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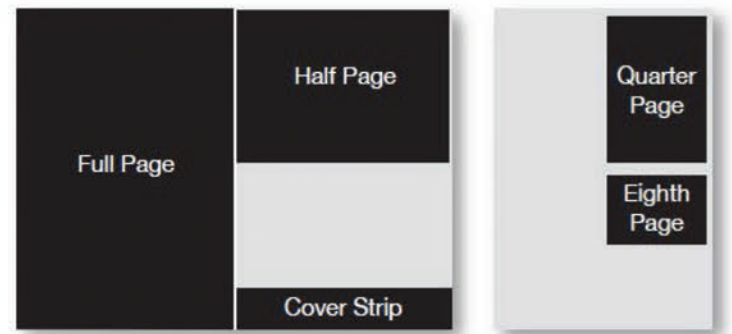


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India's Nominee Dalveer Bhandari re-elected to ICJ

Bhandari secured 183 of the 193 votes in the General Assembly and all 15 votes in the Security Council



India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin speaking at a reception to vote for Justice Bhandari (left) at a reception at the United Nations
Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia

Prakash M Swamy

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): The General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations, on November 20, elected the fifth judge to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) concluding the 2017 elections to the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. Justice Dalveer Bhandari, of India, received the absolute majority of votes in elections -
contd on Page 20

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade 2017 brings cheer with new balloons

Clear weather attracts large crowds, amid tight security

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The 91st annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade wound its way through New York City to the store's 34th Street location Thursday, November 23 morning.

Taking flight on Turkey Day were 17 giant character balloons including Olaf from "Frozen," the Grinch, Charlie Brown and Scrat from the "Ice Age" movie series, along with 28 legacy balloons, 26 floats, 1,100 cheerleaders and dancers, 12 marching bands and six performance groups, Macy's said in a news release.
contd on Page 20

The Olaf balloon glides over Central Park West during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade



Town of Oyster Bay former Supervisor John Venditto faces 21 new charges

One count of securities fraud; one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud related to securities offerings; and 19 counts of wire fraud related to securities offerings



In the new indictment, federal prosecutors said: "Venditto caused false and misleading statements and omissions that presented investors . . . with a false picture of the TOB's financial condition and the quality and integrity of its management."

MINEOLA, NY (TIP): Those who mistook a period of lull for an end to investigation in to scandals of former Supervisor of TOB John Venditto may have got a rude shock when Venditto was indicted on Tuesday, November 21 on 21 new federal criminal charges involving securities fraud in the town's public offering of more than \$1 billion in securities between 2010 and 2016.

According to a Newsday report, the superseding indictment adds 21 more
contd on Page 20

'Do Your Bit' Youth Group Leads Thanksgiving Lunch for Disabled

HOUSTON (TIP): On Friday, Nov. 17, the Indo-American community in Houston, led by second-generation Indo-American youth Rahul and Varun Agarwal, celebrated Thanksgiving with people with disabilities and thanked them for their openness and warmth at the Volunteers of America center in northwest Houston.



Jiten Agarwal (left) and his sons Rahul and Varun Agarwal (far right) with CG Ray and Texas Rep. Kevin Parker.

"Seeing the leadership of youth like Rahul and Varun, I am assured of America's bright future. Nothing can be better than it" said Kevin Roberts, Texas State Representative from Houston and now a U.S. Congressional candidate in 2018. "Indo American community of Greater Houston is very progressive and they know how to give back to the community. Giving is an essence of being an Indian. Young generation is setting examples for generations to come on how to be innovative, how to be compassionate and how to be so giving to the community," said India's Consul General in Houston, Dr. Anupam Ray.
contd on page 20

Bilkis Bano case: Supreme Court grants time to Gujarat to apprise it on action against policemen

The Supreme Court bench listed the plea for hearing in the first week of January.

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on Friday, November 24, granted six weeks' time to the Gujarat

contd on Page 20

Supreme Court of India on the morning of Friday, November 24, 2017
Photo courtesy / PTI



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Indian-origin woman officer jailed for maid abuse in Singapore

SINGAPORE (TIP): An Indian-origin former woman warrant officer in the Singapore Army was on Monday, November 20, jailed for four months and three weeks for abusing and beating her Indian maid.

K Rajakumari, 57, who retired after 35 years of service, apologized to Sargunam Jeeva in Tamil and asked her not to tell anyone about her ordeal which included being hit by a plastic hanger until it broke.

But the police officer investigating the case understood the language and Rajakumari was caught, 'The Straits Times' reported on Monday.

She was charged for repeatedly abusing her maid in 2012. After a 14-day trial, District Judge Imran Abdul Hamid convicted Rajakumari on September 5 last year of five counts of causing hurt to Jeeva, then 35, in her condominium apartment.

Jeeva first came to Singapore in late January 2012 but was abused between February and March of the same year. Rajakumari had picked her and she was to be paid Singapore dollars 350 a month without any days off.

Jeeva, who had studied up to eighth grade and could not speak English, was regularly scolded with caustic remarks by Rajakumari by the second week of February 2012 and the abuse soon became physical.

On the night of March 3, 2012, after Jeeva ironed Rajakumari's uniform, the employer chided the maid for not knowing how to do a proper job of ironing. She then hit Jeeva on her left upper arm with a plastic hanger until it broke. Two days later, she scolded and slapped the maid hard on her face before pulling her hair and pushing her face against the window grill and kicking her in the waist.

Jeeva told the employer that she could not "withstand this torture any more" and requested Rajakumari to send her back to the agent's house. But Rajakumari told her this was not possible. That night, Jeeva gestured to a maid in a neighboring home for help and the latter called the police.

A policeman later heard Rajakumari tell Jeeva in Tamil: "Please forgive me, I won't do this anymore, please don't tell anyone about the abuse". Unknown to Rajakumari, the officer could speak the language. Rajakumari later admitted to him that she had hit Jeeva.

Rajakumari's lawyer Kalidass Murugaiyan had earlier asked the judge to sentence his client to probation, stressing that she has had three hip replacements.

For each count of maid abuse, she could have been jailed for up to three years and fined up to Singapore dollars 7,500. (Source: PTI)

NRIs, PIOs don't need to link bank a/c, PAN with Aadhaar: UIDAI

NEW DELHI (TIP): NRIs and PIOs are not required to link bank accounts and other services with Aadhaar, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) said on Friday, November 17, while instructing various implementation agencies to work out a mechanism to verify the status of such individuals.

It said the Prevention of Money Laundering Rules 2017 and the Income Tax Act clearly stipulate that the linking of bank accounts and PAN respectively, "is for those persons who are eligible to enroll for Aadhaar".

It said all central ministries and departments, state governments and other implementation agencies should bear in mind that Aadhaar as an identity document can be sought only from those eligible for it under Aadhaar Act, and that most NRIs/PIOs/ OCIs may not be eligible for its enrolment.

The Aadhaar-issuing body said several representations had been received about problems faced by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Person of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) where Aadhaar was being demanded with regard to various services and benefits.

It said that some Departments and implementing agencies were asking NRIs/OCIs/PIOs to submit or link their Aadhaar for availing services and benefits, despite the fact that they were not entitled for the 12-digit biometric identifier.

"The laws regarding submitting/linking of Aadhaar for availing the services/benefits applies to the residents as per the Aadhaar Act 2016... Most of the NRIs/PIOs/OCIs may not be eligible for Aadhaar enrolment as per Aadhaar Act...", the UIDAI said in a note dated November 15 to central ministries and states.

It has further instructed the implementing agency to device a mechanism "to ascertain the genuineness of status of such NRIs/PIOs/OCIs". (Source: PTI)

Indian-American Vin Gopal is the first Indian to get elected as a senator in history of New Jersey

MONMOUTH, NJ (TIP): An evening to celebrate Monmouth County small-business owner and newly elected youngest state senator Vin Gopal was held on Friday, November 17, 2017, which was organized by South Asian Registration Initiatives - SARI led by prominent and successful business entrepreneur Ritesh Shah at Monroe Adult Day Care Center in Millstone Township, NJ, attended by more than 200 supporters, volunteers and community leaders. Senator-elect Vin Gopal won by more than 4,000 votes defeating long-time incumbent politician Jennifer Beck.

Born in Neptune Township and raised in Freehold Township, Gopal will be the first Indian-American senator to be elected as a state senator in New Jersey. "It is time for new leadership to tackle New Jersey's grave fiscal problems to help small business owners and hard-working middle class families" says Senator-elect Gopal in his appreciation address to his volunteers, community supporters, business owners and prominent community leaders. He added that Monmouth County needs a Senator who will battle with the insiders in Trenton, not just show up and work only for few people. "I will be your Senator who will spend every day fighting to lower property taxes, one who will work constantly to eliminate the red tape imposed on small businesses and fight against raising minimum wage increase which will destroy small business owners in NJ" said Senator-elect Gopal. He also added that we needed a Senator who is going to do what's right in funding women's health care policies, not use the Senate to fulfill their own personal wishes and ambitions. As your Senator, I will spend every day fighting against Trenton insiders and fighting for the needs of working people. That is my pledge to the residents of Monmouth County."

The evening was attended by NJ's 11th Legislative District's re-elected officials Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling and Assemblywoman Joann Downey and NJ's 33rd Legislative District's third time elected Assemblyman Raj Mukherji were among the many local public officials who addressed the audience and thanked everyone for their contributions in electing Vin Gopal and urge everyone to stay engaged in the future to fight against discrimination and help elected more South Asians at all levels. Edison Township Councilman Ajay



Vin Gopal is the youngest elected state senator
Photo Courtesy/ Chirag Patel, Universal Photography

Patil, Passaic County Freeholder John Bartlett and South Brunswick Board of Education re-elected member Deven Patel were amongst the local elected officials attend the evening to be a part of victory celebration. Ritesh Shah, a successful business entrepreneur and prominent pharmacist who is a Chair of South Asian Registration Initiatives - SARI welcomed everyone and stated that South Asian communities in Monmouth County voted three times more than previous election years to elect Vin Gopal and broke the barrier and myth of Asian communities don't get involved in elections or political process. He mentioned that SARI organized the biggest voter's registration, phone bank and GOTV campaigns for many months prior to the election which was the integral part of Vin Gopal's victory. "Our work is not over but just begun as we must continue to engage in a grass root level to volunteer for the community and political process to make a difference", added Mr. Shah. He thanked all the volunteers, supporters and community for their time in helping the first Indian Senator in the state. Amit Jani, young and energetic Indian American who is an outreach director for Asian American and Pacific Islander - AAPI for Governor elect Phil Murphy also attended the event and addressed the audience and thanked everyone for their support in electing large and record breaking numbers of state and local officials in New Jersey.

Indian American caught in Macy's money laundering scheme

SACRAMENTO (TIP): Indian American Suraj Patel, 38, of Long Beach, California, was ordered to pay approximately \$925,000 to Macy's after he pleaded guilty to mail fraud and money laundering in a \$3.5 million distribution scheme from which he profited.

Court documents state that Rampertab was a Macy's employee who managed Macy's distribution center in Carson, California and supervised the transport of merchandise to centers throughout the country and in July 2010, Rampertab began diverting the shipment to Patel, who has established several shipping companies.

Rampertab even obtained approval for Patel's companies to become third-party vendors for Macy's but did not disclose that he operated and profited from the vendors.

Prosecutors told cincinnati.com that Patel's companies had received more than \$3.5 million in Macy's shipping and packaging jobs between July and December 2010 and together Patel and Rampertab generated more than \$900,000 in net profits from the diverted business.

They then used the proceeds to purchase real estate and vehicles, including a 2010 Aston Martin that cost \$199,000.

In September 2016, Patel pleaded guilty to mail fraud and money laundering and will serve one day in prison, followed by six months of home confinement as part of his three years of supervised release.

Indian-American White House Official says Trump not anti-immigrant

WASHINGTON (TIP): A prominent Indian-American, who holds a key position in the White House, has refuted the notion that US President Donald Trump is anti-immigrant.

"First of all, I don't think that the rhetoric is anti-immigrant. I think it's anti-illegal immigration," White House Principal Deputy Press Secretary Raj Shah said. Shah's comments come days after a key Congressional committee passed a legislation that proposes to increase the minimum salary of H-1B visa holders from USD 60,000 to USD 90,000 and imposes a number of restrictions on the work visa that is popular among Indian IT professionals.

The bill prohibits H-1B dependent employers from replacing American workers with H-1B employees, there are no longer any exceptions. It also lengthens the no-layoff policy for H-1B dependent employers and their client companies for as long as an H-1B employee works at the company, which means they cannot lay off equivalent US workers. Shah said Trump was only trying to make immigration "more merit-based" and "reform" the legal system regarding it.

"President Trump has put forward a pretty serious set of proposals on immigration; not just on enforcement but also about reforming the legal system to make it more merit-based right with ideas that work for the US economy and for the American worker," he said. "To ask for immigration to support the US economy, for asking for people who are coming here to be vetted for public safety or security threats, I don't think it's a very big leap. I think it's very reasonable. The public supports that," he added. Shah slammed the mainstream media for the "unfair" coverage on the issue, which "sometimes" leaves the White House "frustrated".

"There's a tone in the media on this issue which is not fair. The mainstream media is just not paying attention to and is not focused and not giving kind of credit where it's due," he rued, asserting that in today's modern age, the president has many ways to get his message out.

"He uses it very effectively with Twitter and other social media. He uses it very effectively with public speaking with taking and when he does a question-and-answer session we always say look, the President is his own best messenger," he said. (Source: PTI)



"First of all, I don't think that the rhetoric is anti-immigrant. I think it's anti-illegal immigration," White House Principal Deputy Press Secretary Raj Shah said.

Hafiz Saeed walks free, says he will fight for 'Kashmir cause'

LAHORE (TIP): Mumbai attack mastermind and Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed on Thursday walked from house arrest as a free man and moments after the release he said he will gather people across Pakistan for the "cause of Kashmir" and help the Kashmiris secure "freedom".

The JuD head, who carries a bounty of \$10 million announced by the US+ for his role in terror activities, was set free after the Pakistan government decided against detaining him further in any case. He has been under detention since January this year.

"I was detained for 10 months only to stop my voice for Kashmir," Saeed told his supporters who gathered outside his residence to celebrate his release.

The Judicial Review Board of Punjab province comprising judges of the Lahore High Court (LHC) had unanimously ordered Saeed's release on the completion of his 30-day house arrest which expired tonight.

"I fight the case of Kashmiris. I will gather the people from across the country for the cause of Kashmir. And we will try to help Kashmiris get their destination of freedom."

Saeed said he was detained when he announced a month of solidarity for Kashmiris this January. He used the release order to buttress his claims of "innocence".

"I am very happy that none of the allegations against me proved as three judges of the LHC ordered my release... India had levelled baseless allegations against me. The LHC's review board decision has proved that I am innocent," Saeed said.

The JuD chief said that the US, on India's request, pressured Pakistan to detain him.

"... I was detained on the pressure of the US on the Pakistani government. The US did so on the request of India," he claimed.

Several JuD activists gathered outside Saeed's residence in Jauhar town in Lahore to celebrate his release.

"We are happy to see our leader free," a JuD spokesman Ahmad Nadim told PTI.



"Hafiz sahib received his release order from the jail officials. Now he is a free man," Ahmad said. He said after his release Saeed thanked to his supporters gathered outside his house.

"Saeed has been freed as the Punjab government decided not to detain him further in any other case," a top official in the government told PTI.

He said after a long deliberation by the officials concerned it has been decided to follow the review board's decision.

Official sources said that Saeed's release would invite strong criticism from India and the US+ "How will the PML-N government handle the foreign pressure to again detain Saeed is to be seen," they said.

Punjab Assistant Advocate General Sattar Sahil said the government law officer had presented "some important evidence" to justify Saeed's detention but all three members of the board unanimously rejected it and ordered his release.

On January 31, Saeed and his four aides - Abdullah Ubaid, Malik Zafar Iqbal, Abdul Rehman Abid and Qazi Kashif Hussain - were detained by the Punjab government for 90 days+ under Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 and the Fourth Schedule of Anti-Terrorism Act 1997. However, the last two extensions were

made on the 'public safety law'.

The board refused to give further extension to the detention of Saeed's aides. They were set free last month.

Under the law, the government can detain a person for up to three months under different charges but for extension to that detention it needs approval from a judicial review board.

The JuD is believed to be the front organisation for the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) which is responsible for carrying out the Mumbai attack.

Saeed was put under house arrest after the Mumbai terror attack in November 2008 but he was freed by court in 2009.

India has repeatedly asked Pakistan to re-investigate the Mumbai terror attack case and also demanded trial of Saeed and LeT operations commander Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi in the light of evidence it had provided to Islamabad.

Ten LeT militants killed 166 people and wounded dozens in Mumbai in November, 2008. Nine of the attackers were killed by police while lone survivor Ajmal Kasab was caught.

Kasab was executed after a court found him guilty and handed down death sentence.

Saeed was declared a global terrorist by the US and the UN over his alleged role in the attack. (PTI)

Islamic schools in Pakistan plagued by sex abuse of children

KEHRORE PAKKA (TIP): Kausar Parveen struggles through tears as she remembers the blood-soaked pants of her 9-year-old son, raped by a religious cleric. Each time she begins to speak, she stops, swallows hard, wipes her tears and begins again.

The boy had studied for a year at a nearby Islamic school in the town of Kehrore Pakka. In the blistering heat of late April, in the grimy two-room Islamic madrassa, he awoke one night to find his teacher lying beside him.

"I didn't move. I was afraid," he says.

The cleric lifted the boy's long tunic-style shirt over his head, and then pulled down his baggy pants.

"I was crying. He was hurting me. He shoved my shirt in my mouth," the boy says, using his scarf to show how the cleric tried to stifle his cries. He looks over at his mother.

"Did he touch you?" He nods. "Did he hurt you when he touched you?" "Yes," he whispers.

"Did he rape you?" He buries his face in his scarf and nods yes.

Parveen reaches over and grabs her son, pulling him toward her, cradling his head in her lap.

Sexual abuse is a pervasive and longstanding problem at madrassas in Pakistan, an AP investigation has found, from the sunbaked mud villages deep in its rural areas to the heart of its teeming cities. But in a culture where clerics are powerful and sexual abuse is a taboo subject, it is seldom discussed or even acknowledged in public. (AP)

Nepal-India border to be sealed for 72 hours ahead of polls

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal will shut its border crossings with India from Friday for 72 hours ahead of the first phase of parliamentary and provincial assembly elections on November 26 for security reasons.

Nepal is holding provincial and parliamentary elections in two phases on November 26 and December 7.

The elections are seen as the final step in Nepal's transition to a federal democracy following a decade-long civil war till 2006 that claimed more than 16,000 lives.

According to officials, the crossing points with India will be sealed from Friday morning till the evening of Sunday, November 26.

Local administration has declared Baitadi as an alcohol-free zone from today till the completion of vote counting, said Chief District Officer at Baitadi Siddharaj Joshi.

Baitadi falls into the farthest western regional district of Nepal bordering India. (AP)

'Nepal, China working on cross-border rail, dry port'



KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal and China are working on several key areas including cross-border railway connectivity, highways and construction of a dry port, China's envoy in Kathmandu Yu Hong said on Saturday. Hong's statement comes within days of Nepal cancelling a \$2.5 billion hydropower project that was to be built by a Chinese state-owned firm.

"China has taken the request of the Nepal government for constructing cross-border railway line seriously," Hong said, adding a team has already begun preliminary feasibility study for the project.

Similarly, the expansion of Rasuwagadhi-Syafubeshi road link, resumption of Araniko Highway and construction of dry ports in Tatopani, Rasuwa and Yaritoo are also on Beijing's priority list, the Chinese envoy pointed out during a press meet organised on the 19th Congress of the Communist Party of China and Sino-Nepal relations by the Embassy of China in Kathmandu.

"Nepal could benefit from China's prosperity in various sectors including trade, investment and connectivity as Kathmandu has already joined the China-proposed One Belt and One Road (OBOR) initiative," she said. (PTI)

Suicide bomber kills 14 at political meeting in Afghanistan

KABUL (TIP): A suicide bomber killed 14 people at a political gathering in the Afghan capital on Thursday in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group.

Kabul police spokesman Basir Mujahid said another 18 people were wounded, and that the casualties included security forces and civilians. Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish said the attacker struck at the entrance to the wedding hall where the event was being held.

The Islamic State group claimed the attack in a statement carried by its Amaq news agency. The Taliban denied involvement.

Parliament member Hafiz



Mansoor, who attended the meeting but was not harmed, said around 700 supporters of the governor of the northern Balkh province were attending a conference to highlight his work.

Afghan security forces have struggled to combat the Taliban and other insurgents since the U.S. and NATO shifted to a counterterrorism and support role at the end of 2014. The Taliban have seized a number of districts across the country, and both groups have carried out major attacks.

Both the Taliban and the Islamic State affiliate, which is largely made up of disgruntled former Taliban fighters, are at war with the government. Both groups want to impose a harsh version of Islamic law on Afghanistan, but they are fiercely divided over leadership, tactics and ideology, and have clashed on a number of occasions. (AP)

Woman accuses US Senator of unwanted groping, kiss

WASHINGTON (TIP): A radio broadcaster accused US Senator Al Franken on Thursday of touching her breasts while she slept and forcing a kiss on her in 2006 when he was still a comedian and the two were preparing to perform before US troops in the Middle East.

Anchor Leeann Tweeden related her experience in a first-person account on the website of Los Angeles station KABC amid outrage over numerous reports of sexual misconduct by powerful men from Hollywood to Capitol Hill.

Franken, a Democrat, issued an apology on Thursday. The Senate's Democratic and Republican leaders called on the Ethics Committee to review the allegations and Franken said he would cooperate.

Tweeden said Franken wrote a skit that included a kiss between the two and said he insisted upon rehearsing it, which she at first resisted.

"He repeated that actors really need to rehearse everything and that we must practice the kiss. I said 'OK' so he would stop badgering me," she wrote. "We did the line leading up to the kiss and then he came at me, put his hand on the back of my head, mashed his lips against mine and aggressively stuck his tongue in my mouth."

She said she pushed Franken away but felt disgusted and violated.

Tweeden also said Franken groped her while she slept during their flight home on a military plane. "I felt violated all over again. Embarrassed. Belittled. Humiliated," Tweeden wrote. "How dare anyone grab my breasts like this and think it's funny?"

She posted a photo taken at the time of Franken mugging for the camera with his hands above her breasts as she sat in the military aircraft wearing a flak jacket with eyes closed.

"I certainly don't remember the rehearsal for the skit in the same way, but I send my sincerest apologies to Leeann. As to the photo, it was clearly intended to be funny but wasn't. I shouldn't have done it," Franken said in a statement.

Reuters was unable to independently verify Tweeden or Franken's accounts.

She told reporters in a later press conference that she considered the kiss an assault but accepted his apology.

"The apology? Sure, I accept it," she said. "People make mistakes and of course he knew he made a mistake."

US President Donald Trump weighed in on Twitter, calling the photo "really bad."

"And to think that just last week he (Franken) was lecturing anyone who would listen about sexual harassment and respect for women," Trump tweeted.

Trump himself came under fire last year over alleged sexual misconduct after a decade-old outtake from his appearance on the television program "Access Hollywood" surfaced during the presidential campaign, in which Trump bragged about kissing and grabbing women without their consent.

Trump later apologized for the "Access Hollywood" comments, which he called "locker room talk." He told reporters last month that allegations of sexual assault and misconduct leveled at him before the election by several women were "made-up stuff." (AP)

Obama's doodles sold for over \$11,000 at auction

WASHINGTON (TIP): Original, quirky pencil sketches made by former US President Barack Obama, which include some self portraits and the words Making America Competitive Again, has been auctioned for \$11,113.

The doodles are on a white 5x8 sheet of White House stationery. The front side of the sheet features a total of 11 drawings, two of which appear to be forward-facing self-portraits.

Other doodles include a face in profile, another more cartoonish looking face, and various shapes and squiggles.

The reverse side features a few more small shape doodles, as well as another self-portrait and two rectangles with the words "Making America Competitive Again".

"A unique, humorous glimpse into Obamas own doodling habits - odd shapes and self-portraits - this sheet also features a single line of writing that bears an uncanny resemblance to the US President Donald Trump's campaign slogan Make America Great Again," according to RR Auctions in the US.

The online auction house had expected the item to be sold for \$8,000. Although undated, the sentence points to the subject of a speech Obama delivered on May 4 in 2009, in which he announced a set of proposals to crack down on illegal overseas tax evasion, close loopholes, and make it more profitable for companies to create jobs here in the US. (PTI)

Trump hails military and 'big, beautiful, fat tax cuts'

PALM BEACH, FLORIDA: US President Donald Trump gave a bullish Thanksgiving address to troops overseas on Thursday, hailing progress in Afghanistan and against ISIS, and telling them they were fighting for "something real," including a stock market at record highs and his promised "big, beautiful fat tax cuts."

Speaking in a live video teleconference from Palm Beach, Florida, with military personnel serving in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere, Trump told them they were "very, very special people."

He called troops in Afghanistan "brave, incredible fighters" who had "turned it around" in the past three to four months.

"We opened it up; we said go ahead, we're going to fight to win," he said. "We're not fighting any more to just walk around, we are fighting to win."

Trump said the Marines were inflicting "defeat after defeat" on Islamic State, and again credited his change of approach compared to that of the Obama administration.

"They weren't letting you win before; they were letting you break even. ... They weren't letting you win," he said.

Trump told the troops they could look forward at home to the benefits of "big, beautiful fat tax cuts," a stock market at record highs, jobs and economic growth.

"We're doing well at home, the economy is doing great," Trump said. "You're fighting for something real, you're fighting for something good."



Trump took one of his trademark swipes at the news media as he spoke from a lavishly decorated room at his Mar-a-Lago resort, telling the military personnel he was addressing that journalists were in the room, and adding:

"Better me than you; believe me fellas, better me than you."

Later, Trump and his wife, Melania, handed out sandwiches and shook hands at a Coast Guard station in nearby Riviera Beach and told personnel his administration was building up wealth so it could protect the country through military acquisitions.

Talking about his plans for boosting military spending, he said contractors saved the best equipment for US troops. "When we sell to other countries - you never know about an ally - an ally can

turn," he said.

Trump said he had told the troops overseas the country was "doing great," thanks to his cuts in "regulation and all the waste and all the abuse."

"I told them ... you folks are fighting so hard and working so hard, and it's nice that you're working for something that's really starting to work."

While optimism about a major tax overhaul has helped push the US stock market up for most of this year, Trump is still seeking his first major legislative win after almost a year in office.

According to a majority of economists in a recent Reuters poll, US Republicans are not expected to push the tax cuts through Congress this year. Economists are also skeptical that the legislation would provide a significant boost to the economy. (Reuters)

India, US will continue to work for inclusive growth: Ivanka

WASHINGTON: India and the US will continue to work together to increase economic opportunities and inclusive growth, US President Donald Trump's daughter and adviser Ivanka Trump on Thursday said, days ahead of her visit to Hyderabad for a global business summit.

Ivanka, 36, will lead a high-powered American delegation of officials, women entrepreneurs and businessmen for the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) 2017 in Hyderabad, a three-day summit beginning November 28.

The summit will be attended by 1,500 entrepreneurs from 170 countries and would have around 350 participants from the US, a large number of whom are Indian-Americans.

Ivanka would deliver the keynote address at the summit, which would be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

She said that her aim for this summit is to serve as an open and collaborative environment for the exchange of ideas, to broaden networks, and to empower entrepreneurs to take their ideas and passion to the next level.

"The US and India will continue to work together to increase economic opportunities and inclusive growth. I very much look forward to my visit and to seeing Prime Minister Modi and Foreign Minister (Sushma) Swaraj once again," Ivanka told reporters on



Tuesday. Incredibly excited to be visiting India next week for the eighth annual Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES), she said.

The summit, co-hosted by the US and India, "is a testament to the strong friendship between our two people and the growing economic and security partnership between the two nations," she said.

"Entrepreneurship, domestically and abroad, is a key priority for this administration. The US recognises innovation and entrepreneurship as

essential tools for job creation, economic growth and stability across communities, countries, and regions," she said.

The summit will be attended by over 1,200 entrepreneurs, of which 350 are from the US, representing 38 US States.

"I am particularly proud of the fact that this is the first time that women will be the majority of participants at the GES. Currently 52.5 per cent of entrepreneurs will be women, attending from 127 different countries," Ivanka added. (PTI)

In modernizing nuclear arsenal, US stokes new arms race

WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama rode into office in 2009 with promises to work toward a nuclear-free world. His vow helped win him the Nobel Peace Prize that year.

The next year, while warning that Washington would retain the ability to retaliate against a nuclear strike, he promised that America would develop no new types of atomic weapons. Within 16 months of his inauguration, the United States and Russia negotiated the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, known as New START, meant to build trust and cut the risk of nuclear war. It limited each side to what the treaty counts as 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads.

By the time Obama left office in January 2017, the risk of Armageddon hadn't receded. Instead, Washington was well along in a modernization program that is making nearly all of its nuclear weapons more accurate and deadly.

And Russia was doing the same: Its weapons badly degraded from neglect after the Cold War, Moscow had begun its own modernization years earlier under President Vladimir Putin. It built new, more powerful ICBMs, and developed a series of tactical nuclear weapons.

The United States under Obama transformed its main hydrogen bomb into a guided smart weapon, made its submarine-launched nuclear missiles five times more accurate, and gave its land-based long-range missiles so many added features that the Air Force in 2012 described them as "basically new." To deliver these more lethal weapons, military contractors are building fleets of new heavy bombers and submarines.

President Donald Trump has worked hard to undo much of Obama's legacy, but he has embraced the modernization program enthusiastically. Trump has



ordered the defence department to complete a review of the US nuclear arsenal by the end of this year.

Reuters reported in February that in a phone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Trump denounced the New START treaty and rejected Putin's suggestion that talks begin about extending it once it expires in 2021.

Some former senior US government officials, legislators and arms-control specialists - many of whom once backed a strong nuclear arsenal -- are now warning that the modernization push poses grave dangers.

"Really dangerous thinking"

They argue that the upgrades contradict the rationales for New START - to ratchet down the level of mistrust and reduce risk of intentional or accidental nuclear war. The latest improvements, they say, make the US and Russian arsenals both more destructive and more tempting to deploy. The United States, for instance, has a "dial down" bomb that can be adjusted to act like a tactical weapon, and others are planned. "The idea that we could somehow fine tune a nuclear conflict is

really dangerous thinking," says Kingston Reif, director of disarmament and threat reduction policy at the Arms Control Association, a Washington-based think tank.

One leader of this group, William Perry, who served as defence secretary under President Bill Clinton, said recently in a Q&A on YouTube that "the danger of a nuclear catastrophe today is greater than it was during the Cold War."

Perry told Reuters that both the United States and Russia have upgraded their arsenals in ways that make the use of nuclear weapons likelier. The US upgrade, he said, has occurred almost exclusively behind closed doors. "It is happening without any basic public discussion," he said. "We're just doing it." The cause of arms control got a publicity boost in October when the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, a Geneva organization, won the Nobel Peace Prize for its role in getting the United Nations General Assembly in July to adopt a nuclear prohibition treaty. The United States, Russia and other nuclear powers boycotted the treaty negotiations. (Reuters)

Hafiz Saeed is terrorist leader designated by UN and US: Trump administration

WASHINGTON (TIP): Mumbai attack mastermind and banned Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed is a terrorist leader designated by both the United Nations and the United States, the Trump administration said on Wednesday, hours after a Pakistani court ordered his release from detention.

The banned Jamaat-ud-Dawah head, who carries a bounty of \$10 million announced by the US for his role in terror activities, has been under detention since January this year.

"The US is aware of media reports that Pakistan (court) ordered release of Lashkar-e-Taiba leader Hafiz Saeed from house arrest," a state department spokesperson said when asked about the decision of the judicial review board of Punjab province which refused to extend Saeed's detention.

As such, Saeed is all set to be released from house arrest after the expiry of the detention order tomorrow.

Responding to a question, the state department was quick to express its displeasure over the potential release of Saeed from house arrest.

In May 2008, the United States department of the treasury designated Saeed as a specially designated global terrorist under executive order 13224, the spokesperson said.

"Saeed was also individually designated by the United Nations under UNSCR 1267 (UN Security Council Resolution) in December 2008 following the November 2008 Mumbai attack," the official said.

LeT and several of its front organisations, leaders, and operatives remain under both state department and treasury department sanctions, the state department official noted.

"The US reiterates its stance that LeT is a designated foreign terrorist organisation responsible for the death of hundreds of innocent civilians in terrorist attacks, including a number of American citizens," the spokesperson told PTI.

The JuD is believed to be the front organisation for the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) which is responsible for carrying out the Mumbai attack. (PTI)

Rex Tillerson accused of flouting law on child soldiers

WASHINGTON (TIP): A group of about a dozen US state department officials have taken the unusual step of formally accusing secretary of state Rex Tillerson of violating a federal law designed to stop foreign militaries from enlisting child soldiers, according to internal government documents reviewed by Reuters.

A confidential state department "dissent" memo not previously reported said Tillerson breached the Child Soldiers Prevention Act when he decided in June to exclude Iraq, Myanmar, and Afghanistan from a US list of offenders in the use of child soldiers. This was despite the department publicly acknowledging that children were being conscripted in those countries. Keeping the countries off the annual list makes it easier to provide them with US military assistance. Iraq and Afghanistan are close allies in the fight against Islamist militants, while Myanmar is an emerging ally to offset China's influence in southeast Asia. Documents reviewed by Reuters also show Tillerson's decision was at odds with a unanimous recommendation by the heads of the state department's regional bureaus overseeing embassies in the Middle East and Asia, the US envoy on Afghanistan and Pakistan, the department's human rights office and its own in-house lawyers.

"Beyond contravening US law, this decision... has weakened one of the US government's primary diplomatic tools to deter governmental armed forces and government-supported armed groups from recruiting and using children in combat and support roles..." said the July 28 memo. Reuters reported in June that Tillerson had disregarded internal recommendations on Iraq, Myanmar and Afghanistan. The new documents reveal the scale of the opposition in the state department, including the rare use of what is known as the "dissent channel," which allows officials to object to policies without fear of reprisals.

The views expressed by the US officials illustrate ongoing tensions between career diplomats and the former chief of Exxon Mobil Corp appointed by President Donald Trump to pursue an "America First" approach to diplomacy. (Reuters)

US Navy plane with 11 aboard crashes into Pacific; 8 rescued

TOKYO (TIP): Eight people were rescued and three remained missing after a US Navy plane crashed into the western Pacific Ocean on Wednesday, the Navy said.

The C-2 "Greyhound" transport aircraft came down about 500 nautical miles (925 kilometers) southeast of Okinawa as it was bringing passengers and cargo from Japan to the USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier, the Navy said in a statement.

The Reagan was operating in the Philippine Sea during a joint exercise with Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force when the twin-propeller plane crashed at 2:45 p.m. Japan time. The cause of the crash was not immediately clear and the incident will be investigated, the Navy said.

Eight people were rescued about 40 minutes later. They were taken to the Reagan for medical evaluation and are in good condition, the Navy said.

US and Japanese naval ships and aircraft are searching for the missing. Japan's Defense Ministry said the crash



site is about 150 kilometers (90 miles) northwest of Okinotorishima, a Japanese atoll.

The names of the crew and passengers are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Philippine military spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla said his military alerted its ships and aircraft shortly after learning about the crash but could not provide help because of the distance from the country.

The Nov. 16-26 joint exercise in waters off Okinawa has been described by the

Navy as the "premier training event" between the US and Japanese navies, designed to increase defensive readiness and interoperability in air and sea operations.

The Navy's Japan-based 7th Fleet has had two fatal accidents in Asian waters this year, leaving 17 sailors dead and prompting the removal of eight top Navy officers from their posts, including the 7th Fleet commander.

The USS John S. McCain and an oil tanker collided near Singapore in August, leaving 10 US sailors dead. Seven sailors died in June when the USS Fitzgerald and a container ship collided off Japan.

The Navy has concluded that the collisions were avoidable and resulted from widespread failures by the crews and commanders, who didn't quickly recognize and respond to unfolding emergencies. A Navy report recommended numerous changes to address the problems, ranging from improved training to increasing sleep and stress management for sailors. (AP)



GUEST COMMENT

Politics and Padmavati

Chief Ministers cannot cite law and order threats as an excuse to curb free expression

Given the violence and the threats, it is perhaps not surprising that the producers of Padmavati have decided to 'voluntarily' defer its release. But irrespective of how this changed timetable plays out, the conduct of politicians over the past few days has been cynical and deeply unmindful of the rule of law. In February 1989, days after Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran had issued a fatwa against him for his novel The Satanic Verses, Salman Rushdie published an open letter to Rajiv Gandhi, then Prime Minister. He reminded the Prime Minister that his book had already been banned in India in October 1988, under the Customs Act, and that while issuing the curbs on its import the Finance Ministry clarified that the "ban did not detract from the literary and artistic merit of Rushdie's work". "Thanks for the good review," wrote Rushdie, adding that it appeared "as if your Government has become unable or unwilling to resist pressure from more or less any extremist religious grouping". It is worth recalling that letter, as it provides a benchmark to map the race to the bottom in the current row over Padmavati. Today, as a number of Chief Ministers across north India rail against the film and threaten to disallow its screening without requisite cuts, there is no longer even that perfunctory clarification that their action has nothing to do with the artistic merit of the film. And it is no longer the case that the governments are unwilling to resist pressure from extremist groups such as the Karni Sena. Chief Ministers now are actually rallying opinion against the film to whip up caste and religious anxieties.

Yogi Adityanath of Uttar Pradesh has forged an absurd equivalence between "those giving death threats" and Sanjay Leela Bhansali, the film's director, for "hurting public sentiments". Vijay Rupani in Gujarat has taken a cue from Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Madhya Pradesh and called for a ban. This is in complete disregard of the Supreme Court judgment in S. Rangarajan v. P. Jagjivan Ram that the state cannot cite concerns about a "hostile audience" in curbing freedom of expression. Vasundhara Raje of Rajasthan, in fact, has argued that the "censor board" must go beyond just certifying a film, and should be mindful of the possible results after its release. And Amarinder Singh in Punjab has said he opposes a ban but "cinematic license" cannot extend to twisting "historical facts". The fact that these open appeals against cinematic expression are going mostly unchallenged across the political spectrum carries dark forebodings. The issue here is no longer Padmavati, its artistic merit or the factuality or otherwise of multiple retellings of the narrative. What is of real concern is the spectacle of state functionaries ignoring their constitutional responsibility in upholding free expression, and placing themselves alongside those out to intimidate, and release sectarian furies.

(THE HINDU)

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AS I SEE IT

Time for action is now: Climate change is here



By KC Singh

Toxic smog lingered over North India in the first half of November, dissipating after showers and strong winds. The air quality in New Delhi and the NCR remains poor as Particulate Matter (PM 2.5) hovers above safe limits. First to be blamed were farmers of Punjab and Haryana, although stalk burning after paddy harvesting is done across many states, and in Pakistan. Climate experts later argued that the crisis was exacerbated by a sandstorm in Arabia, well to India's west.

The political drama that followed reflects lack of accountability among Indian leaders. The chief ministers of Delhi, Haryana and Punjab commenced a blame-thy-neighbor game. Arvind Kejriwal sought meetings with the other two hoping to escape being pilloried, normal for any mishap in Delhi even though both the Lieutenant-Governor and the Union government plead before the Supreme Court that he has no powers. Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh only wanted the PM to convene a meeting as he needed thousands of crores to coax his farmers to not burn stubble. The CM of Haryana, ML Khattar met Kejriwal after some dithering. But PM Modi was not seen or heard. What "baat", if any, was in his "mann" could only be deciphered from his intervention at the East Asia Summit in the Philippines on November 14, or at election rallies in Gujarat. There was naturally no mention of the crisis across North India.

But the issue is broader than a tri-state squabble. The pollution levels in PM Modi's own constituency, Varanasi, at the far end of UP were equally hazardous. Senator Sherry Rehman, senior leader of Pakistan People's Party and friend of the late Benazir Bhutto, bemoaned in The Express Tribune that "half of Pakistan is enveloped in a nasty toxic smog". She argued that these weather vagaries were attributable to climate change which was costing Pakistan 6 per cent of GDP. Quoting a UNDP report, she warned that Pakistan, already water stressed, would be dry by 2025 if it did not stop diverting 90 per cent of its waters to crops. She sensibly linked water, climate, energy and agriculture.

The Union government announced that the National Thermal Power Corporation is to now buy stubble from farmers for power generation. The question arises why this was not done after a similar crisis last year, when besides the odd-even scheme and the shutting of schools, no long-term solution was put in place. As usual, the National Green Tribunal rushed in where angels feared to tread, assuming the role of executive, and in effect, even stalling whatever little the Delhi Government was planning to do.

Coincidentally, nearly 200 nations converged on Bonn for the review of

“The smog that choked millions did not stop at the India-Pak or India-Nepal borders. Nor at the borders of Indian states. What matters for India is not merely electoral victories for PM Modi, but what he does with the power he wields. Instead of tilting at windmills, why does he not start with "swacch" air? To do that he needs an integrated plan that is greener and yet equitable for the farmer, the worker, the urbanite and the entrepreneur", says the author.



Smog over Delhi

action on "nationally determined contributions" (NDCs) under the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change. Ironically, India and China having come on board at Paris on President Barack Obama's urging by giving up their standard developing country chant that "polluters pay", now found themselves left holding the baby as President Trump walked out of the accord. Fortunately, US withdrawal is not implementable before November 4, 2020 - a day after the next US presidential election. The leadership of climate change action thus falls on Europe and the big emitters, India and China. Germany, the biggest European economy and host at Bonn, conceded that it would be unable to meet its commitment to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions to 40 per cent below the 1990 level, by 2020. That is due to its reliance on coal for power production due to its decision to abandon nuclear power generation after the Fukushima nuclear disaster as well as its strong growth and low oil prices.

UN climate chief Patricia Espinosa lamented that "we need more action, more ambition and we need it now". That is, indeed, necessary if the world has to ensure that global temperatures do not exceed 2 degree Celsius above the mean pre-industrial age temperature. The pledges at Paris were, unfortunately, voluntary and the current trajectory of global warming can lead to the melting of ice-sheets by the end of this century and their disappearance from Greenland and Antarctica. The consequent rise in sea levels and climate change leads paleo-climatologist Lee Kump to conclude that the rate at which we are discharging carbon dioxide is 10 times the level when mass extinction occurred during the pre-dinosaur stage which killed 90 per cent of life in the ocean and 75 per cent on land.

India and China succeeded, along

with 137 nations of the G-77 plus China, to make developed countries concede that acceptance by developing nations of voluntary commitment at Paris was contingent on the developed nations cutting emissions and providing finance for adaptation and mitigation by the developing world. At Paris, developed nations promised \$100 billion by 2020 to help disperse green technologies. Canada and the UK formed this time at Bonn a 19-nation alliance to phase out coal power by 2030.

Nuclear power, once considered the answer to clean energy, is being abandoned by the developed world. Two new reactors - Westinghouse's AP1000 and Areva's EPR - are about to be commissioned in China and Finland, respectively. They are considered proofed against natural disasters, terror attacks or even missile hits. India will have to choose a middle path between reducing dependence on thermal power and choosing renewables plus nuclear power. The obvious conclusion is that India needs to reassess its relations with China and Pakistan as climate change is a shared threat and a cause for collaboration that rises above narrow nationalistic divisions.

Senator Sherry Rehman has framed the issue well. The smog that choked millions did not stop at the India-Pak or India-Nepal borders. Nor at the borders of Indian states. What matters for India is not merely electoral victories for PM Modi, but what he does with the power he wields. Instead of tilting at windmills, why does he not start with "swacch" air? To do that he needs an integrated plan that is greener and yet equitable for the farmer, the worker, the urbanite and the entrepreneur. His Gujarat model, as is now being argued, is skewed in favor of the last.

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

China's double offer is opportune



By Pravin Sawhney

India should consider Chinese twin offers on BRI route and border dispute since they address its military and strategic concerns.

“The timing of the Chinese offer is opportune. In December, the foreign ministers' trilateral meeting between India, China and Russia is to be held in Delhi followed by the 20th round of border resolution talks between special representatives of India and China. The Chinese interlocutor, Yang Jeichi, has been elevated as member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China”, says the author

This could well be India's opportunity to manage China. In an interesting gesture, China has offered to assuage India's sovereignty concern on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). China has also proposed to start a series of dialogues for an "early harvest" on the disputed border issue, provided India agrees to consider finding common ground between its Act East policy and other development strategies, and the BRI.

Both Chinese proposals have come from its Ambassador in India, Luo Zhaohui. "We can change the name of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Create an alternate corridor through Jammu and Kashmir, Nathu la (pass) or Nepal to deal with India's concerns," he said at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. Earlier, he wrote in this newspaper (November 16), making a connection between the BRI and Act East policy. In what may not be a coincidence, the Russian Ambassador in India, Nikolay Kudashev, said that China and India should talk on the BRI and set aside their differences in favor of economic cooperation.

The timing of the Chinese offer is opportune. In December, the foreign ministers' trilateral meeting between India, China and Russia is to be held in Delhi followed by the 20th round of border resolution talks between special representatives of India and China. The Chinese interlocutor, Yang Jeichi, has been elevated as member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China.

India's military anxiety

India should consider the Chinese offer since it could address India's two core concerns: military and strategic. Let's start with the military anxiety. Given the unbridgeable gap between the Indian and Chinese military power; the fact that the disputed border is neither agreed on maps nor ground; that the terrain favors China owing to better infrastructure and acclimatization of troops; and above all, that the border has a



military moniker called the Line of Actual Control (LAC), which can be shifted by military force by the powerful side, India is constantly worried about intrusions and transgressions by Chinese troops.

This is why, departing from protocol, PM Narendra Modi, during Xi Jinping's visit to India in September 2014, publicly sought clarification on the LAC at the joint press conference. Unlike the present LAC, transgressions on an agreed LAC - a de facto border - would be an act of aggression tantamount to a declaration of war. Since China did not want to lose the advantage of exercising military coercion by sauntering across the LAC at will, it rejected Modi's proposal. This proposal, which is the best that India could get short of the border resolution (which is unlikely anytime soon), could be the "early harvest" hinted by Luo in exchange for India considering the BRI.

Strategic concerns

Moreover, India has two strategic concerns - the said and the unsaid. The said one is about the CPEC which passes through territory held by Pakistan, but is claimed by India. China has responded by saying that a mutually acceptable route could be formulated. The unsaid concern, which is the trickier, is this: India believes that joining the BRI would limit its strategic options necessary for its rise. The best option, India believes is to partner with the US, and other like-minded democracies and friendly nations, in ensuring that the present regional architecture does not get upended by the BRI.

India, therefore, has announced its Act East policy with connectivity, trade and security as its three pillars. Its other development strategies include Sagarmala, Spice Route and Mausam initiatives, the Asia-Africa sea corridor with Japan, and the Quadrilateral - India, the US, Japan and Australia - dialogue for strategic and maritime cooperation. Moreover, the US, by renaming the Asia-

Pacific as the Indo-Pacific has sought maritime partnership with India from East Asia - with the pivot in ASEAN - across the Indian Ocean Region. The US has also proposed connectivity on land and sea to counter the BRI.

Important issues

While all this appears exciting, India should consider three issues:

1 Its national power (economic, military and technological) does not compare favorably with China; the Indian Navy warships lack long-legs, numbers and endurance. Not to forget its limited annual allocations and an unenviable shipbuilding industry.

2 The BRI is a strategic threat since it impedes India's rise by getting its neighborhood and "extended neighborhood" on board the BRI. Soon, this would translate into military threat for India (on land and seas) since the People's Liberation Army would develop defense ties with nations that have joined the BRI to protect its own people, assets, infrastructure and interests there.

3 The US administration, with its withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership and 'America First' policy, has handed over the economic leadership of the Asia-Pacific to China. This has resulted in a review of the regional balance-of-power by US' allies Japan, South Korea and Vietnam, who are gravitating towards China.

Since these nations are hedging their bets, does it make sense for India to position itself as China's rival, especially when China is a power which cannot be contained? India's interests would be better served by considering the Chinese double offer. Strategic hedging or as the foreign secretary, S Jaishankar, recently said, "rigidity of positions no longer holds" should be adopted soonest.

(The author is editor, Force)

HAITIANS AND OTHER REFUGEES DESERVE AMERICA'S HELP

BY ALBERT BALDEO

"Our country has been the leading provider of humanitarian aid for refugees" -Elizabeth Esty

"I believe in the promise of America. Being a Cuban refugee, having come here when I was eight, I know that this is a shining city on the hill" -Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

"I have been a foreigner all my life, first as a daughter of diplomats, then as a political refugee and now as an immigrant in the U.S. I have had to leave everything behind and start anew several times, and I have lost most of my extended family" -Isabel Allende

The recent attack on immigrants and minorities by the Trump administration to end temporary protected status and send 60,000 Haitians back to suffering and pain in their country-the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, is the latest in an alarming trend. Haiti cannot provide for them, and this decision is inhumane and unconscionable. This status was extended to Haitians, as America has done in the past with several other countries, after a destructive earthquake hit the island nation in 2010. With its poor economy, infrastructure and resources, Haiti is

incapable of repatriating tens of thousands of people.

Conscious of, and humbled by, its people's suffering, the Haitian government had asked the Trump administration to extend the protected status. After all, America has a conscience. Haitians are the second-largest group of foreigners with temporary status. The protection is extended to people already in the United States who have come from countries severely affected by natural disasters or armed conflict that prevents their citizens from returning or prevents their country from adequately receiving them.

Roughly 40,000 people who lost their homes in the earthquake still live in camps for the displaced, and a cholera epidemic killed thousands of people in the aftermath of the earthquake. Struggling to recover from the earthquake, they relied heavily on the money expatriates send to them back home to survive, but that lifeline will now be cut from them. Moreover, the decision to end the program will uproot the lives of Haitians who have been in the United States for years, most of whom live in Florida, home to roughly two-thirds of Haitian TPS enrollees. Haitians sent home will face dire conditions, including lack of housing, inadequate health services and unemployment. It will precipitate double hardship.

Indeed, a permanent legislative solution must be found within the 18-month grace period. The move means that the Haitians given temporary protected status, or TPS, may

remain until July 22, 2019, but could face deportation after that date. This is unconscionable, and a more humane solution must be found.

El Salvador has the largest group of Temporary Protected Status beneficiaries in the United States, nearly 200,000 people. The Department of Homeland Security is scheduled to announce next month whether it will rescind or renew protection for that country, which is plagued with gang violence and high unemployment. The protection applies to Salvadorans who were in the United States without permission on February 13, 2001, and was granted after deadly earthquakes destroyed their home country. Protections for Nicaraguans ended last month, and similar protections for Hondurans loom large. These countries' citizens living in here need help and humanitarian consideration also.

Others who now benefit include people from Nepal, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen, and the Trump administration must not continue to err on the side of cruelty and hostility to these nationals. That's not the America we want, nor is that the America we have been!

(Albert Baldeo is a civil rights activist and community advocate. As President of the Baldeo Foundation and Liberty Justice Center, he has continued to fight for equal rights, dignity and inclusion in the decision-making process. He can be contacted at the Baldeo Foundation: (718) 529-2300)

VYAPAM CASE: CBI CHARGESHEETS 592



NEW DELHI (TIP): As many as 592 persons, including four promoters of private medical colleges in Madhya Pradesh, have been named as accused in a chargesheet filed by the CBI in connection with alleged irregularities in a Vyapam case, officials of the probe agency said.

Those listed included JN Choksey, chairman of LN Medical College; SN Vijaywargiya of People's Medical College; Ajay Goenka of Chirayu Medical College (all in Bhopal) and Suresh Singh Bhadoriya of Index Medical College, Indore, they said.

While three promoters did not any comment when contacted, Bhadoriya claimed neither his nor his college's name was mentioned in the CBI chargesheet.

The chargesheet was filed in a special CBI court in Bhopal in the case of Pre-Medical test (PMT) conducted by the Madhya Pradesh Professional Examination Board or Vyapam in 2012.

The test was conducted for selection to various medical colleges of the state. Among those named, 334 are candidates, 155 guardians of some of these candidates, 46 invigilators during the examination, 26 officials of four private medical colleges, 22 middlemen and two officers of department of medical education, MP, the officials said.

The two state government officials named in the chargesheet are SC Tiwari, the then director, and NM Srivastava, the then joint director in the medical education department, they said.

Of all the people named in the chargesheet, 245 have been made accused for the first time. Others have been named in a different chargesheet filed earlier by the CBI. The probe agency is looking into various cases of massive irregularities in various examination conducted by the Vyapam to select candidates for medical colleges and also for state government jobs.

Source: PTI

Tibet wants to stay with China, seeks development: Dalai Lama

KOLKATA (TIP): Tibet does not seek independence from China but wants greater development, Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama said here today.

China and Tibet enjoyed a close relationship, though there were occasional "fights", he said at an interactive session organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce.

"The past is past. We will have to look into the future," he said. He stressed that Tibetans wanted to stay with China.

"We are not seeking independence... We want to stay with China. We want more development," the spiritual leader of the Tibetan people said.

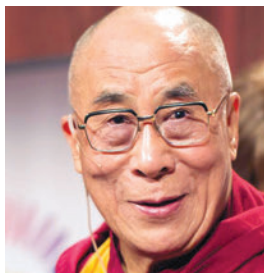
The Dalai Lama said China must respect Tibetans culture and heritage. "Tibet has a different culture and a different script... The Chinese people love their own country. We love our own country," he said.

Holding that no Chinese "understand what had happened in the last few decades", he said the country had changed over the years. "With China joining the world, it has changed 40 per cent to 50 per cent of what it was earlier," he said.

The Dalai Lama also referred to the ecological significance of the Tibetan Plateau and recalled that a Chinese ecologist had said its environmental impact was like that of the South Pole and the North Pole.

"The ecologist called it the Third Pole," the Buddhist leader said. The Dalai Lama said, "From Yangtze to Sindhu rivers, major rivers ... come from Tibet. Billions of lives are involved. Taking care of the Tibetan Plateau is not only good for Tibet but for billions of people."

Source: PTI



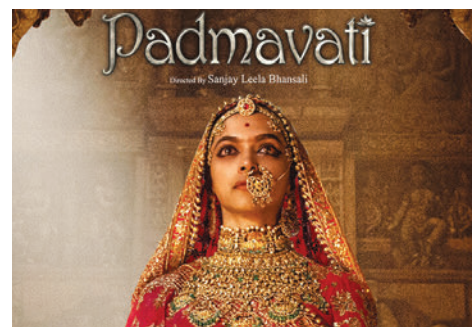
Padmavati cleared by British Censors

LONDON/NEW DELHI (TIP): Even though the makers of "Padmavati" have deferred the release of the film in India, the British Board Of Film Classification (BBFC) has cleared it. The Sanjay Leela Bhansali directorial will hit the screens in the UK on Dec. 1.

Starring Ranveer Singh (as Sultan Alauddin Khilji), Deepika Padukone (as Rani Padmavati, in the lead) and Shahid Kapoor (as Maharawal Ratan Singh), "Padmavati" is being distributed internationally by Paramount Pictures.

According to the official website of the BBFC, "Padmavati" will be released "uncut" in the UK.

The magnum opus sets out to tell the tale of Rani Padmavati – the legendary Mewar queen known as much for her beauty and intelligence as she was for her courage – her husband Maharawal Ratan Singh, a glorious Rajput ruler and a warrior king who fought till his last breath to defend his kingdom and



his wife's honor, and Sultan Alauddin Khilji – an ambitious and obsessive invader.

In India, "Padmavati" is in the eye of a storm following protests from conservative groups over alleged tampering with historical facts. Bhansali has been denying the contention.

The release of the film, which was earlier slated for Dec. 1 in India, has been deferred as the filmmakers are yet to secure a censor certificate.

India's Manushi Chhillar crowned Miss World 2017

SANYA (TIP): India's Manushi Chhillar was on Nov 18 crowned as Miss World 2017 at a grand event held in Sanya in China.

The 20-year-old medical student from Haryana had won Femina Miss India World 2017 in May this year.

The announcement was made on the pageant's official Twitter handle.

"The winner of Miss World 2017 is Miss India Manushi Chhillar," the tweet said.

Manushi had made it to the top 5 along with contestants from England, France, Kenya and Mexico.

The first and the second runners-up were Miss England Stephanie Hill and Miss Mexico Andrea Meza.

The coveted title was last won by Priyanka Chopra for India in 2000, a year after Yukta Mookhey had made the country proud.

In 1997, Diana Hayden had bagged the title, while Aishwarya Rai had the honours in 1994.

Reita Faria was the first Indian to win the crown in the 1966.

Source: PTI



3 die, 9 injured as train derails in UP

LUCKNOW/NEW DELHI (TIP): At least three people were dead and nine left injured after 13 coaches of the Vasco Da Gama-Patna express jumped the rails near Manikpur railway station in Uttar Pradesh on Friday.

Confirming the casualties, Chitrakoot SP Pratap Gopendra Singh said a father-son duo from Bettiah district of Bihar died on the spot while the third person died at a hospital.

"Of those injured, two were serious and admitted to district hospital, Chitrakoot. Seven with minor injuries are being treated at Manikpur," Singh said.

The Patna-bound Vasco Da Gama Express (12741) derailed at 4.18 am, soon after leaving platform number 2 of the Manikpur railway station in Chitrakoot district, about 250 km from



Lucknow, he said.

According to ADG (Law and Order), Anand Kumar, prima facie it appeared that fractured railway track is the cause of accident as per local assessment.

Providing a breakup of the derailed coaches, North Central Railway PRO Amit Malviya said the coaches which jumped off the rails were coaches numbered S3-S11, two general coaches and two extra coaches.

"The injured have been rushed to the hospital and officials have left for the spot. Relief operations are under way," North Central Railway PRO Amit Malviya said.

He said that soon after the accident, a medical train reached the spot and by 5.20 am, an accident relief train was dispatched for the spot.

The divisional railway manager (DRM), Allahabad, has already reached the spot while the General Manager, NCR is on his way, he said.

In the aftermath of the derailment, movement of trains was disrupted on the Patna-Allahabad route.

The train derailment in Chitrakoot comes less than 12 hours after a Bolero had collided with a passenger train near Lucknow killing four and injuring two.

Source: PTI

GUJARAT ELECTIONS

Hardik Patel accepts Cong quota deal, pledges support

AHMEDABAD (TIP): Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) has formally accepted the formula offered by the Congress party on granting reservation quotas to his community, convener Hardik Patel said.

He said that while his organization or its members will not join the Congress or hold any PAAS events under the banner of the party, they will directly or indirectly support the party to defeat the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the upcoming Gujarat assembly elections.

He said that the new formula would not change the existing 49% quota for scheduled castes and tribes, and other backward classes (OBCs).

As per the new formula, the Patidars would be extended all benefits that are given to OBCs, he said, while adding that a survey would be carried out and a special category could be created for the purpose.

“Congress has accepted our demand for reservations. When Congress comes to power, it will pass a bill in the state assembly for reservations under Article 31-C and Article 46 of the Constitution without altering current 49% quotas for SC/ST and OBC categories. The 50% cap (on reservations) is a suggestion given by the Supreme Court and it can be relooked into. There is neither any law nor any provision in our Constitution that sets a 50% limit on reservation,” he added.

Congress, he said, has promised to carry out a survey of Patidars examining parameters like economic condition, social condition, education and employment. The Congress will put the reservation formula in its manifesto, he said.

“Our aim is to defeat the BJP. Our organization members are free to join any party they want and we will not oppose them so long as they don’t work against the interests of our community. We will soon reshuffle our core working committee. If in defeating the BJP we have to give support to the Congress we will support them as they have accepted our demands for reservation,” Patel said.

On the recent clashes between PAAS workers and Congress members in Surat, Patel said PAAS wanted the Congress to field good candidates. He



MODI TO KICK OFF BJP'S CAMPAIGN ON NOV 27

AHMEDABAD (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address eight rallies on November 27 and 29 in different parts of Saurashtra and south Gujarat, where polling for the first phase of assembly polls will be held on December 9.

On the morning of November 27, Modi will address people in Bhuj town of Kutch district and later in the day in Jasdhan town of Rajkot, Dhari in Amreli and Kamrej in Surat district, Gujarat BJP in-charge Bhpender Yadav told a press conference here.

On November 29, Modi will address poll rallies in Morbi and Prachi villages near Somnath, Palitana in Bhavnagar and at Navsari in south Gujarat. “Each rally has been organised in such a way that people from five to six surrounding constituencies can also attend it,” said Yadav. The polling for the two-phase elections in the state, having a total of 182 assembly seats, will take place on December 9 and 14 and votes will be counted on December 18.

While 89 seats of Saurashtra and south Gujarat region will go to polls in the first phase, the election in the remaining 93 constituencies in central and northern regions will be held in the second phase. On November 26 and 27, several prominent BJP leaders will address rallies in different parts of state where the first phase of polling is scheduled to be held.



Source: PTI

said that Congress had fielded one PAAS candidate without consulting them.

Patels form 12-14% of the state’s population and are dominant in many assembly constituencies in Saurashtra, Surat and North Gujarat.

“This would be along the lines of the Tamil Nadu law. The Tamil Nadu law is under challenge before the Supreme Court of India and its eventual fate will also impact this law. The question will still be whether the inclusion of such a law in the 9th Schedule goes against the basic structure of the Constitution,” said Alok Prasanna Kumar, visiting fellow at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, a Delhi-

based independent advisory group. According to Kumar, such a move can be challenged in court. “This is what the Supreme Court’s 13-judge bench in Kesavananda Bharati held,” he added. Congress leader Kapil Sibal on Wednesday thanked Hardik Patel for declaring his support to the party, and said their united fight would dethrone the BJP, according to a PTI report.

Gujarat deputy chief minister Nitin Patel, in his reaction, called Hardik Patel a Congress stooge, and claimed the PAAS leader had misled his community and worked to divide it.

Source: Livemint

INDIA HITS OUT AT PAK OVER HAFIZ SAEED'S RELEASE

NEW DELHI (TIP): India on Thursday expressed “outrage: over Jamaat-ud-Dawa chief Hafiz Saeed’s imminent release from detention and dubbed it as an attempt by Pakistan to “mainstream UN-proscribed terrorists.”



The ministry of external affairs said that this confirms the “lack of seriousness on Pakistan’s part in bringing terrorists to justice and its nefarious designs to shield and support non-state actors.”

“India, as indeed, the entire international community is outraged that a self-confessed and UN-proscribed terrorist is being allowed to walk free and continue with his evil agenda,” MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar told a press conference here.

Describing Saeed as the “prime organiser” of the November 26, 2008 Mumbai attacks, Kumar said that the banned Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) head is also responsible for “unleashing numerous other terror attacks against Pakistan’s neighbours.”

“His release confirms once again the lack of seriousness on the part of the Pakistani government in bringing to justice perpetrators of heinous acts of terror, including by individuals and entities designated by the UN. It also appears to be an attempt by the Pakistani system to mainstream proscribed terrorists. It is evident that Pakistan has not changed its policy of shielding and supporting non-state actors and its true face is for all to see,” Kumar said.

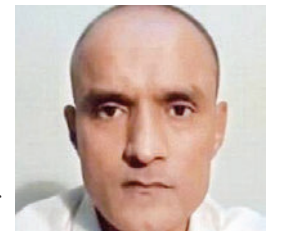
Saeed will soon walk free after a Pakistani judicial body yesterday ordered his release from house arrest.

Responding to a separate query, Kumar said that India has sought sovereign guarantee from Pakistan on the safety and security of Kulbhushan Jadhav’s wife if she visits that country.

Source: PTI

‘ENSURE SECURITY OF JADHAV’S WIFE, MOTHER’

NEW DELHI (TIP): India on Nov 23 sought “sovereign guarantee” from Pakistan on the safety and security of the wife and mother of Kulbhushan Jadhav – an Indian naval officer who has been sentenced to death by a Pakistani court for espionage – if they get to visit him.



Islamabad has allowed Jadhav’s wife to visit him. However, India has sought permission for his mother to meet him.

At a media briefing here, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said: “We have conveyed that the wife of Jadhav would like to travel along with her mother-in-law for the meeting. We have also sought sovereign guarantee from the Government of Pakistan to ensure the safety, security and well being of the wife and the mother of Jadhav and that they shall not be questioned, harassed or interrogated during their visit and stay in Pakistan.”

“We have further asked that a diplomat of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad shall be allowed to accompany them at all times, including during the meeting,” Kumar added.

Source: Agencies

Indian Navy gets its first woman pilot, 3 women NAI officers

KANNUR (TIP): In a first, a woman has been inducted as a pilot in the Indian Navy.

Shubhangi Swaroop, who hails from Uttar Pradesh, will soon be flying Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft.

Three other women cadets, Astha Segal from New Delhi, Roopa A from Puducherry and Sakthi Maya S from Kerala, also created history by becoming the country’s first women officers at the Naval Armament Inspectorate (NAI) branch of the Navy.

After their Naval Orientation course, all the four in their early 20s, had passed out of the Ezhimala Naval Academy at a glittering function here on Wednesday attended by Naval chief Admiral Sunil Lanba.

For Shubhangi, who is the daughter of a Naval commander, it’s a dream come true on being selected as a pilot.

Though Shubhangi is the first Naval woman pilot, the Navy’s Aviation branch has had women officers operating as air traffic control officers and as ‘observers’ in the aircraft who are responsible for communication and weapons, Southern Naval spokesperson Commander Sreedhar Warriar told PTI.

The NAI branch is responsible for auditing and assessing the state of weapons and ammunition of the Navy.

All the four will be undergoing subsequent professional training in their respective chosen branches before being employed on duty, Commander Warriar said.

Shubhangi would be trained at the Air Force Academy at Hyderabad which trains pilots of the Army, Navy and the Air Force, he said.

Source: PTI





RADHIKA APTE: MEN ALSO FACE SEXUAL ABUSE IN FILM INDUSTRY

Actor Radhika Apte said sexual abuse is not limited to women in the film industry as she knows a lot of men who have been subjected to a misdemeanour.

Recently, Hollywood witnessed the Harvey Weinstein scandal, which has put the spotlight on sexual harassment in the entertainment industry. Names such as Kevin Spacey, James Toback, Brett Ratner, among others have also joined the infamous list.

In Bollywood, Irrfan Khan was the first actor to come forward and share his story of how he was asked to compromise for work in his struggling days. Radhika said as "more and more women" are opening up about their experience, it is important to have a platform where complaints can be addressed.

"Not just women, men also go through sexual abuse. I am specifically talking about the industry, I know a lot of men who have gone through this as well. It's high time this comes out," Radhika tells in an interview. "Also, as the industry becomes more open and people from different parts come here - not just for people from their own production house or family - it's more important that we have a platform," she said.

Source: PTI

RICHA CHADHA ALMOST LOST BHOLI PUNJABAN ROLE



Actress Richa Chadha, who played Bholi Punjaban in 'Fukrey', said she had almost lost the role due to some miscommunication. Initially, Richa was misguided and misinformed about the character by someone, till she spoke to the

casting director of the film Honey Trehan and resolved the misunderstanding, read a statement.

"I am glad Honey came to the rescue and connected me with Mrighdeep Singh Lamba (director) and Excel Entertainment

(producers). Excel and I have a long association now and I love working with them. To think that this almost didn't happen is scary in retrospect," said Richa. Now, 'Fukrey 2' is coming soon.

Source: IANS

MOVIE REVIEW



KADVI HAWA

CAST: SANJAI MISHRA, RANVIR SHOREY, TILLOTAMA SHOME, BHUPESH SINGH.

DIRECTOR: NILA MADHAB PANDA

Set in a small village of Rajasthan, Mahua, Kadvi Hawa is the story about an old blind retired farmer, Deu (Sanjai Mishra) and his apprehension towards the drastic climate change due to global warming. His son, Mukund (Bhupesh Singh) has a huge amount of loan to repay to the bank. Gunu Babu (Ranvir Shorey) is a loan recovery officer who is also known as Yamdut - The God Of Death in the village. His alias is not in a funny way but a very depressing one - "Tum jab bhi yahan aate ho 4-5 logo ki zindagi saath le jaate ho" complains Deu while talking to Gunu Babu in a scene.

Gunu Babu is from Odisha where he has already sacrificed his house and father to the floods. He wants his remaining family to move in with him before the next cloud bursts his life. It's not easy to recover money from someone who himself is exhausted of life. Gunu Babu realises this is going

to be tough and asks Deu to help him in the process of recovering money from the villagers. He also offers him a hefty commission for this. The rest of the story is about how this deal helps and destroys the already messed up situation in both of their lives. How both of them are right with their hands handcuffed with the chains of nature.

Sanjai Mishra reached a point in his life where he doesn't need any validation on what he does. Being topless with a mere dhoti to cover your body in more than half of the film - which actor would be able to see through the reality with such transparency? It's the toughest to play a blind character because there's a very thin line which you can cross and overact. Mishra aces his role being within that line.

Ranvir Shorey excels as a frustrated loan recovery officer. Throughout the film, he had to express his helplessness and he emotes the same with his signature inventiveness. Facing of a stellar performer like Sanjai Mishra, you need a Ranvir Shorey to maintain the balance. Tillotama Shome plays the wife of Bhupesh Singh and does well, though you feel she should've had more screen space with a strong subplot of her side of the story. Bhupesh doesn't have much to do, a couple of scenes which are good if not remarkable.



CARMEN EJOGO JOINS 'TRUE DETECTIVE' 3

Actor Carmen Ejogo has joined the cast of 'True Detective' season three.

Reportedly, Ejogo will star opposite the Mahershala Ali in the new installment of the tv series.

She will play Amelia Reardon, an Arkansas schoolteacher with a connection to two missing children in 1980.

The third season tells the story of a macabre crime in the heart of the Ozarks, and a mystery that deepens over decades and plays out in three separate time periods.

Ali is set to play Wayne Hays, a state police detective from Northwest Arkansas.

Source: PTI

JENNIFER LAWRENCE FELT 'GANG-BANGED' BY NUDE PHOTO HACK



While hundreds of Hollywood women are stepping forward with their sexual misconduct stories, Jennifer Lawrence recently looked back at her own invasion of privacy.

According to a report, the 27-year-old Oscar winner revisited the cloud storage hack in 2014 that put her nude photos onto the web.

"I feel like I got gang-banged by the f**king planet," she said. "Like, there's not one person in the world that is not capable of seeing these intimate photos of me. You can just be at a barbecue and somebody can just pull them up on their phone. That was a really impossible thing to process."

"When the hacking thing happened, it was so unbelievably violating that you can't even put it into words," the 'Passengers' star added. "I think that I'm still actually processing it. When I first found out it was happening, my security reached out to me. It was happening minute-to-minute - it was almost like a ransom situation where they were releasing new ones every hour or so."

Other women who were affected reached out to Lawrence about the idea of suing the company, but the 'Hunger Games' star knew that it wouldn't have brought peace. Instead, she said, she focused on healing.

"none of that was gonna really bring me peace, none of that was gonna bring my nude body back to me and Nic [Lawrence's former boyfriend Nicholas Hoult], the person that they were intended for. It wasn't gonna bring any of that back. So I wasn't interested in suing everybody; I was just interested in healing," Lawrence continued.

As for the current wave of sexual harassment scandals sweeping Hollywood, Lawrence said she was never personally harassed by Harvey Weinstein, with whom she worked with on 'Silver Linings Playbook'.

"It was bizarre. I heard that he was a dog, but he was always almost paternal to me. He was never inappropriate with me," she stated. "I thought we had a nice relationship where when he acted like an a..hole, I called him an a..hole. I actually think the word I used was 'a sadistic monster', but it was just never of that nature so that was really shocking."

Source: ANI

MOVIE REVIEW



JUSTICE LEAGUE

CAST: AMBER HEARD, AMY ADAMS, BEN AFFLECK, BILLY CRUDUP, CONNIE NIELSEN, DIANE LANE, EZRA MILLER, GAL GADOT, HENRY CAVILL, JASON MOMOA, JEREMY IRONS, RAY FISHER

DIRECTOR: ZACK SNYDER

GENRE(S): ACTION, ADVENTURE, SCI-FI, FANTASY

As the ending of Batman V Superman clearly (Pun intended!) showed the end of Clark Kent, but everyone knew he's coming back. Batman (Ben Affleck) is on recruiting spree collecting the best superheroes around the world to face one big challenge. Wonderwoman (Gal Gadot) is the male version of Superman while he's gone, saving the lives of people who are in troubles. Aquaman (Jason Momoa) straight out of Game Of Thrones, Cyborg (Ray Fisher) - a failed experiment and Flash (Ezra Miller) - the man who's always in a rush join Batman to create the Justice League.

As every superhero movie, there's a villain who wants to destroy the world. As unusual looking as his name, Steppenwolf (Ciaran Hinds) is collecting three ancient mother boxes which are been floating around at three different places around the earth. Post collecting these boxes, Steppenwolf will become powerful enough to achieve his target. As he's busy with his search, our superheroes find a

way to revive Superman from the dead. How he comes back to life and how the army faces this devil is what the story is about.

Written by Chris Terrio and Joss Whedon, Justice League is an amalgamation of two ideologies into one. Zack Snyder stepped down the director's seat to resolve his personal issues and Whedon took over the driver's seat. Having the dark backdrop with funny one-liners shows where the movie could've been and where it is.

ack takes too much time to introduce everyone and gets them together to form a team. Alien to the concept of brightness, the makers again refuse to learn anything from their competitors keeping the proceedings dark. When you're bringing someone back to life, you need a super convincing plot. Snyder takes the juvenile way out keeping everyone unconvinced and disappointed.

When Christian Bale backed out from playing Batman, hopes were personally dead for me of seeing anyone else as a Batman. Ben Affleck surely has the charm but is affected badly by the scripts required for his superhero. I don't know why they've made his voice has been so artificial to understand. He's strictly okay in this one too!

Gal Gadot, whose standalone movie kind of revived DC comics, is the gleaming portion of this dark cloud. Her smile is bright enough to eliminate the ill-lit plot. Jason Momoa and Ezra Miller are the revelations of this film. They both have their movies lined up which could do well minus Snyder.

'China for more dams on Tibetan rivers instead of Brahmaputra'

BEIJING (TIP): China, which is constructing many hydropower projects in Tibet, plans to focus on dam building on rivers close to its provinces and not on the Brahmaputra which sparked concerns in India, state media reported on Thursday.

China had last month rejected as "false and untrue" a media report that it was planning to build a 1,000-km long tunnel to divert water from the Brahmaputra river in Tibet close to Arunachal Pradesh to the parched Xinjiang region.

India, as a riparian state, had flagged its concerns to China about various dams being built by it on the Brahmaputra river, which is known in China as Yarlung Tsangpo.

An article in Global Times said that "the Jinsha, Lancang and Nujiang rivers are famous waterways in Tibet with enormous hydropower potential, but they do not run through India."

"This does not necessarily mean hydropower stations in transboundary rivers flowing from China to India, such as the Yarlung Zangbo River (Brahmaputra), will be isolated from the plan to transfer Tibet's electricity out, but they may be not the first choice," the article said.

The Zangmu dam over the Brahmaputra, which became partially operational in 2014, raised serious concerns in India as the first major hydropower project among few more planned by China on the trans-border river in Tibet.

The dam's reservoir capacity of just 86.6 million cubic meters of water accounts for a tiny portion of the average annual runoff of the Brahmaputra, the article said.

"In any case, India does not need to be oversensitive to Tibet's hydropower development plan," it said.

Tibet wants to accelerate water-resource exploitation and make it a new source of economic growth by selling excess hydropower to economically prosperous regions, it said.

"But there are still a number of challenges. Once hidden costs of transmission are considered, sending electricity over long distances is inherently inefficient.

"To transfer Tibet's electricity out, the exploitation of hydropower resources in the region is likely to be mainly concentrated on the Jinsha River, Lancang River and Nujiang River, which are located close to the border area between Tibet and other Chinese provinces," it said.

India's concerns figured in the official media coverage of the USD three-billion Suwalong project over the Jinsha river which state-run Xinhua news agency is proceeding smoothly.

The Jinsha is a tributary of the Yangtze river. The Suwalong project is located at the junction of Mangkam county of Tibet and Batang county of Sichuan province in southwest China. It will be the largest power station in Tibet upon completion, bigger than Zangmu dam over the Brahmaputra.

The power station has a designed capacity of 1.2 million kilowatts and will be able to generate about 5.4 billion kwh of electricity per year.

A 112-meter-high dam will be built to form a reservoir that can store about 674 million cubic meters of water. Generators are expected to start operations in 2021. (PTI)

Zimbabwe's next leader prepares to take power

HARARE (TIP): Zimbabwe's incoming president Emmerson Mnangagwa was preparing on Thursday for his new role as president after a triumphant return home following the dramatic departure of Robert Mugabe, ending 37 years of authoritarian rule.

Mnangagwa, who has close ties to the army and the security establishment, returned to Zimbabwe on Wednesday where he received a hero's welcome, telling crowds of supporters in Harare they were witnessing the start of a new democratic era. The 75-year-old will be sworn in as president at an inauguration ceremony on Friday.

It was his first public speech since Mugabe fired him as vice president on November 6 over a succession tussle with the first lady, in a move which prompted the military's intervention and eventually led to Mugabe's resignation on Tuesday. "Today we are witnessing the beginning of a new and unfolding full democracy in our country," he told hundreds of supporters, some wearing shirts emblazoned with his image.

He arrived at the headquarters of the ruling ZANU-PF in a presidential-style motorcade surrounded by a large security detail.

In the crowd, two young men held up stuffed crocodiles in a nod to Mnangagwa's nickname, earned for his reputation for stealth and ruthlessness.

"Great speech all round, can't describe how I felt seeing him after what he went through. All I want is job creation," said Remigio Mutero, 30, an unemployed IT graduate. (AFP)

Ousted Catalan leader's party shelves 'unilateral' independence push

MADRID (TIP): The party of ousted Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont now favours talks with Madrid to achieve independence instead of pushing to break away from Spain unilaterally, its coordinator said Thursday, the latest sign it was softening its position.

Spanish media have reported that Puigdemont's PdeCat party and its former government ally, the far-left ERC party, were planning to abandon a call for Catalonia to break away from Spain "unilaterally" in their programmes for a December 21 regional election.

"The draft follows this line. It is not finished. It seems like a good route to work on," PdeCat party coordinator Marta Pascal said in an interview with Cadena Ser news radio when asked about the reports.

Catalonia "lacks two things" to declare independence, Pascal added: "That this be effective and above all to count on the support of more people."

Madrid imposed direct rule on Catalonia and dismissed its government after the parliament of the once semi-autonomous region voted in favour of independence last month, and called the new elections in a bid to "restore normality".

The assembly approved the independence declaration following a banned secession referendum on October 1, which sparked Spain's worst political crisis since the country



returned to democracy after the death of longtime dictator Francisco Franco in 1975.

Regional authorities said 90 percent chose to split from Spain in the referendum, though less than half of eligible voters turned out in a region deeply divided on independence.

Puigdemont had hoped to form a united separatist front for the new elections, as was the case in the region's last elections in 2015, when the pro-independence camp secured a majority of 72 seats in the 135-seat parliament, even though it won just 47.8 percent of the vote.

But the ERC rejected a joint ticket, and opinion polls suggest that while it is leading in the current campaign,

which officially opens on December 5, the independence coalition as a whole could lose its absolute majority.

The ERC has also said that the separatist movement needs to win more support for its cause, even though it takes a harder line on independence than the PdeCat party.

"The process of building a republic has started. We want this to be negotiated," the ERC's spokesman in the Catalan parliament, Roger Torrent, told AFP, adding that the regional election next month would effectively be like another "referendum".

"This is why we urge the Spanish government to accept the results," he said. (AFP)

UN court convicts ex-Bosnian Serb commander Mladic of genocide

THE HAGUE (TIP): The United Nations' Yugoslav war crimes tribunal convicted Bosnian Serb military chief Gen. Ratko Mladic on Wednesday of genocide and crimes against humanity, and sentenced him to life in prison for atrocities during Bosnia's 1992-1995 war.

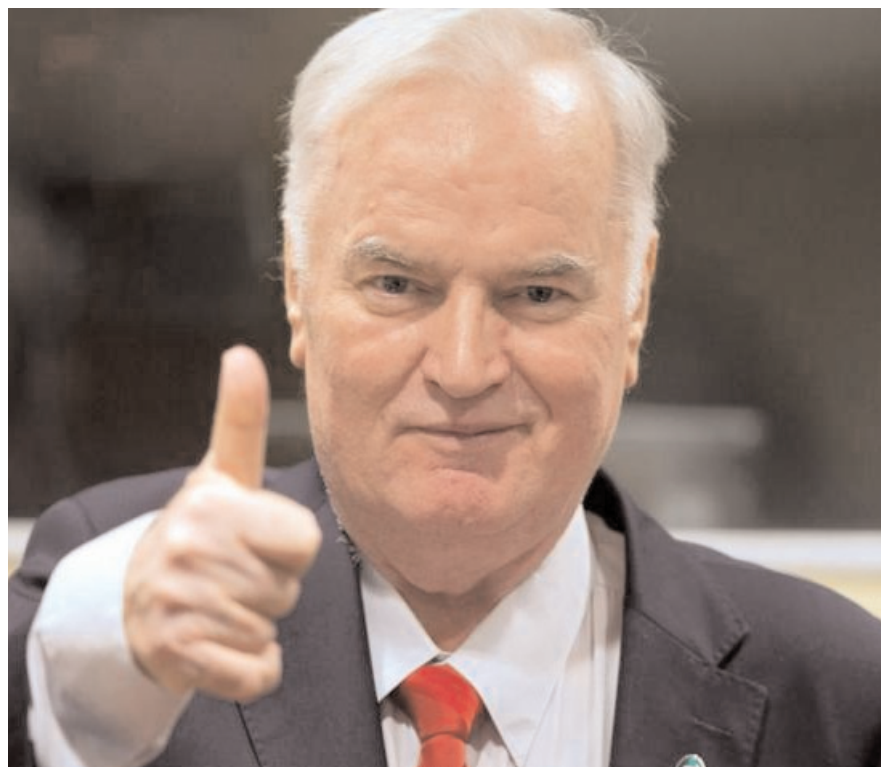
Mladic, 75, was found guilty of commanding forces responsible for crimes including the worst atrocities of the war — the deadly three-year siege of the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, and the 1995 massacre of some 8,000 Muslim men and boys in the eastern enclave of Srebrenica, which was Europe's worst mass killing since World War II.

A three-judge panel at the court formally known as the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia convicted Mladic of 10 of 11 counts in a dramatic climax to a groundbreaking effort to seek justice for the wars in the former Yugoslavia.

Presiding Judge Alphons Orie read out the judgment Wednesday after ordering Mladic out of the courtroom for the final verdict over an angry outburst.

Mothers of Srebrenica's victims clapped when the convictions were read out. Mladic's son Darko said: "I'm not surprised. The court was totally biased from the start."

Bosniaks and Serbs watched from near and far as the long-awaited climax approached. Wednesday's judgment marks the end of the final trial at the



tribunal, which was set up in 1993, while fierce fighting was still raging in Bosnia.

Emotions ran high outside the courtroom, with a small skirmish reflecting lingering tensions between Serbs and Bosniaks over the trial and the war.

Despite ailing health, Mladic looked relaxed, greeting lawyers and giving a

thumbs-up to photographers in court. He nodded regularly as presiding Judge Alphons Orie read out descriptions of atrocities by Bosnian Serb forces, one by one.

Then Mladic's lawyer asked for a delay because the general was suffering high blood pressure. The judge refused, and Mladic burst out with criticism and was ordered to leave the room. (AP)

Rajvatan Singh Rathour- First Sikh Model in London -India Fashion Week

LONDON (TIP): Rajvatan Singh Rathour has become the first Sikh Model to walk on the ramp in Olympia London in India Fashion Week 2017 along with The National Asian Wedding Show organised on 11th & 12th Nov. Rajvatan also completed shoot for a London based Khush magazine and soon will be appearing in it. Top Bollywood actresses like Sonam Kapoor, Aditi Rao have also appeared on the same page.

The Patiala, Punjab born Rajvatan, moved permanently to UK in 2006 along with his family. In 2017 he completed his Masters of Science in International Politics from Royal Holloway, University of London. In 2015, he was appointed to be the Head Delegate representing Brunel University at the conference in the European Council at Cambridge University's Model United Nations Conference. Rajvatan represented as a delegate in the Social, Cultural and Human Rights Committee in Oxford University's Model United Nations Conference in 2014.

During his time in university, he became interested in modelling, something which started off as a hobby in 2014, slowly became a passion for him to potentially pursue it as a career. Rajvatan was co-star in Diljit Dosanjh's recently released



song 'El Sueno'.

Transforming "Cat Walk" into a "Tiger Walk", Rajvatan was adjudged "BEST WALK" award in International "Sardar" World model contest in Aug 2017 in Melbourne representing United Kingdom. Moreover, Rajvatan has successfully modelled for UK brands such as Wootz Brand, Anokhi House, and have worked with photographers such as J Dhillon, Gurvir Johal, Abs Kochhar, and Harmeet Singh Sana, and stylists such as Sahil Gulati, on various projects. Rajvatan has also featured in projects related to Sikhs in World War I as an Army man, as well as numerous fashion projects carried out by photographer Manpreet Malhi from University of Hertfordshire. Along with acting and modelling Rajvatan is also involved in the UK Punjabi community as a professional Bhangra dance instructor, and a choreographer. He is currently the captain of Gabru Furteley a UK Bhangra

Team, which has competed internationally. Therefore, Rajvatan possesses specific qualities that many film directors, designers, fashion directors and choreographers may look for.

Facebook link - <https://www.facebook.com/RAJVATANUK/?ref=bookmarks>

Elizabeth II, Prince Philip mark 70th wedding anniversary

LONDON (TIP): Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip celebrate 70 years of marriage on Monday, becoming Britain's first reigning couple to mark a platinum wedding anniversary.

The decades-spanning marriage of the Queen -- the nation's longest serving sovereign -- has outlasted those of all prior British monarchs.

The royal couple will not hold any public events but have invited family and friends to Windsor Castle for a private dinner on Monday evening, according to media reports.

Earlier in the day the bells of Westminster Abbey, where Elizabeth married the Duke of Edinburgh on November 20, 1947, will ring out in full celebratory peal.

The abbey's company of ringers -- a team of 10 -- will deliver the tribute uninterrupted for around three hours and 20 minutes, from 1300 GMT.

Also in honour of the occasion, Buckingham Palace on Saturday issued new photographic portraits of the Queen and the Prince, taken earlier this month in the White Drawing Room at Windsor Castle.

They are framed by Thomas Gainsborough's 1781 portraits of George III and Queen Charlotte, whose 57-year union -- bridging the 18th and 19th centuries -- is the next longest British royal marriage.

In one of the photographs released, the Queen poses in the same cream dress she wore at her diamond wedding anniversary thanksgiving service 10 years ago, along with a yellow gold, ruby and diamond brooch Philip gave her in 1966. Meanwhile the Royal Mail, Britain's postal service, has issued a new set of six stamps to commemorate the historic landmark.

It includes images of the pair's



engagement announcement at Buckingham Palace, their wedding amid the splendour of Westminster Abbey, and the first part of their honeymoon at a country estate in the county of Hampshire.

The fairy-tale royal wedding in 1947 was a morale boost during the tough years immediately after World War II.

Their marriage endured, as Philip accepted living in his wife's shadow, and the Queen seemingly forgiving his periodic gaffes.

They had four children -- Charles, Anne, Andrew and Edward -- though their marriages have been less successful, with all except Edward having divorced.

The couple also boast eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, with a sixth great-grandchild expected in April, when Prince William and wife Kate Middleton's third child is due.

The 96-year-old Duke of Edinburgh retired from the public eye this summer, enjoying his newfound free time reading and painting.

For her part the Queen, at 91, is slowly passing over some of her official duties to her son Prince Charles, now aged 69.

The royal couple first met as teenagers, and eventually married when Elizabeth was a 25-year-old princess.

Philip, the son of a Greek prince banished from that country, renounced his titles and Greek Orthodox faith and became a British citizen in order to marry, adopting his mother's anglicised name, Mountbatten. Prior to the wedding he told the Queen Mother he had "fallen in love completely and unreservedly" with her daughter.

Since described by Elizabeth as her "rock," Philip once remarked: "My job first, second and last, is never to let the Queen down." (AFP)

Stop making irresponsible remarks: China to Australia over mention of South China Sea in policy paper

BEIJING (TIP): China urged Australia on Thursday to refrain from making "irresponsible remarks" after Canberra issued a foreign policy paper citing security risks in the disputed South China Sea caused by Beijing's activities there.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said Australia should not take sides because it isn't directly involved in the territorial disputes.

"Australia is not a party directly concerned in the South China Sea issue, and it has made clear many times that it does not take sides," spokesman Lu Kang said. "We hope the Australian side will honour its commitment and stop making irresponsible remarks."

Earlier Thursday, Australia released its first detailed policy document in 14 years on its national interests and diplomacy.

It said Australia is "particularly concerned by the unprecedented pace and scale of China's activities" in the South China Sea.

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea, pitting it against Taiwan and four Southeast Asian nations with overlapping claims in the waterway, which straddles busy international sea lanes and potentially has vast undersea deposits of oil and gas.

The US and others have accused Beijing of further militarizing the region and altering geography to bolster its claims. China says the seven islands it constructed on reefs and outcrops in the Spratly chain, which are equipped with airstrips and military installations, are mainly for civilian purposes and to boost safety for fishing and maritime trade.

"Australia opposes the use of disputed features and artificial structures in the South China Sea for military purposes," the foreign policy report said. (AP)

Lebanon's PM Hariri says resignation on hold pending talks

BEIRUT (TIP): Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri on Wednesday said he had agreed to suspend his surprise decision to resign, at the request of President Michel Aoun, pending talks on the political situation.

The new decision came hours after the premier landed back in Lebanon for the first time since announcing his resignation in a statement from Saudi Arabia on November 4. "I discussed my resignation with the president of the republic who asked me to wait before submitting it... and allow for more consultations," Hariri told reporters after meeting Aoun.

"I agreed to this request." Lebanon has been gripped by the political crisis precipitated by Hariri's resignation, including the question of whether the premier was being detained in Saudi Arabia, where he remained for two weeks after stepping down.

Aoun had refused to accept Hariri's resignation while the premier was still abroad, and even accused Riyadh of having "detained" the prime minister. Hariri holds dual Saudi-Lebanese citizenship, and denied he was being held against his will by Riyadh, a close political ally, but accepted a French invitation to visit Paris, leaving the kingdom on November 18.

After stops in Egypt and Cyprus on Tuesday, he landed in Beirut close to midnight, and on Wednesday appeared at the country's Independence Day celebrations marking 74 years since the end of France's mandate in Lebanon. He appeared relaxed, at times smiling and appearing to joke with those alongside him during the military parade to mark the national holiday.

In announcing his resignation, Hariri had said he feared for his life, invoking the 2005 assassination in Beirut of his father, former prime minister Rafik Hariri. He also harshly criticised Saudi Arabia's arch-rival Iran, and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah, saying they had taken over Lebanon and destabilised the region.

The resignation of the Sunni leader was seen as raising the temperature in a long-running rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran that has played out across the region. In Lebanon, the political scene is deeply divided between Hariri's Saudi-backed bloc, and that led by the powerful Shia Hezbollah group, which is backed by Iran. (AFP)

WAYS TO UPGRADE YOUR WARDROBE



Go shopping in your closet

Do you find you wear 20% of your wardrobe 80% of the time? Then it's time to re-evaluate what you wear. Go to your closet. Inspect every hanger, and rediscover what you aren't wearing. If you bought something, whether it was last week or last year, you probably like the way you looked in it at some point. So why aren't you wearing that item more often? You've probably forgotten about that slick blue sweater or those jeans that make your partner tell you how nice your butt looks. Don't be afraid to look at what you already have with a new perspective. Lie out your clothes on the bed, then try them on. See if you can coordinate old things in new ways.

Make one change

Changing something about an outfit can almost make it seem new. Are you sick of your suits? Why not consider new dress shirts? Is it time for new ties? Do you wear the same jeans, T-shirt, and belt all the time? Then change up your belt. Even small or subtle changes can make it feel as if you are wearing something new. Why not add in one trendy item, like '70s-inspired skinny pants or a textured sweater? Just adding a few new pieces to your current wardrobe can do a lot.

Stop shopping at the same stores

Does everything in your closet come

from the same three or four stores? Try shopping someplace you don't normally visit. Look for indie brands and designers. Discovering your options can even be as easy as a walk through your local mall or shopping district.

Accessorize

Just adding an accessory or two can change your look completely. Add a pocket square and bright tie, or even a bow tie, to that same old suit. Don't forget about the impact a great hat or scarf can make on your usual jeans and T-shirt. A little bit of accessorizing can go a long way when it comes to upgrading your style.

Source: Cheatsheet

FOOD CORNER

CHILLI PANEER

Ingredients

6 oz paneer (cut into bite sized pieces), 1 cup bell pepper, (sliced, capsicum, Shimla mirch, I am using yellow and green, bell pepper for color), 2 Tbsp all-purpose flour (plain flour, maida), 2 Tbsp corn starch or arrow root powder, 1/2 tsp salt, 2 Tbsp oil (canola or vegetable oil), 1 Tbsp ginger (shredded, adrak), Tbsp green chili (chopped), 1 tsp chili flakes, 2 Tbsp soy sauce, 1 Tbsp vinegar, 1 Tbsp tomato paste, 1-1/2 tsp corn starch or arrow root powder, 1/2 cup water

Method

- To make batter mix flour, corn starch, and salt in a bowl. Add the water slowly to make a smooth batter (batter should be consistency of pancake batter or dosa batter).
- Heat at least 1/2 inch of oil in a frying pan over medium high heat. Oil should be moderately hot.
- Dip the paneer into the batter, making sure it is completely covered by the batter. Then drop the paneer pieces slowly into oil in the frying pan. (do not overlap them)
- Fry the paneer in small batches. Fry them turning occasionally, until they are very light golden brown. Take



them out over paper towel. Do same with bell pepper.

- For sauce heat the oil in sauce pan over medium heat; add ginger, and green chili stir for about one minutes. Add all the ingredients for sauce except corn starch, (soy sauce, vinegar, chili flakes, and tomato paste), Stir for 1 minutes. mix water and corn starch and add to the sauce. Cook for another two minutes, sauce should be thick consistency. Sauce gets thicker as it sits.
- Add paneer, and bell pepper into sauce and serve hot.



HOMEMADE ASTRINGENTS FOR OILY SKIN

Rose water Astringent

Rose water acts as a natural astringent that helps to cleanse skin pores and gently tone your skin. Apply homemade rose water daily to cleanse your skin and keep it away from various infections. All you need to do is to boil a cup of water and add rose petals in it. Let the water boil until it soaks up the colour of the rose flower. Now mix a few drops of lemon essential oils to this rose infused water and stir well. Apply it daily before going to bed without having to worry about using chemicals.

Highlights

- Astringents help fight bacteria and also help remove traces of makeup
- Our skin has the tendency to produce oil that is healthy
- Do look out for any allergic

Apple Cider Vinegar Astringent



Raw and organic apple cider vinegar has always been touted as a beneficial substance for the skin. It helps in shrinking skin pores and further absorbs excess oil from the skin, thus helping to even out complexion. Add about 25 milliliter of apple cider vinegar in 100 milliliter of distilled water in a bowl. Stir well and add a few drops of lemon essential oils. Pour the mixture into a container and apply it on your face and neck regularly.

Chamomile Astringent

Chamomile not only shrinks the skin pores but also removes the dirt and further controls oil secretion making it look healthier. Take two cups of water and add dried chamomile flowers and dried mint and boil them. Allow them to cool for few minutes and pour in an empty container. Apply this astringent daily to revitalise your skin.

Cucumber astringent

Did you know cucumber acts as a natural astringent and cleanses and lightens your skin? Take freshly cut slices of cucumber and rub them on your skin to reduce dark spots, before washing your face off with water.

Lemon astringent

Lemon has ascorbic acid that makes it act as a natural astringent that helps to shrink and constrict skin pores. It reduces excess oil secretion, redness and brightens your skin to get an even skin tone. All you need to do is to add lemon juice in water and use it on your face to see positive results.

HEAVY DRINKING AND SMOKING CAN MAKE YOU LOOK OLDER

LONDON (TIP): If you do not want to look older than your true age, stop heavy drinking and smoking, new research suggests.

Heavy drinking and smoking are linked to visible signs of physical ageing, according to the study published online in the *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*.

Light to moderate drinking is not associated with looking older than one's years, the findings showed.

"This is the first prospective study to show that alcohol and smoking are associated with the development of visible age-related signs and thus generally looking older than one's actual age," said the researchers.

The findings are based on information from more than 11,500 adults in Denmark whose heart health and visible ageing signs were tracked for an average of 11.5 years as part of the Copenhagen City Heart Study.

Before each of the clinic visits, Janne Tolstrup from University of Southern Denmark and her colleagues quizzed the participants about their lifestyle and general health and asked to state how much they drank and smoked.

And they were checked for four signs of ageing that have previously been linked to a heightened risk of cardiovascular ill health and/or death.

These were: earlobe creases; a greyish opaque coloured ring or arc around the peripheral cornea of both eyes (arcus corneae); yellow-orange plaques on the eyelids (xanthelasmata); and male pattern baldness (receding hairline or a bald patch on the top of the head).

The average age of the participants was 51, but ranged from 21 to 86 among the women, and from 21 to 93 among the



men. Analysis of drinking and smoking patterns revealed a consistently heightened risk of looking older than one's true age and developing arcus corneae, earlobe creases, and yellow-orange plaques on the eyelids among those who smoked and drank heavily.

For example, compared with a weekly alcohol intake of up to 7 drinks, a tally of 28 or more was associated with a 33 per cent heightened risk of arcus corneae among the women, and a 35 per cent heightened risk among men who knocked back 35 or more drinks every week.

Similarly, compared with not smoking, smoking one pack of 20 cigarettes daily for

between 15 and 30 years was associated with a 41 per cent heightened risk among women and a 12 per cent heightened risk among men. "This may reflect that heavy drinking and smoking increases general ageing of the body," the researchers said.

The occurrence of the visible signs of ageing was no different among light to moderate drinkers than it was among non-drinkers, the analysis showed.

Male pattern baldness was not consistently associated with heavy drinking or smoking, possibly because it is strongly influenced by genes and circulating levels of male hormones (androgens), the researchers said.

Source: IANS



Consuming eggs during pregnancy helps cut risk of food allergies in babies

There's no need to say no to eggs during pregnancy. Rather, eating eggs, peanuts and shellfish during pregnancy may help in protecting the new born from food allergy symptoms, says a recent study. Researchers at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School have shown that pregnant mice, exposed to egg, transferred protective antibodies to their offsprings through their breast milk.

This research in mice reinforces recent guidance that women should not avoid allergenic foods while they are pregnant or breastfeeding. The research indicated that a mother's diet can protect nursing newborns against food allergies.

Researcher Dr James R Baker said that this elegantly designed and controlled study shows that mothers should feel free to eat a healthy and diverse diet throughout pregnancy and while breastfeeding. "Eating a range of nutritious foods during pregnancy and breastfeeding will not promote food allergies in developing babies, and may protect them from food allergy," Baker added.

The study's findings are consistent with new dietary recommendations for pregnant and nursing mothers. Allergists now recommend that, unless mothers already have diagnosed food allergies, they should not avoid allergenic foods while pregnant and nursing.

At the same time, Baker noted that maternal and early childhood diets do not cause food allergies in children. Aided by a protein in the offspring's gut lining and some immune cells, the food protein-antibody complexes are taken up and introduced to the offspring's developing immune system, triggering the production of protective cells that suppress allergic reactions to the food.

An adult can consume nearly 300 milligrams. During pregnancy, eating two eggs a day may put you over the recommended amount of cholesterol, and it will not take into account any of the other cholesterol foods you have taken for the day. Eating one to two eggs on most days in a week is not harmful.

Eggs are rich in proteins which are essential during pregnancy. Every cell of the growing baby is made of protein, so having eggs in limited amounts during pregnancy is good for the foetus.

Apart from being a package of 12 vitamins and minerals, eggs contain choline and Omega-3 fatty acids which develops baby's overall growth and brain health. This prevents neural tube defects in the foetus.

Women with normal blood cholesterol levels can have an egg or two every day to have a balanced diet low in saturated fats. If your cholesterol levels are high, avoid egg yolk.

Faster you eat, more kilos you gain

WASHINGTON DC (TIP): Are you wondering why your waistline is expanding? Don't watch what you eat; watch how you eat.

People who eat slowly are less likely to become obese or develop metabolic syndrome, a cluster of heart disease, diabetes and stroke risk factors, according to preliminary research presented at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions 2017, a premier global exchange of the latest advances in cardiovascular science for researchers and clinicians.

Metabolic syndrome occurs when someone has any of three risk factors that include abdominal obesity, high fasting blood sugar, high blood pressure, high triglycerides and/or low HDL cholesterol, said Japanese researchers.

The researchers evaluated 642 men and 441 women, average age 51.2 years, who did not have metabolic syndrome in 2008. They divided the participants into three groups depending on how they described their usual eating speed: slow, normal or fast.

After five years, the researchers found that fast eaters were more likely (11.6 percent) to have developed metabolic syndrome than normal eaters (6.5 percent) or slow eaters (2.3 percent).

Faster eating speed was associated with more weight gain, higher blood glucose and larger waistline.

Author Takayuki Yamaji from Hiroshima University said that eating more slowly may be a crucial lifestyle change to



help prevent metabolic syndrome.

"When people eat fast they tend not to feel full and are more likely to overeat. Eating fast causes bigger glucose fluctuation, which can lead to insulin resistance. We also believe our research would apply to a U.S. population," he added.

Source: ANI

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Mars 2020 mission performs first supersonic parachute test

LOS ANGELES (TIP): NASA has completed the first test of its Mars 2020 mission's parachute-testing series, the Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment (ASPIRE), the US space agency announced.

The Mars rover mission set to launch in 2020 will seek signs of ancient Martian life by investigating evidence in place and by catching drilled samples of Martian rocks for potential future return to Earth, according to NASA, Xinhua news agency reported.

The mission will rely on a special parachute to slow the spacecraft down as it enters the Martian atmosphere at over 5.4 km per second.

Landing on Mars is difficult and not always successful. However, well-designed advance testing helps.

The parachute tested during this first flight was almost an exact copy of the parachute used to land NASA's Mars Science Laboratory successfully on the Red Planet in 2012.

The test began with a 58-foot-tall Black Brant IX sounding rocket launch and upper-atmosphere flight last month from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility in Wallops Island, Virginia.

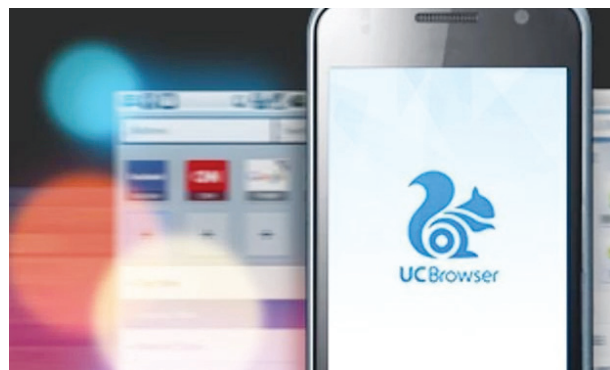
The payload is a bullet-nosed, cylindrical structure holding a supersonic parachute, the parachute's deployment mechanism, and the test's high-definition instrumentation, including cameras, to record data.

The rocket carried the payload as high as about 51 km. Forty-two seconds later, at an altitude of 42 km and a velocity of 1.8 times the speed of sound, the test conditions were met and the Mars parachute successfully deployed. Thirty-five minutes after launch, ASPIRE splashed down in the Atlantic Ocean about 54 km southeast of Wallops Island.

"Everything went according to plan or better than planned," said Clark.

"We not only proved that we could get our payload to the correct altitude and velocity conditions to best mimic a parachute deployment in the Martian atmosphere, but as an added bonus, we got to see our parachute in action as well." Future tests will evaluate the performance of a strengthened parachute that could also be used in future Mars missions. The next ASPIRE test is planned for February 2018.

The Mars 2020 team will use data from these tests to finalise the design for its mission. *Source: IANS*



UC Browser returns to Google Play Store with 'updated settings'

NEW DELHI (TIP): UC Browser reappeared on Google's Play Store on Wednesday, a week after it was removed for not adhering to Google's policies.

UC Web, the parent company, says the new version now adheres to Google rules.

"During the brief absence of UC Browser on Play Store, we continued to meticulously check our technical settings while also witnessing an uninterrupted passion of our users for the product, who looked upon the alternative version, UC Browser Mini, and made it to the top of 'Free Apps' category on the Play Store," said Young Li, Head-International Business Department at Alibaba Mobile Business Group.

An alternative to Google Chrome, UC Browser is a popular mobile browser in India. The application is mainly known for its data compression technology that cuts mobile data usage. UC Browser has more than 100 million monthly active users in India. According to a third-party tracker Statcounter, UC Browser enjoys 45% of the mobile browser segment. Earlier this month, UC Web announced the browser had gone past 500 million downloads.

Its mysterious disappearance from Google Play Store was initially linked with alleged "unhealthy" methods to promote the app installs. UC Web, however, turned down the allegation, stating that the app was not pulled out from Play Store for "misleading" and "malicious" promotions.

SCIENTISTS SEND MESSAGE TO CONTACT ALIEN LIFE

LONDON (TIP): With the aim of contacting alien life, astronomers have sent a radio message to a neighbouring star system, one of the closest known to contain a potentially habitable planet.

The target star is GJ 273, also known as Luyten's star, a red dwarf in the northern constellation of Canis Minor, just 12 light years away, said researchers at Messaging Extraterrestrial Intelligence (METI) International.

The star has two planets. One of them, known as GJ 273b, orbits within the its "habitable zone" and could potentially harbour liquid water, and perhaps life, they said.

By the calculations of the researchers, we could get a message back within 25 years.

"I think that is an unlikely outcome, but it would be a welcome outcome," Douglas Vakoch, president of METI International, was quoted as saying by 'New Scientist'.

The message was beamed from an antenna in Norway more than roughly eight hours over a three-day period in October, Vakoch said.

It begins with information about counting, arithmetic, geometry, and trigonometry, and includes a description of the radio waves that carry the message, as well as a tutorial on clocks and timekeeping, to see if any potential inhabitants of GJ 273b have



an understanding of time similar to our own.

The message was sent on the anniversary of the "Arecibo message," a radio transmission beamed towards a distant star cluster in 1974 from the Arecibo radio telescope in Puerto Rico.

That message contained information

on the planets of our solar system, the structure of DNA, a cartoon-like picture of what a human being looks like, and other basic information about the earth and its inhabitants.

However, the new message is simpler and may be more readily understood, Vakoch said. *Source: PTI*

US warns businesses about cyber bug in Intel chips

WASHINGTON (TIP): The US government on Tuesday urged businesses to act on an Intel Corp alert about security flaws in widely used computer chips as industry researchers scrambled to understand the impact of the newly disclosed vulnerability.

Homeland Security gave the guidance a day after Intel said it had identified security vulnerabilities in remote-management software known as "Management Engine" that shipped with eight types of processors used in business computers sold by Dell Technologies Inc, Lenovo Group Ltd, HP Inc, Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co and other manufacturers.

Security experts said that it was not clear how difficult it would be to exploit the vulnerabilities to launch attacks, though they found the disclosure troubling because the affected chips were widely used.

"These vulnerabilities affect essentially every business computer and server with an Intel processor released in the last two years," said Jay Little, a security engineer with cyber consulting firm Trail of Bits.

For a remote attack to succeed, a vulnerable machine would need to be configured to allow remote access, and a hacker would need to know the administrator's user name and password, Little said. Attackers could



break in without those credentials if they have physical access to the computer, he said.

Intel said that it knew of no cases where hackers had exploited the vulnerability in a cyber attack.

Homeland Security advised computer users to review the warning from Intel, which includes a software tool that checks whether a computer has a vulnerable chip. It also urged them to contact computer makers to obtain software updates and advice on strategies for mitigating the threat. (<http://bit.ly/2zqhcw>)

Intel spokeswoman Agnes Kwan said the company had provided software patches to fix the issue to all major computer

manufacturers, though it was up to them to distribute patches to computer users.

Dell's support website offered patches for servers, but not laptop or desktop computers, as of midday Tuesday. Lenovo offered fixes for some servers, laptops and tablets and said more updates would be available Friday. An HP representative said the company would soon post fixes on its support site.

Security experts noted that it could take time to fix vulnerable systems because installing patches on computer chips is a difficult process.

"Patching software is hard. Patching hardware is even harder," said Ben Johnson, co-founder of cyber startup Obsidian Security. *Source: Reuters*

TASK FORCE TO REVIEW INCOME TAX LAWS

NEW DELHI (TIP): After the indirect tax regime was transformed by the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the 56-year-old Income Tax Act is now set for an overhaul.

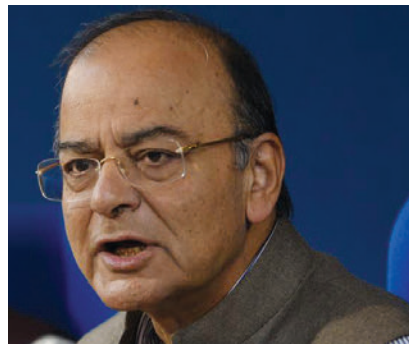
On Nov 22, the finance ministry set up a six-member task force to draft a new direct tax law that will better serve the country's economic needs by widening the tax base, improving compliance and ease of doing business.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi observed at a tax officials' conference in early September that the Income Tax Act of 1961 was more than half-a-century-old and needed to be re-drafted.

Arbind Modi, member, Central Board of Direct Taxes, was named convener of the six-member panel that has been tasked to draft a new law. Modi was also a key contributor to the direct taxes code proposed by the previous United Progressive Alliance government.

Almost all the ideas in the proposed direct taxes code—including General Anti-Avoidance Rules meant to crack down on complex corporate arrangements aimed at tax evasion and provisions to tax offshore transfer of assets located in India—have already been adopted in the existing Income Tax Act. Also, a key proposal in the erstwhile direct taxes code of phasing out corporate tax exemptions and lowering of the tax rate to 25% from 30% is being implemented in stages.

For individuals, the direct taxes code proposed that income in the Rs 2-5 lakh



REPORT IN SIX MONTHS

- It will redraft the 50-year-old Income Tax Act in consonance with the economic needs of the country
- The task force will submit its report to the government within six months
- Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian will be a permanent special invitee in the six-member body

bracket be taxed at 10%. The current tax slab is more liberal than that—income up to Rs 2.5 lakh per annum is exempt from tax for individuals (Rs 3 lakh in the case of senior citizens) and income of up to Rs 5 lakh is taxed at 5%.

“The committee has not been given any specific direction to evolve a new law. It is open to the committee to come up with a draft by studying existing provisions and models in other countries,” a person briefed about the development said, requesting anonymity.

Globally, governments have been on a drive to combat what is regarded as aggressive tax planning by businesses using a complex web of subsidiaries across jurisdictions to keep tax outgo artificially to a minimum.

The other members of the panel are Girish Ahuja, chartered accountant; Rajiv Memani, chairman and regional managing partner of EY; Mukesh Patel,

advocate; Mansi Kedia, consultant, ICRIER; and G.C. Srivastava, advocate.

Chief economic adviser Arvind Subramanian will be a permanent special invitee in the task force, which will submit its report in six months.

Experts welcomed the move but remained nervous about any major disruption in direct tax laws after the unsettling initial impact of the GST roll out. GST dismantled inter-state barriers to trade.

“In light of the disruption caused in the past on account of structural reforms, it is desirable to have a stable tax regime till at least 2019,” said Amit Maheshwari, partner, Ashok Maheshwari and Associates LLP

“The move to overhaul direct tax laws to improve ease of doing business, widening the tax base and to provide stringent penalties for evasion is welcome.

TWO BOEING 747 JETS AUCTIONED ON CHINESE ONLINE SHOPPING PORTAL



BEIJING (TIP): The sky seems to be the limit for Chinese online shopping portal Taobao, which auctioned off two Boeing 747 jumbo jets on Tuesday for nearly \$50 million.

Chinese air cargo company SF Airlines bought the pair for over 320 million yuan (\$48 million), the official Xinhua news agency reported.

After six failed attempts over two years to sell three 747s from defunct carrier Jade Cargo International, a court in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen decided to auction them online.

The jets were put up for sale Monday on Taobao, which handles billions of dollars in orders for everything from everyday items like food and stationery to the bizarre -- such as giant cargo planes and even bottled flatulence.

The third freighter could not be sold because only one buyer registered for the auction.

Taobao, the shopping platform of e-commerce giant Alibaba, is immensely popular in China and estimated to hold more than 90 percent of the consumer-to-consumer market. Its hundreds of millions of users include courts trying to auction off assets of bankrupt businesses.

Source: AFP

Uber paid hackers \$100,000, concealed data stolen from 57 million accounts



TORONTO/SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Uber Technologies Inc paid hackers \$100,000 to keep secret a massive breach last year that exposed the data of some 57 million accounts of the ride-service provider, the company said on Tuesday.

Discovery of the company's cover-up of the incident resulted in the firing of two employees who led Uber's response to the hack, said Dara Khosrowshahi, who was named CEO in August following the departure of founder Travis Kalanick.

Khosrowshahi said he had only recently learned of the breach, which happened in October 2016.

“None of this should have happened, and I will not make excuses for it,” Khosrowshahi said in a blog post on the company website.

The company's admission that it failed to disclose the breach comes as Uber seeks to recover from sexual harassment allegations and multiple federal criminal probes that culminated in Kalanick's ouster in June.

The company said two hackers gained access to proprietary information used by Uber and stored on GitHub, a service that allows engineers to collaborate on software code. The two people downloaded the data, which included names, email addresses and mobile phone numbers of Uber users around the world and the names and driver's license numbers of 600,000 U.S. drivers, Khosrowshahi said.

“While I can't erase the past, I can commit on behalf of every Uber employee that we will learn from our mistakes,” Khosrowshahi said. “We are changing the way we do business, putting integrity at the core of every decision we make and working hard to earn the trust of our customers.”

Source: Reuters

China's Tencent becomes more valuable company than Facebook

HONG KONG (TIP): China's social media and video game giant Tencent became more valuable company than Facebook on Tuesday. Tencent's Hong Kong-listed shares have doubled in value this year, and on Monday it became the first Asian company with a market capitalisation of half a trillion dollars.

By the end of the trading day on Tuesday, Tencent's outstanding shares were worth a combined 4.08 trillion Hong Kong dollars (\$523 billion), surpassing Facebook's \$519 billion.

Despite its stratospheric climb, Tencent is still some way behind the world's most valuable company, Apple, which is currently valued at \$873 billion.

Last week, Tencent said profit had grown nearly 70 percent in the third quarter, when compared with the same period last year, well outpacing expectations. Its accelerating growth has sent its shares shooting higher in recent days.

Critics say many of China's tech companies copy the latest idea seen in the US. That has not been the case for Tencent, which has transformed its WeChat smartphone app into a product wholly unlike other social networking applications seen around the world.

“Tencent is an enterprise that focuses on innovation,” said Huang Hao, an associate researcher at the National Academy of Economic Strategy of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. “Its product ideas are not simple emulations of those of foreign businesses.”

But it also has a distinct advantage over some of its western peers: Facebook and Twitter are blocked in China, cutting off a market of up to 1.3 billion people.

Source: Reuters



M&M drives into US market

WASHINGTON (TIP):

Indian automobile giant Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) has opened a new \$230-million plant for an off-highway vehicle in Detroit, the world's car capital, which got its first automotive production facility in 25 years. The new plant will create 250 new jobs in the US, the world's top automotive market.

“This is an exciting day for Mahindra...,” Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra said.

“This building opening represents our company's growing presence in North America and locally in the Metro Detroit area where we have tripled our workforce during the past 18 months.

We are committed to growing the Mahindra brand in North America and Michigan,” he said.

“It is pretty rare and extraordinary,” said Michigan Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley at the Mahindra automotive plant launch event yesterday in Detroit metropolitan area.

Source: PTI



Rahul and Varun Agarwal (in yellow "Do Your Bit" shirts) serve a Thanksgiving meal to the disabled at the Volunteers of America center along with representatives of Indo-American and other charitable organizations.

contd from page 1

'Do Your Bit' Youth...

Many people with disabilities got very emotional, hugged and thanked members of Indo-American community for such a nice gesture. Lunch was sponsored by "Do Your Bit" foundation founded by Rahul and Varun Agarwal and hosted by Volunteers of America. Everyone enjoyed generous servings of traditional turkey, stuffing, green beans and pumpkin pie. There was also Indian staples of chole and bhature. Representatives from several Indo American organizations like Meenakshi Temple, Sewa International, India House, Indian Muslim League, BAPS,

Gurudwara served lunch and thanked everyone. Prominent Indo American community leaders, Family-to-Family network, and Indian Consular staff. Lunch guests thanked their Indian hosts, and everyone joined in prayer for Thanksgiving blessings. (Source: Indo American News)

Macy's Thanksgiving...

"For more than 90 years, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade has signaled the start of the holiday season for millions of families." said Susan Tercero, group vice-president of Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

in a news release. "We are thrilled to once again come together as a nation to give this gift of joy and wonder to all."

Featured stars included Harry Connick Jr., Whoopi Goldberg, Steve Harvey, Jane Krakowski, Gaten Matarazzo, Chrissy Metz, John O'Hurley, Martha Stewart and Thalia, along with performances by Gwen Stefani and the Radio City Rockettes.

India's Nominee Dalveer...

conducted independently, but concurrently - at the Security Council and the General Assembly. He remained the sole candidate for the position after the United Kingdom withdrew the nomination of Christopher Greenwood.

Bhandari joins Ronny Abraham of France, Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade (Brazil), Nawaf Salam (Lebanon), and Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf (Somalia) as the five judges who will serve along with ten other judges at the ICJ. Their nine-year terms begin 6 February 2018. The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected by an absolute majority in both the General Assembly and Security Council. Five seats come up for election every three years. There is no bar on consecutive terms.

Established in 1945, and based in The Hague in the Netherlands, the ICJ - informally known as the 'World Court' - settles legal disputes

between States and gives advisory opinions on legal questions that have been referred to it by other authorized UN organs. The election of the first members of the World Court took place on 6 February 1946, at the first session of the UN General Assembly and Security Council. Bhandari was re-elected with more than two-thirds of the UN members backing him, forcing Britain to withdraw its candidate amidst high drama in the hard-fought race to the world court. In one of its "biggest diplomatic victories" in the UN, Bhandari got 183 of the 193 votes in the General Assembly and secured all 15 votes in the Security Council to fill the final vacancy on The Hague-based International Court of Justice after separate but simultaneous elections were held at The UN headquarters. The Ministry of External Affairs and Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York mounted stellar efforts since June when New Delhi confirmed Dalveer Bhandari's name for the International Court of Justice.

India's Ambassador to the United Nations Syed Akbaruddin sought the support of nearly 175 nations, including the permanent members of the Security Council. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj telephoned her counterparts from nearly 60 countries to get Bhandari re-elected.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought the support during his meetings with world leaders. "India never indulged in negative campaign. It was run on the strength of our candidate and strength of India strong constitutional system," a diplomat said.

British Permanent Representative to the UN Matthew Rycroft also mounted hectic efforts. Rycroft said in his letter to the members the current deadlock is unlikely to be broken by further rounds of voting and the UK therefore has decided to withdraw Greenwood's nomination.

"In taking this step, we have borne in mind the close relationship that the United Kingdom and India have always enjoyed and we will continue to enjoy..." Rycroft said. According to sources, three hours before the voting, General Assembly president Miroslav Lajcak and Italian ambassador Sebastiano Cardi in his capacity as Security Council president for the month of November convened a consultative meeting with Rycroft and Akbaruddin. India refused to budge against any kind of pressure and insisted to complete the democratic process. It was a mystery what transpired in the next two hours that forced Britain to withdraw from the race. In Washington, US President Donald Trump convened a meeting with secretary of state Rex Tillerson and the US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley. With Bhandari's election, Britain will not have a judge on the world court's 15-member panel for the first time. Also for the first time in 70 years, a permanent member of the Security Council lost to a non-permanent member for a seat in the ICJ. Bhandari's victory is also a big boost for India in Kulbhushan Jadhav's case. The ICJ is likely to deliver its verdict in the case in December. Pakistan has already appointed an ad-hoc judge to the ICJ for the case. Bhandari's victory means, now India will also have its own judge in the court. The ICJ has a bench of 15 judges, five of whom are elected every three years for a nine-year term. To be elected, the candidate needed majority in both the chambers.

Town of Oyster Bay...

counts to the alleged corruption and kickback case which Eastern District federal prosecutors have already brought against Venditto, Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano and Mangano's wife, Linda. The Manganos are not accused in the securities fraud. The thrust of the new charges accuse Venditto and unnamed others of being instrumental in the creation of the securities fraud and then failing to disclose in the town's public offerings what federal prosecutors said is the crux of the fraud: having the town

conceal millions in indirect loan guarantees to an unidentified Co-conspirator. Sources have said the Co-Conspirator is former restaurateur Harendra Singh.

In a parallel action, the Securities and Exchange Commission also filed a separate civil suit, accusing Venditto and the town of securities fraud. The 21 new charges Venditto faces are: one count of securities fraud; one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud related to securities offerings; and 19 counts of wire fraud related to securities offerings.

Venditto's arraignment on the new indictment is tentatively scheduled for December 5th. The Manganos - who are not charged with securities fraud - are also required to appear and plead to the superseding indictment.

The overall securities fraud and conspiracy counts includes all 30 security offerings the town made between 2010 and 2016. But some are not included in the individual wire fraud counts because the federal statute of limitations on such crimes goes back only five years, to December of 2012. Each fraud count carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, but if Venditto is convicted he is most likely to get a lesser sentence. Venditto previously was charged with obstruction of justice, conspiracy to commit bribery, and making false statements to investigators in connection with his dealings with Singh concerning the loan guarantees. (Source: Newsday)

Bilkis Bano case...

government for apprising it on whether any disciplinary action has been initiated against policeman convicted in the 2002 Bilkis Bano gangrape case. A bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud, considered the submission of Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the state government, that some more time be given to get instruction on the authorities concerned in the case.

The bench listed the plea for hearing in the first week of January. The bench, however, made it clear that the separate plea, seeking enhancement of compensation to be awarded to Bilkis Bano, would be taken up next week for hearing.

The apex court had already granted time, on October 23, to the state government to apprise it whether any departmental action had been initiated or taken against police officers whose conviction was upheld in the Bilkis Bano gangrape case. The Bombay High Court had on May 4 upheld the conviction and life imprisonment of 12 people in the gangrape case, while setting aside the acquittal of seven people including policemen and doctors.

Bilkis Bano, who was gang-raped in March, 2002, while she was pregnant, lost seven of her family members in the aftermath of the Godhra train burning incident.

The bench had convicted seven persons, including five policemen and two doctors, for not performing their duties (sections 218) and tampering of evidence (section 201) under the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The convicted policemen and doctors are Narpat Singh, Idris Abdul Saiyed, Bikabhai Patel, Ramsingh Bhabhor, Sombhai Gori, Arun Kumar Prasad (doctor) and Sangeeta Kumar Prasad (doctor).

A special court had on January 21, 2008, convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment 11 men in the case. They later approached the Bombay High Court challenging their conviction and sought for the trial court's order to be quashed. The CBI had also filed an appeal in the high court seeking harsher punishment of death for three of the convicted on the grounds that they were the main perpetrators of the crime. According to the prosecution, on March 3, 2002, Bilkis Bano's family was attacked by a mob at Randhikpur village near Ahmedabad during the post-Godhra riots and seven members of her family were killed. The trial in the case began in Ahmedabad. (Source: PTI)

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Horoscope Forecast for DECEMBER 2017

BY BEJAN DARUWALLA

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Ganesha says in digital terms speed + space + spirituality + showmanship = Sagittarius.

Add to it the great divide between illusion / reality, evolution / revolution, freedom / captivity, knowledge / wisdom. The archer pierces the eye of the Sun and hits infinity.

Finally, Sagittarius is all about freedom. Sagittarius is both fast and furious.

Aries:

The body and physicality means much to Aries. Therefore, December is a good time to do away with "Old habits, patterns and deep-seated memories from the subconscious, claw our being backwards." You have a great opportunity to be new and shining clean from December onwards. Go for it. Pilgrimages and pious deeds are fated.

Taurus:

Tantra and mantra, prayers and hymns should give an extra boost to life and living this month. At the same time health precautions are absolutely essential. Life is a concoction of concord and conflict. This truth will be seen and felt by you in December. The last week finds you calm of mind as pressures ease.

Gemini:

Psychologists tell us again and again that today life is all about RELATIONSHIPS. I agree totally with it now because the Sun in your seventh angle is mainly about meeting people. But relationships can also be with Nature and with your own self. Travel with a stop-over is more than possible. Reach out to people and you will find God.

Cancer:

Most Cancerians are emotional, intuitive and can link up with God naturally and easily. But in December hard work, sustained labor and intense concentration will result in awards and rewards. You jolly well deserve the grace of God as well as promotion and perks. However, you must learn to take excellent care of your health and wellness.

Leo:

Time to sing, make merry and also marry. In other words, hobbies, the fine arts, exhibitions, romance, children, crash into your life. Throw a party and also join a satsang, a Christian Mass, a Parsee Navjote. Be both busy and happy. Nietzsche asks, "Is man one of God's blunders, or is God one of man's blunders?" What say you?

Virgo:

House, home and property will figure very prominently in your scheme of things. It will interest health conscious Virgos to know that "The advent of massive human genome databases is enabling researches to look for possible connections between mental illnesses and the environmental and societal conditions that drive their development."

Libra:

Libra is all about beauty, poise, harmony and spirituality. Therefore, Volcanic hair from lava of volcano stretches 6 feet long could excite you. Use all media of transport and publicity to get what you desire. Preachers, pundits, priests, tv anchors, politicians, professors will succeed in impinging on the minds of the entire world.

Scorpio:

Scorpio many times stands for trusts, public money, banking and helping out others with money and active support as well as secret co-operation. Scorpio Bill Gates is the best example of it. By your oratory and charm you can change the world. Great praise this but well deserved. A mix of honey and money.

Sagittarius:

"Seaweeds, sawdust, skeletons, skulls" were never meant for you. You are meant for space travel, research, knowledge of your own self and most certainly you have the power to break with a mighty jerk all the chains that bind you. Osho the Sagittarian could well be the Master you may follow. Your choice.

Capricorn:

The dead world sleeps / The living world cares not is what most of us believe. But for you Capricornians the dead world can come alive now and the living world could dare and care for one and all. This is the special significance of Jupiter and Saturn for you in December. Hidden secret and mighty powerful forces will help you with or without your knowledge. Ganesha smiles.

Aquarius:

Shri Shri Anandamurti speaks of Surrendering to the Universal Rhythm and this applies very specially to you cosmos embracing Aquarians in the month of December when the Sun, the power planet, is in your eleventh angle. Connecting to the universal rhythm is to me very spiritual, extremely important and also very natural and our destiny.

Pisces:

Aristotle said, "The energy of the mind is the essence of life." To this I add power, position, prestige, promotion and a big round of profit and pleasure. Sounds interesting, doesn't it? The only snag is do not be overly aggressive, sly and greedy. After all nobody is perfect. It is our imperfection which makes us so very special. You may or may not agree with it.

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 011-91-8141234275 www.bejandaruwalla.com

ENGLAND COLLAPSE TO 302 ALL OUT IN ASHES TEST

BRISBANE (TIP): England lost six wickets to collapse to 302 all out as Australia roared back in the first Ashes Test on day two at the Gabba on Nov 24.

The tourists were building their first innings in an 83-run partnership between Dawid Malan and Moeen Ali before Malan's dismissal triggered a clatter of wickets before lunch.

Joe Root's team tumbled from 246 for four to be all out as Australia seized the upper hand following an attritional opening day.

Fast bowlers Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins each took three wickets and spinner Nathan Lyon two to bundle out the tourists with six wickets for 56.

Malan, the Middlesex left-hander, hit 11 fours in his third Test fifty before he top-edged a Mitchell Starc lifter and was caught by Shaun Marsh at deep square leg for 56.

Seven balls later, in the 104th over, off-spinner Lyon removed all-rounder Moeen Ali leg before wicket for 38, with the dismissal confirmed on review.

Lyon, who was threatening with his drift and turn, struck again with the first ball of his next over, bowling Chris Woakes for a duck.

Wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow followed shortly afterwards for nine, as he attempted to pull Pat Cummins only to dolly to gloveman Tim Paine for his first catch on his Test return after seven years in the wilderness.

Jake Ball smacked three fours before he was snapped up by a diving David Warner at leg slip off Starc for 14, and Stuart Broad was dropped by Marsh before he went for 20 to an outfield catch by Peter Handscomb.

Starc finished with three for 77, Cummins took three for 85 and Lyon two for 78.

Malan had looked in command before his false shot to a Starc lifter and batted for 130 balls in his first Ashes Test, hitting some impressive boundaries.

Source: AFP



Australia's Mitchell Marsh (2nd L) celebrates with teammates after taking a successful catch to dismiss England's batsman Dawid Malan on the second day of their first Ashes Test match, in Brisbane.

Hong Kong Open: Sindhu sails through, Nehwal exits

HONG KONG (TIP): Second seed PV Sindhu sailed into the women's singles quarterfinals with a comfortable win while compatriot Saina Nehwal crashed out of the Hong Kong Open Superseries.

Sindhu, who slipped a place to be number three in the world rankings released on Thursday, defeated Japan's Aya Ohori 21-14, 21-17 in a second round match lasting 39 minutes. It was Sindhu's third win over the Japanese in as many meetings.

The Indian faces another Japanese, fifth seed Akane Yamaguchi, in the quarterfinals on Friday.

Tenth-ranked Nehwal, however, ran out of steam to lose to China's Chen Yufei and eighth seed 21-18, 19-21, 10-21 in a second round match lasting an hour. The players met for the first time.

It was also curtains for India in the men's singles after 10th-ranked HS Prannoy went down fighting to Japan's Kazumasa Sakai 21-11, 10-21, 15-21 in a 54-minute battle. The 23-ranked Japanese got the better of Prannoy for the third time in as many matches.



'NO TIME TO PREPARE FOR SA, NEED BOUNCY TRACKS VS LANKA'

NAGPUR (TIP): India captain Virat Kohli admitted that the team management had "no choice" but to request for hard bouncy tracks for the ongoing Test series against Sri Lanka with little time left to prepare for the South Africa series. The skipper once again spoke in a roundabout manner on the cramped schedule, which hampers preparation.

Asked if he had asked for bouncy tracks, Kohli gave a direct answer, saying: "Yes, because unfortunately we get only two days before we fly to South Africa after this series gets over. So we have no choice but try to be in a game situation and think of what's coming ahead of us."

"Had we got a month off ideally, we would have done a proper preparation in a camp sort of scenario but we have to sort of make do with what we have." The Indian team will finish their limited overs engagement against the islanders on December 24 (final T20) before they fly off to South Africa on December 27. Kohli stressed on the necessity to space out series as at times the team needed to do its preparation differently for a bigger series. "As usual cramped for time, which I think we needed to assess in future as well because we very easily assess the team when we go abroad but we don't look at how many days we have got to prepare before we go to a particular place to play," the skipper said ahead of the second Test against Sri Lanka.

MYSORE: CITY OF ROYAL PAST & REGAL REMNANTS

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.



BRINDAVAN GARDENS

One of the most popular places amongst the locals of Mysore and by tourists is the famous Brindavan Gardens. Located about 19kms from the heart of Mysore these gorgeous gardens are laid out below the Krishnaraja Sagar dam built across the river Cauvery. These gardens are famous for the illuminated dancing fountains that look stunning after sunset. The Krishnaraja Sagar Dam itself is a superb example of excellent engineering and is one of the major tourist attraction in Mysore.

ST PHILOMENA'S CHURCH

This gorgeous St.Philomena's Church was built in 1956 and is one of the major churches in the country. The illuminated church looks stunning in the evening and is a magnificent site not to be missed. The Cathedral is amongst the most regal churches in India. Drawing motivation from Germany's Cologne Cathedral, this colossal church was built in the neo-Gothic style.

ART GALLERY

The Jayachamarajendra Art Gallery in Mysore is considered as one of the best art galleries in South India because of its brilliant collection of paintings and artifacts that once belonged to the Wodeyars of Mysore. The three-storied Jagannohan Palace was converted into this art gallery in 1875. The gallery has a remarkable collection of Rembrandt paintings. This collection is so exclusive that after Mysore it is Russia where these paintings could be found.

SHRI CHAMUNDI TEMPLE

The Chamundi Temple on top of the



Chamundi hills is the most famous temple in Mysore, since Goddess Chamundi or Chamundeshwari is the presiding deity of Mysore. She is the tutelary deity held in great regard for hundreds of years by the royal family of Mysore. Initially the temple was small, but over the past few centuries, as a result of the aids and development made by the Mysore Maharajas it has become a big temple. In the ancient times, human and animal sacrifices were often made at this temple, but were stopped in the 18th century.

The temple of goddess Chamundeshwari is a



Shakti Peetha or powerful energy centres, and one of the eighteen Maha Shakti Peethas of the world. It is also called Krouncha Peetham because the area where it is located was known by the name of Krouncha Puri in the Vedic Era.

The holy temple of Goddess Chamundeshwari is perched atop the Chamundi Hill. It is located 13 kilometres from the city of Mysore or Mysuru as it was originally named. The heritage city stand-out for the shrine of Chamundeshwari, who is the slayer of demons Chanda and Munda, as well as the invincible king of demons,

Mahishasura.

MAHARAJA'S PALACE

Mysore Maharaja Palace is one of the biggest and the most stunning monuments in the country. Also known as Amba Vilas, it is located in the heart of the city of Mysore. The palace was initially built by the Wodeyar kings in the 14th century. Designed by the famous British architect, Henry Irwin, it was built for the twenty-fourth Wodeyar Raja. It was the residence of the Wodeyar Maharaja of the Mysore State. *Source: HappyTrips*



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