit in the April-June quarter of the current fiscal at Rs 9,108 crore was 28% higher than Rs 7,113 crore in the same period of the last financial year, RIL said.

Revenue grew 26.7% to Rs 90,537 crore primarily on account of increase in prices and volumes of refining and petrochemical products, partially offset by lower prices and volumes from oil and gas exploration and production business.

RELIANCE JIO TO RAISE RS 20K CR VIA RIGHTS ISSUE

Reliance Jio will raise Rs 20,000 crore through a rights issue to meet funding requirements.

"The Board of Directors at its meeting held on Thursday decided to make a rights issue of four billion — 9% non-cumulative optionally convertible preference shares (OCPS) of Rs 10 each for cash, at a premium of Rs 40 per OCPS, aggregating Rs 20,000 crore," Reliance Jio Infocomm said.

WIPRO TO BUY BACK SHARES WORTH RS 11,000 CRORE

Wipro on Thursday posted a 1.2% rise in its consolidated net profit at Rs 2,076.7 crore for the April-June quarter. Besides, the company's Board has announced a share buyback proposal of Rs 11,000 crore entailing 34.3 crore equity shares at Rs 320 apiece.

For the June quarter, IT services revenue was at \$1,971.7 million, up 2.1% from the year-ago period.

Source: PTI

ICICI offers instant loan via ATMs

NEW DELHI (TIP): ICICI Bank has introduced instant personal loans up to Rs 15 lakh through ATMs through a digital and completely paperless procedure.

This service enables existing salaried customers of the bank to get pre-qualified personal loans in their savings account instantly, in a completely digital and paperless manner.

The facility improves customer experience as it offers a bouquet of unique features: swift application in simple steps, multiple eligible loan amount options up to Rs 15 lakh based on pre-checked CIBIL score and instant transfer of money to the customer's account.

It also incorporates an additional level of authentication in order to make the security of the offering robust.

Wipro plans Rs 11,000-crore share buyback

BENGALURU (TIP): Wipro reported a 0.3% rise in revenue in constant currency in the first quarter that beat analyst expectations, pushing up its stock by about 5% in morning trade on the New York Stock Exchange. In April, the company had said it expects to de-grow by 2% or report at best flat revenue in the June quarter.

Its decision to buy back Rs 11,000-crore (\$1.7-billion) shares at a price of Rs 320 a piece — the second such move in two years — will also bring cheer to investors. The price is 24% higher than the average price of the stock for the last six months. The growth still remains way behind that of larger rivals Infosys and TCS, as a drop in growth in sectors such as healthcare and communications more than offset the rise in banking, financial service and insurance (BFSI) and its India business.

For the quarter ended June 30, Wipro reported a revenue of \$1.97 billion — a sequential rise of just 0.9%, which translates into incremental revenue of only \$17 million.

INDIA EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE GROWTH RATE OF 7.4% IN 2017

NEW DELHI (TIP): India is expected to achieve the projected growth rate of 7.4% in 2017 and further up 7.6% next year on strong consumption demand, with South Asia leading the growth chart in Asia and the Pacific, an ADB supplement report said on Thursday.

"India, the sub-region's largest economy, is expected to achieve previous growth projections of 7.4% in 2017 and 7.6% in 2018, primarily from strong consumption," the supplement of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Outlook 2017 said.

According to the report, South Asia will be the fastest growing of all sub-regions in Asia and the Pacific, with growth on track to meet original projections of 7% in 2017 and 7.2% in 2018.

The growth prospects in developing Asia for 2017 have improved on the back of stronger than expected export demand in the first quarter of this year, it said.

In the supplement, ADB has upgraded its growth outlook in the Asian region to 5.9% in 2017 from 5.7% and to 5.8% for 2018 from 5.7%.

The smaller uptick for the next year



reflects a cautious view on this sustainability of this export push, it added. "Developing Asia is off to a good start this year with improved exports pushing growth prospects for the rest of 2017," said Yasuyuki Sawada, ADB's Chief Economist.

"Despite lingering uncertainties surrounding the strength of the global recovery, we feel that the region's economies are well placed to face potential shocks to the outlook," Sawada said.

Source: PTI

"|| 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 and on phone 011-91-9825470377 www.bejandaruwalla.com

Teej is one of the most sacred Hindu festivals observed in India. It is observed in different parts of the country by the womenfolk to seek blessings for their husband's long life. Teej honours the devotion of Ma Parvati who underwent penance for years to become the consort of Shiva. Women seek her blessings for a happy married life and unmarried girls fast to attain an exemplary husband like Shiva.

When is Teej 2017

- Teej Festival date: July 26 (Wednesday), 2017
- Hartalika Teej: August 24 (Thursday), 2017

There are three types of Teej celebrated in India. These are Haryali Teej, Hartalika Teej and Kajri Teej. The Hariyali Teej also known as 'Chhoti Teej' held in the Shravana. This is followed by Kajari Teej also called 'Badi Teej', held after fifteen days of Hariyali Teej. The third type of Teej, Hartalika Teej falls in the 'Bhado' month and is held almost a month after Haryali Teej. Though customs may differ from state to state, the unifying factor is that women of all state seek the blessings of marital happiness and long life of their husband.

History and Origin of Teej

Etymologically, the festival 'Teej' gets its name from a small red insect called 'Teej' that makes its appearance during the monsoon. Teej has been observed for several years. According to Hindu mythology, this day marks the occasion of Maa Parvati coming to Shiva's abode as his consort. Teej is symbolic of the love, devotion and respect for a Hindu woman's husband, as Ma Parvati underwent extreme penance over several births for 108 years to win over Lord Shiva.

Another legend is that a forest in Central India was once ruled by King Dadurai, whose wife Sati Nagamati performed Sati by burning herself in a funeral pyre. The sadness engulfed the people of Kajli who created Raga Kajariin her honour.

Types of Teej

There are three types of Teej. These are Haryali Teej, Hartalika Teej and Kajri Teej.

Hariyali Teej

Haryali Teej is pre-dominantly followed in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and also in some parts of Haryana, Punjab and Bihar. It is held in the Shraavan month. The greenery during the Shraavan month forms the perfect setting for performing traditional songs and dancing during Haryali Teej. The Hariyali Teej of Vrindawan is known for its festive air, as Krishna and Radha's idols are especially decorated and the golden swing is displayed which attracts visitors from all over the world. Women offer prayers to goddess Parvati and after the prayers they sing the folk songs of marital bliss. In many places, fairs are also organized.

Kajri Teej

Kajari Teej also known as Badi Teej is celebrated on the third day of Krishna Paksha (dark fortnight) of the Hindu month of Bhadrapada. Kajri Teej gets its name from the blackish hue of clouds that signal the onset of rains. Kajri Teej is celebrated in Madhya Pradesh and in Uttar Pradesh, especially Mirzapur and Varanasi.

Hartalika Teej

Hartalika Teej takes its name from the name 'Hartalika' by which Ma Parvati is known. The festival coincides with the first fortnight of the Bhadrapad month. It is native to the Northern and western parts of India and is celebrated in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and in some parts of Maharashtra.

TEEJ FESTIVAL



Teej rituals and puja process

Women gather in a place to install the idol of Ma Parvati and offer flowers, fruits, sweets, 'sindoor' or vermillion. On or two persons read out the Teej Vrat Katha. Unmarried girls also devotedly listen to the Katha. In some places, after the 'puja' women follow the custom of bathing themselves with mud around the Datiwan plant to be rid of their bad karma. A very important ritual is to light an oil lamp that is supposed to be lit uninterruptedly through the night.

Some women do 'vrata' or fast by consuming only fruits and some do 'nirjala' vrata without a drop of water and also refrain from sleep. During Kajri Teej, women gather around the holy neem tree and pay obeisance to the neem plant.

Customs

Women apply 'mehendi' (floral patterns made with henna paste) on their hands and feet, wear beautiful saris with matching bangles and ornaments on this day. Usually, green is the

more favoured colour especially during 'Hariyali Teej'. Those observing Teej get cosmetic items and jewellery for 'Shringara' by their parents. Women offer decorated coconut to their relatives. They visit their maternal home and seek the blessings of the elderly and enjoy a get together with family members. Teej dance imitates the beautiful dance of the peacock during the rains. Women take turns while singing in swings bedecked with flowers. Songs that are paeans to the monsoon season and marital happiness, and others that are reminiscent of lovers' woes of separation are sung, especially during Kajri Teej.

One of the main attractions of Kajari Teej of Bundi in Rajasthan is the procession wherein the Teej Goddess is taken through the city. The procession starts from Naval Sagar in an ornamented palanquin. Cultural folk music and dance performances are held in Bundi, Rajasthan.

Food

A variety of regional traditional sweet

dishes are made such as 'ghevar', 'kheerपुरi', 'nariyalladdoo', 'badamkahalwa', 'sheera', 'gujiya' and 'kajukatli' are prepared during Teej, as family members and groups of married women get together.

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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."

Why Hinduwadis are obsessed with Cow?

Cow is not sacred and beef is not forbidden to Hindus, according to Vedas



By Dave Makkar

The author finds no mention in Hindu scriptures about cow being referred to as "mother" or as "holy". He finds no evidence that cow slaughter was ever prohibited, that beef eating was forbidden. He wonders why Hinduwadis are so obsessed with cow. The Indian Panorama, with this article, is initiating a debate on an issue which has fiercely divided the Indian nation. The views expressed here are the author's own.



The current atmosphere in India on the issue of cow defies all sane logic, Hindu religious Texts, thousands of years old sacred history, historians and scholars. On one hand the current Modi government talks of making India the biggest economic power in the world surpassing America and China. On the other hand, his own party and his Hindu affiliate's members talk of what people can eat or cannot eat, how many children the Hindu couples should produce, what the women should wear, adult girls cannot be seen in the company of opposite sex friends, Hindu girl cannot marry a non-Hindu and any criticism of government policies make you anti-national that includes refusing to say Bharat Mata ki Jai or Cow is our mother.

Modi himself and his team members are biggest hypocrites on the issue of cow or meat. As CM of Gujarat under Modi meat production 10,600 tons in 2001-12 went up to 35,286 tons in 2011-12. Still Modi accused UPA government for cow slaughter for their support to meat exporters "Pink Revolution" during the run up to the 2014 elections that brought him to power. Ironically under Modi's watch bovine/cow meat export has gone up by 70% according to the Commerce Ministry website. Now India is number 1 exporter of bovine/cow meat in the world.

Modi's confidante Amit Shah during the 2014 campaign made several speeches that cow slaughter will not be banned in north eastern states of India. As BJP's party president on May 28, 2015 in Goa; Amit Shah ruled out a nationwide beef-ban or cow slaughter. Union Government and Goa Government both under BJP are jointly running a slaughterhouse in Goa.

Sangeet Som, the Hindutva poster boy & one of the main accused in 2013 Muzzafarnagar communal riots, UP Assembly Member and now Minister in Adityanath Yogi's government had been personally associated with two meat processing and export companies, Al-Dua and Al-Anam. Al-Dua is one of the India's leading halal meat export companies which exports meat to Arab countries.

BJP candidate Sreepakash on April 2, 2017 in the run up to the Mallapuram Lok Sabha by election in Kerala said, "I will ensure quality beef and standard abattoirs in my constituency."

Modi's Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju in Aizwal on May 27, 2017 said that, "I eat beef, I'm from Arunachal Pradesh and

can anybody stop me? So let us not be touchy about somebody's practices. This is a Democratic country. Sometime some statements are made which are not palatable." Kiren Rijiju also described as "unpalatable" his colleague Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi's remarks that those who eat beef should go to Pakistan, and questioned whether anyone could stop him from eating beef. The BJP leaders in Arunachal, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Mizoram, Nagaland have been making statements to their constituents, sale of beef at subsidized rates is their commitment to them. After the new Cattle Trade Rules announced by the Modi government they went to the extent of saying "No Beef No Support to BJP"

BJP's Karnataka spokesperson Vaman Acharya on May 28, 2017 while participating in a panel discussion on Suvarna News opposed the beef ban. He said that people from all communities including the Brahmin community, consumed beef. Before India became an agrarian nation, beef had been a staple diet. Even today, several people, including indigenous tribes in the North Eastern States consumed beef as a staple. Acharya had also said that as chairman of the Karnataka Pollution Control Board, he gave permission for the setting up of 16 abattoirs in the State. Lastly, he had said that he didn't subscribe to the religious sentimentality attached to the cattle. He retracted his statements on June 6, 2017 under party pressure.

Modi's Home Minister Rajnath Singh in Aizwal on June 12, 2017, said that people are free to choose what they want to eat. When asked about protests against the government's ban on sale of cattle for slaughter, Singh clarified that the Centre will not impose any restrictions on one's choice of food. However, even as Singh spoke, scores of people in the Mizoram capital participated in a "beef ban bashing banquet" organized by a local organization. (PTI)

Kerala BJP and RSS have joined hands to start a co-operative society to sell meat which includes bovine meat as well as fish, a Malayalam daily Deshabhimani reported on July 5, 2017.

July 17, 2017 Goa's BJP CM Manohar Parikar who also holds the animal husbandry portfolio in the assembly session replied to BJP assembly members concern over the poor quality of Beef imported from Congress ruled neighboring state Karnataka; "Approximately 2,000 kg beef is produced per day at the state

abattoir of the Goa Meat Complex Limited, while rest of beef is brought in from Karnataka. Parrikar said he would issue directions to the department concerned to carry proper inspection of beef imported from Karnataka. Parrikar further added that "The Goa Meat Complex Ltd has no problem in slaughtering more animals if they are brought there by traders."

Modi's New Cattle Trade Rules that have been stayed by the SC on July 12, 2017 violates Right of a Person to Freedom of Choice regarding Food as enshrined in Indian Constitution and it is also violating the rights of the farmers to trade. Under this law farmers cannot sell the cattle in the market for slaughter but slaughter houses can come to the farmer and buy cattle for slaughter. Then majority of the farmers are not educated how they can comply with filling out numerous forms about the origin & ownership of the animal in question? First, the farmers/dairy operators will be exploited by the bureaucracy and then by Slaughterhouses that can make a cartel to give them less price for their cattle.

Modi aka BJP is paving the way for its handlers like Adani, Ambani, Tata and other foreign MNC's to control the meat and animal hide trade that is worth Billions of Dollars. UP slaughterhouses alone employ 25 lac people with a turnover of Rs. 15,000.00 crore, the highest producer of meat in India. The meat industry is likely to grow at a compound growth rate of 8.4% over the next five years. The processed meat industry is growing even much faster, at about 20%. The meat export from India is about \$4.5 billion and raw hide to leather goods is another \$5.5 billion. About 22 million people are in the workforce and the meat export industry is expected to grow 50% in 5 years. Beside that 70% of Indians are non-vegetarians. Domestic per capita meat consumption in India is very low -- around 5 kg as compared to the world average of 47 kg. With rising incomes between 2003 and 2012, their meat consumption rose by 6.3% a year. It is expected to rise by another 3.5% a year between 2013 and 2022.

Apart from 73.7 lakh tons of meat in 2016-17, India also produced 108 lakh tons of fisheries in 2015-16 ranking 2nd after China. India is the number One the and largest exporter of shrimp fish in the world. This industry is growing at a robust pace of 8% per annum. The business is

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valued at Rs. 1 Lakh Crore and employs about 150 lakh people. Andhra Pradesh occupies the first place, West Bengal 2nd and Modi's Gujarat at 3rd place in fish production in India.

The demonetization was also done for these very influential people so that they can control food business worth billions that is traditionally run on cash basis by the informal sector. On top of that to pave the way for billions of dollars that can be made in transaction fees in the guise of digital money from the less fortunate and financially most vulnerable people of Indian society. Rich have credit cards; they don't pay any fees to use it; rather they are rewarded with points and cash back for its use; it is the merchant that pays the fees for accepting it. The poor has to get a "Pre-Paid Debit Card" for a fee with a monthly maintenance fee and fee for loading money; one of the biggest Ponzi schemes ever invented by the American Financial Industry to loot the poor.

Coming to Team Modi & Hinduwadi's understanding of Hinduism, its history, its writing on eating meat and views of various learned scholars, all of them are a very big disappointment. Team Modi should do some soul searching why Atal Behari Bajpai avoided the trap of cow laid by the bogus Hindutva supporters that has no love for their own 50 crore (500 million) extremely poor Hindus living a miserable life.

According to Sanskrit Scholar Rajani K Dixit, "there is no such thing as Holy Cow in the Vedas". The Vedas consider bovines important for milk, beef, agriculture and transport but not divine or holy. The word 'Aghnyaa' applies only to a milch cow because it is not economical to kill it. A Vaisha cow is meant for beef, and especially reserved to an extent for Brahmins only. Atharva 12.4(13) tells us that in case a Brahmin begs for a cow from a non-Brahmin, "even if that person has a beef-dinner at his house, he has to select another cow to slaughter for his own dinner, than the one that is asked for". The word 'Aghnyaa' (not to be killed) coined by Rigveda for young milch cows was the main cause of the Hindu misunderstanding that cows or bovines are not to be slaughtered.

The Rigveda has never used the word 'mother' for a cow. There is no punishment recommended for a cow slaughterer even if someone kills a young milch cow. Beef-eating is also not taboo. Beef parties are not only allowed but highly appreciated, and a person who cooks beef for his guests is praised by the term 'Atithi-gva' 'one who offers beef to guests'.

Ritual sacrifice of a bull is a must in worship to God Indra. Beef parties also seem a regular affair in weddings (RV 10.85). Cows are not sacred and beef is not forbidden to Hindus. Here is a line from a verse ascribed to god Savita, the presiding deity of the Gayatri Mantra, describing a dinner party he is hosting: "At night we are going to kill cows" (RV.10.85(19). RV 10.89 (14) mentions "cows for food, laying scattered on the grounds of a slaughter house". Mark that the author does not use the word 'animals' but 'cows', showing that beef was the most popular item, and the cow the most slaughtered animal. RV 10.95(6) says that "old cows which do not give milk" are "only fit to be cooked". It further states that "useless cowsare taken to be cooked, but never milch cows". It is clear that slaughter houses are not banned, beef is allowed and useless bovines are allowed to be slaughtered in Hinduism.

Aadi Shankaracharya born in 788 CE in Kerala: in his commentary on Brahadaranyako Upanishad 6/4/18 says: 'Odaan' rice mixed with meat is called 'maansodan' on being asked whose meat it should be, he answers 'Uksha' is used for an ox, which is capable to produce semen. Currently 72 communities including some upper caste Hindus in Kerala prefer beef to the mutton and some prefer it because it is cheaper than mutton.

Hinduism's great propagator Swami Vivekanand said: "You will be surprised to know that according to ancient Hindu rite and rituals, a man cannot be a good Hindu who does not eat beef". (The complete works of Swami Vivekanand vol :3/5/36)

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, the Hindutva Icon and Icon of Hindu religious & political

parties including BJP, espoused his views in Vidnyan Nishta Nibandh, that the cow, like the peepal tree, should be cared for, as something useful to humans, which meant eating it as well if need be. He insisted that a superstitious mindset towards cows would ruin India's intellect and that cows should be protected for their economic use to man, and not because of their 'divinity'. Attributing religious qualities to it gives it a godly status. Such a superstitious mindset destroys the nation's intellect. "When humanitarian interests are not served and in fact harmed by the cow and when humanism is shamed, self-defeating extreme cow protection should be rejected."

Every now and then, an admirer of Savarkar raises the topic. "Can anyone imagine that the 'Father of Hindutva' advocated beef-eating (in special circumstances), rejected the divinity of the Vedas, denounced the sanctity of the caste system and launched a virulent attack on the hypocrisy of the priests?" wrote Ved Pratap Vaidik, a journalist close to several Hindutva figures. "Incidentally, Savarkar was a beef-eater," wrote Varsha Bhonsle on Savarkar's birth anniversary, February 26, in 1998. "For he was, above all else, a rationalist - a true Hindu - and eons ahead of contemporary Hindutvawadis." ("Why is the Cow a Political Animal?" S. Joshi)

Mahatma Gandhi was approached for total ban on Cow Slaughter in India. His reply was, "I have been long pledged to serve the cow but how can my religion also be the religion of the rest of the Indians? It will mean coercion against those Indians who are not Hindus. The assumption of the Hindus that India now has become the land of the Hindus is erroneous. India belongs to all who live here. Earlier on 25th July 1947 he also said that "The Hindu religion prohibited cow slaughter for the Hindus, not for the world. The religious prohibition came from within. Any imposition from without meant compulsion. Such compulsion was repugnant to religion."

A Brahmin's Cow Tales by D. N. Jha, a high cast Brahmin himself. The cow as a sacred animal, Jha believes, did not really gain currency until Dayanand Saraswati's cow protection movement in the 19th century". The cow became a tool of mass political mobilization with the organized cow-protection movement," the historian points out. "The killing of cows stopped gradually with the agrarian society and caste rigidity. The Brahmins found it convenient to say that those who ate beef were untouchable. But they themselves continued to consume it, recommending it for occasions such as shraadh. The beef-eating habits of Indians which existed in Rig Vedic times and continued till the 19th century and after, despite repeated Brahminical injunctions against cow-killing. That ancient Hindus, including Brahmins, were beef-eaters, willing to incur the minor penalty that an agrarian society began imposing on cow-killers, and that this fondness for cattle meat had nothing to do with Islam or Christianity.

For those who blame Muslims for the practice of Cow slaughter in India. Babar's first act after conquering Delhi was to forbid the killing of cows. They must read Babar's Directives (Wasiyyat namd-i-majchfi) a secret testament to his son Humayun and his future generations. For the stability of the Empire, O my son!, "The realm of Hindustan is full of diverse creeds. Praise be to God, the Righteous, the Glorious, the Highest, that He hath granted unto thee the Empire of it. It is but proper that thou, with heart cleansed of all religious bigotry, should dispense justice according to the tenets of each community!" "And in particular refrain from the sacrifice of cow, for that way lies the conquest of the hearts of the people of Hindustan; and the subjects of the realm will, through royal favour, be devoted to thee. And the temples and abodes of worship of every community under Imperial sway, you should not damage. Dispense justice so that the sovereign may be happy with the subjects and likewise the subjects with their sovereign. The progress of Islam is better by the sword of kindness, not by the sword of oppression." (Abstracted from the 1936 book The Mughal Empire From Babar To Aurangzeb, by SM Jaffar of Peshawar. It mentions that "the original document is in Persian and is treasured in the Hamida Library at Bhopal as one of its heirlooms.")

The British Origin of Cow-Slaughter in India (published 2002) by Gandhian historian Dharampal. His book draws from official documents to show that the riots of 1880-1894 were not the obvious Hindu-Muslim conflagration they were made out to be. The book cites accounts of how "many prominent Muslims as well as the Parsis and Sikhs actively participated in the (cow protection) movement." Dharampal wrote that large-scale cow slaughter was not the handiwork of Muslims who came to India from central and western Asia. "The question of the sacrifice of a cow did not arise as the land where Islam arose did not have many cows."

Mughals were habituated to the meat of goats and mutton, sacrificing camels on the occasion of festivals like Eid or for large feasts, the book says. Dharampal rues the lack of research on cow killing between 1200 and 1700, when a series of Muslim kings ruled over a large part of India. But he goes on to show that systematic slaughter of cattle began in India with the East India Company establishing itself. The British, unlike the central and west Asians, were habituated to beef. The first slaughterhouse in India was built in Calcutta (now Kolkata) in 1760 by Robert Clive, then Governor of Bengal. It could kill 30,000 animals per day. Several more slaughterhouses were set up in various parts of the country by the Commissariat Wing of the three British armies of Bengal, Madras and Bombay Presidencies. A total of 350 slaughterhouses were constructed by 1910.

Nitya Sambamurti Ghotge, a veterinary surgeon who heads Anthra, a group in Pune that has worked with rural livestock rearers since 1992. Laws against cow slaughter and Trade Rules will only criminalize the livestock trade, not protect the animals, said Ghotge. Only the smugglers and the law enforcement officials will benefit from the ban on cow slaughter, not the poor farmers or the livestock. Like the agriculture scientist Ramanjaneyulu, Ghotge holds that the cow protection laws are unjust; it is about powerful urban people outsourcing the burden of cow protection on the rural poor, she said.

As for the BJP's claim that "cow is the only divine animal that exhales oxygen", no living being other than plants exhale oxygen is also a myth. Animals, however, exhale unused oxygen, as lungs cannot process all the oxygen that is inhaled. According to the 2006 FAO report, the livestock sector accounts for 9 per cent of carbon dioxide derived from human-related activities, but produces a much larger share of even more harmful greenhouse gases.

Team Modi is least concerned about the millions of Indians- Hindus as well as non-Hindus employed directly and indirectly in the cattle trade. The millions especially children and elderly that depend on bovine meat as the cheapest source of protein. In the name of misguided Hindutva they are imposing their personal beliefs on the cattle breeders, traders, farmers and bovine meat eaters without considering the economic realities. There was a time when the owner could get Rs 12,000.00 to Rs. 15,000.00 for the unproductive animal from a slaughterhouse, now that has been reduced to Zero by the Gau Rakshaks/cow vigilantes. Rs 2,500.00-3,000.00 per month is the cost just to keep the animal alive for 8-10 years after the end of its economic utility. If the 10 million or so cattle that possibly end up at the abattoir every year are not culled, farmers will simply stop caring for them and let them loose in towns and cities. It will cost upward of Rs 22,000 crore to take care of them. And since the 10 million-plus will keep adding each year, till they die in their natural course, these costs would only keep on mounting up every year. Just in the 4th year the cost could be more than Rs. 88,000.00 crore. In BJP ruled state Rajasthan the state government is providing Rs 70.00/day for cow and Rs 35/day for calf and at the same time it is providing Rs. 25.63/person on welfare schemes in the state. Under Modi, India has become an international jokewhere cow is more valuable than human beings.

(The author is a New Jersey based community activist and a regular commentator on burning issues. He can be reached at davemakkar@yahoo.com)

(The Indian Panorama invites comments on the article)

Modi himself and his team members are biggest hypocrites on the issue of cow or meat. As CM of Gujarat under Modi meat production 10,600 tons in 2001-12 went up to 35,286 tons in 2011-12. Still Modi accused UPA government for cow slaughter for their support to meat exporters "Pink Revolution" during the run up to the 2014 elections that brought him to power. Ironically under Modi's watch bovine/cow meat export has gone up by 70% according to the Commerce Ministry website. Now India is number 1 exporter of bovine/cow meat in the world.

Indian origin Barot and Pandya plead guilty in India-Based Multimillion Dollar Call Center Scam Targeting US Victims

AUSTIN (TIP): On July 19, An Indian national and a Texas man each pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges for their respective roles in liquidating and laundering victim payments generated through a massive telephone impersonation fraud and money laundering scheme perpetrated by India-based call centers.

Montu Barot, 30, an Indian national most recently residing in Glendale Heights, Illinois, and Nilesh Pandya, 54, of Stafford, Texas, each pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit fraud and money laundering offenses, in violation of Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 371. The pleas were entered before U.S. District Court Judge David Hittner of the Southern District of Texas. Barot agreed to deportation following his sentence. Sentencing dates are pending.

According to admissions made in connection with their respective pleas, Montu Barot, Nilesh Pandya, and their co-conspirators perpetrated a complex scheme in which individuals from call centers located in Ahmedabad, India, impersonated officials from the IRS and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), and engaged in other telephone call scams, in a ruse designed to defraud victims located throughout the U.S. Using information obtained from data brokers and other

sources, call center operators targeted U.S. victims who were threatened with arrest, imprisonment, fines or deportation if they did not pay alleged monies owed to the government. Victims who agreed to pay the scammers were instructed how to provide payment, including by purchasing stored value cards or wiring money. Upon payment, the call centers would immediately turn to a network of "runners" based in the U.S. to liquidate and launder the fraudulently-obtained funds.

According to Barot's guilty plea, beginning in or around June 2012, Barot served as a runner and coordinated the liquidation of victim scam funds by other runners per the instructions of conspirators from both India-based call centers and within the United States. Barot communicated via phone, text and email in furtherance of the criminal scheme with both domestic and India-based associates, and he and his conspirators used reloadable cards containing funds derived from victims by scam callers to purchase money orders and deposit them into various bank accounts as directed, in return for cash payments or commissions. Barot also admitted to sending financial ledgers to



his conspirators detailing the movement of scam victim funds.

Based on admissions in Nilesh Pandya's guilty plea, beginning in or around March 2014, Pandya served as a runner liquidating victim scam funds within the Southern District of Texas. At the direction of two of his co-defendants, Pandya used stored value cards that had been loaded with victim funds to buy money orders and then deposit them

into various bank accounts.

To date, Montu Barot, Nilesh Pandya, 54 other individuals and five India-based call centers have been charged for their roles in the fraud and money laundering scheme in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in the Southern District of Texas on Oct. 19, 2016. Including this week's pleas, a total of thirteen defendants have pleaded guilty thus far in this case. Co-defendants Bharatkumar Patel, Ashvinbhai Chaudhari, Harsh Patel, Nilam Parikh, Hardik Patel, Rajubhai Patel, Viraj Patel, Dilipkumar A. Patel, Fahad Ali, Bhavesh Patel and Asmitaben Patel previously pleaded guilty on various dates between April and July 2017.

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Ram Nath Kovind elected as...

hometown in Uttar Pradesh. The counting of votes for the presidential election began at 11 am today. The contest, between the ruling NDA's Ram Nath Kovind and the Opposition's Meira Kumar, both Dalits, had seen nearly 99 per cent lawmakers and legislators cast their vote - the highest ever. Voting had taken place on July 17.

Speaking after his victory, President-elect Ram Nath Kovind said, "Me being elected President is a message for a person who has walked on an honest path. Thoughts of serving my nation have brought me this far". He went on to say that "My job will be to uphold and protect the Constitution of India".

"I salute all the people of India," Mr Kovind said as he narrated that "I never thought that I will become president one day. It was never my goal. But for the country, for society, my hard work has brought me till here".

"I congratulate and thank opposition candidate Meira Kumar," he said. Speaking about his responsibility as India's first citizen, Mr Kovind said, "It is a great responsibility to be elected to the post that has been graced by great men like Dr Rajendra Prasad, Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and Shri Pranab Mukherjee".

On his victory, he said "Personally this is an emotional moment for me."

Speaking about his humble background as a farmer's son, Mr Kovind said, "It has been raining in Delhi since the morning. Rains remind me of my village, of our kachcha home with walls of mud and a roof that could not repel water during the monsoon. My siblings and I used to stand and wait for the rains to end. Today there are many Ram Nath Kovinds who are getting wet in the rain, working hard, toiling in the fields for one square meal in the evening. Today I want to tell them that I will be their representative in the Rashtrapati Bhavan."

Meanwhile, Meira Kumar who lost to Kovind, congratulated President-elect, saying her fight for secularism and the oppressed will continue.

"I congratulate Sh. Ram Nath Kovindji for becoming the President of India.

"My best wishes are with Sh. Kovindji as it has fallen upon him to uphold the Constitution in letter & spirit in these challenging times," she tweeted.

Trump's son, son-in-law, former...

connections to Russia, officials said on Wednesday, July 19. The three men are the closest associates of the President to be called to speak to lawmakers involved in probing Russian meddling in the 2016 US presidential election and possible collusion with the Trump campaign.

Trump, who came into office in January, has been dogged by allegations that his campaign officials were connected to Russia, which US intelligence agencies have accused of interfering in last year's election. Trump has denied any collusion. The US Senate Judiciary Committee said on Wednesday that it had called Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr, and Manafort to testify on July 26 at a hearing.

The president's son released emails earlier this month that

showed him eagerly agreeing to meet last year with a woman he was told was a Russian government lawyer who might have damaging information about Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

The meeting was also attended by Manafort and Kushner, who is now a senior adviser at the White House. Kushner is scheduled to be interviewed by the Senate Intelligence Committee on Monday, July 24, behind closed doors. A special counsel, Robert Mueller, is also conducting an investigation of Russian meddling in the US election and any collusion between Moscow and Trump's campaign.

The Senate Intelligence Committee is conducting one of the main investigations of Russia's meddling in the 2016 US election and possible collusion by Trump associates, but the Judiciary committee has been looking into related issues.

The public Judiciary hearing will look into rules governing the registration of agents working for foreign governments in the United States and foreign attempts to influence US elections. - Reuters

About one in eight persons who voted for President Donald Trump said they would not do so again after witnessing Trump's tumultuous first six months in office, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll of 2016 voters.

While most of the people who voted for Trump on November 8 said they would back him again, the erosion of support within his winning coalition of older, disaffected, mostly white voters poses a potential challenge for the president.

Dream Hotel Group Signs New...

Viiking Ventures, Sachin J. Joshi to open Dream New Delhi in 2019. Joining to celebrate the signing were Dream Hotel Group chairman Sant Singh Chatwal, Dream Hotel Group CEO Jay Stein, Sachin J. Joshi, Chairman of Viiking Ventures; Rabinder Pal Singh, CFO of Dream Hotel Group; and Todd English, celebrity chef and restaurateur. The event also featured actress Rashmi Nigam as master of ceremonies.

"I am thrilled to expand our global footprint to India and bring the Dream Hotel brand back to my home country," remarked Dream Hotel Group chairman Sant Singh Chatwal. "With Dream Hotel Group's unprecedented growth and high-velocity expansion, we are well positioned to triple our existing portfolio in less than five-years."

The signings come on the heels of the company's largest international expansion news to date with nine new hotel signings across all four brands - Dream Hotels, Time Hotels, The Chatwal and Unscripted Hotels. Dream Hotel Group now boasts its strongest portfolio and its largest/most active pipeline ever. With 16 hotels open today and an additional 26 properties in the pipeline, Dream Hotel Group is on track to increase its global footprint by 230 percent over the next four years; tripling its existing portfolio by 2022.

"We are delighted to be partnering with Dream Hotel Group and its dynamic team," said Sachin J. Joshi, Chairman of Viiking Ventures. "India is among the fastest growing economies and we are excited to take the hospitality industry in this country to new heights with Mr. Chatwal himself, who is an inspiration to us all in India."

"We recently reached an exciting milestone by signing most new hotel deals in the company's history," said Dream Hotel

Group CEO Jay Stein. "I'm incredibly proud to continue our unprecedented growth momentum with the signing of Dream New Delhi."

Todd English, celebrity chef and restaurateur, joined in the festivities to celebrate the signing of Dream New Delhi and the extension of his food and beverage partnership with Dream Hotel Group.

"I couldn't be more pleased to extend my partnership with the Dream Hotel Group, this time, on a new venture to create an unforgettable dining experience at Dream New Delhi," said Chef Todd English. "I've always dreamt of bringing my restaurant to India and I can't think of a more exciting place to establish it."

Set to open in the Central Business District of West Delhi, Dream New Delhi features 187 guest rooms and suites and five highly activated dining and nightlife venues including a Food Hall concept by renowned chef Todd English.

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Ria Money Transfer adds Tens...

Ria already has a strong network worldwide, including in top remittance sending countries such as the United States, where many Indians reside. In 2015, the United States was named the second top remittance sending country to India, responsible for facilitating \$11.7 billion in transfers2.

In addition to cash pick-up, Ria also offers bank deposit services which offers customers the option to transfer money to any bank account in India online at www.riamoneytransfer.com or via an agent location. In a recent report from the World Bank's Remittance Prices Worldwide3, Ria ranked first for sending \$200 and \$500 to India using the online service and in the top 10 for cash to account transfers through an agent location. These results reflect the company's commitment to offering the most competitive rates and best service possible to the customers it serves.

The 2017 South Asian Spelling...

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.

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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ICC WOMEN'S WORLD CUP 2017

HARMANPREET KAUR'S HURRICANE 171* DESTROYS AUSTRALIA IN SEMIS



India's Harmanpreet Kaur plays a shot during the ICC Women's World Cup 2017 semifinal match against Australia at County Ground in Derby, England. Pic courtesy: AP

DERBY (TIP): Harmanpreet Kaur produced one of the greatest ODI knocks in women's cricket as India stormed into the World Cup final after beating Australia by 36 runs in the second semifinal here today.

It is only the second time that India have entered the summit clash of the global event, having lost to Australia in the final of the 2005 edition. Skipper Mithali Raj and senior pacer Jhulan Goswami were part of that team.

India will meet hosts England in the final at the Lord's on Sunday.

Harmanpreet smashed her way to a career-best 171 off 115 balls, leaving the Australian bowlers in a daze as India put up an imposing 281/4 after rain reduced the match to 42-overs

a side.

This was India's highest ever total against Australia and proved to be match-winning even as Alex Blackwell's power-packed 90 took them to 245 in 40.1 overs.

The day belonged to Harmanpreet as her innings could well be termed as one which will be remembered for years to come. It drew comparisons with Kapil Dev's historic 175 against Zimbabwe at Tunbridge Wells during the 1983 campaign.

After a dry run during the better part of the league stage, India's most sought after T20 cricketer stepped up just when it mattered the most. After a useful 60 against New Zealand in the virtual quarterfinal, Harmanpreet upped the ante like never

before. Harmanpreet's third ODI century was embellished with 20 fours and seven sixes.

With enough runs on the board, confident Indian seamers Goswami and Shikha Pandey came up with brilliant opening spells. Opener Beth Mooney and skipper Meg Lanning were cleaned up by Pandey and Goswami, respectively. Ellyse Perry (38) and Elyse Villani (75) added 105 runs for the fourth wicket but it was always a catching up game for the defending champions.

Blackwell then gave India some jittery moments, hitting 90 off 56 balls with 10 fours and three sixes before she was bowled by Sharma. The Derby ground has proved to be a happy hunting one for India as they have won all five matches here. *Source: PTI*

Harman impresses one and all

Take a bow @ImHarmanpreet, best innings I've ever seen!! — Charlotte Edwards, former England skipper

Great knock by Harmanpreet Kaur 171. Greatest knock I have seen in women's ODIs. — Ian Bishop, former WI bowler

Incredible batting by @ImHarmanpreet! Come on India- Let's go out and win the second half of the game as well. — Sachin Tendulkar

This is a genuinely Kapil-Dev-at-Tunbridge-Wells kind of innings from @ImHarmanpreet now. Hope it inspires other young girls to follow. — Harsha Bhogle

What an outstanding 100 @ImHarmanpreet. Amazing display of talent, power & clean hitting. Take a bow Harmanpreet. — VVS Laxman

- Harmanpreet Kaur played the innings of her life after India, having elected to bat, made a slow start. She played herself in before smashing the Aussie bowlers to all parts, hitting big sixes and cashing in towards the end as she was fed full tosses to hole out in the deep.
- In the last 40 balls of her knock, Harman hammered 103 runs with the help of 13 fours and six sixes
- Batting at number four, Harmanpreet Kaur smashed 115-ball unbeaten knock of 171 runs to set up India to a huge total of 281 for 4 in 42 overs. Harman bettered her previous ODI best score of 107 runs. She hammered 20 fours and seven towering sixes during her blistering knock at the strike rate of 148.69.
- Harmanpreet, who started as a medium-pacer in Moga, switched to batting under coach Yadavinder Singh Sodhi. Daughter of a clerk in the local District Court became the first woman to be signed by Sydney Thunder in the second edition of T20 Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) in Australia. She would also be playing in the England Kia T20 League in August.

Three Wimbledon ties face match-fixing probe

LONDON (TIP): Wimbledon came under the scanner with three matches at this year's tournament set to be investigated for possible match-fixing, according to the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU). Two qualifying matches at Roehampton and one from the main Wimbledon draw triggered some bizarre betting patterns and are to be examined further, said the

anti-corruption body that polices professional tennis.

"These will be assessed and reviewed in keeping with the TIU match alert policy," TIU said on its website. TIU's match alert policy means that the unit checks on irregularities such as strange betting tendencies, but it insisted the alerts are not evidence of match-fixing.

One match from June's

French Open will also be looked at — just four of 53 alerts received by TIU since April, although the majority came from matches at the lower level Challenger, Futures and ITF Women's tours.

There has been a decline in the number of alerts received by TIU this year with 83 triggered thus far — 38 fewer than at the same stage last year. *Source: AFP*

Once play starts, it's up to the boys: Shastri

COLOMBO (TIP): Soon after arriving in Sri Lanka for the Test series, Ravi Shastri, the Indian team coach, had the opportunity to do what he does best — he provided a public pep talk to the Indian team, for the second day running.

"They know their job, they are professional cricketers," he said, playing down the role of the coach, at the pre-tour press briefing here. "Once they step on the field they take over.



That is how it should be."

"My role will be to get the guys in a frame of mind that they get out and express themselves and play fearless brand of cricket," he added.

A couple of days ago, Matthew Hayden, the former Australian opener, had praised Shastri's communication skills. "I have done commentary with him and I know that he is a strong communicator,

which is critical for the coach's role," Hayden had said, among other things.

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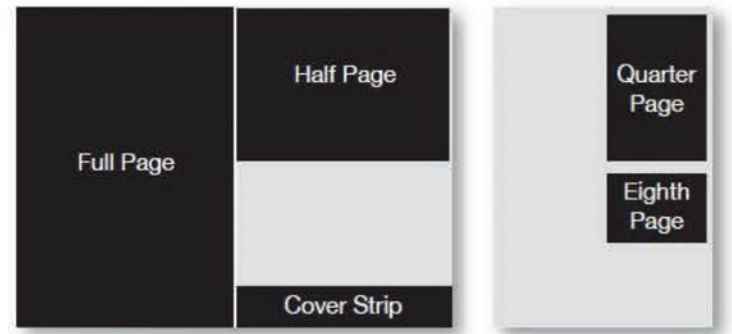


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