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★ ★ WE WISH OUR READERS A HAPPY NAVRATRI, JEWISH NEW YEAR, ISLAMIC NEW YEAR ★ ★

'You are the backbone of our country', Rahul Gandhi says to NRIS in New York

Bidisha Roy
NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Congress vice President Rahul Gandhi stated that NRIS are the backbone of India and "original Congress movement was an NRI movement." Addressing a gathering in a hotel in Times Square here on Sept 20 he said Mahatma

contd on Page 6

Congress Vice president Rahul Gandhi addresses the gathering at University of California, Berkeley

Photo / courtesy Jay Mandal-on assignment



Pakistan is 'Terroristan', says India in Strong Rebuttal to Pakistan PM at UN

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): Pakistan is now "Terroristan", India said in a formidable rebuttal at the UN to Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi calling for a UN special envoy on Kashmir, alleging that the "struggle of the people in the region is being brutally suppressed" by India.

Exercising its Right of Reply after Mr Abbasi's belligerent speech at the UN General Assembly, said it was "extraordinary" that the state that sheltered Osama bin Laden was creating narratives based on deception and deceit.

contd on Page 32

Denizens of "Terroristan"- Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar



MQM Demands Right to Self-Determination; Alleges genocide of Mohajirs by Pakistan Army

Protesters at the UN call Pakistan "epicenter and exporter of terrorism in the region"

NEW YORK CITY, NY (TIP): On September 21, around 50 MQM members gathered in front of the UN to protest the genocide of Mohajirs by Pakistan Army. The MQM chose to protest during the time when the Pakistan PM was addressing the UNGA.

Carrying placards, big and small, they shouted slogans "Mohajirs demand right of self-determination"; "Pakistan Army is killing Mohajirs"; "Stop genocide of Mohajirs".



MQM members protest Pakistan Army at the United Nations on September 21

contd on Page 32

Apna Bazar Companies S&L Vegetables, Corp. and J&B Vegetables, Inc Convicted

Had Failed to Pay Minimum Wage and Overtime to over 150 Employees


Grocer Paid nearly \$450,000 In Restitution to Workers for Unpaid Wages and Over \$160,000 In Unpaid Unemployment Contributions, says New York State Attorney General A.G. Schneiderman

QUEENS (TIP): Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman, on September 20,, announced the guilty pleas and convictions of S&L Vegetables, Corp. and J&B Vegetables, Inc., two grocers that did business as Apna Bazar Cash & Carry ("Apna Bazar") and operated two food markets in Floral Park and Hicksville, NY.

contd on page 6



To date, A.G. Schneiderman has Won back nearly \$30 Million in Stolen Wages for over 21,000 Workers across New York



DIWALI SPECIAL EDITION

The Indian Panorama invites articles and advertisements for the Diwali special edition being brought out on October 13, 2017.

Articles and advertisements may please be emailed to salujaindra@gmail.com by October 5, 2017.

For any queries, please email to editor@theindianpanorama.com or call 646-247-9458



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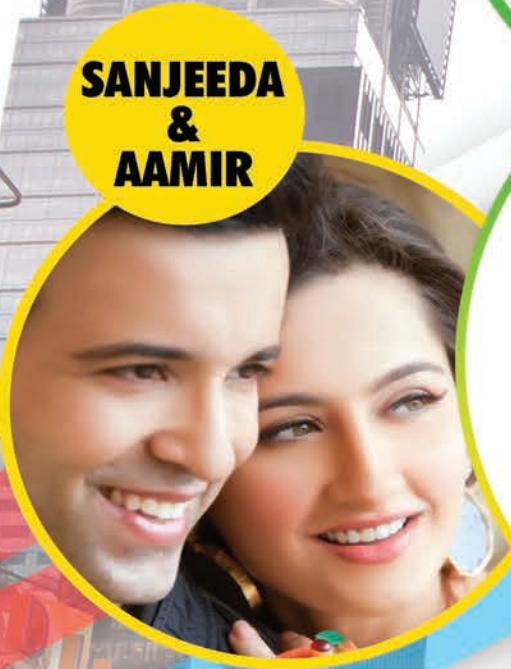
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New Yorkers Gather in Colorful Ribbon Display to Promote Positive Peace

NEW YORK, NY (TIP): With headlines filled with examples of rage, violence and disaster in every news cycle, New Yorkers took a moment on the International Day of Peace to celebrate some of the people and organizations that make communities safe and livable, and remind citizens that everyone has a stake in keeping neighborhoods, cities and countries peaceful.

Two leading peace organizations, the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), and Outward Bound Peacebuilding (OBP) brought together eight civic organizations in a colorful ribbon display that brought to life the Positive Peace framework. The Positive Peace framework includes eight pillars derived by IEP using statistical analysis to identify the factors that contribute to peace. The eight pillars include: a well-functioning government, a sound business environment, the equitable distribution of resources, low levels of corruption, high levels of human capital, the acceptance of the rights of others, the free flow of information, and good relations with neighbors.

"Peace is much more than a lack of violence," said Michelle Breslauer, Program Director from the Institute for Economics and Peace. "Understanding what contributes to building trust and cohesion is key to peaceful societies. While these eight factors sustain peace, they cannot be viewed independently. It is crucial that we understand how they relate to each other and how the entire system can be strengthened. Today we are bringing this system to life," she continued.

"Sustaining and investing in peace is a shared responsibility," said Ana Patel, Executive Director of Outward Bound



Photo Courtesy of Outward Bound Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding. "That's why we are bringing New Yorkers together today to connect to and learn from these eight pillars of peace. This is a call to action for all New Yorkers to become peacebuilders."

Eight leading civic organizations were selected to represent each of the pillars:

SOUND BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT: Dr. Jasmin Cowen, President, Rotary Club of New York

WELL-FUNCTIONING GOVERNMENT: Jerry Weinstein and Ray Shah, Co-Founders, The Freedom Threat Index

EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES: Matthew Botwin, Board Member, CAMBA

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION: Daniel Hyslop, Research Director, Institute for Economics and Peace

GOOD RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS: Laura Gonzalez-Murphy, Director, New York State Office for New Americans

HIGH LEVELS OF HUMAN CAPITAL: Professor Tom Hill, Director, Initiative for

Peacebuilding through Education, Center for Global Affairs, New York University and Elizabeth Bishop, Director of Curriculum and Outcomes, Global Kids

ACCEPTANCE OF THE RIGHT OF OTHERS: Alex Rizio, Supervising Attorney & Co-Coordinator of the Unaccompanied Latin American Minors' Project, Safe Passage

LOW LEVELS OF CORRUPTION: Zoe Reiter, Representative to the US and Senior Project Leader, Transparency International

The Positive Peace activity builds on a successful collaboration in May 2017 between IEP, OBP, and Rotary International that saw 300 Mexican youth map the eight pillars.

Each year, the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. It was established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution, to provide a globally-shared date to commit to building a culture of peace.

About the Institute for Economics and Peace

The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) is a global think tank dedicated to

shifting the world's focus to peace as a positive, achievable, and tangible measure of human well-being and progress. IEP has offices in New York City, Sydney, Mexico City, and The Hague. It produces the annual Global Peace Index, the world's leading measure of global peacefulness.

About Outward Bound Peacebuilding
Outward Bound Peacebuilding (OBP) uses the Outward Bound approach of experiential learning in the outdoors to challenge and inspire leaders in divided societies to build peace. OBP works with partners around the world to design programs that embrace traditional Outward Bound values and approaches to learning by doing, with a special emphasis on compassionate leadership, cooperative learning, and creative action. OBP calls this Experiential Peacebuilding. Since 2009, Outward Bound Peacebuilding has challenged and inspired more than 200 peacebuilding leaders from 25 countries throughout the world.

(Based on a Press Release)

Virendra Pandit's book 'Return of the Infidel' Launched in New York

NEW YORK CITY, NY (TIP): Virendra Pandit has published his second book "Return of the Infidel" which was launched in New York on September 18. The gathering included, besides others, Dr. VK Raju who recently launched his book "Musings on Medicine, Myth, and History: India's Legacy", Mentor on the Road Jagat Shah, Mrs. Shah, Harinder Singh Panaser, Sunil Hali, publisher of Indian Express, Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, editor-publisher of The Indian Panorama.

About "Return of the Infidel"

The book deals with the question of rise, decline, fall and revivification of nations and civilizations, which are organic entities like us and our institutions. The author has raked up some interesting questions and essayed to answer them.

***How and why Christianity and Islam are retreating across the world?**

***How and why did Gandhi push Pakistan out of India?**

***Why is Jinnah Father of the Indian subcontinent?**

***And, how have Japan, India and China, in that order, revived like phoenix in the last two centuries?**

In author's own words, "What does a business do to survive when it turns stagnant? It retires debt, sheds flab, invites technological up-gradation, undergoes financial reconstruction and tries to regain its market share. Or, what do we do when our vehicle breaks down midway? We call in the serviceman to repair the dysfunctional automobile and help us resume our journey.

"A similar pattern is observable in the rise, decline, fall and revivification of nations and civilizations, which too are organic entities like us and our institutions. They also follow a similar incremental organic evolutionary process through natural selection and mutation to survive, shed excess baggage of the past, and bounce back as the fittest. There

is a difference though: while uncompetitive and ageing humans die, their societies mostly survive through regeneration by inducting disruptive catalysts for mutation.

"How and why do nations, and civilizations, rise and fall with such regularity and clock-wise precision? The answer: when societies and nations turn dysfunctional due to stagnation, they allure alien catalysts to revive themselves.

"Return of the Infidel is about how ancient cultures and civilizations like India, China and Japan did so: Christianity and Islam, the contemporary disruptive catalysts, came to revivify these menopause societies. Since India, due to its proximity to these catalysts from West Asia (and Europe), had to struggle the hardest until 1947, the book explains this saga in greater detail; but the story of China and Japan, and that of many other breaking-out nations in Asia, Africa and South America, is similar and waiting to be told.

"On the other hand, most Christian nations, after the Crusades, shed surplus population, outgrew Christianity, and embraced Renaissance and modernity. Muslim countries, too, are following the same path: Islamic terrorism is their struggle to remain relevant, eliminate surplus male population within and usher in their own Renaissance.

"The ancient countries used Christianity and Islam only as catalysts to revive their contemporary civilizations, and slowly made these overstaying guests retreat during what we call decolonization. Since our heroes, like our gods, are crystallization of our societies'



collective consciousness and aspirations, these Asian nations incrementally conceived leaders like Gandhi, Mao and Tojo who led their countries to push out the erstwhile catalyst-turned-colonizers. Proselytizing and evangelizing faiths like Christianity and Islam viewed these non-Abrahamic people as 'Infidels'-and they are Returning now! This return to global reckoning began with Japan in 1905, and is ongoing now with China; interestingly, Japan was the force-multiplier to the bigger and real players, India and China!

"This is the biggest power-shift in the organic world of Homo sapiens in the last 2,000 years!"

About Virendra Pandit

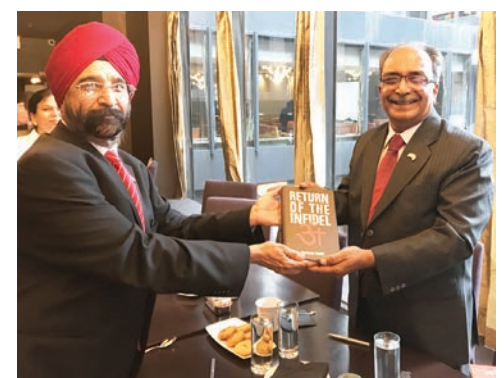
Virendra Pandit is a professional journalist since 1983. He holds a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree and a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Economics from the University of Indore. He has contributed articles on diverse subjects to newspapers, magazines and online publications. Since 2006, he has been working with The Hindu Group of Newspapers as a business journalist.

He is a passionate student of biology and the other sciences, philosophy and psychology, religions and technology, history and culture, linguistics and music, international politics and diplomacy, besides mathematics and cosmogony. His first book, The Biology of History: Ascent of Women, published on Amazon and then by Partridge-Penguin, was welcomed with rave reviews.

He lives in Ahmedabad, India, with his wife, Kalpana.



A view of the gathering. Mr. Virendra Pandit is seen second from right.



Virendra Pandit presents a copy of the book to Harinder S Panaser



Dr. VK Raju presents his book "Musings on Medicine, Myth, and History: India's Legacy" to Mentor on the Road Jagat Shah

Indian American girl makes it to US army 18-year-old Sukhleen inducted as private after combat training



Relatives greet Sukhleen Dhillon's father Jatinder Mintu at Begowal in Kapurthala. Photo courtesy Malkiat Singh

KAPURTHALA (TIP): Less than a year after moving to the US with her family, 18-year-old Begowal girl Sukhleen Dhillon has been inducted as a private in the army, according to a September 16 Tribune report filed by Aparna Banerji.

Sukhleen's father, Jatinder Singh Mintu, who is on a visit to Kapurthala these days, proudly shows the certificate issued by the Fort Jackson Army Training Camp in July. It reads: "This certificate is presented to Pvt Dhillon Sukhleen Kaur, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, for successful completion of basic combat training."

Speaking to The Tribune from Georgia, she said, "It's special to have come this far. I have handled tricky weapons and walked over 10 miles carrying weights of more than 30 pounds. It feels nice to make my parents and country proud." She is keen on becoming a lieutenant.

Jatinder, accompanied by his brother Kulwinderjit Singh, said, "Sukhleen initially felt lonely in the US. She then started following army aspirants on the internet. Soon, she surprised us by saying that she wanted to join the US army."

Jatinder, who is in the construction business, admitted that the family once had doubts whether she would be able to train so hard. "During a training session, she suffered a fracture. We got worried and thought of calling her back. But she stayed put and said the injury would heal soon. We realized that she would pursue her dream at any cost," said the Kapurthala native, whose grandfather and paternal uncles served in the Indian Army. Sukhleen studied at Begowal till Class VI and then moved to Amritsar after her mother, Balbir Kaur, got a job as a school principal there. She studied in the holy city till Class XII before shifting to the US last year. She wants her brother, Arshdeep, to join the army as well.

Indian American Physician Vanila Singh named Chief Medical Officer at HHS

STANFORD (TIP): Stanford anesthesiologist Vanila Singh has been named Chief Medical Officer for the office of the Assistant Secretary of Health at the Department of Health and Human Services. Health Secretary Tom Price, who appointed Singh, congratulated the Stanford anesthesiologist on her new role via twitter Aug. 25. Vanila Singh will serve as the primary medical advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Health on the development and implementation of HHS-wide public health policy recommendations. "I feel very honored to go into public service, and feel very fortunate that the president and Secretary Price have chosen such important priorities," said Dr. Singh. Singh graduated from the University of California, Berkeley where she double-majored in economics and molecular and cell biology and completed her M.D. in medicine from the George Washington University Medical Center. Dr. Singh has served as a clinical assistant professor at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Medical Center and as a clinical associate professor at Stanford University Medical School for anesthesiology, perioperative and pain medicine. Dr. Singh received a master's degree in academic medicine through the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine in 2016.

Dr. Singh has been active in national medical organizations, serving as the Vice Chair of the National Physicians Council on Health Policy; an editorial board member of the Pain Physician Journal for the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians; and a member of the California Medical Association's (CMA) House of Delegates. In 2014 with various Republican endorsements, Singh contested against incumbent Democrat Mike Honda as the US Representative in California's 17th District (Silicon Valley) in 2014.



Vanila Singh will serve as the primary medical advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Health

Indian American Entrepreneur Anita Malik to Run for Congress in Arizona

KANSAS (TIP): Indian American Entrepreneur Anita Malik, a Democrat, announced her candidacy to run against Congressman David Schweikert in Arizona's 6th Congressional District.

The daughter of immigrants from India, Anita was born in Kansas City, Missouri. When she was 7, her family moved to Arizona. Her father, a mechanical and computer engineer, instilled in her the importance of leading with empathy and listening; her mother, a stay-at-home mom with a passion for the arts, taught her to appreciate the journey. She attended Scottsdale schools, graduating from Chaparral High School in 1994.

Anita went on to graduate summa cum laude with degrees in both computer information systems and finance from Arizona State University. She later earned her master's in journalism from the University of Southern California in 2002.

Anita started her career in the early days of Arizona tech, working for MicroAge as a business analyst. She went on to work at the The Arizona Republic, and was Deputy Director of ASU's Donald



The daughter of immigrants from India, Anita was born in Kansas City, Missouri

W. Reynolds National Center for Business Journalism. More recently, Anita was COO of marketing tech startup, ClearVoice. Over the years, she developed a unique blend of content and technology experience that put her at the forefront of digital media.

Anita's entrepreneurial projects have often struck a chord nationally. In 2004, she founded East West Magazine, a national publication celebrating the pan Asian-American life. She was featured on FOLIO's "40 Under 40" list for her ability to eloquently promote and support a multicultural America. Anita was also a regular guest on NPR's "Tell Me More."

Her more recent projects include BrideRush, an online booking tool for event planning; ListenforHer, resources to help women at work; and process consulting for local startups and government agencies.

Anita's motivations in business changed when she lost her father to cancer in 2003. No success in business matters, he reminded her, if you don't have your health. Since then, Anita's energy has been focused on creating healthy, compassionate and balanced workplaces. She hopes to continue this mission with legislation to support affordable childcare options, wellness programs and equal pay.

Anita and her husband live in Scottsdale.

Indian Americans Adopt Villages in India

NEW YORK CITY, NY (TIP): Fifty-Two Indian Americans have adopted their native villages to turn them into smart villages. The venture was the result of a 15,452-km road journey taken by Jagat Shah, an Ahmedabad-based trade and business consultant, from June to September this year. The aim was to connect entrepreneurs of the two countries with each other in a bid to encourage investments and create jobs.

Shah traveled across 35 cities in 24 states of the U.S. in 78 days as part of his multi-nation mission called Mentor on Road (MoR). The marathon, which had the theme Great America-New India, started on June 4 and ended on Sept. 17.

"Even former Indian Army Chief General Dalbir Singh Suhag, who interacted with us at one of our events in the U.S., has adopted his native village," Shah was quoted as saying at the concluding ceremony of his journey held at New York on Sept. 19.

"When the foundations of the way and ease of doing business started changing since 2014, it was the call from the nation that change and awareness at grass-root level is a must. With the new vision of "Digital India", "Stand Up India - Start Up India", "Skill India", "Smart Cities" and "Swachh Bharat (Clean India)", I decided to go to the grassroots of India to realize this audacious dream gifted to us by Hon. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. I have completed the India tour of 35 cities in 25 states driving 9500 KMs and met 10,000+ companies to understand their challenges & offer solutions on a global scale", he wrote on Mentor on Road website.

The initiative was undertaken with the sponsorship of the US Commercial Service (USCS); Startup India, a mission of the Indian Ministry of Commerce; the US-India Importers' Council; and Etihad Airways.

During the journey, Shah interacted with nearly 4,400 small and medium entrepreneurs, women entrepreneurs and startups in the United States to make them aware of business opportunities and ease of doing business with India in different sectors.

His presentation included the following topics:

- Firsthand information on Indian market dynamics
- Best prospect sectors in India for a U.S. exporter
- Impact of Demonetization and Goods and Service tax (GST) on the U.S. exporters

Jagat Shah studied MBA (International trade) graduating from Delhi University & is a certified cluster development practitioner, trained & certified by United Nations - UNIDO at Turin, Italy. He has additionally graduated in Diamond technology from Indian Diamond Institute (IDI), Surat. He is a certified management consultant (CMC) from ICMCI, USA.



Jagat Shah traveled across 35 cities in 24 states of the U.S. in 78 days

Indian Origin New York Man Sentenced to Two Years in Prison in International Credit Card Fraud Conspiracy

NEWARK, NJ (TIP): A New York man of Indian origin was sentenced on Sept 19 to 24 months in prison for his role in one of the largest credit card fraud schemes ever charged by the Justice Department, Acting U.S. Attorney William E. Fitzpatrick announced.

Ragbir Singh, 61, of Hicksville, New York, previously pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Madeline Cox Arleo to an information charging him with one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud. Judge Arleo imposed the sentence in Newark federal court.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court:

Singh was originally charged in February 2013 as part of a conspiracy to fabricate more than 7,000 false identities to obtain tens of thousands of credit cards. Members of the conspiracy doctored credit reports to pump up the spending and borrowing power associated with the cards. They then borrowed or spent as much as they could, based on the phony credit history, but did not repay the debts - causing more than \$200 million in confirmed losses to businesses and financial institutions.

The scheme involved a three-step process in which the defendants would make up a false identity by creating fraudulent identification documents and a fraudulent credit profile with the major credit bureaus; pump up the credit of the false identity by providing false information about that identity's creditworthiness to those credit bureaus; finally, run up large loans.

The scope of the criminal fraud enterprise required the defendants and their conspirators to construct an elaborate network of false identities. Across the country, the conspirators maintained more than 1,800 "drop addresses," including houses, apartments and post office boxes, which they used as the mailing addresses of the false identities.

Singh admitted he helped obtain credit cards in the name of third parties - many of which were fictional - then directed the credit cards to be mailed to addresses controlled by members of the conspiracy. He also admitted he knew the cards would be used fraudulently at businesses.

In addition to the prison terms, Judge Arleo sentenced Singh to three years of supervised release and fined him \$1,000.

(Source: DOJ- U.S. Attorney's Office, District of New Jersey)



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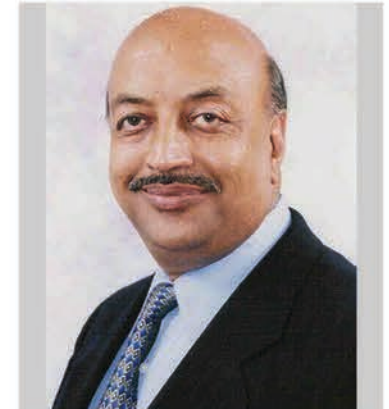
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Apna Bazar Companies S&L Vegetables, Corp. and J&B Vegetables, Inc Convicted

Each Apna Bazar market pled guilty to one count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, one count of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, one count of Failure to Pay Wages, and one count of Willful Failure to Pay Contributions. The plea agreement mandates that Apna Bazar pay a total of \$447,832.11 for unpaid wages and \$162,445.47 in unpaid unemployment contributions to the New York State Department of Labor ("NYSDOL")-bringing the total wages recovered by Attorney General Schneiderman since taking office to nearly \$30 million for more than 21,000 workers.

The Attorney General said the Queens County Supreme Court, on September 20, sentenced each Apna Bazar market to a three-year conditional discharge with a condition that the stores undergo monitoring for one year. The Court also ordered the defendants to pay restitution for the back wages and unemployment insurance contributions, which the Attorney General's Office confirmed has been paid in full by the defendants.

"The defendants in this case acted out of greed, cheating over 150 hardworking employees out of hundreds of thousands of dollars in wages they earned," said Attorney General Schneiderman. "My office will continue to enforce wage and labor laws to make sure that New Yorkers get the pay they rightfully earn and ensure companies are meeting their obligations to the unemployment insurance safety net."

"Under the leadership of Governor Cuomo, the Department of Labor will continue to vigorously pursue any employer who willingly cheats workers out of what they're rightfully owed," said State Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon. "What's more, in this case, the employer chose to attempt to skirt their Unemployment Insurance obligations. The Department of Labor takes the responsibility of investigating these crimes very seriously and will continue to refer these cases to law enforcement offices around the state."

An investigation conducted by the New York State Department of Labor and referred to the Attorney General's Office revealed that between 2012 and 2015, Apna Bazar repeatedly failed to pay proper minimum wage and overtime to more than 150 employees working at both of these markets. Many of these employees worked over 60 hours per week but were paid a fixed daily amount, which often resulted in paychecks that were well below the state minimum wage for even a typical 40 hour workweek. In addition, the employees did not receive proper overtime compensation of time-and-one half for working over 40 hours in a week. Both Apna Bazar entities also failed to accurately report to the NYSDOL the number of employees working at both locations during this period, falsifying their New York State Quarterly Combined Withholding, Wage Reporting, and Unemployment Insurance Return forms-resulting in significant underpayment of unemployment contributions to the NYSDOL.

Apna Bazar's Long Island market is located at 217 Bethpage Rd. in Hicksville, NY and its Queens location is located at 260-04 Hillside Ave. in Floral Park, NY. As part of the plea agreements, Apna Bazar agreed to place both locations under supervision by an independent monitor for one year. The monitor will ensure that employees are paid properly, that there is accurate reporting of employees and that all documentation is properly submitted to the NYSDOL, as well as require two bi-annual reports detailing defendants' compliance with the applicable labor and penal laws.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant Attorneys General Jennifer S. Michael and Matthew Ross, under the direct supervision of Labor Bureau Criminal Section Chief Richard Balletta and Labor Bureau Chief ReNika Moore. The Executive Deputy Attorney General for Social Justice is Alvin Bragg and the Criminal Enforcement and Financial Crimes Bureau Chief is Stephanie Swenton. This case was investigated by Senior Labor Standards Investigator Reyna Moreno of the New York State Department of Labor Division of Labor Standards, and Louis Adinolfi and Peter Dixon, Auditors with the New York State Department of Labor Unemployment Insurance Division, under the supervision of Milan Bhatt, Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Worker Protection, and James Rogers, Deputy Commissioner for Worker Protection. The case was also investigated by New York State Attorney General Investigator Edward Ortiz, under the supervision of Supervising Investigator Sylvia Rivera, Deputy Chief Investigator John McManus and Chief of the Investigations Unit, Dominick Zarrella.

(Source: NYSAG)

'You are the backbone of our country', Rahul Gandhi says to NRIS in New York

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Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, B. R Ambedkar, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel were all NRIs who "went to the outside world, saw the outside world, returned to India and used some of the ideas they had got and transformed India."

He also urged NRIs to contribute to resolving the economic and social challenges in India. "You need to get involved. You have tremendous knowledge, you have tremendous understanding, you work in different fields. I invite you to come and work with the Congress party and discuss the vision going forward. We want to take your help."

At one of his last events in two-week long US trip, Rahul Gandhi also criticized Modi government without mentioning any name for their 'Divisive Politics.' "Divisive politics is ruining India's reputation of peace and harmony abroad. There are forces in our country that are dividing India and it is very dangerous, it ruins our reputation abroad. Divisive politics is going on and it has to be fought," he said.

Rahul Gandhi said he had met leaders from the Democratic and Republican Party over the past few days and was asked about the situation in the country. "Many, many people in the Democratic Party and the Republican Party asked me what is going on in your country. We always believed that your country worked together, we always believed your country was peaceful. What is going on in your country?"

He said many countries in a violent world were looking towards India as the "answer for peaceful coexistence." "So, we cannot afford to lose our most powerful asset. Our most powerful asset is that 1.3 billion people live happily, non-violently, peacefully... This is something that as Congress people, every single one of us has to defend," he said.

Rahul Gandhi asserted that he would visit America, whenever he is asked to,



Several community groups and individuals keenly made their way up to Rahul Gandhi for a photograph with him. Here is the picture of one such group in New York on September 20, 2017

and remain in touch with the community. His close aide Sam Pitroda, U.S.-based telecom expert who pioneered the telecom revolution in India and is in charge of the Indian Overseas Congress, said the organization's footprint was expected to expand to 30 countries from the present 18 and in every state in the US.

Earlier, on arrival in the US, Rahul Gandhi addressed students at the University of California, Berkeley, and, later, at Princeton. One of the striking features of Gandhi's interaction with students at Berkeley was his frank admission that a "certain amount of arrogance" had crept into the Congress midway through UPA II, and it had stopped having "conversations with people."

Post his lecture on 'India At 70: Reflections On The Path Forward', during a question-answer session, Gandhi took a question on dynastic politics, and said, "Most parties in India have that problem (dynastic politics). So, don't give us the stick... Akhilesh Yadav

is a dynast. Stalin (Tamil Nadu) is a dynast. (Prem Kumar) Dhumal's son is a dynast... Even Abhishek Bachchan is a dynast. That is how India runs... don't get after me because that is how the entire country is running. By the way, last, I recall, Ambani's kids were running their business and that was also going on in Infosys. That is what happens in India."

At Princeton University, the Congress leader said it was imperative for the Indian government to ensure blue-collar jobs for its people as nearly 30,000 youngsters are joining the job market every day and only 450 get the job. Gandhi appreciated one of PM Modi's flagship projects - 'Make in India' but said the scheme should be aimed at small and medium businesses. "Not many small and medium businesses are getting access to finance or to the legal system or the political system. The small companies that should be turning into large is not happening. If Make in India is implemented well, it is a powerful idea," he remarked.

Business and philanthropy leaders scale up engagement in innovative initiatives for women's empowerment

UN Women and corporate leaders join forces to advance gender equality as an enabler and accelerator to address global challenges

NEW YORK (TIP): In a high-level event organized by UN Women in the context of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly, Melinda Gates, Co-Chair and Trustee of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Jack Ma, Executive Chair of the Alibaba Group and Nirvana Chaudhary, President of the Chaudhary Group and Chair of the Foundation and Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women for a strategic conversation on how collective action can scale-up opportunities for women and girls.

The dialogue among a select group of business and foundation leaders focused on the transformative role that companies and foundations can play to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 5 on gender equality. It highlighted new initiatives, such as the Unstereotype

Alliance convened by UN Women with major advertisers and communications industry leaders to promote a more realistic and aspirational portrayal of women; the "Making Every Woman and Girl Count" initiative to generate, prioritize and use gender data for evidence-based and targeted policies; and the Global Innovation Coalition for Change aiming to make innovation work for women's empowerment.

Participants at the event agreed that gender equality is a force to enable and accelerate achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and that empowering women is central to addressing the 21st century's global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and violence. Yet, deep financing gaps for women and girls pose significant barriers and deter progress.

"We are very clear that the private and philanthropic sectors are essential

partners for our work as we move forward with implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Their support is fundamental to UN Women endeavors, including building the Women's Empowerment Principles, calling for and leading the investment in gender data analysis, eliminating gender stereotypes in advertising, and boosting ways in which innovation and technology can work better for women and girls," said Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director. "This is everyone's business, and I call on both current and potential partners to join this movement to drive the transformative changes needed," she added. Financial commitments made at the event will support UN Women's efforts towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by

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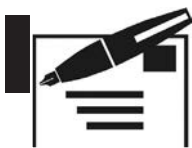
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GUEST COMMENT

Annihilating North Korea: Trump in a China shop

US President Donald Trump lived up to his reputation as America's most volatile and impulsive President ever during his maiden address to the UN General Assembly. Even the most clairvoyant analyst would not have predicted that he would not just threaten to totally destroy North Korea and mock its President but also disparage the efforts of those trying to get Kim Jong-un see reason. Trump has shown his disregard for institutions and their processes right from his inauguration by sacking nearly four dozen ambassadors. The result: India does not have a US envoy while the tiny Sri Lanka has one. Having already sent the normal channels of conducting diplomacy in a tailspin, his single sentence damning North Korea, besides Russia and China, may be the biggest blow to US diplomacy yet.

The offensive tone of President Trump's speech is unlikely to persuade China and Russia to support more sanctions on North Korea and may even persuade them to lend back-handed support to Pyongyang. None of his allies are also going to be on board for a nuclear weapon-led military action that will impose horrendous casualties in the Korean Peninsula as also on Trump's fellow citizens and the Japanese if Kim opts for preemptory strikes. If Kim was guilty of dangerous overreach by sending missiles over Japan, Trump has joined him in the dunce's corner.

By making the ultimate threat of use of nuclear weapons, Trump has also inadvertently strengthened Kim domestically. Trump has gifted the North Korean enough domestic political capital to ride over the hardships of the fresh round of sanctions. And if Trump also tries to go back on the Iran nuclear deal, both China and Russia would have enough reasons to suspect that the neo-Con vision of a unipolar world is once again in play. Instead of continuing to assist the US, they would be more inclined to let Trump stew in the embarrassment of the world's most powerful nation not being able to carry out a threat broadcast no less from the global high table against the world's economic and political basket case.

(Tribune India)

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AS I SEE IT

India needs to push for a new deal

It must reopen the discussion on balancing the global intellectual property system with development



By Padmashree Gehl
Sampath

Global trade and intellectual property are at a crossroads. In a time when multilateral consensus is languishing on a large number of issues, the Trump administration is considering pulling the U.S. out of most free trade agreements on the ground that it needs a more favorable environment for its companies and its people. Much will be written about the carnage as far as jobs, wages and national sovereignty that the current American onslaught on trade deals brings to the fore. Here, I focus on a critical issue - how trade deals are becoming the new Trojan horse to ensure stronger patent protection and continued profits to global companies.

Problem with trade deals

A bit about the historical trajectory of events. The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) embodied an international regulatory regime for the first time, in 1995. Although it represented a major compromise for most developing countries, it was only the starting point for many other nations, which have since then promoted excessive protection of private investor interests through bilateral trade agreements, often at the expense of wider public interests. Corporate libertarians, riding high on increased market power, continue to lobby their governments for absolute protection of intellectual property (IP) rights of corporations.

For the U.S., which has never made any qualms about the importance of its domestic corporate interests, trade agreements are a prime vehicle to supplant its strong domestic standards of IP protection in partner countries, in a bid to ensure the same level of privileges for its companies abroad. Over the past 20 years, the American strategy has been a neat one: to pursue bilateral agreements with individual countries one by one to ensure stronger IP protection across markets, by sidestepping the multilateral regime.

Gaming the system

In an inter-connected and highly globalized world, what goes around comes around quite fast and often with drastic consequences for all. In this case, the crux of the matter lies in how these stronger rules are changing the global corporate landscape. For years now, while patent protection is getting stronger in all sectors in a large number of countries, the conditions for its grant are becoming greatly relaxed. Not only do such lax patenting requirements allow companies to claim patents more broadly - or consecutively, with little show of

original effort as in the case of evergreening - but also patents can be claimed on all possible inventions (and discoveries) that are of relevance to the present, and even to the future. A large number of countries have already foregone many degrees of policy freedom by signing up to 'TRIPS-Plus' standards of protection. This, in conjunction with other trade measures, is disintegrating existing markets and rigging established rules of the game. A superstar firm today is not necessarily one with the greatest technological breakthroughs or the largest research and development labs, but surely is one that has a large IP portfolio, engages in extensive litigation on patent issues, and thrives on licensing revenues. Noting the gravity of the situation, The Economist in 2016 produced two short opinion pieces on how corporate profits and returns on capital are at near record levels in the U.S. and what might be wrong with it. It argued that established companies are "becoming more entrenched" in existing markets worldwide, and made the case that high profits may be a sign of a sickness rather than growth and called for reining in IP rights.

At the global level, these sectors are stratified, with profits neatly split up between large corporations and new kinds of non-innovator firms that simply amass patents speculatively in upcoming, promising technologies for spurious returns. The non-innovator companies are the patriciates of the system: when they hit the technology jackpot, they control the market and have the power to shift wealth and control competition. An example that beautifully captures the situation is Qualcomm Inc., an American company that is the legal patent holder of thousands of patents that are considered critical to build mobile phones with wireless technologies, accounting for a total profit of \$5.7 billion through intellectual property licenses in 2016 alone.

Stemming the tide

For India, the fate of its pharmaceutical and software sectors swings in the balance, and guaranteeing fair and unfettered competition will be critical to ensure that we do not lose more ground to global companies abroad and at home. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)'s recent Trade and Development Report calls for stronger measures to protect domestic sectors against the undue domination of large companies, particularly in high-profit sectors such as pharmaceuticals, media and information and communications technology (ICT), where foreign companies still account for most of the transfer of profits across borders. Warning against trade deals that seek to protect the status quo, the report identifies patents as an instrument of unfair market power across markets.

The report uses data for U.S. multinational companies (MNCs) and their foreign affiliates in India to show that patent reforms have led to significant increases in the rates of return to affiliates of American companies by enabling monopoly profits when compared to publicly listed and locally headquartered companies, which are increasingly being left behind. In the pharmaceutical sector, for example, the analysis that ranges 20 years (from 1996) shows that profits of domestic companies are in sharp decline since the late 2000s while those for the American MNC affiliates operating in the Indian market are rising steeply. A similar trend is visible in the ICTs sector as well.

It is important to take these findings in the broader perspective of what India's growth drivers will be in the years to come. Our high-technology sectors are already taking a beating because they operate in a volatile global environment. Supporting IP standards that simply follow a 'winner takes all' ideology without emphasis on technological advancement and competitive markets will be a regrettable mistake. What India needs right now is a clear and tough stance on intellectual property both in domestic policy and at the multilateral level. At home, support for innovation has to be accompanied with instruments that guard against the misuse of market power, coercive bargaining and aggressive merger and acquisition strategies if local firms should survive and flourish.

Heated negotiations in the run-up to the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference in Argentina already show that these issues will be central: there are ongoing attempts by big business to push for new rules in areas such as e-commerce to slice up profit-making opportunities of the future. Other proposals being made will largely limit the ability of governments to constrain corporate behavior in the public interest even if they succeed partially. In such an international context, we need to stop soft-peddling on these issues in the pretense that we aspire to be a major IP player in the same vein as the U.S. What we need is a return to old-fashioned pragmatism that clearly shows the West that India recognizes the fallacy of the current IP system and leads the way to broker a global new deal. This new deal should not only call for a return to business in the WTO by tackling the forgotten issues of the Doha Round but also firmly reopen the discussion on balancing the global IP system with development. That way, even if we don't win in Argentina, we will have made an ambitious start in redefining the global trade and IP agenda.

(The author is a policy expert at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, is one of the authors of the Trade and Development Report 2017)

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Gauging the status quo



By M. K. Narayanan

Notwithstanding the carefully structured discussions between the two leaders - and while Doklam did not figure in the discussions - relations between India and China are unlikely to show any marked improvement in the near, and perhaps even in the medium, term. For the present, avoidance of a conflict will remain the principal objective on both sides, with China no doubt looking for an expansion of opportunities for trade. The key watchwords would, hence, be peace and tranquility", says the author.

The Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa grouping (BRICS) has since long ceased to be of material significance as multilateral institutions go. The recent BRICS Summit in Xiamen (China) only seemed to confirm this. It suggests that BRICS may be going the way of quite a few other organizations.

Inconsequential declaration

Little of consequence appears to have happened, or to have emerged, from the latest summit. The Xiamen Declaration is proof of this. Considering that this meeting was taking place in the shadow of significant global events, notably North Korea's nuclear provocations and the U.S. response, other serious developments in Asia, including Afghanistan and West Asia, apart from issues of consequence elsewhere, the absence of any reference to these events in the Summit Declaration suggests that BRICS is clearly out of sync with current realities.

Much has been made by the media about the inclusion of Pakistan-based terrorist groups such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammed among the many terrorist groups active in the region. It, however, needs to be understood that this was merely a reiteration of something already mentioned in the declaration of the Heart of Asia Conference held in India in December 2016.

The Heart of Asia declaration had highlighted the 'gravity of the security situation in Afghanistan and in the region, drawing attention to the high levels of violence caused by the Taliban, terrorist groups including the Islamic State, al-Qaeda and its affiliates, the Haqqani network, Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, Jundullah and other foreign terrorist groups'. To attach special significance to the inclusion of this passage in the Xiamen Declaration, and view it as China administering a resounding slap on its ally, would be a profound mistake.

The BRICS declaration is perhaps more significant for what it did not include. Absence of any mention of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) - even though Beijing sets such great store by it - is one. At this point, one can only speculate on the reason. It is possible that China may not have wanted to introduce a discordant note into the proceedings - knowing India's reservations regarding the project - of a conference that it was presiding over. Or perhaps, China does not think that BRICS could make a material contribution to the achievement of its objective.

BRICS' limited scope

One takeaway from the conference also could be that China sees little use of BRICS to achieve its geopolitical and geo-economic objectives across Asia and beyond. BRICS as a body can hardly help China in dealing with a knotty problem like North Korea. It has no need for BRICS to deal with problems such as the South China Sea and freedom of navigation on the seas. From its point of view, BRICS is an outlier as far as pressing problem in the region and beyond are concerned.

BRICS suffers from other infirmities as well. Brazil and South Africa are increasingly becoming peripheral to BRICS' aims and objectives. Russia is currently more preoccupied with establishing its supremacy in Eurasia, and its interest in BRICS is not of the same order as in the past. This leaves only India, and limits the scope of BRICS to issues and regions such as Afghanistan that have featured in previous BRICS meetings.

The summit, however, provided an opportunity for leaders to meet and conduct



business. For instance, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention at the BRICS Business Council helped highlight India's emergence as one of the most open economies on the globe. At the BRICS Emerging Markets and Developing Countries Dialogue, Mr. Modi highlighted India's long tradition of partnership with fellow developing countries. Among the ten commitments he listed was that of creating a safer world by "organized and coordinated actions on at least three issues: counter-terrorism, cyber security and disaster management". The Prime Minister also called for a skilled, healthier and equitable world, as also the critical importance of sustainable development goals.

Bilaterals, Beijing détente

Considerable significance attaches to the meetings held between Mr. Modi and the Russian and Chinese leaders on the sidelines of the summit. The emphasis during his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin seems to have been on the restoration of ties between the two countries to levels that existed in the past. Discussions also centered on ways to boost bilateral trade and investment, especially in the oil and natural gas sectors.

The meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping acquired particular significance coming as it did after the over two-month-long stand-off at the Doklam Plateau. The convergence between the two countries on international terrorism at the BRICS Summit seems to have led to a thaw for the time being. Assurances emanating from the meeting, and the adoption of a low-key approach, were aimed at enhancing mutual trust. The intention seemed to be to establish 'new ways' to prevent future incidents such as Doklam, and concentrate on essentials needed to establish better relations.

Notwithstanding the carefully structured discussions between the two leaders - and while Doklam did not figure in the discussions - relations between India and China are unlikely to show any marked improvement in the near, and perhaps even in the medium, term. For the present, avoidance of a conflict will remain the principal objective on both sides, with China no doubt looking for an expansion of opportunities for trade. The key watchwords would, hence, be peace and tranquility.

The road after Doklam

It would take much longer for trust to return; as it is, trust between the two countries had begun to be affected as India moved closer to the U.S., strengthened its relations with countries like Japan and Vietnam that were not too well disposed towards China, and participated in multilateral defense exercises which appeared to have an anti-China slant. In the circumstances, restoring trust is not going

to be easy.

In Astana in June this year, when the Indian and Chinese leaders met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit, the emphasis was on not allowing "differences to become disputes". This was reflected in the so-called Astana Understanding. Doklam effectively put paid to this. While Mr. Modi is possibly willing to put Doklam behind him, the Chinese are unlikely to do so and are more likely to moderate their response keeping the Doklam incident in mind. China may continue to reiterate the obvious and talk of 'peaceful co-existence and mutually beneficial cooperation to strengthen bilateral relations', but India needs to be cautious. China is likely to view India's actions with even greater suspicion than hitherto.

The kind of language employed by the Chinese side in the context of the meeting of the two leaders is an index of this. Mr. Xi observed that China and India are "each other's opportunities and not threats"; India and China "need to show to the world that peaceful co-existence and win-win cooperation is the only right choice for the two countries"; China would like to work with India to uphold the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence (Panchsheel), advance political mutual trust, mutually beneficial cooperation and move forward the development of bilateral relations along the right track. This might sound like accenting the positive in Sino-Indian relations and moving to a more calibrated approach, but it does not necessarily reflect any greater willingness on the part of China to see the other side's point of view.

Evidently, the China-centric world view will continue to prevail. For the moment, China is anxious to maintain peace on its border with India, as China has lately been sensing opposition to its policies from many other countries, apart from a host of problems in its neighborhood. In totality, these could undermine the Chinese Dream of Mr. Xi. North Korea is perhaps the most vexatious of the problems, one that is happening on China's doorstep. Smaller countries of Southeast Asia such as Indonesia, and even Singapore and Vietnam, are signaling opposition to China's restrictions on rites of maritime passage and freedom of navigation in the seas around China.

China also faces an ever-widening arc of threats from terrorists of different categories such as the ETIM, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and Uighur separatists to its West. With the critical 19th Party Congress set to take place soon, peace and tranquility on its periphery has thus become an imperative necessity.

(The author is a former National Security Adviser and a former Governor of West Bengal)

MUSHARRAF SAYS ZARDARI KILLED BENAZIR

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Amid rising political temperature in Pakistan, ex-military ruler Pervez Musharraf dropped a bombshell on Sept 21 accusing Asif Ali Zardari, former president and husband of slain prime minister Benazir Bhutto, of murdering her, as well as her brother Murtaza Bhutto.

In a video message posted on his party's social media page, Musharraf claimed that Zardari was responsible for the Bhutto family's demise.

"He was involved in the assassinations of Benazir and Murtaza Bhutto," the country's former president and Army chief said, adding that he wanted to directly address Bilawal, Bakhtawar and Asifa Bhutto, the three children slain PM, the people of Sindh province and people of Pakistan.

Benazir was shot in the head in a gun and bomb attack in the garrison city of Rawalpindi on December 27, 2007, after addressing a political rally. Her brother, Murtaza, was shot dead in 1996 in Karachi when she was the PM. Murtaza's wife Ghinwa Bhutto and daughter Fatima Bhutto had blamed Zardari for the murder. In 2008, Zardari was acquitted of the charges of ordering the murder.

"The first thing that needs to be seriously addressed is who gained the most from BB's death. In this case, I had everything to lose as I was in power and the murder put my government in a difficult situation," Musharraf said.

"There was just one person who benefited from Benazir's assassination, and that was Asif Ali Zardari," he said. "Why did he (Zardari) not actively look into the investigation of his wife's murder when he was the country's president for five years?" Musharraf asked. "The only reason was that he himself was the killer," the retired general said.

Terming the former Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan chief Beitullah Mehsud's role in Benazir's assassination a reality, Musharraf said all evidence is available in this regard.

"Mehsud had carried out several attacks on my life and he was my enemy. I as well as the government wanted him dead," he said. "Certainly, I could not influence him to murder a person," he said, hinting that the role of Afghan intelligence agency Khad, and then president Hamid Karzai, in facilitating Benazir's assassination in collaboration with Zardari cannot be ruled out.

Musharraf said that he has been blamed for providing inadequate security to Benazir. "The only question that I ask is who took the decision to create a hatch in the roof of a bullet and bomb proof car?"

"Another thing is that Benazir had already addressed the public gathering and got into the car unharmed, before someone called her relentlessly on phone and got her to wave to the people out of the hatch. Her phone was not found for over two years after the assassination attempt," he alleged.

Moreover, Musharraf asked why people sitting with Benazir inside her vehicle — Naheed Khan, Safdar Abbasi, Makhdoom Amin Fahim and Zardari's "jail buddy" Khalid Shahenshah — were not questioned by the court.

The former president also questioned the credentials of ex-home minister Rehman Malik and Shahenshah for becoming security in-charges of Benazir.

China opens dual-use highway to Nepal via Tibet

TIBET (TIP):: China has opened a strategic highway in Tibet to the Nepal border which could be used for civilian and defence purposes, a move that Chinese experts say will enable Beijing to make forays into South Asia, according to a media report on Sept 19.

The 40.4-kilometre highway in Tibet between Xigaze airport and Xigaze city centre officially opened to the public on Friday with a short section linking the national highway to the Nepal border.

The highway will shorten the journey from an hour to 30 minutes between the dual-use civil and military airport and Tibet's second-largest city.

State-run 'Global Times' quoted experts as saying that the highway "will enable China to forge a route into South Asia in both economic and defence terms" and being a forerunner to a railway line connecting Nepal.

Geographically, any extension of the road and railway connectivity to South Asia is through India, Bhutan and to Bangladesh.

Chinese officials have said in the past that the projects are feasible and could become a trade corridor for India and China if New Delhi comes on board. (PTI)

Pakistan PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Raises Kashmir Issue in UN Speech, Accuses India of 'Terrorism'

Uses Kashmir as many as 17 times and India 14 times in his speech

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): After the world had an experience of rhetoric from US President Trump and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani at the UNGA, it was the turn of the Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, making his maiden appearance, to use all rhetoric at his command against India who, he alleged had "brutally suppressed" the "struggle for self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir" and called upon the UN Secretary General to appoint a special envoy on Kashmir.

Pakistan Prime Minister, adopting a hawkish posture in his address to the UN General Assembly, on September 21, warned India of a "matching response," if India "ventures across the LoC" or acts upon its doctrine of limited war against Pakistan and accused India of terrorism against it.

"Despite over 600 violations since January this year Pakistan has acted with restraint. But if India does venture across the LoC, or acts upon its doctrine of "limited" war against Pakistan, it will evoke a strong and matching response," Abbasi said in his address.

"The Kashmir dispute should be resolved justly, peacefully and expeditiously. As India is unwilling to resume the peace process with Pakistan, we call on the Security Council to fulfill its obligation to secure the implementation of its own resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir," Abbasi said in his maiden address to the UN General Assembly.

"To this end, the UN Secretary-General should appoint a Special Envoy on Kashmir. His mandate should flow from the longstanding but unimplemented resolutions of the Security Council," he said in his speech, which was expectedly dominated by racking up the issue of Kashmir and India-bashing.

In fact, in his speech, Abbasi - who became the Prime Minister a few months ago after his party leader had to resign in the Panama Gate corruption case, used Kashmir as many as 17 times and India 14 times in his speech.

Abbasi alleged that from day one of its creation, Pakistan has faced unremitting hostility from its eastern neighbor. "India refuses to implement the unanimous resolutions of the UN Security Council, which mandate a UN supervised plebiscite to enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to freely decide their destiny," he alleged.

"Instead India has deployed nearly 700,000 troops in occupied Kashmir to suppress the legitimate struggle of the Kashmiris to exercise their right to self-determination. This is the most intense foreign military occupation in recent history," he said.

"As in the past, today the Kashmiri people are waging a heroic and popular struggle to rid themselves of India's oppressive rule. They come out in the streets daily to call on India to leave Kashmir," he claimed.

India, he alleged, has responded with massive and indiscriminate force to suppress the Kashmiris, shooting



In his speech at the United Nations on September 21, Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi accused India of "terrorism" indiscriminately at children, women and youth. Hundreds of innocent Kashmiris have been killed or injured.

"Shotgun pellets have blinded and maimed thousands of Kashmiris including children. These and other brutalities clearly constitute war crimes and violate the Geneva Conventions," he charged.

Abbasi in his address, demanded an international investigation into India's crimes in Kashmir.

"We ask that the United Nations Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights send an inquiry Commission to occupied Kashmir to verify the nature and extent of India's human rights violations, secure the punishment of those responsible and provide justice and relief to the victims," he said.

Pakistan, he said, also urges the international community to call on India to: halt pellet gun attacks and other violence against unarmed demonstrators; stop the use of rape as an instrument of state policy; end media blackouts; rescind its draconian emergency laws; and free all Kashmiri political leaders.

"To divert the world's attention from its brutalities; India frequently violates the ceasefire along the Line of Control in Kashmir," he said. "The international community must act decisively to prevent the situation from a dangerous escalation," he added.

Abbasi said Pakistan remains open to resuming a comprehensive dialogue with India to address all outstanding issues, especially Kashmir and discuss measures to maintain peace and security.

"This dialogue must be accompanied by an end to India's campaign of subversion and state sponsored terrorism against Pakistan, including from across our western border," Abbasi said.

Myanmar police fire warning shots in Rakhine as mob attacks aid boat

YANGON (TIP): Myanmar police fired warning shots to disperse a mob who threw petrol bombs at them and tried to block an ICRC boat in the conflict-hit Rakhine state, where tens of thousands are believed to be in urgent need of aid, state-backed media said on Sept 21. Communal tensions remain sky high across Rakhine where raids by Rohingya militants at the end of last month sparked a massive army crackdown and an unprecedented exodus of the Muslim group which the UN has called "ethnic cleansing". Stranded after their villages burned to the ground, many Rohingya Muslims left inside Rakhine are in especially desperate need of aid. The zone worst-hit by communal violence remains under a virtual army lockdown, although authorities have promised to allow safe passage for relief.

Aid is an incendiary issue in Rakhine, which is poor and scored by ethnic and religious hatred. Ethnic Rakhine believe foreign aid agencies ignore their needs and are biased towards the Rohingya -- a minority denied citizenship in Myanmar and branded 'Bengali' outsiders. A 300-strong mob in the Buddhist-majority state capital Sittwe massed late Wednesday at a jetty where a boat -- carrying 50 tonnes relief materials including clothes, water buckets and mosquito nets -- was preparing for the journey up river into Maungdaw. (AFP)

Bangladesh army steps in as Rohingya Muslims suffer amid heavy rainfall

COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH (TIP): Bangladesh's army was ordered Sept 20 to take up a bigger role in helping hundreds of thousands of Rohingya who have fled violence in Myanmar, amid warnings it could take six months to register new refugees.

Troops would be deployed immediately in Cox's Bazar near the border where more than 420,000 Rohingya Muslims have arrived since August 25, said Obaidul Quader, a senior minister and deputy head of the ruling Awami League party.

Soldiers would help build shelters and toilets for the thousands of refugees still sleeping in the open under pounding monsoon rain, Quader told AFP.

"The army presence is especially needed on the spot to construct their shelters, which is a very tough task, and ensure sanitation," he said.

The latest order came from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Quader said.

The soldiers would also ensure order and assist with distributing relief, a chaotic process that has seen stampedes as donors hurled food and other staples from moving trucks.

Previously, troops had been tasked with transporting foreign relief supplies from the country's port city of Chittagong to Cox's Bazar where the overcrowded camps are located. (AFP)



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USIBC Applauds Senate Bill to Advance Defense Cooperation between US-India

WASHINGTON (TIP): The U.S. India Business Council welcomed the U.S. Senate's inclusion of a provision to advance defense cooperation between the U.S. and India in the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act.

This legislation further institutionalizes the U.S. government's focus on the U.S.-India security relationship by requiring that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, develop a strategy for advancing defense cooperation, promote defense job creation, further articulate the benefits of Major Defense Partner status, promote the competitiveness of U.S. defense exports to India, and designate a U.S. government official explicitly tasked with meeting these responsibilities.

"Senators Warner, Sullivan, Cornyn and Cruz deserve praise for maintaining Congress's focus on this essential defense partnership - a relationship with tremendous commercial and strategic imperatives," said Khush Choksy, acting president of the U.S.-India Business Council.

"This amendment sends an important message to both the executive branch and the Indian government, reaffirming that as a Major Defense Partner, the U.S. government elevates defense trade and technology cooperation to a level commensurate with the closest of allies and partners," said Ben Schwartz, senior director for Defense and Aerospace for the U.S.-India Business Council.

"American industry understands and appreciates that this facilitates technology sharing between the two countries." Marc Allen, president of Boeing International said, "The Boeing Company strongly supports this bipartisan amendment to enhance U.S.-India ties with one of our most important strategic relationships around the world."

"As the world's largest democracies, the United States and India share many common values and have many overlapping interests, especially in defense," said Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK). "I'm pleased to be able to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to continue highlighting the close defense cooperation between the U.S. and India. I am also happy to see that the National Defense Authorization Act, which just passed the Senate, included language demonstrating support for trilateral cooperation between the U.S., India, and Afghanistan. This collaboration will help strengthen the sovereignty and security of Afghanistan, which is both a regional and global interest." "India plays a critical role in our long-term national security interests, not just in the region, but around the globe. Our measure helps define the goals of that strategic partnership and the benefits of deepening U.S.-India defense cooperation," said Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA). "I'm pleased it was included in the defense authorization bill that passed the Senate. I look forward to our language being included in the final defense authorization bill and being signed into law so that the administration has clear guidance in how to continue to foster this important relationship."

To start a movement, look to Gandhi, says Obama

NEW YORK (TIP): When Barack Obama was asked once whom he would most like to have dinner with, he picked Mahatma Gandhi. The former US president, who has often spoken of being inspired by Gandhi, did it again at Goalkeepers 17, an event held in New York on Tuesday to talk about the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Obama referenced India and Gandhi when he called for people to listen to stories around them to develop empathy. "Mobilizing movements starts with a story," he said, adding that it was Gandhi's understanding of India's stories and traditions, his attention to the marginalised voices in Africa, that helped him gather a movement that drove out the world's most successful empire. (PTI)



"Senators Warner, Sullivan, Cornyn and Cruz deserve praise for maintaining Congress's focus on this essential defense partnership - a relationship with tremendous commercial and strategic imperatives," said Khush Choksy, acting president of the U.S.-India Business Council.

USINPAC Hosts Visiting Youth Leaders from India



The reception focused on trade and investment opportunities

WASHINGTON (TIP): US India Political Action Committee (USINPAC) hosted a dinner reception for a delegation of youth political leaders from India this week. The upcoming young politicians are here to learn US best practices in political and civic engagements, building political cadres and the role of media in governance. During their visit, the delegation will meet US lawmakers and discuss strategies for developing political organizations, through leadership training, organizing infrastructures, and campaigning methods, examine the role of the media, traditional and social, in political campaigning and governance and discuss challenges and impact of engaging youth in political and civic activism.

Invitees to the reception included Indian youth political leaders; Rizwan Arshad, Member of Legislative Council, Government of Karnataka, Raghav Chadha, National Spokesperson, Aam Aadmi Party, Raunaq Jain, Head,

Legislative Assistants to Members of Parliament Fellowship, Vinay Bidre, National General Secretary, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, Abhishek Matoria, Member, Legislative Assembly, Rajasthan, Bhushan Penchalwar, National General Secretary, National Students Union of India, Lakshmanan Ramamurthy, Member, Rajya Sabha, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) Party, Tanvir Sadiq, Political Secretary and Advisor to Former Chief Minister and Working President of National Conference, Omar Abdullah, Sachin Madhavrao Sawant, General Secretary and Chief Spokesperson, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee, Nikhil Vyas, General Secretary, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, Mumbai, along with some distinguished Indian Americans of the region.

During the reception, USINPAC provided an historic overview of its role in the growth of U.S.-India bilateral relations, the strengths and aspirations

of the Indian American community and ways to foster investment and engagement with its counterparts in India. The visitors had many questions regarding the American experience in building youth cadres, job creation with skill development and renewable energy initiatives etc. Sachin Sawant and Dr. Lakshmanan spoke about the agrarian crisis involving rising farmer suicides in Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. Tanvir Sadiq had questions relating to renewable energy, namely hydro-electric power generation in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr. Sanjay Puri, the host of the reception remarked, "India and Indian Americans should move from the myopic focus on H1B programs, instead tackle the larger forces of globalization and automation that are rapidly changing the global economic climate. We have to look to the future. USINPAC will continue to support and foster exchanges that will maximize benefits for both the US and India."

Donald Trump signs new order to widen sanctions against North Korea

NEW YORK (TIP): US President Donald Trump announced sanctions on Sept 21 that open the door wider to blacklisting people and entities doing business with North Korea, including its shipping and trade networks, further tightening the screws on Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programme.

Trump stopped short of going after North Korea's biggest trading partner, China, and praised its central bank for ordering Chinese banks to stop doing business with North Korea.

Pyongyang has resisted international pressure, conducting its sixth and largest nuclear test on September 3, and launching numerous missiles this year, including two intercontinental ballistic missiles and two other rockets that flew over Japan.

"Today I'm announcing a new executive order, just signed, that significantly expands our authority to target individual companies, financial institutions, that finance and facilitate trade with North Korea," Trump told

reporters ahead of a luncheon meeting with the leaders of Japan and South Korea.

"Our new executive order will cut off sources of revenue that fund North Korea's efforts to develop the deadliest weapons known to humankind."

Trump said North Korea's textiles, fishing, information technology, and manufacturing industries were among those the United States could target.

He said the US Treasury Department would have discretion to sanction foreign banks that conduct transactions tied to trade with North Korea.

Trump did not mention North Korea's oil trade. Four sources told Reuters China's central bank has told banks to strictly implement United Nations sanctions against North Korea.

The UN Security Council has unanimously imposed nine rounds of sanctions on North Korea since 2006, the latest earlier this month capping fuel supplies to the isolated state.

Earlier on Thursday, South Korean

President Moon Jae-in, sitting with Trump and their respective delegations, said the US president's warning to Pyongyang in his speech at the UN on Tuesday "will also help to change North Korea."

Trump warned North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in his address that the United States, if threatened, would "totally destroy" his country of 26 million people.

It was Trump's most direct military threat to attack North Korea and his latest expression of concern about Pyongyang's repeated launching of ballistic missiles over Japan and underground nuclear tests.

North Korea's foreign minister likened Trump to a "barking dog" in response.

On Thursday, South Korea's Moon said sanctions were needed to bring Pyongyang to the negotiating table and force it to give up its nuclear weapons, but Seoul was not seeking North Korea's collapse. (Reuters)

UC San Diego Dedicates New Science Building in Recognition of Tata Family's Pioneering Philanthropy

SAN DIEGO, CA (TIP): UC San Diego celebrated the dedication of a new building for the divisions of Biological and Physical Sciences on Sept. 12 with a special announcement. The cutting-edge science building will bear the name Tata Hall for the Sciences, or Tata Hall, in recognition of a \$70 million gift from the Tata Trusts, which was committed last year to create the binational Tata Institute for Genetics and Society.

The Tata Institute for Genetics and Society, established as a collaborative partnership between the university and research operations in India, will occupy the fifth floor of Tata Hall. The institute's mission is the advancement of global science and technology through socially conscious means to develop solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges, from public health to agriculture.

"It is my privilege to dedicate this building in recognition of the Tata Trusts' leadership and collaboration with UC San Diego, and the Tata family's pioneering philanthropy and singular impact to bring about societal change," said UC San Diego Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla. "Tata Hall exemplifies UC San Diego's tradition of non-tradition, inspiring cross-disciplinary collaboration among researchers and the next generation of innovators. This building will embody the spirit of the many shared values of UC San Diego and the Tata Trusts to benefit our global society."

Trustees of the Tata Trusts were on



Ratan Tata, chairman of Tata Trusts, puts his signature on a construction beam that will become part of Tata Hall, slated to be completed in fall 2018.

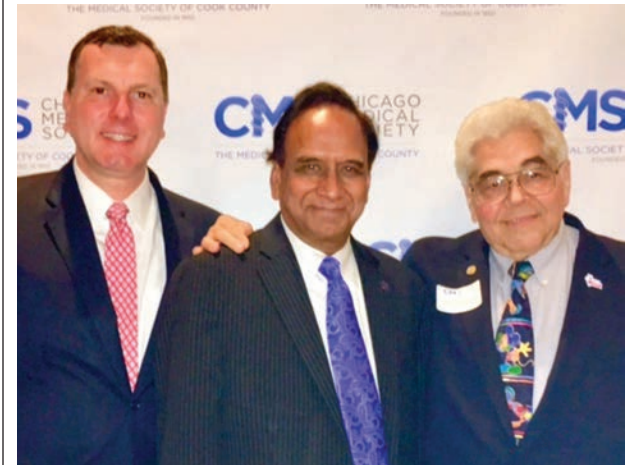
hand at the dedication of Tata Hall and participated in the ceremonial signing of a beam that will be incorporated into the construction. The building is slated for completion in 2018.

"I am very proud of being associated with this great institution," said Tata Trusts Chairman Ratan N. Tata, who recounted his thoughts from when he first visited UC San Diego. "I realized that here in San Diego, I had seen a gold mine of intellectual capacity and enthusiasm. I kept feeling that there is something happening at UC San Diego that would make a difference in the years ahead.

What we are doing is a big thing for mankind in our part of the world ... and I look forward to this involvement as just a first part of what we can do together."

Further underscoring the growing impact and scope of the Tata Institute for Genetics and Society, UC San Diego also announced the four inaugural chair holders of the Tata Chancellor's Endowed Professorships. These chairs are the first in a series of 10 endowed faculty chairs that were established by UC San Diego to attract and retain top scientists and faculty focused on research that aligns with the institute's goals.

DR. VEMURI S. MURTHY INSTALLED AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY



Dr. Vemuri S. Murthy as CMS President, flanked by the Past President Dr. Clarence Brown (right) and Dr. Nestor A. Ramirez, President, Illinois State Medical Society (left)

CHICAGO, IL(TIP): Dr. Vemuri S. Murthy, a Chicago-based Anesthesiologist and resuscitation expert has become the 169th President of the prestigious Cook County Medical Organization, The Chicago Medical Society (CMS) in a well-attended inauguration ceremony @ Maggiano's Banquets in Chicago on September 12, 2017. He is an alumnus of Guntur Medical College and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (New Delhi) in India and Rush Medical Center in Chicago.

The Chicago Medical Society is one of the largest county medical societies in the nation, representing approximately 17,000 physicians offering their services to about 5 million people.

Dr. Murthy has served the organization in different capacities since 1983. He is the Founder of the CMS Community CPR project SMILE (Saving More Illinois Lives through Education) in raising awareness of sudden cardiac arrests with CPR education throughout the greater Chicago communities for several years. SMILE is the first community CPR project offered to the public by a Medical Society in USA. The training participants included the US Congressmen, Illinois and Chicago legislators and members of the Chicago Consular Corps including Indian Consulate.

A past Chairman of the Anesthesiology department @ West Suburban Medical Center in Oak Park, Illinois and past President of the Indian American Medical Association, Illinois (IAMAIL), Dr. Murthy has been a veteran volunteer of the American Heart Association for many years and is a member of the International Committee. A pioneer of resuscitation education in Indian Medical Colleges, he is an advisor to the training centers and a visiting University Professor. A "Champion of Global Health" and recipient of several national and international awards for his contributions involving resuscitation and public health education, he is leading a national Hands-only community CPR project in India involving the University of Illinois @Chicago, IAMAIL and Share India.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Murthy stressed the need for more active physician participation in organized medicine through the Medical Societies in this age of rapidly changing healthcare arena affecting physician practices and patient care. He also encouraged the younger physicians including medical students and residents to become members of a medical society even before they start their medical practices. He mentioned the advantages of CMS membership such as advocacy, education, informational exchange and networking. Chicago Medical Society has been serving the interests of physicians in Cook County and promoting quality patient care for several decades and as the incoming President, Dr. Vemuri S. Murthy is committed to this mission!

(Photograph and Press release by Asian Media USA)

Suzy's Place- A much needed Domestic Violence Shelter Service Facility in Chicago Inaugurated

CHICAGO, IL(TIP): Suzy's Place hosted, September 8, its formal Inauguration of its service facility at 6425 N Rockwell Street, Chicago, IL, located in the diverse Rogers Park neighborhood.

The event was attended by esteemed government officials - Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, Secretary of State Jesse White, and Alderman Carrie Austin. Also in attendance were our partners- Kate Lawler from Swedish Covenant Hospital, Lillian Cartwright from The Chicago Battered Network, Syed Nizami from US Bank and Eugene Williams from (NOBEL) - National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.

Co-Founders Arshia Hasnain and Shahida Khan welcomed a room full of over 150 attendees and explained to them the importance of working together to help make a positive impact in the lives of women and children who are subjected to domestic violence. Together we can make our Chicago community safer and productive.

Suzy's Place is a 501c3 nonprofit organization registered in the state of Illinois. Suzy's Place provides emergency and transitional housing, emotional support, and a diversified continuum of services focused on safety, empowerment, and self-sufficiency. Through community partnerships,



Formal Inauguration of Suzy's Place - a Domestic Violence Shelter Service Facility in Chicago

Suzy's Place raises awareness, provides services, and educates community about domestic violence issues. Now with our service facility almost complete we will be providing weekly classes to not only empower the women in our shelter but to all the women in the neighborhood. The classes we offer will help to strengthen the body, mind and soul. Our yoga, art, dance, music and self-esteem therapy classes will benefit every woman.

Suzy's Place is a startup and needs all your support. We know how hard it is to

run a shelter and we have accepted the challenge. But we really need your help. Please donate generously by going to our website at www.suzysplace.org and press the donate button. You can also visit us on Facebook and follow our activities on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/Suzys-Place-232412787223842/> Your donations will help to empower these survivors of Domestic Violence.

(Photograph and Press release by Asian Media USA)

DAWOOD IS IN PAKISTAN, BROTHER KASKAR TELLS INTERROGATORS

THANE (TIP): Fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim is still in Pakistan, his brother Iqbal Kaskar has told the interrogators from the Intelligence Bureau and the Thane police's crime branch, said officials.

Thane police arrested Kaskar two days ago in Mumbai in a case of extortion.

"Along with crime branch officials, Iqbal is also being questioned by the IB officials for the last two days and he has provided some vital information related to Dawood and his whereabouts," said a senior official of Thane police.

Kaskar, according to the official, confirmed that his brother, wanted in several cases, including the 1993 Mumbai blasts case, is in Pakistan.

Dawood is of late wary of calling his relatives or his men in India on phone for fear of tapping, he said.

Kaskar also told the interrogators that he has spoken with his other brother, Anees Ibrahim, who lives with Dawood, only four or five times in the recent past.

The information given by Kaskar will help in the investigation of several cases registered against the members of Dawood gang in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Thane, the official said.

According to the police, Dawood's drug business has spread to Africa and even South America, while Kaskar looks after his 'real estate business' in Mumbai area.

The crime branch has also sent a team to Bihar to probe the present case, as the shooters hired to scare the complainant had been hired from there, the officer said.

Two more persons have come forward to complain about the extortion racket run by the Dawood gang in Mumbai-Thane area since Iqbal's arrest, and the police are expecting at least a dozen more complaints.

The police are likely to give protection to the complainants, the official said.

Kaskar and his associates had allegedly been threatening a prominent builder in Thane in Dawood's name since 2013 and had extorted Rs 30 lakh and four flats from him.

Kaskar was deported from the UAE in 2003. *Source: PTI*



FRENCH RAFALE READY TO MAKE JETS IN INDIA

NEW DELHI (TIP): In line with their contract obligations, French major Dassault Aviation has said it was coordinating between French suppliers and Indian companies to manufacture Rafale fighter jets in India.

Rafale International comprising Dassault Aviation, Safran and Thales has met over 100 French Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Paris. Indian and French Defence Ministry officials, too, were at these meetings. The French Aerospace Industries Association is the nodal agency producing systems and sub-systems for Rafale.

French SMEs were being encouraged to set up production activities in India alongside Dassault Aviation, Safran and Thales as part of the Rafale programme to help the company meet its obligations, said a Rafale spokesperson in India. The move comes two days after a US business chamber expressed its concerns over sharing hi-end technology with Indian companies.

"Encouraging French SMEs to come to India is a key condition to participate in the 'Make in India' initiative of PM Narendra Modi and will benefit both French and Indian industries," the spokesperson said.

Rafale is looking towards creating opportunities for establishing a full-fledged aero-defence manufacturing ecosystem in India, said Eric Trappier, Dassault Aviation chairman and CEO and GIFAS chairman.

The GIFAS is a trade body of 382 members ranging from major prime contractors and system suppliers to small specialist companies. *Source: The Tribune*

Slowdown gives Opposition 'inclusive' plank against govt

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Congress-led Opposition feels it has found an 'inclusive narrative' against the government in the looming economic slowdown, after highlighting issues such as 'lynching' and 'intolerance' in the last two years.

As the government works on providing stimulus to boost the economy, the Opposition camp calculates that highlighting against the economic slowdown and its potential social and economic fallout will cut across divisions — poor, jobless youth, distressed farmers, unhappy middle class, traders, small & medium enterprises and industry — and give it a pan-India plank that has minimum 'polarising' risk while it questions the Modi government's development record.

Over the past few days, senior Congress leaders have reached out to leaders of like-minded Opposition parties, informally discussing ways to convert 'economic distress' into a new collective plank along with 'social distress', that a 16-party national committee is pursuing in various parts of the country by holding 'save our composite culture' stirs.

Congress insiders said, the Opposition will hold a joint meeting to



announce an agitation to highlight 'economic mismanagement', 'flawed development model' and demand solutions. Soon after the RBI data on demonetised currency was out, EThad reported Congress president Sonia Gandhi could call a meeting of Opposition parties to work out a strategy to highlight the government's 'betrayal'.

The analysis given to the Congress leadership by in-house experts such as Manmohan Singh, P Chidambaram

and Anand Sharma predicts further trouble for the economy. These parties think after demonetisation, the heralding economic slowdown along with teething problems can pose the biggest challenge to the regime. "The painful fallouts of economic slowdown have turned off those social segments, the youth, middle-class, traders and industry which had intensely rallied behind the BJP during the 2014 polls," said an AICC functionary.

Source: TOI

Fresh strains in SP: Mulayam dumps Akhilesh loyalist

LUCKNOW (TIP): In signs of fresh strains in the Samajwadi Party (SP) ahead of its state and national convention, its patron Mulayam Singh Yadav on Thursday removed Akhilesh-loyalist Ram Gopal Yadav from the post of secretary of the Lohia Trust and appointed his brother Shivpal Yadav in his place.

SP is holding its state convention on September 23 in Lucknow while its national convention is scheduled on October 5 in Agra.

"At a meeting of the trust held here, Ram Gopal was removed from the post of secretary and I was given the responsibility to take forward the ideology of Dr Ram Manohar Lohia," Shivpal, the warring uncle of Akhilesh, told reporters.

Asked whether he was invited to attend the SP state and national conventions, he said, "I have not received the invitation so far and I am unlikely to attend them."

On his future course of action after being sidelined in the SP by his nephew, Shivpal said, "Netaji (Mulayam) will hold a press conference on September 25. He will make some announcements."

He, however, did not elaborate, leaving mediapersons wondering as to whether the party patriarch will part ways with the SP and announce a front, reports about which were doing the rounds in the political circles.

In a meeting of the trust last month, Mulayam had sacked four Akhilesh loyalists who were its members, but had retained Akhilesh and cousin Ramgopal Yadav.

The Lohia Trust is an affiliate of the Samajwadi Party and Mulayam is its chairperson.

Shivpal, Akhilesh and Ramgopal Yadav, who is also the SP national general secretary, are members of the trust.

Mulayam had terminated the trust



membership of Ramgovind Chaudhary, the Leader of Opposition in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, Ahmed Hasan, Usha Verma and Alok Shakya at its annual meeting last month.

Deepak Mishra, whom Akhilesh had expelled from the SP, was been made a member.

Mishra is a close Shivpal aide and president of the Samajwadi Chintan Sabha. Shivpal's other confidants Ramsewak and Ramnaresh from Etawah and Rajesh Yadav from Hardoi too were made new members of the Lohia Trust. *Source: PTI*

Madhav: Ready to talk to all unconditionally in Kashmir

NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR (TIP): The government is ready to talk to all stakeholders in Jammu and Kashmir without pre-conditions, BJP general secretary Ram Madhav, who arrived in Srinagar on September 21 (Thursday), said.

"We have said from the beginning and we have maintained that our doors are open to all the stakeholders in the state, they are welcome to come and have a dialogue with the state government as well as whoever wants to talk to the central government, we are open to a dialogue," Madhav said when asked if talks would be held with separatists in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The question should be asked to those who do not want to go for dialogue," he said, in what was seen as a hint at the separatists. Speaking to reporters, Madhav said, "If they (separatists) wish, they can have a dialogue with the state government and they can have talks with New Delhi as well." *Source: TOI*

AFTER KERALA CM, KEJRI MEETS KAMAL HAASAN

CHENNAI (TIP): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sept 21 met veteran actor Kamal Haasan and hailed him for coming out against communalism and corruption amid mounting speculation that the latter would take a political plunge.

Kejriwal also said that the 62-year-old multilingual actor should enter politics.

Today's interaction, where the two men expressed mutual admiration for each other, was the second high-profile meeting Haasan had with a political figure in three weeks. The actor had recently called on Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in Thiruvananthapuram.

"It is important at this point when the country is facing strong forces of corruption and communalism, all like-minded people should talk to each other on these issues and work in tandem," said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief with Haasan by his side.

Emerging from an hour-long meeting at the actor's office-cum-residence at Alwarpet here, Kejriwal told reporters that Haasan should enter politics and added that the two would continue to meet in future.

Haasan, who has of late been dropping hints on taking the political



plunge, showered praises on Kejriwal, saying the Delhi Chief Minister had a national profile of fighting against corruption and communalism. "I also have a similar reputation and it is no wonder we decided to have a dialogue on the existing situation (in the country and Tamil Nadu)," he said.

Stating that he was honoured by Kejriwal's visit, Haasan said his endeavour was to seek advice from anyone fighting against communalism and corruption.

Kejriwal said he had always been a great fan of Haasan both as an actor and

as an individual. "Kamal Haasan ji enjoys a reputation of integrity and courage," he added.

"There are rare people who have the courage to stick their neck out. And Kamal Haasanji happens to be one of them, who has stuck his neck out and he has decided rather than curse from outside that he should enter politics," Kejriwal said. Earlier on his arrival, Kejriwal was received at the airport by Haasan's younger daughter Akshara.

Source: PTI

INDUSTRIALIST SALARIA BJP'S GURDASPUR PICK, SUNIL JAKHAR CONGRESS'



Swaran Salaria

Sunil Jakhar

Suresh Khajuria

CHANDIGARH (TIP): The Bharatiya Janta Party on Sept 21 (Thursday) announced Swaran Singh Salaria as its candidate from the Gurdaspur parliamentary constituency, which fell vacant after the demise of actor-turned-politician Vinod Khanna in April this year.

The BJP central election committee picked Salaria for the by-election to the parliamentary constituency of Gurdaspur.

Salaria is a businessman from Chauhana village of Bhoja Assembly constituency. Meanwhile four candidates on Thursday filed their nominations for the Gurdaspur parliamentary constituency by-poll, to be held on October 11.

An official spokesperson said those who filed nominations include Aam Aadmi Party candidate Suresh Khajuria and his covering candidate Taripata Kumari, besides Rajinder Singh of Hindustan Shakti Saina and Santosh Kumari of Megh Deshm Party. The Congress on Wednesday nominated its Punjab unit president Sunil Jakhar, a loyalist of Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, to contest Gurdaspur Lok Sabha by-election scheduled on October 11. Jakhar (63), a three-time MLA from Abohar and a former Congress Legislative Party (CLP) leader, was pitted in the intra-party battle against Amarinder's bête noire and former PPCC chief Partap Singh Bajwa, whose wife was a claimant for the same ticket.

Govt mulls introducing Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament



NEW DELHI (TIP): The Modi government may introduce in Parliament the Women's Reservation Bill, which seeks to reserve one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies for women.

A senior BJP leader said top echelons of the government and the party have been brainstorming over the Bill, which had polarised the political class whenever various governments introduced it earlier.

Asked if the government will bring the Bill in its original form or incorporate some changes, he said the matter is still being debated.

On being asked if the Bill will be introduced in the Winter Session, the leader, on condition of anonymity, said, "It may be introduced. But a final call has not been taken yet."

Congress president Sonia Gandhi had on Wednesday written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to introduce the Bill passed in the Lok Sabha by taking advantage of the BJP's majority in the House.

BJP leaders claimed that Gandhi was doing politics over the matter and said the UPA government did not introduce the Bill in the Lok Sabha as it could not overcome opposition from within its own ranks.

The Bill is unique in the way it has polarised opinions as despite getting public support from all major national parties, including the BJP, Congress and the Left, it has drawn fierce opposition from some regional outfits and MPs from backward classes.

Many OBC MPs cutting across party lines, including the BJP and the Congress, believe that such a law will give advantage to women from upper castes, who are better educated and more resourceful.

Regional satraps like Lalu Prasad and Mulayam Singh Yadav have also opposed it bitterly, demanding reservation for OBCs and minorities within the quota for women and also that the quantum of reservation should be far less than 33.33 per cent. A strong view within the BJP is that if its government succeeds in getting this constitutional amendment bill passed in Parliament, then it can upend conventional political faultlines and boost its prospects ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha poll. Source: PTI

Rohingyas will be deported: Rajnath

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Centre yet again sent out a clear signal that it will not buy the human rights angle with regard to the Rohingya who have settled in India illegally, and is determined to deport them.

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh said India was not a signatory to the UN Convention on Refugees and hence would be in no breach of any international protocol in deporting them through legal means.

Addressing a seminar on "Good Governance, Development and Human Rights", organised by the National Human Rights Commission, Singh said those concerned with human rights of others should also be concerned with the rights of Indians.

Referring to the clamour against the deportation, he said: "Do not commit the mistake of categorising the Rohingya as refugees." They also do not have political asylum in India. "There is a certain procedure to be completed to attain the status of a refugee. The government has not received any application from any quarters to this effect," Singh added.

The issue is also related to the country's security on which this government cannot compromise. The government has submitted its affidavit to the court. In this context, he said, Bangladesh was facing trouble on account of influx of the Rohingya. He said the government had extended help to Bangladesh to tide over the crisis on humanitarian grounds. Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit, Myanmar



'Illegal immigrants, not refugees'

"The Rohingya are not refugees... No Rohingya has got asylum in India, nor has anyone applied for it. They are illegal immigrants." — Rajnath Singh, Union Home Minister

NHRC: taken up on humanitarian grounds

New Delhi: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Thursday said it had taken up the issue of the Rohingya on humanitarian grounds, but refused to comment on the government's assertion that the "illegal immigrants" would be deported. "We are taking up the case of Rohingya on humanitarian grounds," NHRC chairman retired Justice HL Dattu said.

Source: PTI

has made its intention of taking back the Rohingya clear. He wondered why even then people were building a case against their deportation.

Batting for human rights as a noble concept, he said it should not be misused for vested interest.

Drawing a distinction between the concept of human rights understood in the West and in India, he said while in the country it was conceived out of a sense of duty, in the West it was conceived in the backdrop of bloodshed, violence and struggle. Source: The Tribune

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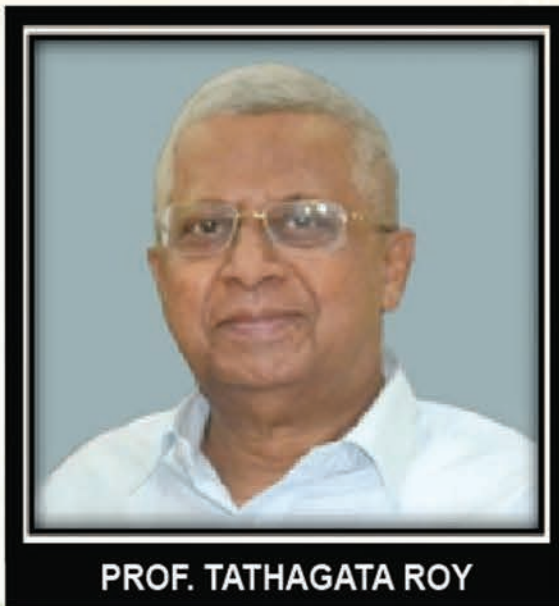
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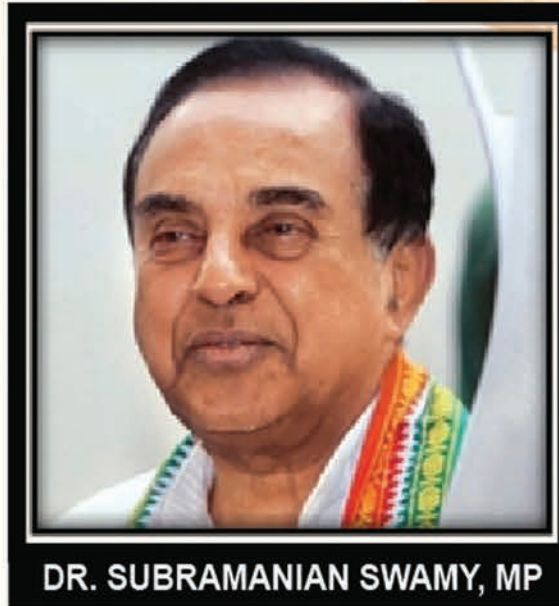
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RAKHI SAWANT TO PLAY 'MISSING' HONEYPREET

Actress Rakhi Sawant says she will expose Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in a biopic in which she will star as the disgraced Dera Sacha Sauda sect chief's adopted daughter Honeypreet Insan, who is believed to be now hiding in Nepal.

"Yes, I'm playing Honeypreet as I have known her for seven to eight years. I know everything about her. I believe she is in London right now. My brother Rakesh Sawant and I are producing the film," Rakhi told IANS.

"I'm in Delhi right now. We will be shooting here only. Our set will be exactly like his Sacha Sauda. I promise my audiences that 'Main baba ki sab pol khol ke hi dum lungi' (I will be relieved only after exposing him)," she added.

The release date of the biopic is yet to be finalised. *Source: IANS*

SHRADDHA'S JOURNEY FROM HASEENA PARKAR TO AAPA

Shraddha Kapoor, who is currently on an all-time career high, believes her journey from Haseena Parkar to Aapa was literally a switch.

Describing further her journey, the 'Baaghi' actress in an exclusive chat with ANI said, "When she decides to do certain things which she hasn't done before. She always helped people in need and maybe sometimes which is a questionable thing, which is still a theory as it's not proven yet that she had 88 cases against her where she probably used illegal means and ways to get certain things done be it in real estate or anything else and these are all speculations and nothing has been proven yet. So this journey is of somebody who has been shaped by certain events that happened in her life and it can affect you deeply on an emotional level and it was that for all of us involved in the film."

In 'Haseena Parkar', Shraddha plays the role of dreaded 'aapa' (as Haseena Parkar was called), who became an underworld 'Mafia Queen' after she was tried and persecuted because she was Dawood Ibrahim's sister.

Parkar, who had 88 cases registered against her, but was taken to court only once in her life, was rumoured to have single-handedly run her brother's Rs.1000-crore underworld empire in the city. The film shows Haseena's journey from a 17-year-old teenager to a 43-year-old. For this, Shraddha underwent drastically different looks by using prosthetics, body suits and heavy make-up.

Siblings Shraddha and Siddhanth Kapoor will be seen playing reel life siblings Haseena Parkar and Dawood Ibrahim respectively in Apoorva Lakhia's upcoming gangland drama 'Haseena Parkar.'

It's for the first time that we will see Shraddha playing a grey character on screen and the film also features Ankur Bhatia, who will essay Haseena's husband Ibrahim Parkar in the film.

'Haseena Parkar' is all set to hit the theatres on September 22.

Source: ANI



MOVIE REVIEW

SIMRAN

CAST: Kangana Ranaut, Sohum Shah

DIRECTION: Hansal Mehta

GENRE: Comedy

DURATION: 2 hours 4 minutes

STORY

Praful Patel (Kangana) is a 30-year-old divorcee living in Georgia with her middle-class parents. A housekeeper by profession, she gets drawn to a life of crime after her tryst with gambling at a Las Vegas casino. One bad turn leads to several more and before you know it, Praful is in a sordid mess.

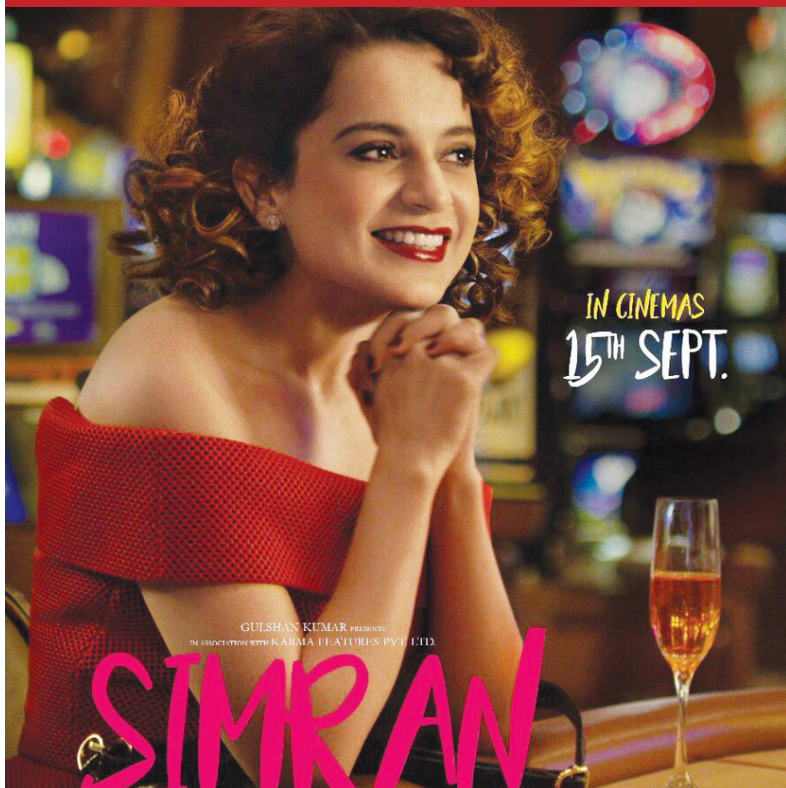
REVIEW

The nice thing about Simran is that it ventures into an area where the Bollywood heroine offers no defence for being a badass. The protagonist, a woman with an undaunted spirit, lives and loves by her own set of rules. She refuses to have 'sex without protection' and is constantly up for adventure. She doesn't think twice about slipping into a life of crime

just to support her 'character flaws'. So far so good.

Besides the premise, everything else about the film is improbable. The writing falters in parts and naturally the execution follows. The way Praful goes about robbing banks and gets away scot-free, even after leaving her finger prints all over and notes scribbled with lipstick seems unbelievable. The media brands her the 'lipstick bandit', and the Atlanta cops and the victimised bank employees seem like a bunch of jokers, who keep harping on the fearless bandit's modus operandi, and yet, they fail to foil the half-a-dozen heists! It is almost like Hansal Mehta is attempting a comic story. Nothing wrong there, but if it is a tale that is being recounted in lighter vein, then it should have at least made the audience laugh some more.

The only one who is having a good time here is Kangana. Whether she's docile or daring, the actress goes about her screen business with a flourish; getting her mannerisms pat. However, there are occasions when even she gets carried away with the constant focus. But then again, is she really to be blamed? The filmmaker doesn't even have another noteworthy star on celluloid to share the limelight. Simran's parents and her fiancée, Sameer (Sohum) and other actors-foreign and desi-don't quite add up.





ALICIA VIKANDER'S FIRST LARA CROFT POSTER OUT

Warner Bros and MGM have released the first official poster for the upcoming 'Tomb Raider' reboot, starring Alicia Vikander as the globetrotting archaeologist Lara Croft. The reboot comes more than 15 years after Angelina Jolie first brought the video game adventurer to the silver screen.

The new 'Tomb Raider' finds Croft as an ordinary 21-year-old living in London. Haunted by the apparent death of her archaeologist father (Dominic West), she soon sets out on a high-stakes mission to find him. Roar Uthaug is directing, with Walton Goggins on board as the film's villain.

'Tomb Raider' will hit theaters on March 16, 2018. *Source: PTI*

'PLAYING BILLIE JEAN KING WAS CHALLENGING'



Oscar-winning actress Emma Stone, who will be seen playing Billie Jean King in upcoming 'Battle of the Sexes' movie, feels that it was challenging to play former world number one tennis player.

While talking at the Red Carpet of the movie, the 'La La Land' star said, "I've never played a real person before and it's, like, this person is an icon and an absolute badass that I could never even hope to be exactly like."

According to a report, the actress also revealed that capturing the essence of was really important to her.

"Capturing the essence was very important to us. It was super challenging, but [King] was so warm and welcoming and open to all of it. She was generous with her story that it made it much easier than if she was like, 'Please don't make this movie about me, good night,'" noted Stone.

Also in attendance was the real Billie Jean King, who is played by Stone in the film.

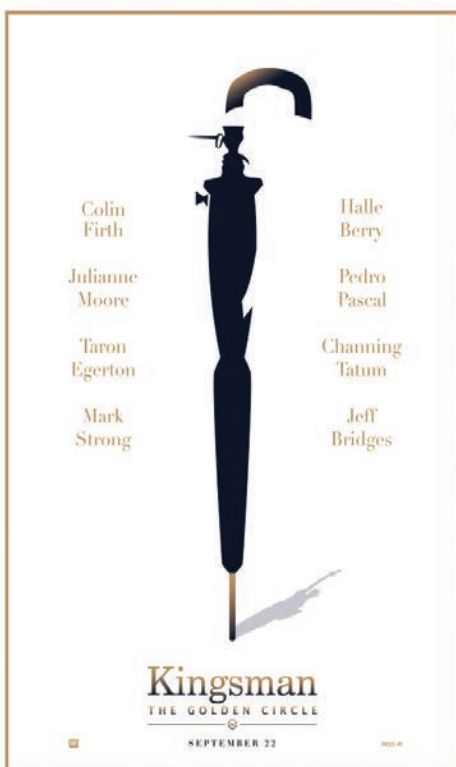
"Emma, thanks for making me look so good," King quipped about Stone when introducing the film.

King had met everyone involved with the film before it started shooting. Although she had spent time with Stone, directors Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris (who are also married) made sure the two kept their distance as well.

Emma also shared that she felt weird because she had to just study videotape of Billie Jean. She needed to hear her voice at 29. Helmed by Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris, 'Battle of the Sexes' also stars Steve Carell in the lead role.

Source: ANI

MOVIE REVIEW



KINGSMAN: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

CAST: Colin Firth, Julianne Moore, Taron Egerton, Mark Strong, Halle Berry, Elton John, Channing Tatum
DIRECTION: Matthew Vaughn

GENRE: Action

DURATION: 2 hours 21 minutes

STORY

When their headquarters are destroyed and the world is held hostage, the Kingsman's journey leads them to the discovery of an allied spy organization in the US. These two elite secret organizations must band together to defeat a common enemy.

REVIEW

In 2014, 'Kingsman: The Secret Service' surprised everyone with an audacious screenplay, visceral action and a completely self-aware premise. It went on to become a sleeper hit that begged for a sequel. But does the follow-up meet everyone's expectations? It's certainly no easy task to recapture that lightning-in-a-bottle success, but 'Kingsman: The Golden

Circle' certainly tries to up the ante, keeping the same tongue-in-cheek humour intact, along with gritty action and a cast of well-known names. Its problem stems from the fact that it doesn't know exactly when to pull back, in an excessive effort to surpass its predecessor.

The story is one that we're all quite familiar with - a psychotic villain holds the world, or at least the US, hostage in an absolutely preposterous manner. Our heroes need to save the day, but the odds are stacked against them when their resources are taken away. In order to make it even more challenging, they need to earn the trust of their new allies, and again that's a two-way street. Throw in some crazy bad guys and we have a neat little package. But 'The Golden Circle' still has some tricks up its sleeve. Since action is the primary focus, there's some nifty editing and camerawork that makes it much easier to follow, reminiscent of the insane chapel sequence in the 'The Secret Service'. In the acting department, Taron Egerton, Mark Strong, Pedro Pascal and Julianne Moore are all effective in their respective roles, but it's a missed opportunity by not saving Colin Firth's return as a shocking surprise. On the other hand, Halle Berry, Channing Tatum and Jeff Bridges feel underutilized - undoubtedly being reserved for the next entry in this franchise.

This also means there's a lot of fluff this time around which could have been done away with, to make it a leaner, meaner screenplay. But the cast, and director Matthew Vaughn seem to have had a lot of fun making this movie and that essence translates well on screen too. As long as you don't expect it to be a genre-defying blockbuster, get comfortable and enjoy 'The Golden Circle' for what it's worth. If nothing else, check it out for Elton John playing an extremely colorful version of himself - and that's saying something!

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Suspect package in London's Holborn was false alarm: Police

LONDON (TIP): British police said reports of a suspicious package near Holborn, central London, had turned out to be a false alarm. Pictures on Twitter had shown several police cars and officers in the cordoned-off street, but a spokeswoman later said the operation had been stood down. Britain's threat level is currently set to severe, meaning an attack is highly likely, and 30 people were injured last Friday when a bomb on a train apparently failed to fully detonate. (Reuters)

Second man arrested over London train attack

LONDON (TIP): A second man has been arrested by police investigating Friday's bomb attack on a London underground train, police said. The 21-year-old man was arrested in the west London suburb of Hounslow just before midnight on Saturday, the Metropolitan Police force said in a statement. He was detained under Britain's Terrorism Act and taken to a south London police station, the force added on Sunday. (Reuters)

Billionaire L'Oreal heiress Liliane Bettencourt dies aged 94



PARIS (TIP): French businesswoman and billionaire Liliane Bettencourt, whose family founded L'Oreal and still owns the largest stake in the cosmetics giant, has died aged 94, her daughter said on Sept 21.

Bettencourt, listed by Forbes as the world's richest woman, was the heiress to the beauty and cosmetics company her father founded a century ago as a maker of hair dye. Her death opens a new phase for L'Oreal, France's fourth-largest listed company, altering the relationship it has with key shareholder Nestle, the Swiss food company.

Bettencourt and her children owned 33 per cent of the company. Her daughter Francoise Bettencourt-Meyers said in a statement the family remained committed to L'Oreal and its management team. "My mother left peacefully," Bettencourt-Meyers said, adding that she had died during Wednesday night at her home in Paris.

"I would like to reiterate, on behalf of our family, our entire commitment and loyalty to L'Oreal and to renew my confidence in its President Jean-Paul Agon and his teams worldwide." Agon was appointed chairman and chief executive of L'Oreal in 2011. Nestle, which owns a little over 23 percent of L'Oreal, had an agreement with the founding family stipulating that the two parties could not increase their stakes in the cosmetics group during Liliane Bettencourt's lifetime and for at least six months after her death.

The Swiss company has been a major investor since 1974, when Bettencourt entrusted nearly half of her own stake in the firm to Nestle in exchange for a three percent holding in the Swiss company. She took the move out of fear that L'Oreal might be nationalised if the Socialists came to power in France. Activist hedge fund Third Point recently urged Nestle to sell down its stake.

LEGAL BATTLE : A Nestle spokeswoman on Thursday did not comment on the company's stake, only saying: "It's time to send our sincere condolences to Madame Bettencourt's family." Bettencourt's net worth was estimated at \$39.5 billion earlier this year by Forbes, making her the world's richest woman and among the 20 wealthiest people in the world. She had been under the guardianship of family members since a court fight - known as the "Bettencourt affair" - ended with a ruling in 2011 that she was incapable of looking after her fortune because she suffered from dementia and had been exploited. (reuters)

What we've learned about Brexit so far

LONDON (TIP): Britain's vote to leave the Europe Union took just one day - but the divorce process is dragging on. In October, talks between the two sides are supposed to shift from the terms of exit to the terms of re-engagement. There's little chance of that happening. Despite the positioning papers published and legislation initiated, progress is being slowed up by bickering - within the UK government and between London and Brussels - as well as technicalities and economic fog. Nonetheless, five clear lessons stand out.

BRITAIN REALLY WANTS SPECIAL TREATMENT

The notion of a "bespoke" Brexit has been a refrain since 2016's vote, and appeared again in a series of positioning papers released by the UK government in August. Prime Minister Theresa May insists an off-the-shelf relationship - for example, a copy of deals negotiated by other countries like Norway or Turkey - would be particularly inadequate in two areas: the border between Ireland and the United Kingdom, and the customs regime that will take effect once Brexit takes place.

The trouble is that UK negotiators haven't yet put out a compelling, fact-based reason why Europe would want to grant special treatment on substantive issues. Finance might prove to be the exception, since the continent's capital markets are largely wired through London.

For goods, however, the balance of power is likely to be on the EU side. British threats that Italian Prosecco will stagnate in unwanted lakes unless the United Kingdom is granted "free and frictionless" trade are hard to take seriously - even if British imports of Italian sparkling wine are up 23 percent so far this year.

ECONOMICS, NOT PROCESS, WILL DECIDE

Britain is on the way to passing its "Repeal Bill" to translate European laws into British ones. But even that wasn't a given. Politicians on both sides have raised the alert over "Henry VIII" clauses that allow the government to amend rules without seeking approval from legislators. Such debates will tie up policymakers even more as the bill runs through parliament. The chance that they will stop the Brexit juggernaut, however, is virtually nil.

As with the triggering of Brexit formalities in March, pro-EU campaigners have actively sought to scupper the process. It is becoming clear,



though, that almost no British politicians feel they have the political capital to push that point too hard. If Brexit is going to be scrapped before it can be completed, it will be because there is popular support for a U-turn.

That is only likely if the country feels seriously economically ravaged. For now it doesn't, mostly because Britain hasn't actually left the EU. Beyond the slide in sterling, economic conditions remain much as they were before the referendum, and in some cases, appear better. Low-price pub chain JD Wetherspoon and sportswear store JD Sports both reported strong UK sales growth last week. Clothing retailer Next says it has so far been able to get suppliers to absorb the impact of exchange rates.

JOB'S ARE MAKING THINGS EASIER, AND HARDER

While Britain's growth is forecast to lag that of the euro zone in 2017 according to the International Monetary Fund, labour market data has been unambiguously strong. The unemployment rate fell to a 42-year low in July. That makes it hard to convince Brexit supporters that Britain has no choice but compromise on matters of trade and immigration.

Not only have jobs been created, but the share of employment generated in goods relative to services has been increasing over the past year, something barely seen this century outside of the financial crisis - albeit that change started before the referendum.

As the Bank of England warned on Sept. 14, a readjustment is inevitable. Real wages are likely to keep falling - meaning that workers will get poorer in

real terms. But without the shock of rising joblessness, a direct link between Brexit and economic hardship will continue to be disputed. No one wants to see a spike in unemployment - but without it, there's more chance that Brexit talks will end in stalemate.

TIME IS THE EU'S SECRET WEAPON

Economic heft is clearly in the EU's favour. But so is timing, which is what could really shape the next few years. Michel Barnier, the EU's chief negotiator, has refused to discuss the future of British ties until the present and past - specifically the so-called divorce bill to be settled by the United Kingdom - have been tied up.

That's frustrating and obstructive, but also totally rational. Barnier isn't fighting a popularity contest, unlike the government represented by minister David Davis, his British counterpart. If Barnier holds out and talks edge closer to the March 2019 deadline, it's likely Britain will be left with little choice but to ask for a lengthy transition phase, most probably involving hefty budget contributions.

There's another risk for the UK side: companies may not hang around long enough to find out whether Britain can avoid a chaotic departure. German carmakers, for example, are now putting together plans for life after a hard Brexit. Global banks have already done so. No wonder Theresa May is planning to suggest a temporary extension to the status quo in a speech this week in Florence - and the UK's Office for Budgetary Responsibility has already factored EU budget payments beyond 2019 into its assessment of UK finances. (Reuters)

Turkish military starts drill near Iraqi border

ANKARA (TIP): Turkey launched a military drill featuring tanks close to the Iraqi border on Sept 18, the army said, a week before Iraq's Kurdish region will hold an independence referendum.

Despite opposition from Turkey, Iran and the United States, the Kurdistan Regional Government's leaders have said they will hold the non-binding independence vote on September 25.

Ankara has previously warned against the poll, saying it could risk

"civil war" and will "have a cost" if it goes ahead. Despite forging strong ties with the KRG in northern Iraq in recent years, Turkey fears the vote could stoke separatist aspirations among its own sizeable Kurdish minority.

Ankara's national security council will meet on September 22 to discuss the country's official position on the poll but President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday said it was a "mistake".

He was speaking before leaving for

the United Nations General Assembly, where he will meet Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi -- whose Baghdad government is also fiercely against the KRG's move. Jan Kubis, the top UN envoy in Iraq, last week offered international backing for immediate negotiations between the country's federal government and the autonomous region in a bid to get Iraqi Kurdish leader Massud Barzani to drop the plans. (AFP)

China bans use of anti-Islam words on social media

BEIJING (TIP): "Islamophobic" terms used by Chinese internet users to stigmatize Muslims have been blocked by authorities to prevent bias against Islam, official media reported on Sept 21.

China has over 21 million Muslims mostly the Uyghurs in Xinjiang and Hui community in Ningxia province, according to unofficial accounts.

"The Islamophobic terms invented by Chinese Internet users to stigmatize Muslims have been blocked by authorities on Chinese social media despite criticism from the netizens that such a ban overtly favourable to Muslim minorities," state-run Global Times reported.

China is currently carrying out massive crackdown against the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) in the volatile Xinjiang province where Uygurs who formed majority were restive over the increasing settlements of Han community, the majority ethnic group constituting over 90 per cent of the country's population.

ETIM is blamed by China for a host of terrorist attacks in Xinjiang and other parts of China. Reports from the province said a large number of youth were fighting along with Islamic State in Syria.

As a result of the ban, searches for "green religion" and "peaceful religion", often used by Internet users to refer to Islam and to circumvent censorship of inappropriate online speech, showed no results on China's Weibo microblog yesterday, the report said.

Posts containing the phrases cannot be posted for "violations of Weibo's complaints related rules." Insults against Islam are also blocked in Weibo's search engine, it said.

China which has a booming internet population surpassing over 700 million, uses massive firewalls to block any



content the government and the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC), deems offending and not in the country's interest. International social media outlets like Twitter, Facebook as well as Google are blocked by the firewalls.

"Discontent and fears of Muslims have been on the rise on China's Internet in recent years. Complainers target Chinese authorities' affirmative discrimination policies toward ethnic minorities, especially Muslim groups," the report said.

The ban came after an alleged brawl involving Muslim people at a toll booth went viral, netizens inundated the official Weibo accounts of Tangshan city government departments with complaints about the country's allegedly partial treatment of Muslims for the sake of social stability, it said.

"It's necessary to timely remove radical phrases that discriminate

against Islam and are biased against Muslims to prevent worsening online hatred towards the group. Those phrases severely undermine religious harmony and ethnic unity," said Xiong Kunxin, a professor at Beijing's Minzu University of China in Beijing.

"Blocking such phrases is not an infringement of people's freedom of speech as freedom should abide under China's related regulations and law," Xiong told the daily.

Some Internet users misunderstand China's ethnic policies, calling them "unjust" to the majority Han people, he said.

Although officially atheist, China also protects its residents' rights to practice their religion. The government assisted 12,800 Muslims in making the pilgrimage to Mecca this year and closed streets for Muslims to celebrate Eid ul-Fitr, the report said. (PTI)

'Moscow has no doubt that US can destroy North Korea', says Russia's foreign minister

MOSCOW (TIP): Russia has no doubt that the United States can destroy North Korea. That's what Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov told state media on Sept 16.

"We heard the statements from President Trump about North Korea in the same vein for many times. We don't doubt that the United States has capacity to do something very destructive," Lavrov told state-run news agency TASS.

In his first appearance at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Tuesday, President Donald Trump warned the hermit kingdom that if the US's "great strength and patience" run out, it could "totally destroy North Korea."

"The United States has great strength and patience, but if it is forced to defend itself or its allies, we will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea," the American leader said.

Still, foreign minister Lavrov appreciated parts of Trump's address as well - the part where Trump emphasised that diverse countries can "work side by side on the basis of mutual respect" regardless of their "different values, different cultures, and different dreams".

"In America, we do not seek to impose our way of life on anyone, but rather to let it shine as an example for everyone to watch," he said.

Lavrov welcomed these words of Trump.

"He said he respects sovereignty and equality in international relations, that the United States wants to live by example and not otherwise, and that the US would not impose its way of life on others and will accept the plurality of the nations, cultures and civilizations," Lavrov said.

"I think it's a very welcomed statement which we haven't heard from an American leader for a very long time," Lavrov told TASS. (TIP)

Worried about 100 million unmarried citizens, China's Communist Party now pushes 'organised blind dates'

BEIJING (TIP): Worried that "societal harmony and stability" will be negatively affected by 100 million single citizens of marriageable age, China's Communists are now pushing organised blind dates.

In fact, the Communist Youth League recently even issued a notice urging its cadres to hold organised blind date events, reported Global Times.

The Youth League is run by the powerful Communist Party, so companies have taken it seriously, with some even giving a day off to those going on a blind date.

What's more, a Youth League cadre in Zhejiang province has established a special department for matchmaking and has already organized a blind date event which attracted 5,000 people, said Global Times, which is run by the Communist Party.

The Youth League notice said that "a civilized, healthy and rational concept of love and marriage" should be combined with socialist core values.

"...helping young people find the right partner has a direct impact on their further development, which affects societal harmony and stability," the notice said, according to Global Times.

Spurred by the Youth League's call, government bodies like labour unions and women's federations are chipping in.

"Family is society's basic unit. Without a family, people will lose their motivation to work diligently, and too many single people will eventually affect social stability," said an employee at the Women's Federation in Pizhou, East China's Jiangsu Province, to Global Times.

This employee has organized several blind dates for government employees.

A 28-year-old man named Zeng, who works at a state-owned company in Beijing, told Global Times he's allowed to take a day off when going on a blind date.

"My boss believes that a man will only be committed to work after he has a family," said Zeng.

Chinese netizens reportedly have mixed feelings about organised blind dates.

"It (labour union) said that work is less important than marriage, and women are destined to get married," said one woman on Zhihu, a Chinese Quora-like website. (PTI)

Visits by Trump, Modi to Israel 'truly historic': Netanyahu

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): He may have hosted over a hundred of world leaders to Israel this year but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu feels the visits by the US President Donald Trump and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi were "truly historic".

Netanyahu mentioned this on Tuesday during his address to the United Nations General Assembly here.

With Modi, Netanyahu said, they imagined the endless possibilities for Israel, for India and for all of humanity.

"I stood here last year on this podium, and I spoke about this profound change in Israel's standing around the world. Just look at what has happened since, in one year, has happened cents. Hundreds of presidents, prime ministers, foreign ministers, and other leaders have visited Israel, many for the first time," Netanyahu said. "Of these many visits, two were truly historic. In May, President Trump+ became the first American president to include Israel in his first visit abroad. President Trump stood at the Western Wall, the foot of Temple Mount, where the Jewish people, or rather the



Jewish people's temples, stood for nearly 1,000 years," he said. And when the President touched those ancient stones, he touched our hearts forever, Netanyahu said.

In July, Netanyahu said, Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Israel+ . He also shared with the world leaders his meeting with the Indian

premier. "You may have seen the pictures. We were on a beach in Podera. We rode together in a jeep outfitted with a portable desalination device that some thriving Israeli entrepreneur invented. We took off our shoes, waded into the Mediterranean, and drank seawater that had been purified only a few minutes earlier," Netanyahu said. (PTI)

DETOX FOR YOUR SKIN

Do you think your skin is looking dull even after you have indulged it with the latest antioxidant moisturiser? Sure, topical creams have their pluses. But if your dark circles show no signs of receding or zits keep popping on your face, you have to change your approach. You need to start thinking 'inside out', with dermatologists (yes, the ones who swear by chemical peels and laser treatments) believing in the goodness of detox drinks. We get two specialists to suggest their ideal skin and hair detox picks. Try these good old toxin baiters that will put your skin/hair at its best behaviour.

Pack a Pomegranate punch

You need : 1 cup pomegranate seeds, 1 tsp chia seeds soaked in ½ cup water, 1 tsp ground sesame seeds, 1 tsp spirulina powder.

To make : Place all the ingredients in a blender and blend it while it's still fresh - ideally in 15 minutes.

How it works : Pomegranate, thanks to its vitamin A content, strengthens skin collagen. Chia seeds help eliminate toxins, while spirulina with its vitamin B12, iron, and trace minerals, heals inflammation and gives a fresh lease of life to the skin.

Iron booster

You need : 2 leafy bunches of spinach or kale,

1 cup chopped amla (Indian gooseberry), 1 shot of wheatgrass, 2 medium-sized chopped dates.

To make : Mix all the ingredients in a blender and drink up for its iron-boosting properties.

How it works: This green juice helps in preventing hair fall as well as premature greying of hair. It is also beneficial for those struggling with brittle nails.

Clean your system now

You need: A teaspoon of triphala in warm water to start your day.

How it works: It cleans the colon and



HOW DO YOU DO A DETOX?

If your system becomes overloaded and polluted with toxins, your body can't efficiently filter impurities, and skin rebels in the form of a dull, sallow, tired-looking complexion, often accompanied by fine lines, wrinkles, acne, blackheads, enlarged pores and/or the dreaded oil slick.

purifies the blood - the cornerstones of a problem-free skin. Triphala - a detoxifying staple made from three fruits - works as a gentle laxative by removing built-up stubborn toxins from the intestinal tract. The amla in it is known for its skin brightening and hair strengthening properties.

For a hair raising plan

You need: 1 tbsp dried Himalayan nettle leaves (also available online).

To make: Boil water and add it to a teapot. Let the leaves steep for 15 minutes. Sip while it's warm.

How it works: A healing herb found in the remote villages of the Himalayan region, nettle is a great blood purifier and a liver cleanser. It has also been used by beauty enthusiasts for promoting hair growth as it is believed that the chemical silica present in it improves blood circulation to the scalp and minimises hairloss. *Source: TOI*



REMOVE NAIL POLISH WITHOUT A REMOVER

A good manicure doesn't last forever, we know! It all begins with the hideous chipping, which can break your look. Be it an important meeting or your dinner date, chipped nails are never impressive. So, what do you do if you don't have a nail polish remover handy? Peel your polish off and make it even worse? That's one thing you should avoid! Using your nails or any tool to peel off the polish without an adhesive can make your nails dry and even get tiny scratches. To avoid all this and save your nails, we've got the right kind of alternatives you can try.

Toothpaste

All you need to do for this hack is rub a little bit of toothpaste on your nails with an old toothbrush. The paste contains ethyl acetate which is also present in the polish remover.

Deodorant

Another way to remove your polish is to use a deodorant. Just spray it on your nails and rub with a cotton pad. This may take more than one try, a little more time than your regular removers.

Hand sanitizer

Chances of carrying a hand sanitizer over polish remover are more. Put a little bit of the sanitizer on the cotton ball and rub on the nails. Repeat till you get the results.

Perfume

Just like the deodorant, a perfume can also come to your rescue! Spritz some on a tissue paper and rub on your nails. Many women swear by this hack, which works surprisingly.

Source: TOI

FOOD CORNER

SABUDANA TIKKI

INGREDIENTS

250 gm soaked sago, 1 boiled potato, 1/4 cup coriander leaves, 1/4 teaspoon red chilli powder, 1 cup refined oil, 2 large, chopped green chilli, sendha namak as required, 1/4 cup, crushed roasted peanuts

METHOD

- To make this scrumptious Navratri special recipe, soak sago (sabudana) in water for around 2 to 3 hours. When the sago has turned a little fluffy, drain the excess water and transfer the sago in a bowl.
- Now to prepare the tikki mixture, take a big bowl and add the boiled potatoes in it. Mash them completely using your hands. Now add crushed roasted peanuts, chopped green chillies, coriander leaves, red chilli powder and sendha namak along with the drained sago.
- Make small tikkis of this potato and sago mixture. The tikkis should not be soggy. Now take a pan and add oil in it. Heat it over moderate flame. Once the oil is sufficiently hot, carefully place the sago-potato tikkis in it and deep fry till they turn crispy and brown in colour.
- Serve these hot and crispy tikkis with peanut chutney and beaten curd. You can also enjoy this delicious snack recipe with hot piping cup of tea or coffee. These Sabudana Tikkis are perfect for Navratri fasts.

INGREDIENTS

5 banana, 100 gm sugar, 1/4 cup butter, 1 teaspoon pistachios, 1/4 cup milk powder, 1 tablespoon cocoa powder, 1 teaspoon crushed lightly cashews, 50 gm ghee

METHOD

- To make this delicious Navratri special recipe, heat 1 tsp ghee in a pan over moderate flame. Add crushed pistachios and cashews to the pan. Lightly fry them till they turn golden in colour.
- Now take another heavy bottomed pan and heat it over medium flame. Add the remaining ghee and the bananas in it. Mix well. Add sugar and stir well. After a minute, add cocoa powder, milk powder and butter. Reduce the flame and gently stir till all ingredients are evenly combined.
- When the mixture starts to leave the sides of the pan and the bananas are well mashed, remove and transfer to a greased plate. Allow it cool. Before the mixture hardens completely, cut it into desired shapes and garnish with cashewnuts and pistachios.

BANANA BURFI



WHEN TO START AND END YOUR FASTS DURING NAVRATRI

Navratri marks the beginning of the nine-day festival devoted to goddess Durga. It is believed that during the course of these nine days, goddess Durga visits our home in her nine forms. The nine-day long festival comprises of fasting, daily pujas and participation in events. While the festival comes every autumn, it also commemorates Lord Rama's victory of killing Ravana.

Northern part of India participates in this festival. People fast for nine days and refrain from eating daily food items like rice and Indian bread. This year Sharad Navratri will be between 21st September to 29th September. A major festival in the Indian transcripts, Navratri is the beginning of a host of festivals like Dussehra and Diwali. Goddess Durga is the symbol of power, prosperity, wealth, and health and hence nine forms of Durga are celebrated during this time.

Navratri also has a scientific relevance. Experts suggest that since Navratri is held twice a year (once in summer and once in autumn), during this time our body has weak immunity due to seasonal changes. If we eat light meals which are also nutritious in nature, we can help our body stay away from the various flus which are also doing the rounds during this time. Therefore, eating heavy foods like meats, rice, grains and regular salt can take a toll on our system.

Hence, to make the most of Navratri, there are certain guidelines one must follow. These guidelines include the basic dos and don'ts of fasting during Navratri.

Fasting is a process which cleans our system inside out and therefore should be taken seriously. It is not necessary for you to do it exactly according to Hindu Mythology since many tweaks have been made over time. However, do keep the following rules in mind if you wish to opt for the nine-day fasting period.

Do's: Fasting rules

- Take a bath every day. You need to keep yourself clean at all times. According to priests, you should take a bath before 9 am.
- Stick to the Navratri diet which includes nuts, fruits, dairy products like milk and butter and selected flours. This also means your diet needs to be alkaline.
- In Indian homes, whatever food is prepared during auspicious times like this, it is offered to the deities. During Navratri as well, you need to do the same. If unable to do so, you can also offer fruits and milk.
- You need to light a lamp every morning or light one on the first day and maintain till the 9th day.
- Read the shlokas from Durga chalisa or any mantras you know of and devote them to



Goddess Durga.

- At the end of the nine-day festival, serve food to girls as goddess Durga is known to reside in them.

Don'ts: Fasting rules

- Do not keep your home dirty. Keep it clean at all times possible. This is because since the nine forms of goddess Durga are celebrated during Navratri, it is believed that Durga visits every house.
- If fasting, do not have a proper full meal before sunset.
- No consumption of alcohol, drugs, eggs, non-vegetarian food, onions, garlic during this period.
- Another popular belief during this time is not to cut your hair.
- It is also believed that cutting nails or stitching during this time should be avoided. Again, no reason stated as to why you should stick to this rule.

Here is how you can make the most of your fasting period:

- High on liquids: Stick to drinking a lot of water, coconut water, chaas, fruit milkshakes if you're aiming to lose weight in a healthy manner. These will keep you satiated for a long time.
- Do not starve yourself: Starving yourself means crash dieting, which is not the best thing to do. A healthy way will be to keep eating nuts and fruits every two hours.
- No fried foods: Fried foods can often get

to the best of us. There is no point in fasting if you end up hogging on fried foods to fill your tummy. Stick pan tossed snacks with minimal or no oil. Do not overload your plate with ghee. One tablespoon of ghee is considered to be healthy every day.

Stick to the basics: Do not go for packets of chips which say 'diet chips' or 'Navratri special'. These are marketing gimmicks to get you into buying foods which are fried and ultimately consists of ingredients which you shouldn't be consuming during this time. Stick to home cooked food and have plenty of water to detox the Indian way!

Source: TOI



DRINK COFFEE, SLEEP

A oxymoron for most, coffee and sleep are actually proving to be a magic pair! The positive impact of 10-20 minute power naps on the brain has been well documented. Add coffee to it? Even better.

Tried and tested

A Japanese study found that people who took a caffeine nap (a nap taken after drinking a cup of coffee) before taking a series of memory tests performed significantly better compared with people who solely took a nap. In several UK studies, researchers found that when subjects took a 15-minute coffee nap, they scored higher on a driving simulator test.

Smell the beans

When you drink coffee, the caffeine stays in the stomach for a while before moving to the small intestine. It is from here that caffeine is absorbed and distributed throughout the body. Science says that it takes 20 minutes for caffeine to hit the brain. So, if you caffeinate instantly before napping and sleep for 20 minutes or less, you can wake up more alert than ever. Sleeping naturally clears adenosine - a hypnogenic molecule that makes you tired and sleepy - from the brain. So while the 20-min nap reduces adenosine, you wake up fresher just in time for caffeine to kick in.

Source: TOI

HEALTHIEST FRUITS YOU SHOULD BE EATING

According to Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, diet high in fruits may reduce the risk of cancer and other chronic diseases. This comes as no surprise because we know fruits are powerhouse of vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and fibre and yet are considerably low in calories. All fruits have their own benefits but some stand out due to the unique health benefits they provide. Here is a list of healthiest fruits on earth on the basis of their nutrient component.

Pomegranates



This fruit is rich in three types of antioxidants including tannins, anthocyanins, and ellagic acid. Antioxidants are good for our body as they provide protection against free radical. Free radical can damage your body's cell and increase the risk of diseases.

Apples

It is rightly said an apple a day keeps the doctor away. Apple is rich in anti-oxidants and has anti-cancer properties. The flavonoids present in apple protect the body against asthma, diabetes and promotes mental health.

Oranges

Orange is one of the most popular and nutritious fruits in the world. They provide you with a significant amount of Vitamin C, potassium and B Vitamins such as thiamine and folate. As oranges are rich in citric acid, they help in absorption of iron and thus prevent anaemia.

Bananas

Bananas are rich in potassium, carbohydrate, starch and pectin all of which have their own benefit. Being high in carb content banana is a good source of fuel before workout, the starch content in it may help you to improve the blood sugar levels and pectin helps you to improve the digestion.

APPLE TV 4K TO GET DOLBY ATMOS AUDIO IN FUTURE TVOS UPDATE

Apple, while launching its Apple TV 4K earlier this month along with the new iPhone handsets, did not say anything if the streaming device will come with Dolby Atmos surround sound tech out of the box or not. However, according to The Verge, the streaming box will be getting the audio upgrade in future as a part of the tvOS update.

"Apple also doesn't support modern surround sound standards like Dolby Atmos and DTS:X, which place sound effects in 3D space around you," said The Verge's Nilay Patel in his Apple TV 4K review. "Apple told me that the lack of Atmos isn't a hardware limitation, and that support is on the roadmap," he added.

It is not clear as to when Apple plans to bring this support to its 4K TV streaming box. Apple TV 4K starts at \$179 for 32GB variant and \$199 for the 64GB variant in the US.



Microsoft launches Artificial Intelligence-based automated threat investigation system

Microsoft has unveiled an Artificial Intelligence (AI) based automated threat investigation system that is aimed at improving the security of devices.

"We are taking enterprise security to a new level through automated investigation and response capabilities as a part of Windows Defender Advance Threat Protection (WDATP)," Vineet Durani, Director, Windows and Surface Business, Microsoft India, told reporters here.

"We (Microsoft) are deeply interested in security and our security policies are designed with the perspective that there's already a breach, thereby staying few steps ahead of whatever is out there," said Durani.

With the new automation capabilities, WDATP can not only find breaches in security, but can also fix them, he added. AI-based automated threat investigation system will enable Microsoft users with insight to action against modern day threats while also increasing the efficiency of the machines, the company said.

World's 1st wireless charger is here

Silicon Valley youngster Pi on Monday claimed it had developed the world's first wireless charger that does away with cords or mats to charge devices. Pi chargers, about the size of a small table vase, operate on standard charging technology used in Apple or Android smartphones designed to be powered up wirelessly.

But instead of cords or mats, the conical creation charges smartphones with magnetic waves. Magnetic fields are an ideal way to safely send energy to portable electronics, said Pi chief technology officer Lixin Shi, who co-created the charger with John MacDonald.

The trick was bending magnetic waves to find smartphones, the co-founders said during a presentation for an AFP journalist at the TechCrunch Disrupt startup scrum in San Francisco. "The hard part was figuring out how to make magnetic charging more flexible, multi-device and extend its useful range," Shi said. "It took us over a year to complete the mathematical proof that makes it all possible."

The pair figured out how to shape the magnetic field so energy could be beamed to smartphones placed or in use within a foot of a Pi. Shi and MacDonald were graduate students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology when they met and began to collaborate on the project about 3.5 years ago. Both have since graduated from university.

Source: AFP

MERCURY'S POLES ICIER THAN THOUGHT

Washington, September 20

There may be much more ice on Mercury's scorching hot surface than thought, say scientists who have found evidence of frozen water hidden away on crater floors that are permanently shadowed from the Sun's blistering rays.

A study, published in the Journal Geophysical Research Letters, found three new craters near Mercury's north-pole that appear to harbour large surface ice deposits.

The research also shows evidence of smaller-scale deposits scattered around Mercury's north-pole, both inside craters and in shadowed terrain between craters.

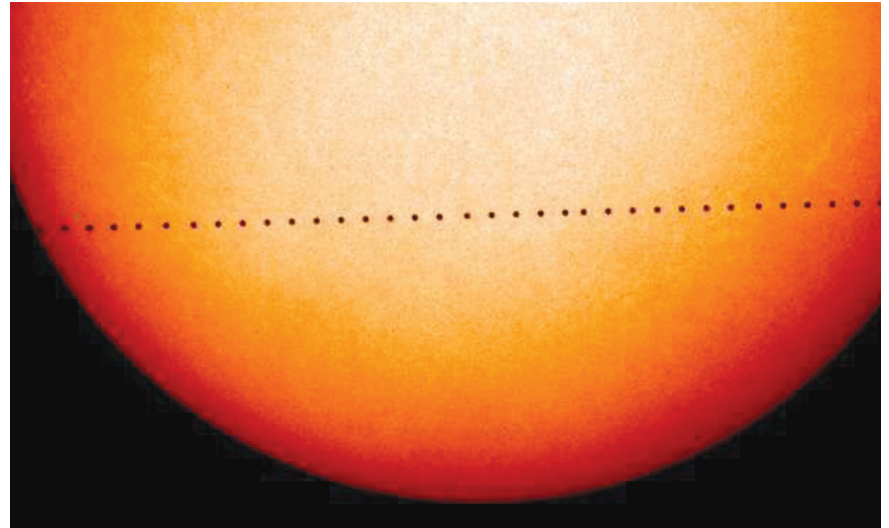
Those deposits may be small, but they could add up to a lot more previously unaccounted — for ice, researchers said.

"The assumption has been that surface ice on Mercury exists predominantly in large craters, but we show evidence for these smaller-scale deposits as well," said Ariel Deutsch, PhD candidate at Brown University in the US.

"Adding these small-scale deposits to the large deposits within craters adds significantly to the surface ice inventory on Mercury," said Deutsch.

The idea that Mercury might have frozen water emerged in the 1990s, when Earth-based radar telescopes detected highly reflective regions inside several craters near the planet's poles.

The planet's axis does not have much tilt, so its poles get little direct sunlight,



and the floors of some craters get no direct sunlight at all.

Temperatures in those eternal shadows have been calculated to be low enough for water ice to be stable.

NASA's MESSENGER probe, which entered Mercury's orbit in 2011, detected neutron signals from the planet's north-pole that were consistent with water ice.

For the new study, researchers looked specifically at readings from the spacecraft's laser altimeter. The device is mostly used to map elevation, but it can also be used to track surface reflectance.

The addition of those craters to Mercury's ice inventory is significant. Deutsch estimates the total area of the three sheets to be about 3,400 square kilometers.

Researchers also looked for patches that were smaller than the big crater-based deposits, but still large enough to resolve with the altimeter. They found four, each with diameters of less than about five kilometers.

"These four were just the ones we could resolve with the MESSENGER instruments," Deutsch said.

"We think there are probably many, many more of these, ranging in sizes from a kilometer down to a few centimeters," he said.

Knowing that these small-scale deposits exist, and that they are likely the source of the slightly brighter surface outside craters, could dramatically increase the ice inventory on Mercury.

Source: PTI

NEW TYPE OF WASHABLE SOLAR CELL DEVELOPED

TOKYO (TIP): Scientists have developed a new type of water-proof solar cell which can provide electricity even after being soaked in water or stretched and compressed.

The finding could open the way for wearable solar cells, which will provide power to devices such as health monitors incorporated into clothing, researchers said.

These could include sensors that record heartbeats and body temperature, for example, providing early warning of medical problems, they said.

Researchers, including those from the University of Tokyo in Japan, developed extremely thin and flexible organic photovoltaic cells, coated on both sides with stretchable and waterproof films, based on a material called PNTz4T.

They deposited the device in an inverse architecture onto a one-micrometre-thick parylene film.

The ultra-thin device was then placed onto acrylic-based elastomer and the top side of the device was coated with an identical elastomer, giving it a coating on both sides to prevent water infiltration.

The elastomer, while allowing light to enter, prevented water and air from



leaking into the cells, making them more long-lasting than previous experiments.

The researchers then subjected the device to a variety of tests, finding first that it has strong energy efficiency.

To test its resistance to water, they soaked it in water for two hours, and found that the efficiency decreased by just 5.4 per cent.

To test the durability of the solar cell, they subjected it to compression, and found that after compressing by nearly half for twenty cycles while placing drops of water on it, it still had 80 per

cent of the original efficiency.

"We were very gratified to find that our device has great environmental stability while simultaneously having a good efficiency and mechanical robustness," researchers said.

"We very much hope that these washable, lightweight and stretchable organic photo-voltaics will open a new avenue for use as a long-term power source system for wearable sensors and other devices," they added.

The study was published in the Journal Nature Energy. Source: PTI

JAITLEY HINTS AT STIMULUS PACKAGE TO REVIVE ECONOMY

NEW DELHI (TIP): The government is likely to announce a stimulus package for reviving growth amid a sputtering economy which will include measures to boost private sector investments. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley today said there is problem of private investment and the government is seized of the issue. "Very soon you will hear from us", Jaitley said speaking at the investor summit organised by JP Morgan.

He said from day one, this is a proactive government. "We are analysing the economic indicators and appropriate action will be taken at right time", he said. The Finance Minister has held meetings with the Railways and Commerce Ministers and other government officials on the economic situation amid calls for a stimulus to boost growth which has been going down for past few quarters.

Signalling that real estate may be brought under GST, the Finance Minister said "As far as bringing more items under GST is concerned, I think real estate is most easy to bring in".

As far as farm loan waiver by states is concerned, the Finance Minister said they have to find their own resources for this purpose.

There are growing calls for a stimulus package for the disruption-hit economy with several measures being floated, including the government spending more and expanding the fiscal deficit.



NEW PPP POLICY IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The new policy allows extending central assistance of up to Rs 2.50 lakh per each house to be built by private builders even on private lands

It also opens up potential for private investments in affordable housing projects on government lands in the urban areas

Under the second option, Central assistance of Rs 1.50 lakh per each house built on private land would be provided, in case the beneficiaries do not take bank loans

Meanwhile, the government today announced a new Public Private Partnership (PPP) Policy to promote private investments in affordable housing.

The new policy for affordable housing allows extending a Central assistance of up to Rs 2.50 lakh per each house to be built by private builders even on private lands.

Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri announced the policy at an event organised by industry body NAREDCO in Mumbai. Puri said the policy seeks to assign risks among the government, developers and financial institutions, besides leveraging under-utilised and unutilised private and public lands towards

meeting the Housing for All target by 2022.

He exhorted private developers to seize the investment opportunities in affordable housing in the prevailing enabling environment.

The two PPP models for private investments in affordable housing on private lands include extending central assistance of about Rs 2.50 lakh per each house as interest subsidy on bank loans as upfront payment under the credit linked subsidy component of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). Under the second option, a Central assistance of Rs 1.50 lakh per each house to be built on private lands would be provided, in case the beneficiaries do not intend to take bank loans. *Source: The Tribune*

Shareholders approve Tata Sons' move to become private entity

MUMBAI (TIP): Tata Sons, the promoter of the \$105-billion cars-to-software group, today won shareholders' nod to convert itself into a private limited company, limiting in effect Cyrus Mistry family's ability to sell their stake to outsiders.

All resolutions placed before the annual general meeting (AGM) of shareholders were passed with requisite majority, a Tata Sons source said.

A resolution placed before the AGM pertained to changing the closely-held company's registration to a private limited firm as opposed to a public one.

The Mistry family, which owns 18.4% of Tata Sons, had called the move "oppression of the minority interests" and stated that it would vote against the proposal. Tata Trusts holds 66% in Tata Sons.

The voting pattern was not immediately known. At least 75% of shareholders' nod was required for the proposal to go through.

The move comes almost a year after Mistry was ousted as chairman of the Tata Group, triggering a bitter boardroom battle. N Chandrasekaran was appointed Chairman in January this year.

A public limited company allows shareholders to legally sell their stake to anyone. But a shareholder of a private limited firm cannot sell the shares to outside investors.

It has also sought to amend the memorandum of association to change its name to Tata Sons Pvt Ltd from Tata Sons Ltd. *Source: PTI*

S&P cuts China's credit rating

BEIJING (TIP): Standard & Poor's slashed China's credit rating today over warnings that its ballooning debt had raised "economic and financial risks".

The decision by S&P, which downgraded China's debt from AA-minus to A-plus, follows a similar decision in May by Moody's, which had also raised concerns about the growing debt of the world's second largest economy.

"The downgrade reflects our assessment that a prolonged period of strong credit growth has increased China's economic and financial risks," it said.

Debt-fuelled investment in infrastructure and property has underpinned China's rapid growth, but there are widespread concerns that years of freewheeling credit could lead to a financial crisis with global implications.

Beijing has been clamping down on bank lending and property purchases, but those efforts are complicated by the government's determination to meet its full-year growth target of around 6.5%. *Source: PTI*

Google buys part of HTC biz

NEW DELHI (TIP): Tech giant Google said it has signed an agreement with HTC to buy part of the Taiwanese company's smartphone business for \$1.1 billion.

The deal includes HTC employees who worked on Google's Pixel smartphone and intellectual property rights, the two companies said, without disclosing the number of staff involved.

"Google will receive a non-exclusive licence for HTC intellectual property (IP)," the statement said.

This agreement will help HTC to focus on enabling a more streamlined product portfolio, greater operational efficiency and financial flexibility. *Source: PTI*

Gold plunges Rs 250 after US Fed policy move

NEW DELHI (TIP): Gold lost its edge on Thursday by tumbling Rs 250 to Rs 30,500 per 10 grams because of a rising dollar on stronger probability of a rate hike by the US Federal Reserve this year.

Silver also dropped Rs 600 to Rs 40,300 per kg, taking a hit from reduced offtake by industrial units and coin makers.

A weak global trend prevailed where gold fell to its lowest level in over three weeks. The dollar grew in clout as chances of an increase in interest rate in the US became more distinct, given the latest policy move by the Fed, where it kept the benchmark interest rate unchanged and announced the gradual end to a crisis-era stimulus programme.

This curbed the demand for precious metals, traders said. *Source: PTI*

M&M unveils first-ever driverless tractor



M&M Managing Director Pawan Goenka displays a driverless tractor developed by the company.

NEW DELHI (TIP): Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) showcased its first ever driverless tractor which it plans to introduce commercially next year.

The company plans to offer the driverless technology across its range of tractors from 20 HP to 100 HP over a period of time.

"This innovation will change the future of farming by increasing productivity, leading to increased food production to feed the growing needs of the world," M&M Managing Director Pawan Goenka said. The tractor would be available commercially from next year in a phased manner.

"Coupled with our 'DiGiSENSE' technology that we launched last year, the driverless tractor offers a distinct advantage to the Indian farmer by bringing an unprecedented level of intelligence to the tractor," M&M President Farm Equipment Sector Rajesh Jejurikar said.

"It will also be deployed across international markets such as the US and Japan, giving Mahindra tractors a distinct competitive edge in global markets with technological advancement being at the forefront," Jejurikar said.

Source: PTI

India replaces China as top retail destination

MUMBAI (TIP): India has replaced China as the numero uno retail destination in 2017 as part of the global retail development index, according to industry experts.

"India has replaced China this year as the top retail destination as part of the study on global retail development index," AT Kearney partner Subhendu Roy said on the concluding day of the two-day India Retail Forum 2017.

The change in ranking was an outcome of four factors including increased consumer spending, beyond essentials, rising mobile and internet penetration, favourable foreign investment climate and bold action on cashless transaction and GST, Roy explained.

"This has triggered the entry of global brands into India with transparency and ease," he added.

According to India Retail Report 2017, over the past 12-15 months, 100 per cent cash and carry operations are gaining significance in India with Thailand's Siam Makro being the latest entrant in this space following Metro, Walmart and Booker.

Furthermore, Swedish-furniture maker Ikea plans to open its lone distribution centre or warehouse in the country in Pune by end 2017 and its first store in Hyderabad by early 2018 with overall plans to invest USD 1.56 billion to set up 25 stores in India. In addition to the bigger retailer and brands, the mid-size brands from across the world are also looking to cash on the relaxed retail policy in India.

Food as well as retail Brands such as Korres, Migato, Evisu, Wallstreet English, Pasta Mania, Lush Addiction, Melting Pot, Yogurt Lab and Monnalisa and many others from across the world, are expected to invest about USD 300-500 million cumulatively to open roughly 2,500-3,000 stores, the study said.

With increasing global participation in Indian retail, the sector will further evolve and become more organised and competitive in providing better assortment to the consumer.

Source: PTI

"|| SHRI GANESHAYA NAMAHA ||"



BEJAN DARUWALLA

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Predictions for the month of SEPTEMBER, 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.

Cleanliness, purity and mysterious creativity is associated with you Virgos because your name is associated with Virgin Mary the mother of Christ. That's why I predict that Virgo Narendra Modi will be able to cleanse and purify the Ganges. Mighty achievement. But Virgos are school masters. School masters are perhaps too rigid and lay down the law a bit too hard for others to follow. A little bit of tolerance and flexibility is needed. After all, all human beings have their failings.

Aries:

Never believe that your life is useless. Never believe that after your death there will be complete silence. Never believe that your grave and resting place will be unmarked. Be sure that your vibrations will remain in the ether forever. In other words, be sure that in one way or the other you will never be forgotten.

Taurus:

Music, the arts and the rhythm of life itself go naturally with you Taureans. September is the month for all of this. Add to it genuine spirituality, tantra and mantra, birth of children, bhajans, satsangs, entertainment and the natural flow of the energy of life itself. A month to show how good and great you can be.

Gemini:

Ganesha quotes nothing great is easily won, Nothing great is easily lost, Every good deed nobly done, will repay the cost. It means in simple language that you will be rewarded in one way or the other for every good deed you have done. It means nothing good ever goes in vain.

Cancer:

Though your grave might be unmarked be sure that you will never be swallowed in silence. A time to make your presence felt of transport and publicity, news and views and messages. Extend a helping hand to one and all and Mother Nature will do exactly the same for you.

Leo:

Leo Sprinter Bolt was defeated in the recent Olympics. But though defeated the winner bowed down to him and paid homage. This is the clue to your powerful personality, your image and finally your great spirituality. The Sun is your main planet therefore the mantra is specially meant for you. OM HRAM HREEM HROM SA SURYAYE NAMAH

Virgo:

This is the month when you can sweep away one and all by your diligence, intelligence, inspiration and undoubted sincerity as well as imagination. Knowing this it becomes your dharma to do all that you can not only for yourself but for others. Love and duty are the two wheels of your bicycle.

Libra:

The peace that passeth understanding as the Bible says can be yours. At the same time, paradoxically, you may have to look after the weak and the helpless. Expenses may mount. It is a month of paradoxes and contradictions. But given faith in God and your own self you will come out a winner.

Scorpio:

As the Bible says, "The truth shall make you free". In other words, be absolutely honest in your dealings and game set a match will be finally yours. The simple reason is friends and well-wishers will flock to your side and support you once they know that you are sincere and cooperative.

Sagittarius:

Pressures are certainly going to mount in terms of prestige and work. Your attitude will be mighty important. Stay hopeful, buoyant and do not lose your confidence under any circumstances. You may have to work hard on two fronts home and work very sincerely. The mantra for you is, "OM JHRAM JHREEM JHROOM SA GURUVE NAMAH".

Capricorn:

Pilgrimages, spirituality of totally different dimension, tours and the ability to synchronize different trends and directions should help you in a thousand different ways. God favors you because you certainly deserve it. This is high praise, nobly deserved and won. Conference and meetings are foretold.

Aquarius:

Karmic debts will have to be paid, like it or lump it. The best thing is to accept it and go right ahead bravely and intelligently. This is not going to be easy. But in life the spiritual path can be one of thorns and thistles. Yes, you will be able to walk on it. Otherwise also this is a slightly uneven month.

Pisces:

You will grow through what you go through. Partnerships at all levels are predicted. The greatest partnership is with your Maker and your own Destiny. A time to heal others and thus be at peace with yourself. In short hostility and love, enmity and friendship all come to a meeting point, a very unusual month. Journey with a stop-over is possible.

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

NAVRATRI: NINE DAYS OF GODDESS DURGA

Navratrī the festival dedicated to Maa Durga, the embodiment of Shakti or cosmic energy is one of the pious festivals for the Hindus. Sharad Navratrī observed in September/October is widely celebrated across India and abroad and witnesses huge festivities that touch everyone's lives. Maa Durga has nine forms, and all are worshipped during Navratrī by dedicating each day to one 'avatar' or incarnation. Each goddess is representative of a particular virtue and is believed to bestow worldly and spiritual fulfilment.

Performing rituals of Navratrī is the most significant way of experiencing the essence of this Hindu festival. In the auspicious and awe-inspiring occasion, divine love pervades through all devotees who emerge more courageous and wiser through the nine-day rigor. In the vein of all vedic traditions, Navratrī customs help to inculcate spiritual habits. Hence, prayers, chants, 'bhajans' and reading of important religious texts make up a significant portion of this festival. Devotees pay obeisance to this feminine divine energy that is believed to maintain the balance of the universe.

Navratrī is one of the most anticipated festivals in India with social and spiritual connotations. Navratrī Hindu festival is spread out over nine consecutive days in the Chaitra and Ashwin months to consecrate the divine aspects of Ma Shakti as Goddess Durga, Goddess Lakshmi and Goddess Saraswati. The festival is associated with their symbolic connotation as epitome of courage, wealth and skill respectively.

Broadly, on the first three days, devotees venerate Goddess Durga as she represents power in its divine form that removes negativity and proclivity towards immoral behavior. She is, invoked as Kumari, Parvati and Kali which are aspects of Ma Durga and represent her adolescence-to-maturity stage. During the next three days, Goddess Lakshmi blessings for material and spiritual prosperity are sought with puja and powerful mantra chantings. Over the next three days, Goddess Saraswati is invoked to seek blessings for erudition and skills in the arts. The devotee puts books and musical instruments near the deity to acquire true knowledge and wisdom to see him/her through this life and beyond. The ninth day of 'Mahanavami', the concluding day of Navratrī puja, is considered an auspicious day for conducting pujas such as 'Aparajita' puja and 'Kanya Puja'. The tenth day celebrates the momentous events associated with Lord Rama as well as Ma Durga, who killed the demon 'Mahisasura'.

Customs & Rituals of Navratrī

Customs of Navratrī which stand out prominently in terms of strict observance include the following:



On the very first day, barley or 'jowar' seeds are sown in a decorated clay pot and by the tenth day, the tender shoots are distributed among the devotees. A photograph or an idol of the eight-armed Goddess seated on a lion, along with the 'yantra' is installed.

'Kalash Sthapna' is done which involves installing a water pot or 'kalash', sprinkled with holy water and filled with mango leaves and coconut.

The morning 'puja' is performed after a bath, and the day-long fast is broken after doing the evening puja.

During the puja, 'shankh' is blown, fresh flowers, 'doob' or



Ayudha or Astra Puja is held on the eighth/ninth day. Tools, vehicles and equipments are worshipped on this day.

Among some communities, it is also considered an auspicious time to initiate learning for children by invoking Goddess Saraswati. Hence, Lalita-puja and Saraswati-puja is done ritualistically to start formal education of children.

A Garba performance precedes 'aarti' conducted in honor of Maa Durga.

Fasting or 'vrat' from sunrise till sunset is undertaken for night days.

In the Navratrī Hindu festival, the devotee should observe abstinence and austerity.

On the eight day, a 'yagna' is performed with offerings of ghee and til for mental and spiritual cleansing.

Lemon or bhasma or ash is used for cleaning substances for 'abhishek'.

In Gujarat, a garbh-deep or a lamp is lit within an earthen pot with several perforations representing the unison of body and soul.

Customs of Navratrī

Since all the nine days are dedicated to different incarnations of Ma Durga, it is customary to wear colors that symbolize the qualities of the deity. The first day venerates Shailputri Devi who embodies aspects of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. On this day, red clothes are worn. The second day is dedicated to Brahmacharini Devi who represents a life of abstinence. Wearing blue colored clothes is considered auspicious on this day. On the third day, Chandraghanta Devi, the bestower of glory and beauty, is invoked. On the fourth day, Kushmanda Devi is worshipped and yellow is the color to honor her. The fifth day is in honor of Skandmata Devi. Grey is the color to be worn on the sixth day and is dedicated to Katyayani Devi, while orange is the color for protection symbolized by Kalratrī Devi on the seventh day. On the eighth day, pink clothes are worn to honor Mahagauri Devi. The ninth day is dedicated to Siddhidatri Devi, whose blessings earn devotees all 'siddhis'.

On all these nine days, devotees should meditate on the different forms of Ma Durga and seek her grace.

Some of the Navratrī customs carry a lot of significance for married women. This Navratrī Hindu festival sees heavy involvement of married women who seek blessings of prosperity and a long married life. Some of the customs of Navratrī include showing complete devotion through actions such as doing 'bhajans' and 'japa', eating vegetarian food and staying away from negative influences to be able to soak in the wisdom and inner strength gained thus.

sacred grass, 'paan' and fruits are offered to the deity, chapters from the sacred 'Durga Saptshati' and 'Chandipath' are recited, followed by 'arti' and prasad distribution.

A very significant ritual is performing 'Kanya Puja' on 'Ashtami' and 'Navami', which involves worshipping nine young girls, in pre-puberty stage, representing the nine forms of goddess Durga. Each girl is treated to a meal comprising puri, sweet bread, halwa, a sweet dish, made of semolina and Bengal gram curry. After washing their feet, the devotees break their fast.

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contd from page 1

Pakistan is 'Terroristan', says...

"In its short history, Pakistan is a geography synonymous with terror. The quest for a land of pure has actually produced 'the land of pure terror'. Pakistan is now Terroristan with a flourishing industry producing and exporting global terrorism," Eenam Gambhir, India's First Secretary to the UN, said on September 21.

India caustically described Pakistan as a country whose counter-terrorism policy was to "mainstream and upstream terrorists" by either providing safe havens to terror leaders in its military town or protecting them with political careers.

"Its current state can be gauged from the fact that Hafiz Mohammad Saeed, a leader of the UN designated terrorist organization Lashkar-e-Taiba, is now sought to be legitimized as a leader of a political party," Ms Gambhir said.

None of this, she said, can justify Pakistan's avaricious efforts to covet territories of its neighbors. "In so far as India is concerned,

Pakistan must understand that the state of Jammu and Kashmir is and will always remain an integral part of India. However, much it scales up cross-border terrorism, it will never succeed in undermining India's territorial integrity."

Ms Gambhir also said Pakistan, after diverting billions of dollars in aid towards creating a dangerous infrastructure of terror, was paying the price.

"Even as terrorists thrive in Pakistan and roam its streets with impunity, we have heard it lecture about human rights in India. The world does not need lessons on democracy and human rights from a country whose own situation is charitably described as a failed state," she said.

Earlier, the Pakistan Prime Minister, in his first address to the UN General Assembly, had accused India of terror against his country and had warned of a "matching response" if it "ventures across the Line of Control or acts upon its doctrine of limited war against Pakistan".

MQM Demands Right to Self...

Anjum Arif of New York who is a Member of MQM Central Organizing Committee and Rukunuddin Taj, a Member of Central Co-ordination Committee demanded that United Nations should intervene and stop genocide of Mohajirs and suppression of minorities.

The speakers spoke at length about their grievances and demands.

Calling Pakistan as the "epicenter of Terrorism" the speakers said that Pakistan had provided sanctuary to terrorist outfits and that ISI was supporting extremism and terrorism in the region. They pledged to lend their full support to the US, the UN and the world in eliminating terrorist sanctuaries in Pakistan.

One of their demands was the right to self-determination. They demanded that the United Nations take note of the genocide of Mohajirs in Pakistan and facilitate the process of self-

determination.

They said the census conducted earlier this year in Karachi and urban areas of Sind was rigged. They demanded a fresh census under the supervision of the UN.

They demanded that the UN intervene to stop the genocide of Mohajirs in Sind. They alleged Pakistan army had killed 22000 Mohajirs since 1992 and 170 persons were still missing. There are 70 million Mohajirs in Pakistan who all live in fear of being eliminated by Pakistan army.

Another allegation of the speakers was that there was a blanket media ban on their leader Altaf Hussain who was living in self-exile in Britain. They demanded that the illegal and undemocratic ban be lifted.

They announced that a bigger rally will be held on Saturday, September 23 at the same venue to make their grievance and demands once again. They said more MQM leaders will be coming to address the protesters

Mohajirs are Moslems who migrated from India at the time of partition of India in 1947. The majority settled in the port city of Karachi and urban areas of Sind province of Pakistan.

They follow Islam and speak Urdu. They are secular, liberal and progressive. Some of the Mohajirs have been quite famous in various fields. The first Prime Minister of Pakistan, Liaquat Ali Khan was a Mohajir. So was a former Army General and President Parvez Musharraf. There have been many artists, scholars, intellectuals, scientists whose contribution has been immense.

"Mohajirs look to the US, the United Nations and justice and peace-loving nations of the world to deliver them from Pakistan", said a spokesman of MQM.

contd from page 6

Business and philanthropy...

expanding women's economic opportunities, promoting innovation, developing effective gender data metrics, addressing regressive norms and stereotypes and improving safety for women and girls globally.

"We have learned from our partners that if we don't look at the gender piece of our work, we will never achieve our goals and lift people up," said Melinda Gates. "We have a lot of anecdotal evidence about women in terms of their lives and livelihoods, and now, we are finally doing the research and gathering data to inform policies and programs. Gender matters. If we are serious about achieving the Sustainable Development

Goals, we have to invest in gender data. It is at the heart of what we do."

"The importance of women and girl child equality and livelihood is ever more important in this world. Chaudhary Foundation has 40 plus initiatives addressing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals with focus on women and children at its center-stage. We are excited about embarking in to gender data work in Nepal in partnership with UN Women," shared Nirvana Chaudhary, Chair of Chaudhary Group Foundation.

Global business and philanthropy leaders pledging support to deliver on gender equality at today's event included: Melinda Gates, Co-Chair and Trustee of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Jack Ma, Executive Chair of the Alibaba Group; Nirvana Chaudhary, Chair President of the Chaudhary Group and Chair of the Foundation; Her Royal Highness Princess Lamia Bint Majed Al Saud, Secretary-General of Alwaleed Philanthropies; Carolyn Tastad, Group President of Procter & Gamble North America; Wang Guangfa, Chairman of the Board and President of Beijing Fazheng Group; Andrea d'Avack, President of Chanel Foundation; Keith Weed, Unilever Chief Marketing and Communications Officer; Deepak Premnarayan, Executive Chairman and founder of ICS Group; José Caetano, People Management Director of Banco Di Brazil; Kofi Appenberg, Chair of the Ford Foundation Board of Trustees; Anka Wittenberg, SAP Diversity & Inclusion Officer; and Elfrun von Koeller, Partner and Managing Director at The Boston Consulting Group; among others.

The Unstereotype Alliance and the Global Innovation Coalition for Change were represented by companies such as Alibaba, ANA, AT&T, Citi, Facebook, General Electric, Google, IPG, Mars, Microsoft, Publicis, P&G, SAP and Unilever.

Follow the hashtag #Planet5050 and @UN_Women on Twitter for updates. Watch the forum on Facebook Live: <https://facebook.com/unwomen/videos/10154845898991905>.

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

**NOTICE
NAME CHANGE**

I, BALBIR SINGH MULTANI son of JOGINDER SINGH holder of Indian Passport No. P 845854 issued at NEW YORK on 13 SEP 94 Permanent resident of VIL. & PO KHARKARA PLOT, DISTT. KAITHAL, HARYANA and presently residing at 58 CLAUSS STREET, CARTERET, NJ 07008, USA, hereby state that I have changed my name from BALBIR SINGH TO BALBIR SINGH MULTANI, with immediate effect.

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Located at the base of the Chamundi Hills about 150 kms away from Bangalore, Mysore is the second most populous and the second largest city in the state of Karnataka. One of south India's most famous tourist destinations, Mysore is synonymous to royal past and regal remnants. Glittering royal heritage and magnificent monuments and buildings mark the city's tourism scene. The most famous dynasty that ruled the city is of the Wodeyars. This is also the place that has seen the rise and revolt of Tipu Sultan. Apart from history, Mysore is also known for the production of premium silk, sandalwood and incense. Not to mention the fact that Mysore is one of India's best places to practice yoga.

When you are in Mysore you are so close to royalty that you feel like a king of lost land itself. The reason behind this is simple; almost all the major places to visit in Mysore are related to some story of history and glory. In this city, you are never too far away from a heritage building or a mansion with royal connections and lineages. There is a reason why Mysore is called the City of Palaces! The iconic Mysore palace continues to be the face of all the heritage buildings of the city but there are other places also that will take you a step closer to royal living. These places include Jagannohan Palace, Royal Orchid Metropole, Clock Tower, Gun House, Town Hall, Wellington Lodge, Rajendra Vilas Palace, Karanji Mansion, Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion, Lalitha Mahal Palace, Crawford Hall, Brindavan Gardens, St.Philomena's Church, Jayachamarajendra Art Gallery, Shri Chamundi Temple and Srirangapatna.

MYSORE PALACE

Set in the centre of sprawling grounds, Amba Vilas Palace overwhelms at first sight. It was built nearly a century ago and designed by British architect Henry Irwin, who was the Madras state consultant. It stands on the same grounds of the old wooden palace which was burned down by fire. The building is a dramatic three-storied stone edifice built of fine gray granite. It has deep pink marble domes dominated by a five-storied 145 ft tower with a gilded dome topped by a single golden flag. It is built in the classic Indo-Saracenic style with its façade flaunting onion domes, turrets, minarets, cupolas, canopies with arches, intricate balconies, porches and colonnades. On Sundays and public holidays, the exterior of the palace is lighted up with some 97,000 light bulbs, which present an ethereal picture. The interiors are equally lavish—the ceilings are of carved mahogany, while beautiful stained glass windows and glazed tiled floors make for an opulent harmony. The palace also houses a huge collection of art and sculpture from all over the world.

GOLDEN THRONE

Though the palace itself is overwhelming and awe-inspiring, the sight that usually stuns people is the magnificent Durbar Hall, with its ornate ceiling and vividly painted colonnades. Also watch out for the intricately carved wooden doors which lead to more lavish rooms while a massive balcony provides an unhindered view of the parade grounds and of Chamundi Hills beyond. However, even more stunning is the Golden Throne or Ratna Simhasana. It is on display only during special occasions such as Dussehra. It is a magnificent and majestic throne mounted on a platform with steps leading up to the main seat. A beautiful golden umbrella hangs over the seat. The base structure is carved out of fig wood and inlaid with ivory plaques. Covered with gold and encrusted with precious stones, silver and jewellery, the throne looks majestic. It is embellished with the Holy Trinity, female figurines, soldiers, elephants, horses, creepers and other patterns.

RESIDENTIAL MUSEUM

A little lane by the side of the main palace, lined with souvenir shops, leads to the Residential Museum. It is not large but it is

MYSORE: THE ROYAL CITY



filled with paintings from the Thanjavur and Mysore schools, inlaid with precious stones and gold leaf. The museum also houses a collection of royal silver ware, musical instruments, crystal, chandeliers, children's toys, furniture, royal trousseaux, and such others. But the most fascinating aspect is the armoury with its quaint and fierce looking implements including pistols, guns and other weapons. Many of the 725 weapons and military exhibits in the palace have aesthetic as well as historic value. Some of the weapons belonged to the rulers of Mysore, such as the sword that belonged to Kantirava Narasaraja Wadiyar, who ruled from 1638 to 1659, and those that belonged to Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan.

They also have interesting inscriptions, such as the one found on a gun captured under Wellesley in 1803. Weapons ranging from swords to maces, daggers and their gripped relatives pachakatari, bows, arrows, spears, lances, cannons, and even deadly walking sticks are displayed. Helmets, armour and shields also form part of the collection.

THE FORT

Faced with the grandeur of Amba Vilas Palace, it is easy to miss the historic fort that surrounds it. The original walls were built under the Wadiyars in 1524 but gradually the defensive glacis was flattened and defensive ditch was filled, but the stone wall is still intact.

Over time, the wall was rebuilt and extended several times, the mud walls replaced eventually with stone. Later, Tipu had them pulled down with plans to rebuild but died before the plans came to fruition. Subsequently, they were reconstructed by the British in 1799. Originally, the fort area was a bustling centre of life, packed with houses, but these were moved out in 1910. Taking a walk around the fort's walls will require about one hour during which many landmarks outside the walls and a plethora of temples inside the walls will be visible. If you're pressed for time, hop into a tonga and go around the fort walls, which is amongst Mysore's unique experiences.

KULDEEP YADAV'S HAT-TRICK SETS UP INDIA WIN IN 2ND ODI

KOLKATA (TIP): Left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav became only the third Indian to take a hat-trick as the hosts demolished Australia by 50 runs in the second ODI on Thursday, continuing their dominating run over the listless visitors.

Chasing 253 on a tricky surface, Australia once again had no answer to the guile of wrist spinners Yuzvendra Chahal (2/34) and chinaman Yadav (3/54), who struck at crucial junctures to bundle out the opposition for 202 in 43.1 overs.

With this memorable feat, Yadav joined Kapil Dev (1991) and Chetan Sharma (1987) in a select club of Indians who have picked up a hat-trick. The victory was also India's eighth in a row in ODIs.

India's sensational bowling performance came after captain Virat Kohli made a fluent 92 to take the hosts to 252 with opener Ajinkya Rahane scoring 55 at the top of the order.

Australia, who surrendered to the Indian spinners in Chennai, seemed equally helpless here with seven batsmen recording single digit scores.

Everytime Australia tried to make their way back into the game, Indian spinners responded with a breakthrough, carrying on from the good work done by pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar (3/9) in the early overs.

Kumar made the ball talk in his opening spell, removing the dangerous David Warner and Hilton Cartwright to leave the Australians at nine for two.

Steven Smith (59) and Travis Head (39) got together to resurrect the innings, ending up with a 76-run stand. However, the left-hander flicked a full toss straight to mid-wicket to become Chahal's first scalp and Australia found themselves under pressure again.

Glenn Maxwell (14) came out to support his captain and looked ominous straightaway, sweeping Yadav for two sixes in an over. But he too did not last long when his team needed another solid partnership.

All Australian hopes disappeared with the fall of Smith, who was holed out by deep square leg fielder off a Pandya bouncer.

Then Yadav joined the party by sending back Matthew Wade, Ashton Agar and Pat Cummins in as many balls to send the Eden crowd into a frenzy.

His best ball without a doubt was the hat-trick ball. The young spinners showed remarkable calm to bowl the wrong one that took a thick edge of Cummins' bat before landing into the hands of MS Dhoni.

Yadav got through Wade's stumps before trapping Agar in front of the stumps to be on a hat-trick.

Marcus Stoinis waged a lone battle for Australia towards the end with an unbeaten 62 of 65 balls.

Earlier, Kohli and Rahane struck sublime knocks before Australia made a strong fightback to bowl India out for 252.

Coming on to bat after the early dismissal of Rohit Sharma, Kohli looked in great touch and along with Rahane

shared 102 runs off just 111 deliveries for the second wicket to set the base for the total.

Kohli laced his 107-ball knock with eight boundaries, while Rahane hit seven fours during his 64-ball innings.

The time Kohli and Rahane were at the crease India were on course for a big score but the latter's dismissal in the 24th over opened the gates for Australia.

The visitors forged a brilliant fightback with medium pacers Nathan Coulter-Nile



Kuldeep Yadav (L) celebrates with his Indian cricket teammates after dismissing Australia's Pat Cummins during the second ODI in Kolkata. Pic courtesy: REUTERS

HIGHLIGHTS

- Kuldeep Yadav became the third Indian to take an ODI hat-trick.
- Kuldeep dismissed Matthew Wade, Ashton Agar and Pat Cummins to achieve the feat.
- This victory is also India's eighth in a row in ODIs.

(3/51) and Kane Richardson (3/55) sharing the spoils on a slow Eden Gardens wicket.

Pacer Cummins (1/34) and left-arm spinner Agar (1/54) also picked up a wicket each for Australia.

Brought in place of James Faulkner, Richardson picked up the key wickets of last match heroes Mahendra Singh Dhoni (5) and Hardik Pandya (20) as India were bowled out in the last ball of the innings after they comfortably placed at 186 for three in 35 overs.

Despite Rahane's run out, Kohli looked in full flow and along with Kedar Jadhav, who made a run-a-ball 24, added 55 runs for the fourth wicket.

However, Coulter-Nile's twin strikes (Jadhav and Kohli) in successive overs titled the balance in favour of Australia as thereafter India just seemed to have lost the plot.

Kohli played on to be denied his 31st ODI century, while Jadhav, while attempting a cut, was holed up by Glenn Maxwell.

With 15 balls remaining in the innings, a passing shower held up the game for 18 minutes with India placed at 236 for 7.

There was also an injury scare for Pandya, who was hit hard on the grill of his helmet by a shot from Bhuvneshwar Kumar. Such was the impact that Pandya lay on the ground as the Aussies also rushed on to him.

India did not have the best of starts as Rohit, whose career-best scores in the all the three formats came here, had a rare blip here, falling for seven.

But the breakthrough in the sixth over

Batsmen made poor decisions under pressure: Steven Smith

KOLKATA (TIP): A dejected Australian skipper Steven Smith blamed his batsmen for making poor decisions in crunch situations after the visitors went down to India by 50 runs in the second ODI at the Eden Gardens on Sept 21 (Thursday).

Australia now trail 0-2 in the five-game series. "Batters again made poor decisions under pressure. And we can't afford to do that against a quality line-up like India," said Smith.

Praising Marcus Stoinis, who remained unbeaten on 62 at the end, Smith said: "He just needed someone to back him."

Smith said they were happy at getting out India for 252.

Referring to India losing the last seven wickets for only 66 runs, Smith said: "We did a good job there."

Smith said victory would have been theirs, had one of the top four batsmen come up with a hundred. "We needed to get those partnerships. Had we done that, we would have got to our target comfortably," he said.

The 28-year-old lauded the Indian bowlers. "Their base is covered. They have got some quality spinners. And Bhuvni (Bhuvneshwar Kumar) and (Jasprit) Bumrah at the top... they swing the ball and bowl in the good areas, which we want from fast bowlers." *Source: IANS*



hardly had any impact on India's scheme of things with Rahane and Kohli going about their business in style.

The duo played fluently as India reached the 100-run mark in 19.5 overs.

Smith tried out different things but nothing was going Australia's way, when suddenly a runout came to their rescue as going for a second run, Rahane was caught short of the crease by Hilton Cartwright.

Manish Pandey (3) continued his lean patch and was out in a space of 21 balls, becoming Coulter-Nile's second victim.

Getting a hat-trick was special

Hat-trick man Kuldeep Yadav described his memorable feat against Australia in the second ODI on Thursday as a "special" effort and said he had never dreamt of achieving it.

Left-arm spinner Kuldeep became only the

third Indian to take a hat-trick as the hosts demolished Australia by 50 runs.

"Not really," replied Kuldeep when asked if he had ever thought of taking a hat-trick.

"This is special for me, it changed the game for us. It was a really proud moment," he added. He said initially he was struggling to bowl in a particular area.

"Initially I was struggling to bowl in a particular area. It's a game of cricket, everything happens. Last match, where I was hit for three sixes in an over, was a learning experience. I asked Mahi bhai (MS Dhoni) what I should bowl, he said 'tujhe jaisa lagta hai wo daal (you bowl what you want)'," said the 22-year-old Uttar Pradesh player.

Yadav joined Chetan Sharma (1987) and Kapil Dev (1991) in a select club of Indians who have picked up a hat-trick in ODIs.

Source: PTI



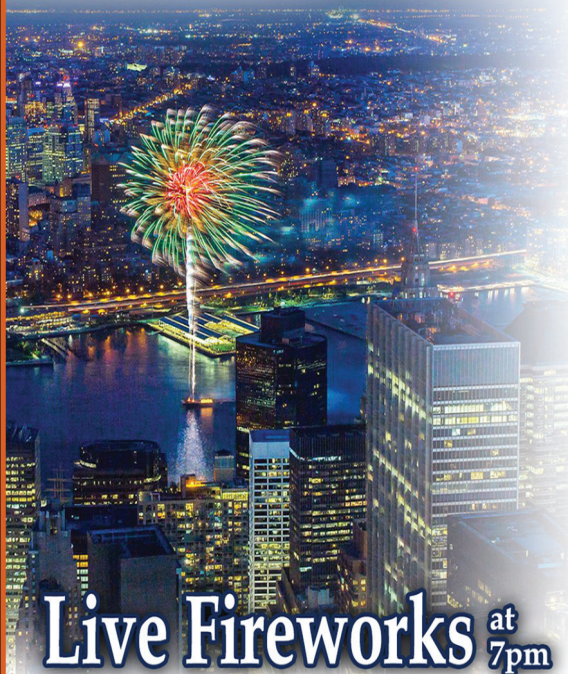
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