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Tillerson to be Replaced with Mike Pompeo

WASHINGTON (TIP): News reports circulating on November 30 say Trump is contemplating replacing Secretary of State Tillerson with CIA Director Mike Pompeo.

New York Times quoted unnamed senior administration officials as saying Mr. Trump had soured on Mr. Tillerson and was ready for a change at the State Department, probably around the end of the year.

The two men have aired striking differences in public. Mr. Trump surprised many observers when he tweeted that Mr. Tillerson was "wasting his time" pursuing contacts with North Korea, and Mr. Tillerson was quoted as having said -- though he denied it -- that the President was a "moron."

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Tillerson and Trump diverging

'Will 'utterly destroy' N. Korean regime: U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations

Punitive sanctions around the corner, says US



Nikki Haley, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, on November 29 warned that North Korea will be utterly destroyed if it pursued its nuclear ambitions. She was speaking at an emergency meeting of Security Council

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): "If war does come, it will be because of continued acts of aggression like we witnessed yesterday. And if war comes, make no mistake, the North Korean regime will be utterly destroyed," Ms. Haley said.

The U.S. on Thursday, November 29, warned Kim Jong-Un's regime that North Korea would be "utterly destroyed" if a standoff over its

contd on Page 32

Pope demands 'decisive measures' to resolve Rohingya exodus



Pope Francis has called for "decisive measures to resolve Rohingya crisis (File photo)

DHAKA (TIP): The Vatican defended Pope Francis' silence in Myanmar, saying he wanted to "build bridges" with the predominantly Buddhist nation, which only recently established diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

Pope Francis demanded on Thursday, November 30, that the international community take "decisive measures" to resolve the causes of the mass exodus of Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar, breaking

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Black money stacked in beds and pillows is now in banks, says Venkaiah Naidu

NEW DELHI (TIP): The black money stacked in beds and pillows has come back to the banking system, thanks to demonetization, Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu said on November 30.

The government had scrapped about 86% of the high value currency notes in form of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 in November 2016, leading to cash crunch for several months.

Almost 99% of the demonetized currency was returned into the banking system, as per Reserve Bank data.

"Now banks again have money in India because all the money that was there - some that was there in beds and also pillows, bathrooms - has come back to banks. There is a debate

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"There is a debate going on, I don't want to get into that political debate because I am not in politics now," the Vice-President says.



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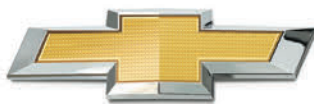


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Gift of Life India Celebrating 15 years of launching the Gift of Life initiative for saving over 6,000 children since then

NEW YORK (TIP): A big idea was born in 1974 and every big idea has a small beginning. In 1974, Rotary District 7250 brought a 5-year old named Grace Agwaru on an intercontinental voyage from Uganda to New York. Grace suffered from a hole between the two lower chambers of her small but strong heart. On November 15, 1974 surgeons at Saint Francis Hospital in Roslyn, New York successfully operated on little Grace. That is how the Gift of Life was born and today it is a worldwide Rotary International Service Program responsible for approximately 10,000 heart surgeries for children over 30 countries. The Gift of Life includes Rotarians from all over the world, with independent chapters in countries as far away as Korea and India.

The sole purpose of the Gift of Life, India is to secure lifesaving heart surgery for children in desperate need regardless of race, religion, or country of origin. The Gift of Life, India is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation with no administrative costs. All our team members work voluntarily; all the monies are generously donated by caring donors and through the numerous matching grants disbursed by the Rotary Foundation.

Like every good idea, it has grown exponentially. In 2001, Rotary Past District Governor of District 7250 Eileen Gentecore had a simple conversation with a friend of hers and relayed the altruistic vision of Gift of Life. Her friend, Past District Governor Ravishankar Bhooplapur, with the assistance of Past RI Director Sushil Gupta - Trustee of Rotary Foundation, along with Dr. Rajan Deshpande and many other devoted Rotarians AC Peter, PDG Rajendra Rai, Rtn OP Khanna, DGE Kamlesh Raheja, PDG Sam Movva took up the challenge to provide invasive heart surgeries for the children of India. Dr. Rajan Deshpande & Mr Ashok Bolar took initial efforts in the region similarly Mr. Srinivasan, Mr. OP Khanna, PDG. Rai at Bangalore and Coimbatore. AC Peter and Trustee Sushil Gupta in Delhi made significant contributions. Today, PDG Ravishankar Bhooplapur still serves as an Honorary Chairman of Gift of Life, India. The power of a simple conversation has led to a great achievement.

In 2002, Ravishankar Bhooplapur expressed this idea to Dr. Prabhakar Kore and wished to conduct the heart surgeries in KLE Hospital, Belgaum. Since then KLE Hospital has completed over 750 surgeries funded by Gift of Life program. Mr. Bhooplapur also went on to Coimbatore, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Chennai, New Delhi and established this program. Children were brought from Africa, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh & many other countries. Along with contributing his own generous funds he also manages to collect over \$100,000 US dollars in donations ever year as well as matching grants from Rotary Foundation.

On 18th November we are celebrating 15 years of launching the Gift of Life initiative for saving over 6,000 children since then. As founder and chairman of this program Mr. Ravishankar Bhooplapur has taken time to come back to his roots to honor those people who have helped to set up and strived to make this program a success over the years. The event took place at Dharwad India on 18th November followed by Sri Praveen Ghodkhindi Flute concert.



Dr Rajan Deshpande who played key role since inception, addresses



Dr Prabhakar Kore MP & Chairman of KLE hospitals recipient of Angel Awardee addressing the gathering



All awardees

The Angel Award is presented to Dr. Prabhakar Kore for his outstanding commitment to this program. And to Dr Rajan Deshpande, Ashok Bolar, Rajendra Rai, Sameer Hirani, Rtn Durgesh Haritay, Dr Vijay Sadasivam, MrJ. Wilson, and many more for their selfless dedication to the Gift of Life. The Gift of Life continues to grow and there is no limit to this idea if we remain committed to saving children's lives.

Rotary Club of Jericho Sunrise, Rotary Club of Hicksville South & Rotary Club of Lake Success are involved past 10 years and every year over \$250,000 dollar is provided by way of matching grants to this project. Rotary Foundation matches equally for this grant. The event received commitment of \$150,000 dollars from various rotary clubs and districts in India.

Meet Dr. Arati Kreibich-the First South Asian to serve on the Glen Rock Town Council

NEW YORK (TIP): Dr. Arati Kreibich, one half of the Glen Rock A-Team, is making history as the first South Asian to serve on the Glen Rock Town Council. Kreibich and her running mate, incumbent Amy Martin, ran on a platform of making sure everyone in town has "a seat at the table." Being the first South Asian on the council will, she feels, help make everyone in town feel welcome and heard.

"Because I know and have felt what it is like to be overlooked, it is important to me to listen to those in our

community who do not feel heard," says Dr. Kreibich. "I think our voters connected with this, and I hope that knowing that someone on Council has shared these experiences will help our residents feel more welcome and more empowered to engage with our government. This in turn will make us a stronger, more connected community."

Dr. Kreibich is looking forward to working towards the goals she and Ms. Martin set during the campaign: keeping the budget low, increased environmental sustainability, shared services, a greater role for our town's

seniors, and long-term solutions for downtown Glen Rock.

"I bring with me my life experiences as a scientist, an immigrant, a woman, a parent and concerned citizen to the table. I am excited and honored to use my many skills to represent all Glen Rockers on Council, and to start working to fulfill the promises we made to make sure we give everyone a seat at the table!"

"I bring with me my life experiences as a scientist, an immigrant, a woman, a parent and concerned citizen to the table", says Arati.



Indian-American "Getting Involved Group" of Lexington to Organize Free Civic Engagement Seminar

LEXINGTON, MA (TIP): Indian-Americans of Lexington, who account for six percent of the town's population and their children represent approximately 12 percent of school enrollment, are organizing a free Civic Engagement Seminar on Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Lexington Community Center in Lexington, MA.

The event is organized by Getting Involved Group, known as GIG, which consists of 13 Indian Americans who are elected members in town government of Lexington.

"The main goal of the event is to inform, encourage and engage with Indian Americans who would like to give back through civic participation," said Vineeta Kumar, one of the organizers of the Civic Engagement Seminar and a member of the Lexington town government.

In addition to Kumar, other members of GIG and elected town members are: Narain Bhatia, Dinesh Patel, Aneesha Karody, Anil Ahuja, Anoop Garg, Hema Bhatt, Pam Joshi, Ravish Kumar, Rita Pandey, Sanjay Padaki, Syed Ali Rizvi and Vikas Kinger.

"This is an information sharing session where people can hear about town government, why they should get involved and how they can do so," Kumar said. "Those interested in running for a position in 2018 can also sign up to schedule focused planning sessions with the GIG team."

The event will be held from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm on December 2, 2017, at Lexington Community Center located at 39 Marrett Road in Lexington. Keynote speaker at the event is Suzie Barry, Chairman of the Board of Selectman of Lexington. Other elected town officials will be present, including Indian American Town Meeting Members.

Kumar said that there will be a panel discussion with Indian American Town Meeting Members on why they ran, process, time commitment and their experience. It is a free event and refreshments will be served.

"We have a very talented community with diverse skills, many of whom are looking for ways to participate and contribute," said Kumar. "This is a great event for those individuals to learn about the process and meet those who have traversed that journey."

Kumar said that this particular event is focused on Lexington and how Lexington town government works, but open to people from other towns. "Considering the success, we have found in our town, GIG will be happy to share their learnings with other towns," Kumar said.

GIG consists of 13 Indian Americans who are elected members in town government. Indian Americans of Lexington (IAL) and the elected Town Meeting Members collaborated to create GIG in 2014 with the intent of encouraging and supporting civic participation by Indian Americans in Lexington. The group's objective is to provide a platform and support system for Lexington Indian Americans to help increase their participation in town government and committees.

"All Indian Americans of Lexington must attend this event but especially those who are passionate about giving back to the community, those who are looking for ways to engage with the town and those who aspire to run for elected office," Kumar said.

She said the Indian American community has grown in Lexington and accounts for about six percent of the population. Indian American children represent approximately 12 percent of school enrollment. "With our increasing demographic presence, the town leaders are also encouraging participation to represent this diversity in town governance," Kumar said.

In 2015, six Indian Americans successfully ran and were elected as Town Meeting Members (TMM), in 2016, six additional Indian Americans were elected to the town meeting, followed by six in 2017. As of now, there are 13 Indian Americans in Lexington Town Meeting, with some having dropped out.

"We would like to build on this momentum going into 2018 and continue our community's participation in town government," Kumar said. "Giving back is one of the many common traits between American and Indian societies and civic participation is an effective way to give back to the community. Therefore, we are requesting Indian Americans to participate in this free event and take advantage of the platform GIG provides." (Source: New England News)



"The main goal of the event is to inform, encourage and engage with Indian Americans who would like to give back through civic participation," said Vineeta Kumar, one of the organizers of the Civic Engagement Seminar and a member of the Lexington town government.

White House Official Raj Shah becomes the first Indian-American to hold press gaggle aboard Air Force One

WASHINGTON (TIP): It was a historic moment when on Thursday, November 30, Raj Shah, who holds a key position in the White House, gagged with reporters on board presidential Air Force One, becoming the first Indian-American to enjoy the privilege.

Shah did so in the capacity of Principal Deputy Press Secretary, a position to which he was promoted by US President Donald Trump in September as he restructured his press office by making Hope Hicks Director of Communications.

Shah was accompanying Trump as he flew to Missouri to deliver a major speech on middle-class tax relief and business tax relief.

Mid-way to St Louis, Shah, the highest ranking Indian-American ever in the White House press office, gagged with the travelling press corp.

"We're looking forward to the President's remarks later today. It will be in St. Charles, talking about the need for



Raj Shah, a senior White House official became on November 30, the first Indian American to hold a press gaggle aboard Air Force One

middle-class tax relief and business tax relief," Shah said in his opening remarks.

"The focus of today's remarks is going to be on small businesses. He's going to feature two specific small businesses. One is a local small business incubator, and the other is a jewelry business -- they're a retail business that also wholesales to about two and a half dozen

different retailers throughout the country," he said.

"So, we're very excited about these remarks, and we're excited about the developments on pushing tax reform and tax cuts. And the President is going to make a push for 'Yea' votes," Shah said.

He took questions ranging from the president's controversial tweets, to North Korea, and tax cuts. The gaggle lasted for about 12 minutes.

US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley, had listed Shah among the top Indian-American performers working under the Trump administration.

Shah was born in 1984 to Indian parents of Gujarati origin. Shah's parents moved to Chicago in 1970s and then moved to Connecticut where he was born and raised.

His father was a mechanical engineer, but later moved in the business and owned retail stores. His mother was a dentist.

NRIs in UK pledge ₹500 crore for Ganga

LONDON (TIP): Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has kicked off an international road trip to draw investment and technology sharing into the government's Clean Ganga Mission in London this week.

The visit had already resulted in ₹500 crore of pledges for investment for the development of the riverfront from a number of U.K.-based Indian business leaders, including Anil Agarwal, the Hinduja's, Prakash Lohia and Ravi Malhotra.

"I know how to get this done," said Mr. Gadkari, Minister for Ganga Rejuvenation, River Development, Water Resources, Highways, Shipping and Transport, of the ambitious program to clean the river. He dismissed criticism over the length of time taken by the project, insisting that doing it as an integrated conservation mission was key to its success. He said he was being "cautious" in his assessment that in two years there would be a considerable reduction in carbon dioxide and nitrogen dioxide levels.

The government is keen to enlist private sector partners in the four-phase project. During his visit, he held productive talks with a number of Indian-origin business people in London, who had pledged considerable financial support for the initiative. While Anil Agarwal had made a commitment towards the development of the Patna riverfront, Foresight's Ravi Malhotra will take up development at Kanpur, the Hinduja's will lead development of the ghats and other amenities at Haridwar and Prakash Lohia of Indorama will take on Ganga Sagar in Kolkata.

"We wholeheartedly appeal to all Indian companies, NRIs and the diaspora to participate in the Namami Gange," Mr. Gadkari said.

MoUs signed: During the trip, on which he is accompanied by U.P. Singh, Director-General of the National Mission for the Clean Ganga, Mr. Gadkari also signed memoranda of understanding with five British companies for technology sharing and investment, including Celtic Renewables, a Scottish biofuel company, Lyndon Water, a water treatment firm, Mebifarm, NVH Technologies and Arkatap. (Source: PTI)



"I know how to get this done," said Mr. Gadkari in London from where he kicked off an international road trip to draw investment and technology sharing into the government's Clean Ganga Mission

Indian American shot dead in Mississippi robbery

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI (TIP): Sandeep Singh, 21, was shot in the stomach and killed in what police consider a robbery that took place at his house in Jackson, Mississippi on Nov. 27.

According to Jackson Police, the suspects are part of a series of robberies which are occurring in the northwest part of Jackson, suspecting them to be connected.

The suspects are described in a Jackson Police Department press release dated Nov. 28, posted on Twitter, as "2-4 black males armed with handguns" and "The suspect responsible for shooting him (Singh) is described as a black male, last seen wearing a grey hooded shirt, armed with a .9mm pistol," the police press release said.

"These individuals are concealing their identities by wearing masks, somebody out there knows what's going on and we're saying that we need those individuals who know to step forward and help us identify those individuals before any other businesses get robbed," Jackson Police Chief Lee Vance told MS News Now, and they are also described as wearing bandanas and sweatshirts with hoods, in the press release.

According to police, Singh and two other men were standing outside their house when a man in a mask and a hoodie walked up to them and took their money and cell phones and shot at them while running away.

One bullet hit Singh and he was taken to the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where he died on Monday, Nov. 27. Police say Singh's death is the city's 58th homicide this year.

Singh was from Jalandhar, Punjab and came to the U.S. four years ago on a tourist visa. He had just landed his first job.

Singh's father told PTC News that he and his friends were closing the store he worked in at 8 p.m. and when his car would not start. The owner told them to stay back.

Singh and his friends left the store at 11 p.m. and returned to their apartment and they were confronted and robbed by three masked men.

When the robbers left, Singh went to go park the car but one of the robbers thought he was going to pull out a weapon, he fired, shooting Singh in the stomach.

Singh's body is being sent to India where it is expected to arrive by Saturday, December 2.

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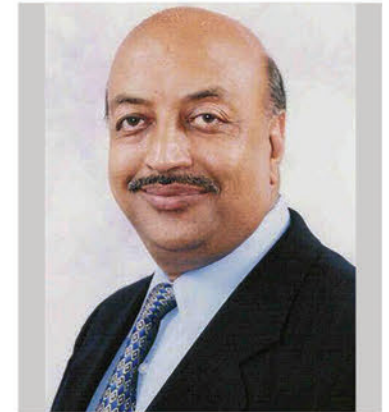
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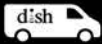
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GUEST COMMENT

Reversing slaughter ban: Hindutva succumbs to common sense

World opinion and economic necessity do matter. And that is why the Modi government finds itself constrained to explore a rolling back of the ban on the sale of cattle for slaughter in animal markets. The notification was a natural progression of the Modi government's strategy to use the cow as a tool for consolidating the Hindu vote bank. It appeared to look the other way when Hindutva vigilantes resorted to extortion and lynching; the state governments too failed to prosecute them; the lumpens demanded a comprehensive anti-cattle slaughter law. Largely from urban areas, these Hindutva cheerleaders were uninformed about the role of cattle slaughter (not cows alone) in our daily lives and its integrality of rural livelihoods.

But it is unpardonable for the Modi government now to pretend to be surprised at the consequences. That is what policy making is all about. Didn't it know the ban will hit more than the meat industry? Or that the cattle let loose were extracting environmental costs and destroying the livelihoods of Hindus, Jains and Muslims alike? The fact is only 30 per cent of the carcass is used for meat. The rest goes into the making of at least 50 items of daily use. As far as cows go, the Modi government needn't have burnt the midnight oil to frame laws or its leaders to go around stumping for the cause and leave unbridgeable social tensions in their wake. All that the government had to do, if the cow cause was actually close to its heart, was to implement in spirit a Supreme Court order upholding anti-cow slaughter laws in about 20 states.

However, utopian visions come crashing down in the actual world. And that is what happened with the ban. New Delhi's obsession had begun to disrupt rural lives. Prices of many downstream products from shoes to buttons were bound to shoot up. A study showed it would cost over Rs 5,000 crore annually to feed all the bulls in Maharashtra alone. For outsiders, India began to look like Pakistan Lite without the bomb blasts. The political reward from the ban began diminishing when benchmarked against the costs of rural distress and foreign opprobrium. Irresponsible politics invariably produces bad politics.

(Tribune India)

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AS I SEE IT

Unbought and Unbossed: Honoring Shirley Chisholm, a West Indian/ American Icon



By Al Baldeo

Guyanese, and all West Indians, can proudly lay claim to a great American-Shirley Chisholm. Born in Brooklyn, New York, on November 30, 1924, Chisholm was the oldest of four daughters to immigrant parents Charles St. Hill, a factory worker from Guyana, and Ruby Seale St. Hill, a seamstress from Barbados. She was one of America's greatest catalysts of change, decades ahead of her time.

There is a little bit of Shirley in all of us, some more than others. In 2006, I got more involved in the struggle to change the system, include the voices of the oppressed and exploited, confronting treachery and evil in America, and striking at the root of evil-with my blood, sweat and tears! Serphin Maltese, a 30-year entrenched incumbent who was the powerful Chairman of his Party and cronies introduced a bill to legalize racial profiling in NY State to make minorities official second class citizens. He got the required support from hypocritical Democrats for the perverse idea to become law-even beholden minority Assembly members who were also so-called political brokers in Queens.

These opportunists put their narrow, selfish interests above disenfranchised minorities to protect and advance their own self-interests at their constituents' expense and peril. This bill was going to put us back to the Jim Crow era in NY State, and eviscerate the civil rights and liberties previous generations fought so hard to forge.

I realized that although I was a lawyer, I could not make the necessary changes. I would be bound to follow the law, like all others in both law enforcement and the judicial system. Our hands would be tied, and generations would be trapped by a racist, bigoted law that was going to put social, economic and political development hundreds of years back to the pre-civil rights era. Inspired by the doctrine of the great martyrs and leaders, I had to launch a campaign to defeat institutional injustice, raise awareness about the putrid issues they stood for, and ensure that, win or lose, our children were not going to be officially relegated to and stereotyped as official second class citizens. Only political courage and change could bring about a solution.

Consequently, I embarked on a political pilgrimage. Although I was the only Democratic candidate, I sought, but did not get the backing of the Queens Democratic Organization. In fact, other Democratic officials hypocritically crossed party lines to support Maltese. I was treated like a pariah, and shunned from institutional politicians, but embraced by regular folks. I always put people above politics, and progress over dysfunction. I championed bread and butter issues like better education, health care, housing, public safety, jobs, wages, government services, civil rights

On December 1, 1955 Park Rosa was arrested for refusing to move to the back of a bus and give her seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama which triggered a wave of protests December 5, 1955 that reverberated throughout the United States. (Editor)

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." - Martin Luther King Jr.

"You must be the change you want to see in the world." - Mahatma Gandhi.

"The rights of every man are diminished when the rights of one man are threatened." - John F. Kennedy.

"I was made, by the law, a criminal, not because of what I had done, but because of what I stood for, because of what I thought, because of my conscience." (Statement during trial, 1962)- Nelson Mandela

"The probability that we may fail in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just." - Abraham Lincoln



How we embrace Park Rosa's and Shirley Chisholm's call to civic duty will ultimately define each of us as a person, and our children's future in the USA. These icons share a moment together.

and became a loud voice for change. Thankfully, that law was never passed.

My inspiration came from Shirley Chisholm.

This phenomenal leader broke barriers by becoming the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Congress. In her seven terms as Representative from New York, she fought for education and social justice, was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the first major-party Black candidate to run for U.S. President.

As a trailblazer, Shirley Chisholm paved the way for so many of us today, whether we are running for office or advocating at the grassroots level. She once famously said, "I don't measure America by its achievement but by its potential."

Unbossed and Unbought, the title of her autobiography, exemplified her outspoken advocacy for women and minorities during her seven terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, overcoming what she aptly termed the "double handicap" for being both black and female. Her ideas were uplifting, her efforts were iconic, and she dared to buck and change the system for others. America has become a much better place because of the blood, sweat and tears of people like her.

In 1964, Chisholm became the second African American in the New York State Legislature. In 1968, after court-ordered redistricting created a new, heavily Democratic district in her neighborhood, Chisholm won a seat in Congress, where she introduced more than 50 pieces of legislation and championed racial and gender equality,

the plight of the poor, and ending the Vietnam War. She was a co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus in 1971, and in 1977 became the first black woman and second woman ever to serve on the powerful House Rules Committee.

Inevitably, discrimination hampered Chisholm's quest for the 1972 Democratic Party presidential nomination. She was blocked from participating in televised primary debates, and after taking legal action, was permitted to make just one speech. Still, her impact was substantial. She entered 12 primaries and garnered 152 of the delegates' votes (10% of the total), despite an under-financed campaign and contentiousness from the predominantly male Congressional Black Caucus.

When she left Washington in 1983, she said she did not want to go down in history as "the nation's first black congresswoman" or, as she put it, "the first black woman congressman...I'd like them to say that Shirley Chisholm had guts," she said. "That's how I'd like to be remembered."

Those of us who have fought the system to make changes to uplift our fellow beings and bring progress for generations to come, can take counsel from and relate to this extraordinary and courageous woman.

(The author 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)

Appeal to Community Leaders to Demand an Apology for Racial Slurs called for Indo-Americans



By Devendra Makkar

“Edison Mayor Mr. Lankey must understand if Keith Hahn running against him for the post of mayor in the recently concluded elections can agree to a formal apology to the Indo-American community for the racial slurs called in the Municipal Complex of Edison; what is stopping Lankey's administration to do the same?”, asks the author who has been vociferously exhorting the community to protect their self-respect as Indo-Americans and demand an unconditional apology for the racial slurs from Lankey.

It is very unfortunate that for more than a decade our community leaders controlling various political, cultural, business and religious organizations and individuals elected to various public offices in New Jersey with community support and money has been evading the issue of "Apology" for the Racial slurs called for the Indo-American community in the Municipal Complex of Edison; "Indians are cockroaches, animals, illegal & go home". Till today these are the worst ever called Racial Slurs for any community in over 200 years history of America.

The Edison Councilman Ajay Patil in an exchange of numerous e-mails since Oct 31, 2017 to Nov. 22, 2017 with him and Mayor Lankey on this issue says that he is not the part of the Edison administration, so he cannot call for an apology! And more over there is no need for Mayor Lankey to tender an Apology. He is joined by Mayor Lankey's financial supporter; Niles Dasondi an ex-convict with dubious dealings and business interest in Edison. Dasondi had actively/aggressively written on social media that Mr. Lankey was not the Mayor at that time so why his administration should give any apology for the Racial Slurs! As usual owners of Edison based IBA that parade themselves on the streets of Edison in the name of India day parade; are least concerned about this issue. Unfortunately, Mayor Lankey also has not responded at all because some individuals from our own community do not want an apology for the Racial Slurs.

Edison Mayor Mr. Lankey must understand if Keith Hahn running against him for the post of mayor in the recently concluded elections can agree to a formal apology to the Indo-American community for the racial slurs called in the Municipal Complex of Edison; what is stopping Lankey's administration to

do the same? This is immaterial whether he was the Mayor or not when this unfortunate incident happened. He should not listen to his Councilman Ajay Patil who may have under cover business interest with his financial supporter Niles Dasondi because they do not reflect the views of the majority Indo-American community living in various parts of New Jersey and USA. The community has been hurt emotionally and mentally because of these racial slurs. Especially those like my family members and other community members that was present at the Edison Municipal Complex on that fateful day, those racial slurs still haunt us and frighten us that it can happen again because the Edison administration has not come forward with even a formal apology. That sends a racially biased message that they do not care about human dignity and rights of Indo-American community living in Edison and other parts of New Jersey and USA.

For Mayor Lankey and his supporters it may be an old issue that does not mean that the issue was settled. Look at the history in the case of Japanese comfort girls patronized by US Army, Chinese Rail road workers in USA, the communists in USA- all got formal Apologies for the wrongs done to them from the head of the state, years after the actual incidents. In the case of Jewish Holocaust; Germany gave an apology & still paying pension to the survivors in Germany & Europe. The Jews on their own even after almost 70 years of WW2 are still hunting Nazi's; putting them on trial and confiscating their assets.

Mayor Lankey must understand that most recently, even Canadian PM Justin Trudeau on May 18, 2016 gave a formal "full apology" for the Komagata Maru incident in the House of Commons to the Indian Community. The Komagata Maru incident happened in 1914 when 376 passengers from Punjab, British India were denied entry in to Canada. This was one of

several incidents in the early 20th century in which exclusion laws in Canada and the United States were used to exclude immigrants of Asian origin.

Our community leaders especially those elected to various public offices must understand the gravity of the "Racial Slurs" issue. By demanding an apology for the worst ever called Racial Slurs; they are demanding racial equality to uphold the human dignity of the Indo-American community living in USA. They can learn from similar incidents like when Jack Cafferty former CNN commentator made a comment, "Chinese are goons & Thugs". American-Chinese lead by their community leaders seized the CNN HQ in Atlanta and CNN had to make an apology and gave undisclosed amount to settle the case.

In yet another incident when Don Imus called the Rutgers American African women Foot Ball Team "Nappy Headed Hose", the African-American community lead by their leaders forced Imus to resign from CBS & for more than 2 years could not find a job despite making huge donations to African-American organizations. This was the same Don Imus who was counted among 25 most influential people in America in 2007.

With this letter on behalf of Indo-American community living in various parts of New Jersey and USA; I appeal to our community leaders, elected individuals and various organizations to do the right thing to uphold their own, honesty, ethics, morality and credibility by demanding a formal apology from Edison administration for the racial slurs called for Indo-American community. They must rise above their self-interest and must respect "Community First".

(The author is a New Jersey based community activist. He can be reached at davemakkar@yahoo.com)

OPED

A Closer Look Inside New York City Schools



By Carmen Fariña

“There's a lot of work our teachers and principals are doing every day to put us on the path to Equity and Excellence for All, and put our children on the path to success. I look forward to all the work we have ahead of us, and continuing to update you on these reforms and the progress we are making”, says the author.

As an educator for 52 years, I know that all of our schools' most important work happens in the classroom.

In my first four years as New York City Schools Chancellor, we've invested in our classrooms through our Equity and Excellence for All agenda - our belief that every child, no matter what zip code they live in or where their parents were born, deserves a great education.

By any measure, our schools are the strongest they've been, with record-high graduation rates, record-high numbers of students going on to college, record-low dropout rates, and improving test scores. We're building on this progress with 3-K for All, Computer Science for All, and Community Schools. Many of our investments in classrooms across the City - particularly in training teachers and improving classroom instruction - are less splashy and often overlooked, but are just as critical to our vision of Equity and Excellence for All.

Here are a few of those "under the radar" investments that are making an impact in our classrooms:

80 minutes of teacher training. Nearly four years ago, one of the first things I did was set aside 80 minutes at every school every week for teacher training. This is a game-changer for schools and the children and families we serve. During the 80 minutes, teachers learn how to use new cutting-edge resources; plan for upcoming lessons; and look closely at students' performance on tests and essays to figure out what they're teaching well and what they need to do better.

Passport to Social Studies. Since I was a child and my father read Spanish books with me about the history of Spain (his native country), Social Studies has always been my favorite

subject. Unfortunately, it was not seen as a priority in schools, but it has to be. We must prepare students to be thoughtful, productive citizens, and they absolutely have to understand history, civics and current events.

Last school year, we released a brand-new Social Studies curriculum, the Passport to Social Studies. I'm happy to say it's now in over 70 percent of our elementary and middle schools, and I'm excited to see that number grow as more schools focus on Social Studies.

Investments in middle school. If we get middle school right, students can find hobbies and passions, and start carving their path to college and careers. We need to make the investments to reach them and get them ready for high school, college, and beyond.

We now provide an after-school seat for ever middle-school student, and also started a program called "Teen Thursdays," where 7th-grade students can visit many local cultural institutions. It's not a given that kids and families feel welcome at their local museums and cultural centers; programs like this connect our students and parents with their City in a new way. We're also homing in on middle school math through our Algebra for All initiative - making sure students get the math instruction they need in 5th grade and middle school so they're ready to take on advanced math courses in high school.

Collaboration over competition. I've always been a believer in collaboration over competition. It is shameful when a school has great things that are helping kids and doesn't share those resources. Last school year, we tapped into that collaborative spirit and brought the "co-located campus initiative" to 20 campuses across all five boroughs.

Participating schools are on a single bell schedule so all students on the campus can share AP and enrichment courses, increasing access to more rigorous coursework. Teachers come together for shared professional development, there are family welcome centers to encourage all parents to get involved, and there have even been campus-wide proms. By coming together, schools that would have been siloed are sharing best practices and strengthening campus culture - and students are benefiting.

Family engagement. None of our instructional work can achieve its potential without a strong partnership between families and schools, and increasing family engagement is a central priority.

We've increased the number of evening parent-teacher conferences to make them more convenient for families - resulting in a 40 percent increase in conference attendance - and provided additional training to parent coordinators on engaging parents in their school communities. We're looking at creative new ways to get more families involved in their children's education, like FaceLab, a robotics and technology course taught by parent volunteers, and the Family English Initiative, an English proficiency course that parents and students take together.

These "under the radar" efforts - and many like them - are making a real impact for children and families across the City. There's a lot of work our teachers and principals are doing every day to put us on the path to Equity and Excellence for All, and put our children on the path to success. I look forward to all the work we have ahead of us, and continuing to update you on these reforms and the progress we are making.

(The author is the New York City Schools Chancellor)

Pak PM says Prosecute Hafiz Saeed on international forum

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has asked India to prosecute Hafiz Saeed, the 26/11 Mumbai attack mastermind and Jamaat ud Dawa (JuD) chief, on an international forum if it thinks there was substance to its allegations.

In a recent interview with Bloomberg, Abbasi said that Saeed was released by the Lahore high court as there were no charges against him. "The court, a three-judge bench, has released him saying there are no charges against him, the country has a law you know," Abbasi said.

"Prosecute him internationally if there is substance to these charges — these are accusations only. No evidence has been provided by India," he remarked. India, however, has claimed a number of times that it had provided enough evidence to Pakistan against the JuD chief.

Islamabad came under criticism following a court decision to release Saeed, underscoring the difficulties faced by Abbasi's government in dealing with extremist elements in Pakistan. The US had warned Islamabad that his release may damage bilateral relations. (TNN)

Gunmen attack Shia imambargah in Pakistan, kill 2 people

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Unidentified, motorcycle-borne gunmen on December 29 opened fire outside a Shia imambargah here, killing at least two people and injuring three others, in a rare attack in Pakistan's capital.

The two gunmen fled after carrying out the attack in the I-8 locality of the city, police said.

One person died on the spot while one of the injured succumbed to his wounds, taking the death toll to two, Geo TV reported.

Emergency services shifted the injured to PIMS hospital and police have started an investigation into the incident, it said.

Allama Raja Nasir Abbas Jafri, leader of Majlis Wahdatul Muslimeen, expressed sorrow over the incident, saying the Islamabad administration has failed to prevent the crime in the capital.

He said they have foiled such conspiracies in the past and will continue to do so.

A spokesman for Tehreek-e-Nifaz-e-Fiqh- Jafaria (TNFJ) also denounced the incident, saying there is no sectarian divide in the country.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack but banned extremist group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi has claimed such attacks on minority Shias and their mosques in the past. (PTI)

Gurdwaras, temples testament to tolerant Afghanistan, Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma says

NEW DELHI (TIP): Four Gurudwaras and two temples in Kabul are a testament to war ravaged Afghanistan's tolerant and diverse society, Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma said on Nov 29.

Speaking at the inauguration of a three day Indo-Afghan cultural festival, Sharma said that the two countries enjoyed age old cultural and civilisational ties and deep-rooted linkages in the fields of music, art, architecture, language and cuisine which bind the people of these nations together.

"While exponents of Afghan classical music such as Ustad Sarahang were trained in the Patiala Gharana, the popular Indian music of Bollywood resonates in Afghan homes," he said. "The Gurudwaras and the two temples in Kabul itself are testament to tolerant and diverse society of Afghanistan", said Sharma.

The Indo-Afghan Festival includes cultural performances, handicrafts, exhibitions, cuisine and cultural shows from Afghanistan as well as India. (PTI)

Nepal votes in 1st provincial polls amid democracy hopes

CHAUTARA (TIP): Residents of mountain villages and foothill towns voted on Nov 26 in Nepal's first provincial polls, with the hope of bringing government closer to the Himalayan nation's rural and remote areas.

Nepal's chief election commissioner, Ayodhi Prasad Yadav, said turnout was more than 65 percent among the 3.2 million voters who were choosing lawmakers in seven newly formed federal states as well as the national assembly. (AP)

4 killed in Pak in suspected US drone strike targeting Haqqani network

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (PAKISTAN) (TIP): A suspected US drone strike on Thursday targeted a hideout of the Haqqani militant network along Pakistan's mountainous border with Afghanistan, killing four people, officials said.

If confirmed, it would be the fourth such US strike inside Pakistan since President Donald Trump took office in January.

Two Pakistani intelligence officials and a local government officer said an unmanned aerial vehicle dropped two missiles on a compound housing militants under the command of a senior network commander, Abdur Rasheed Haqqani.

Villagers initially reported a blast in the Upper Kurram area to authorities, said one of the officials, adding, "We got it from our informant later that it was a US drone strike that targeted Haqqanis."

It was not clear if the commander was among those killed, added the officials, who sought anonymity as the issue is a sensitive one.

Trump's new strategy for the Afghanistan war calls for a tougher stance with Pakistan against militants such as the Haqqani network who have



bases inside Pakistan.

Since the Afghan policy review, the US has been pushing Islamabad for decisive action against the Haqqani network militants, who are notorious for using Pakistani soil to launch attacks against American-led NATO troops in Afghanistan.

Islamabad denies the allegations, and, instead, blames Kabul for not taking out militants who use Afghan territory as a

base for attacks on targets in Pakistan.

Pakistan has been facing a deadly Islamist militancy for more than a decade. Gunmen attacked a minority Shi'ite Muslim mosque in Islamabad, the capital, on Wednesday, killing two people.

Lashkar-e-Jhangvi al-Alami, a Sunni sectarian group linked with militant group Islamic State, claimed responsibility for the mosque attack. (Reuters)

Pope lands in Bangladesh after contentious Myanmar visit

DHAKA (TIP): Pope Francis on Dec 30 arrived in Bangladesh, where hundreds of thousands of Muslim Rohingya refugees have sought sanctuary after fleeing a crackdown in neighbouring Myanmar, in the second stage of a tour dominated by the plight of the persecuted minority.

The pope will spend three days in mainly-Muslim Bangladesh, which is also grappling with a rise in Islamist extremism that has seen Catholics attacked for their faith.

In Myanmar he walked a diplomatic tightrope, staying away from allegations that the army is waging an ethnic cleansing campaign against Rohingya Muslims, despite pressure to confront the incendiary issue publically.

He also refrained from mentioning the minority by name during his four-day trip in which he held two masses and private meetings with civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi and powerful army chief Min Aung Hlaing.

In Dhaka he will meet some of the refugees from the Rohingya community, whom he has described as his "brothers and sisters", and led a mass for Bangladesh's tiny Catholic minority.

Nearly a million refugees from the Muslim minority now languish in camps on the border and the Daily Star, a Bangladeshi newspaper, said in an editorial Thursday it hoped he could change their fate.

"Thanks to the large body of evidence documenting severe rights abuses of the Rohingya minority of Myanmar, the extent of the atrocities carried out by Myanmar's security forces is known to all," it said.

"We remain hopeful that given Pope Francis' legacy of standing up for the oppressed, he will speak out against the



ongoing persecution of the Rohingya during this very important visit."

Myanmar's government denies the Rohingya are an ethnic group, insisting they are "Bengali" immigrants who are not entitled to full citizenship.

But the Vatican has rejected suggestions that the pope's reticence to tackle the Rohingya crisis head-on represented a failure of moral leadership.

A spokesman late Wednesday said the pope's presence alone drew attention to Myanmar's myriad troubles and his "moral authority" remained undimmed.

"He's not afraid of minefields," Vatican spokesman Greg Burke told a press conference, hinting the pope's discussions in private may have been more strident.

Francis had been urged not to utter the Rohingyas' name in Myanmar to avoid provoking hardline Buddhists and making the country's Catholic

community a target.

"He seemed to comprehend the dilemma he faced," David Mathieson, a Yangon-based analyst, told AFP, applauding his diplomatic dexterity in a country where the army still holds great power.

"He is the Pope, not a pugilist... he was here to help the country work through this horrific humanitarian crisis and listen to both the civilian and military leadership."

The pontiff was warmly embraced by Myanmar's Catholics, who make up just over one percent of the population.

On Friday he will lead a mass in central Dhaka that is expected to be attended by around 100,000 Bangladeshi Catholics.

The country's Catholic community accounts for less than 0.5 percent of the population of 160 million and have for centuries lived in relative harmony with their Muslim neighbours. (AFP)

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Indian-Americans arrested in IRS impersonation scam

WISCONSIN (TIP): Four men of Indian origin, were arrested over the last week, suspected of conducting the widespread scam of impersonating Internal Revenue Service agents to bilk innocent taxpayers, many of them Indian-Americans.

United States Attorney Gregory J. Haanstad for the Eastern District of Wisconsin announced that pursuant to criminal complaints and arrest warrants issued by a United States Magistrate Judge in the Eastern District of Wisconsin, the following men were arrested by local and federal law enforcement - Moin Gohil, 22, of Dunwoody, Georgia, was arrested by local law enforcement authorities on November 24; Pratik Patel, 26, of Hoffman Estates, Illinois, Parvez Jiwani, 39, of Tucker, Georgia, and Nakul Chetiwal, 27, of Dunwoody, Georgia, were arrested on Nov. 28. by federal law enforcement authorities.

All of these arrests were based on charges of violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343, 1349, 2 (Wire Fraud, Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, and Aiding and Abetting). Each of these charges carries a maximum of 20 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

According to the criminal complaint, Gohil, Chetiwal, and Jiwani were "runners" who used fraudulent identification cards to pick up fraud proceeds for a scheme likely originating from India, authorities said. Patel aided and abetted at least one of the runners. In this scheme, which is sometimes referred to as an "IRS impersonation scheme," members of the scheme (likely in India) call victims and make misrepresentations (typically, that the victim owes taxes) and cause the victims to wire money through a wire service, such as MoneyGram.

Other members of the conspiracy (known as "runners"), such as Gohil, Chetiwal, and Jiwani, then use fraudulent identification cards to pick up the fraud proceeds.

According to the complaint, Gohil, Chetiwal, and Jiwani picked up \$666,537 sent from 784 victims during the period from January 25, 2016, through August 8, this year. The false identities used by Gohil, Chetiwal, and Jiwani are linked to an additional 6,530 fraudulent transactions totaling \$2,836,745.

A criminal complaint is only a charge and not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

(Source: DOJ)

Chairman Crowley, House Democrats Urge Republicans to Hold Hearings on the Rise of Hate Crimes

WASHINGTON D.C.(TIP): 69 House Democrats, on November 30, asked Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, to hold hearings on the rise in hate crimes in America and the urgent need for the federal government to improve how these crimes are tracked and addressed.

The FBI recently reported that the agency documented 6,121 hate crimes in 2017 - a noted increase from 2015. However, this statistic is far from comprehensive given the broad gaps in reporting from many jurisdictions - meaning the true scope of this epidemic is likely far greater.

"It's no secret that the rise in hate crimes has tracked with the campaign of the President. His stated support for the use of violence as well as sympathy for white supremacist groups has created an atmosphere of dread within all too many American communities," the lawmakers wrote. "Given this disturbing new reality, we urge the committee to convene immediate hearings to address the rise of hate crimes, the need to bridge the data gap, and steps that lawmakers, law enforcement agencies, and our communities can take to prevent these crimes from occurring in the first place."

The letter is led by House Democratic



69 House Democrats, including Chairman Crowley and Indian American House Representatives, demanded hearings on the rise in hate crimes in America

Caucus Chairman Joe Crowley (D-NY), Congressional Black Caucus Chair Cedric Richmond (D-LA), Congressional Hispanic Caucus Chair Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM), Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus Chair Judy Chu (D-CA), Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), the ranking member on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, and LGBT Equality Caucus and Congressional Progressive Caucus Co-

Chair Mark Pocan (D-WI). The letter was also signed by Reps. Ted Deutch (D-Fla.), Donald Beyer, Jr. (D-VA), Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY), Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), and 59 others.

The FBI released a report on November 13 that found that hate crimes had increased in 2016. The FBI defines hate crimes as a criminal act motivated by bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.

Metropolitan Asian Family Services Celebrates 25th Anniversary

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): Commemorating its Silver Jubilee, Metropolitan Asian Family Services held its 25th annual fundraising dinner on November 18, 2017 at Ashyana Banquets, Downers Grove IL. The celebration started with the traditional "Deep-Lighting" performed by Swami Mukundananda of Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Aurora IL. Prominent dignitaries in attendance were Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, Schaumburg Trustee Nimish Jani, Philanthropist Deepak Kant Vyas, Dr. Vijay Prabhakar, Executive Director CLESE Marta Pareyra, Chairman for Indian Community Outreach Krishna Bansal, FIA Ex-President Sunil Shah, ChandmalKumawat, Chairman of Manees Media, India, Anis Ahmed, Chairman, AMU of Greater Chicago, MAFS Board members, Dr. Firdaus Jafri, Dr. Rakesh Ashthana, Harish Kolasani, Dr. Sonal Patel, NikunjBaxi, Sumitra Patel, James D'mello, Sagar Kumar, SadruNoorani, Asian Coalition, and other community leaders, Narsinhbhai Patel, DrRasik Shah and business leaders, seniors and their families were in attendance.

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi commended the MAFS team for its exemplary service to the community for 25 long years and said he wishes MAFS will continue to do so many more years in the future. Honorable Consul General of India Ms. Neeta Bhushan also congratulated MAFS for completing 25 years of serving the elderly and other immigrant populations in Chicagoland. She praised the array of services MAFS provides to the community successfully, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle appreciated the MAFS's commitment & dedication in serving the community and gave good wishes to continue for many more years.

Mrs. Santosh Kumar Executive Director MAFS, spoke about the long journey and the trials and tribulations they faced to come this far. She also remembered all the people past and present leaders of the community, such as Shankerprasad Bhatt, Manohar Manchanda, Ramesh Goyal, Narendra Patel, Yasmin Tiwana, Dr. Firdaus Jafri, Rosemary Gemperly, Marta Pareyra, who have helped to accomplish MAFS's mission to educate, counsel, assist and empower immigrants to become productive member of American Society. She and her Late husband Mr. Kumar worked very hard to bring MAFS, a pioneer organization, who has changed the landscape of social



services in Chicagoland area that far. She requested the community, that MAFS was created for them and want them to take care of the MAFS, a well-recognized, trusted and licensed by County, State and Federal Government. She also assured the community about MAFS's future and presented both her sons, as future leaders, who will support its mission voluntarily. "I believe that MAFS will grow more in the coming years, to lead the way, we already have our future leaders- energetic, technically savvy and competent in management skills", She said. Under this new leadership, MAFS is now better positioned to find new resources to seeks solutions of ever growing problems and appeals the community to support its mission wholeheartedly. She also thanked its sponsors, Dr. Jafri, Board president, board members, MAFS/UMAS staff, Media, Mr. Prashant Shah of India Tribune, Ramesh Soperwala of India Post, Vandana Jhingran, TV Asia and Suresh Bodiwala, Asian Media, USA, Mr. Jain of Ashyana., Kushal Bose, Madhura Sane, Bhupender Singh, Pooran bhai, and other artists, seniors, friends and families for their support and taking time to attend and making it an unforgettable gala celebration.

An award ceremony was performed by MAFS board and dignitaries, Nita Bhushan, Indian Consul General, Ms. Tony Preckwinkle, Chicago Board president, Dr. Vijay Prabhakar, Chairperson of Minority Ethnic Task force, ChandmalKumawat, Chairman, Maneesh Media and MAFS Board president Dr. Jafri, Harish Kolasani and other board

members, Santosh Kumar, MAFS.

The Pramod Kumar Philanthropy Award was introduced for the first time and presented to Mr. Deepak Kant Vyas Chairman & CEO Redberry Corp, for his extra ordinary philanthropic work throughout the World;

The Partnership Award was presented to Mr. Sean Dunn, VP of WINTRUST Community Bank for his understanding the financial needs of MAFS; Pillar of MAFS Award was given to Ms. Promila Mehta Manager Social work Chicago center for her unconditional love and care to its mission; Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Mr. PremJalota Manager Roselle center for his life time commitment to MAFS mission and its family; Employee of the Year Award was given to Ms. Connie Dogaru SOS Coordinator for her dedication to serve seniors, Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Ms. BhanumatiMaheta, a Yoga Teacher for providing 15 years of teaching Yoga for seniors.

A special Award of GSA Outstanding Citizen of the year 2017 given by Shri Pranav Mukherjee, President of India on July 1, 2017, presented by Hon'ble Nita Bhushan, Indian Consul General and Dr Vijay Prabhakar, Chair person of Minority Ethnic Task Force to Mrs. Santosh Kumar, Founder of Metropolitan Asian Family Services, IL USA.

SENATE RECOGNITION - was given by Senator Cristina Castro and presented by Ms. Nazneen to Mrs. Santosh Kumar, Founder of MAFS.

(Photographs and Press release by: Asian Media USA)

Rich Tributes Paid to Eminent Punjab Social Activist Harkesh Chhabra

SURINDER DHILLON IN CHESAPEAKE, VA

CHESAPEAKE, VA(TIP): Rich tributes were paid to Harkesh Chhabra of Nakodar, Punjab on his death anniversary at Gurdwara Guru Nanak Foundation here on November 26. Late Harkesh Chhabra was an eminent social activist, dearly loved and respected. He was an institution in himself who shaped the fortune of many from Punjab. Many Punjabis abroad owe their present career to Mr. Harkesh Chhabra.



Harkesh Chhabra Ji's picture is placed in the Gurdwara Sahib for people to pay their respects. Head Priest Giani Hushnak Singh and Dr. Baljit Singh Gill are also seen in the picture

Treading the path shown by his illustrious father, Paul Chhabra who lives and owns his restaurant business in Virginia, has earned goodwill, love and respect of the Indian American community, besides being a popular person with the local administration and the mainstream Americans. The large presence of people from far and near was a good enough indicator of the goodwill Chhabra family enjoys.

Devotional hymns singing, and prayers marked the major part of the event. The head priest of the Gurdwara Giani



The head priest of the Gurdwara Giani Hushnak Singh reciting hymns from Gurbani



Time for Ardaas. Paul Chhabra is seen with a shawl, to the right.

Hushnak Singh recited hymns from Gurbani with elaborate expostulations which brought the congregation close to the Divine for a while.



Dr. Baljit Singh Gill speaking to the congregation

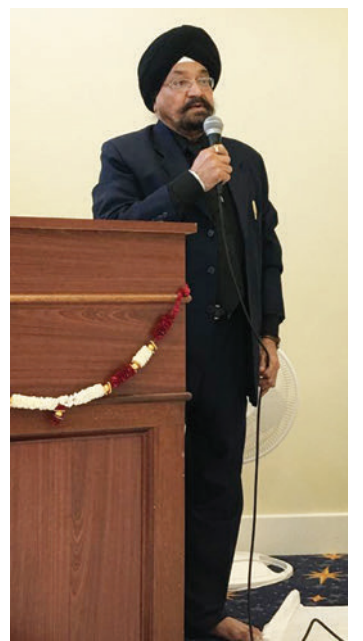
Paying tributes to late Harkesh Chhabra ji, Chief Editor of The Indian Panorama, Prof. Indrajit S Saluja recalled his meetings with him in Jalandhar in 1997 and observed that he found Chhabra ji an admirable and loving person. It was the time when his son Paul Chhabra who is a close friend of Prof. Saluja was neck deep in organizing the Punjab NRI Sabha with the founder Chairman and Commissioner of Jalandhar Division, B. K. Srivastava. The vast real estate and travel agency business needed Paul to be around to assist his father, but Harkesh Chhabra ji allowed Paul the freedom to be away from business for some months, keeping in view the interest of his son in bringing up a great institution. And, surely, Punjab NRI Sabha became the first organization in India for NRIs.

Eminent Sikh scholar Dr. Baljit Singh Gill described the family's strong ties with Chhabra family and recalled how genial and sweet natured Harkesh Chhabra ji was. He was a

treasure house of information on real estate and NRIs trusted him for getting them good deals. Dr. Gill also spoke about the message of Sikhism and exhorted parents to instill the values of Sikh religion in their children. He reminded congregation of the supreme sacrifice the Ninth Master of the Sikhs Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji made.

Mrs. Jagdish Singh, a prominent community leader and a friend to Paul Chhabra's family also paid tribute to Harkesh Chhabra Ji.

The gathering included Guru Nanak Foundation Chairman Raj Singh Rahil, Punjabi Society President Neelam Grewal, Lal Singh Kahlon, Nishan Singh Sidhu, Baljit Dulea, Rakesh Kampania and many more, besides the family members Paul Chhabra, his wife Kiran Rani



Prof. Indrajit S Saluja paying tribute to Harkesh Chhabra Ji



Sangat at langar

and children.

Langar followed the prayers in the memory of Harkesh Chhabra Ji. Family members lovingly served langar and earned Guru's blessings as also the congregation's.

(Text and photos by Surinder Dhillon, journalist. He can be reached at sdhillon@hotmail.com)

Association of Indian Pharmacists in America celebrates Annual Banquet and Business Expo

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): Harish Bhatt, President of the Association of Indian Pharmacists, Board of Trustees and Volunteers of America (AIPHA), organized an exciting Annual Banquet and Business Expo on Sunday, November 11, 2017 at the Meadows Club, 2950 W Golf Road, Rolling Meadows, IL to commemorate annual business network opportunities, Diwali and the holiday season with members and their families. The program was a sold-out event attended by many dignitaries.

The evening started with a social hour featuring some tasty appetizers and premium drinks. Masters of Ceremonies for the occasion, Mr. Tushar Mehta, kicked off the program by welcoming everyone to the gala.

To encourage NRI entrepreneurs to set up new manufacturing plants in India, Consul General Mr. Debandhu Bhati explained that "Annual growth of the industry by an average of 15% per year to reach twenty billion to fifty-five-billion-dollar industry from the span of 2020 to 2030, producing world class pharmaceuticals products dwarfs with average of 5% growth of other non-pharmaceutical industries. This phenomenal growth will contribute towards significant contributor to Prime-minister Narendra Modi's 'Made by India' goal. Now, due to availability of 100% approval of FDA for production of medical devices in India"

Rupesh Manek, AIPHA Executive Director and NIPA board member, encouraged all pharmacists in Illinois get involved and become members of National Indian Pharmacist Association (NIPA). He congratulated AIPHA for exemplary work in organizing such a breathtaking social evening. Elaborating the mission of NIPA, he indicated that NIPA is dedicated to the



Harish Bhatt, President AIPHA with Babra and party

construction of networking opportunities and the promotion of our cultural heritage for pharmacists of Indian origins in the United States of America by ways of interaction through a common forum. The national Indian association is committed to supporting AIPHA in all of their struggles. He congratulated Harish Bhatt and team for this wonderfully planned evening, and the entire pharmacist community practicing in Illinois under some of the hardest times that have been experienced. He informed attendees that NIPA membership now spans over 19 states in the continental United States of America, and looks forward to its presence in all states of the country, as well as increased involvement from Illinois members.

Harish Bhatt, Lifelong President of the Association of Indian Pharmacists took the stage. Welcoming everyone, he elaborated

past achievements of AIPHA along with future challenges and goals requiring co-operation of each and every members. We are thrilled to reflect tonight on a year of hard work and accomplishments, all of which would be impossible without the input and encouragement provided by our peers and partners who join us tonight. We are honored by your support and grateful for the impact you have had- giving us strength to face endeavors with drive to survive.

I would like to thank Mr Bhati who is General Counsel from Consulate of India. Nikki Budzinski who is a senior advisor to next Governor of State of Illinois JB Pritzker. Mine and our associations good friends Marcus Evans and Larry Walsh Jr and our own Raja Krishnamurti, Honorable congressman from 8th district I would like to at this time congratulate Illinois' Department of Professional Regulation; this summer, they effortlessly conceptualized and put into practice new pharmacy counseling rules proven beneficial to the pharmacy/patient relationship. As health care providers, we are dedicated to maintaining such deservedly high standards of integrity, all the while assuring patient care is our number one priority. This act solidifies the trust our patients deserve, and sets a great example for the entire nation. Working with the objective to set a standard directly impacts the time we have as pharmacists to ensure our patients receive undivided attention, as their health is quite literally in our hands.

EXECUTIVE BOARD: President: Harish Bhatt Vice President: Ambalal Patel Secretary: Mahendra Patel Joint Secretary: Manu Patel Treasure: Tushar Mehta Joint Treasure: Snehal Bhavsar Executive Director: Rupesh Manak

ANTI SIKH RIOTS CASE

SAJJAN KUMAR SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN GIVEN ANTICIPATORY BAIL, SIT TO DELHI HIGH COURT

NEW DELHI (TIP): Congress leader Sajjan Kumar should not have been granted anticipatory bail by a trial court in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case, the Delhi High Court was today told by a Special Investigation Team (SIT).

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Sanjay Jain, appearing for the SIT which is probing the charges against him, told Justice Anu Malhotra that witnesses were not coming forward as the Congress leader was not in custody.

Kumar was granted anticipatory bail by a trial court on December 21 last year in a case of killing of three Sikhs during the riots which had occurred after the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The ASG argued before the high court that the trial court had erred in granting the relief to the former MP on the ground of lapse of time.

Jain said the witnesses and their families as well as the kin of the victims of the riots had fled to Punjab fearing for their lives and it was only now that they were coming forward.

He said that witnesses would be required to be confronted with Kumar and if he was out of custody, the witnesses would not come forward and gave the example of one such person whose statement was recorded before a court in Chandigarh.

Jain said that truth will remain as such even with the passage of time. He also denied that the reopening of the case was politically motivated.

There are two cases filed against Kumar falling in the jurisdiction of Janakpuri and Vikaspuri police stations in West Delhi.

The complaint in Janakpuri pertains to the killing of two Sikhs, Sohan Singh and his son-in-law Avtar Singh, on November 1, 1984 and in the other, where another Sikh, Gurcharan Singh, was burnt on November 2, 1984 in the jurisdiction of Vikaspuri Police Station. Gurcharan, who was half burnt, had remained bed-ridden for 29 years. He died three years ago.

Source: PTI

'PADMAVATI' DIRECTOR, CENSOR BOARD CHIEF APPEAR BEFORE HOUSE PANEL

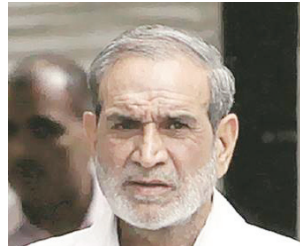
NEW DELHI (TIP): Sanjay Leela Bhansali, director of Hindi film 'Padmavati', today appeared before the Parliamentary Committee on Information Technology to share his views on the controversy surrounding his film.

Meanwhile, Central Board of Film Certification chief Prason Joshi earlier told the Lok Sabha Committee on Petitions that the film had not yet been approved and that the censor board had only cleared the trailer and promos of the period film. Asked by a member whether he — as the censor board chief — had seen the film, Joshi is learnt to have replied in the negative.

Sources said Bhansali received an earful for showing the film to a group of senior journalists without proper clearance. At the same time, he stuck to his guns that he had not distorted any historical facts or hurt the sentiments of the Rajput community.

This is a rare time in parliamentary history that a committee has decided to delve into such an issue (many also read political reasons behind the move). The panel, which also looks into issues of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, had called the meeting to discuss the problems and issues faced by the film. Headed by BJP MP Anurag Thakur, the IT panel includes senior BJP leader LK Advani and film actor Raj Babbar, a Congress leader.

Various Rajput groups and political leaders have accused Bhansali of distorting history in the movie by using a romantic dream sequence between Rajput queen Padmini and Sultan Alauddin Khilji.



Sajjan Kumar

Ready to pay big political price for better India: PM

NEW DELHI (TIP): Tearing into the UPA regime, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said he was ready to pay a "big political price" for bringing about systemic changes in the country and asserted that no one would be able to stop his government from taking "irreversible" decisions.

His remarks come in the midst of a fierce electoral battle between the Congress and the ruling BJP in Gujarat. The PM said India was counted among the "fragile five" nations globally and the country's economy, banking system and governance structure were in a poor shape when the NDA came to power ousting the UPA in 2014.

But his government managed to make a turnaround, drawing world-wide recognition for having done so, he said. At a media event here, Modi listed the achievements of his government in a range of sectors.

Referring to demonetisation, he said it had brought about a "behavioural change" in the country. Corrupt people, for the first time after Independence, were scared of making illicit money, he claimed. "The day the country will have a technical and digital address for all



monetary transactions, organised corruption would be checked to a great extent," he said.

On GST, he said it had ushered in a new chapter of transparency in the country.

Talking about the "policy paralysis" of the UPA, he also took an apparent dig at the media. "When we came to power, what did we get as legacy? The condition of the economy, governance, fiscal order

and banking system were in a bad shape. You had to talk about these things in discounted words. When you had to write headlines, then it was said 'policy paralysis'," he said.

Modi said "no harsher words" were used to describe the situation then. During the rule of the previous government, he said, "Bhrashtachar hi shishtachar thha (corruption was the norm)."

Source: PTI

There's no problem we cannot solve if India, US work together: Obama



NEW DELHI (TIP): Former US president Barack Obama began his special address, discussing India's role in the international arena, on the second day of the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit 2017.

Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani and Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath, among other luminaries, will also discuss India's rise on the global stage.

For 15 years, the event has been a platform for change agents with revolutionary ideas. On Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who inaugurated this year's summit, talked about the Centre's drive against corruption, stressing the country was undergoing a period of change.

Finance minister Arun Jaitley shared his thoughts on the Goods and Services Tax and the government's focus on spending on infrastructure and rural sectors. Afghanistan CEO Abdullah Abdullah and Bollywood superstar Salman Khan also addressed the gathering.

Besides Obama, Ambani and Adityanath, the second day of the summit, themed "The Irreversible Rise of India", will see the participation of IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Chhattisgarh chief minister Raman Singh and supermodel Naomi Campbell, among others.

Source: HT

Ministry set to recast cattle slaughter rules

NEW DELHI (TIP): Almost six months after the controversy, the Union Environment Ministry has begun the process of changing the contentious cattle slaughter rules that barred farmers trading cattle for slaughter in markets.

Last May, the NDA government came out with an official notification banning the sale of cattle for slaughtering in animal fares. It triggered angry protests all over the country with people accusing the government of causing hardship to the farmers and trying to influence people's food habits.

After reviewing the representations it received and holding consultations with the stakeholders, the green ministry decided to change the controversial clause "We have sent the file to the law ministry for its opinion on modifying the rule," said an official.

However, it may take several months before the modified rules comes into effect as clearance from the Animal Welfare Board would be required for effecting any changes in the rules that deal with prevention of cruelty to an animal. Soon after the controversial rules grabbed the headlines, the Madras High Court had granted an interim stay on the implementation of the rules, which was later extended to the entire country in July by the Supreme Court.

Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan, however, stated that it was not a prestige issue for the government, which was open to a change in the rules.

According to the rule, "cattle" means a bovine animal including bulls, bullocks, cows, buffaloes, steers, heifers, calves and camels. Indian meat industry recorded more than Rs 30,000 crore in export in 2015-16, out of which Rs 26,681 crore came from the export of buffalo meat, according to the statistics available with the Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority.

Why public money was 'squandered' in buying power at higher rates: Rahul asks PM

NEW DELHI (TIP): Continuing his attack against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi asked him why public money was "squandered" in purchasing power at higher rates from private companies.

Asking the third question in the series "a question a day", Gandhi asked Modi why the coffers of four private firms were filled between 2002-2016 by buying power of Rs 62,549 crore.

"My third question to the prime minister. Why were the coffers of four private companies filled between 2002-16 by buying power of Rs 62,549 crore.

"By reducing the capacity of state power units by 62 per cent, why was power bought from private companies at upto Rs 24 per unit against Rs 3 per unit? Why was public money squandered," he asked the prime minister on Twitter.

Gandhi has sought accountability from the ruling BJP for the promises the saffron party made to the state in previous polls.

"22 salon ka hisaab, Gujarat mange jawaab (Gujarat demands answers for 22 years of BJP rule," is the tagline of Gandhi's posers to the prime minister.

The Congress vice-president previously asked Modi why the people of Gujarat should pay up for the "financial mismanagement" and publicity by him.

He also asked whether it will take 45 more years to provide new houses to Gujaratis as the incumbent BJP government in the state has provided only 4.72 lakh houses in the last five years against the promised 50 lakh.

Source: PTI



Rahul's Somnath temple visit kicks up row

AHMEDABAD (TIP): Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi's visit to the famous Somnath temple in Gujarat started on a controversial note as he was reportedly listed as a 'non-Hindu' in the register.

The Congress alleged that the party's media coordinator Manoj Tyagi had only signed on a blank temple register to facilitate the entry of media crews but subsequently Mr. Gandhi's name was mentioned along with Ahmed Patel in the column meant for non-Hindus.

In election season, this snowballed into a controversy as BJP supporters on social media accused Rahul of lying about being a devotee of Lord Shiva. "Why should there be a secretive air around Rahul Gandhi? He is one of the most important political persons in the Indian scenario. For Rahul Gandhi and Congress, religion is a matter of convenience and not devotion. Rahul Gandhi must answer this," said the BJP's Sambit Patra in Gujarat.

The Congress called it a conspiracy. Addressing the media in Ahmedabad, its communication chief Randeep Surjewala said, "We have no hesitation in saying that Rahul Gandhi is not only a Hindu but wears a sacred thread."

CRIMES ACROSS INDIA SPIKE BY 2.6%, RAPE CASES UP BY 12.4% IN 2016: NCRB DATA

NEW DELHI (TIP): Crimes across the country spiked by 2.6% in 2016 according to latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) with Uttar Pradesh accounting for 9.5% of the total crime committed in India.



The north Indian state is closely followed by Madhya Pradesh which accounts for 8.9% of the total crimes while as Maharashtra and Kerala account for 8.8% and 8.7% respectively. Rape cases in the country have reported an increase of 12.4% from 34,651 cases in 2015 to 38,947 in 2016, the report has revealed.

According to NCRB data, a total of 48,31,515 cognizable crimes were reported in 2016 while the figure stood at 47,10,676 cases in 2015. Among the incidents reported this year 29,75,711 are Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes and 18,55,804 Special and Local Laws (SLL) crimes. Categories under SLL crimes include cases registered under the Arms Act, Narcotic Drugs And Psychotropic Substances Act, Immoral Traffic Act, Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and so on. IPC crimes include both heinous and non-heinous crimes such as murder, rape, gang rape, theft and so on.

Data shows that 30,450 cases of murder were reported during 2016, whereas 32,127 cases were reported in 2015. In this category too Uttar Pradesh tops the list with 4,889 cases accounting for 16.1% of the total cases followed by Bihar with 2,581 cases and Maharashtra with 2,299 cases. Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number of rapes with 4,882 cases (12.5%) and 4,816 (12.4%) followed by Maharashtra 4,189 (10.7%) during 2016.

Kidnapping of women too has witnessed a major spike and the motivation behind the crime here has been suggested as forced marriages. A total of 88,008 cases of kidnapping and abduction were reported during 2016 in which, 66,525 were female victims and 23,350 were male victims. The report states "maximum number of persons were kidnapped or abducted for marriage (33,855)". Here also, UP tops the list with 15,898 cases followed by Maharashtra 9,333 and Bihar 7,324 cases.

Data further shows atrocities and crime against Scheduled Castes increased by 5.5% in 2016 when 40,801 such cases were reported across the country.

"Uttar Pradesh (10,426 cases) reported the highest number of cases of atrocities against Scheduled Castes (SCs) accounting for 25.6% followed by Bihar with 14.0% (5,701 cases) and Rajasthan with 12.6% (5,134 cases) during 2016," the NCRB report says.

Source: HT

Gobind Longowal elected SGPC president

AMRITSAR (TIP): Former Punjab minister Gobind Singh Longowal was elected as the 42nd chief of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), the apex religious body of the Sikhs, during its annual general house meeting here on Nov 29.

Soon after Longowal's election, the SGPC General House also passed a resolution condemning the move to rename Dyal Singh (Evening) College in Delhi as Vande Mataram Mahavidyalaya.

Longowal, a former SAD MLA from Dhuri, got 154 out of 169 votes whereas rival candidate Amrik Singh Shahpur could garner only 15 votes.

Former SGPC chief Bibi Jagir Kaur had proposed Longowal's name for the position.

Raghujit Singh Virk was elected senior vice president, Harpal Singh Jalla as junior vice president while Gurbachan Singh Karmowala was chosen the general secretary of the SGPC today. The three were elected unanimously as were the eleven executive members of the SGPC.

Earlier, SGPC member Kaur proposed the name of Gobind Singh Longowal as the next SGPC president. Elections for SGPC chiefs post were necessitated when a group led by SGPC member Sukhdev Singh Bhaur proposed the name of Amrik Singh Shahpur for the presidents post.

Longowal has remained an MLA in 1985, 1997 and 2002. He had also won a by-election from Dhuri in 2015.

The General House of the SGPC today, soon after the



Newly elected SGPC president Gobind Singh Longowal (C) at the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Wednesday.

elections, passed a resolution condemning the decision to rename Dyal Singh (Evening) College in Delhi as Vande Mataram Mahavidyalaya.

Source: PTI

Exminister Antony to undergo surgery following haemorrhage

NEW DELHI (TIP): Former defence minister AK Antony, who suffered a "minor" brain haemorrhage at his home yesterday, will undergo surgery at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in New Delhi, the hospital authorities said on Thursday.



A team of neurosurgeons held a meeting on Thursday and decided to conduct surgery on Antony, who is now undergoing conservative treatment as the doctors needed time to decide their next course of action.

Conservative management is a type of treatment in which doctors avoid invasive measures such as surgery, usually with the intent to preserve function or body.

Antony, 76, was admitted to the RML hospital after he "suffered a minor brain haemorrhage after he fell down at his home," a hospital doctor said on condition of anonymity.

The senior Congress leader from Kerala was the defence minister during the previous UPA government. He served in that position for nearly seven-and-a-half years, the longest for an Indian defence minister. Earlier this month, he had criticised the Centre for not accommodating the Rohingya refugees, who were escaping persecution in Myanmar, and cited the example of former prime minister Indira Gandhi who "insisted on protecting" refugees from Bangladesh.

IVANKA TRUMP, FETED IN INDIA, CALLS FOR CLOSING GENDER GAP IN BUSINESS

HYDERABAD (TIP): US President Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka Trump kicked off a global business summit in southern India on Nov 26 calling for better opportunities for women entrepreneurs battling heavy odds around the world.

Ivanka, also an informal adviser to her father, received a warm welcome in India's high-tech hub of Hyderabad with all the trappings of a state guest.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi joined her in the opening of the U.S.-backed Global Entrepreneurship Summit which New Delhi is hoping will further boost political and economic ties with the United States under the Trump administration.

Ivanka, wearing a bright green floral dress, said fuelling the growth of women-led businesses and closing the gender entrepreneurship gap could help expand global GDP by 2 percent.

"Women still face steep obstacles to starting, owning and growing their businesses. We must ensure women entrepreneurs have access to capital, access to networks and mentors," Ivanka said to loud cheers from a packed audience in a heavily-guarded conference center.

In developing countries, 70 percent of women-owned smaller businesses were being denied access to capital, she said, leading to a near \$300 billion annual credit deficit for them.

GES is an event conceived by former U.S. President Barack Obama. It has previously been held in countries such as the United States and Turkey, but this year's edition is the first under the Trump administration.

The theme of the conference this year is "Women First, Prosperity for All". More than half the participants at the summit are women, and all-female delegations are representing countries such as Afghanistan, Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Ivanka, who ran an eponymous clothing and jewelry business before becoming an adviser in the White House, has made women's issues one of her main policy areas.

She cited a Harvard Business Review report that found that in the United States investors ask men questions about their potential for gains, whereas they ask women questions about their potential for loss.

BILLBOARDS

Billboards with pictures of Ivanka dotted many parts of Hyderabad which is also home to major U.S. firms such as Microsoft <MSFT.O>. In recent days, authorities took beggars off city streets in a clean-up drive before the meeting, media said.

More than 10,000 police officials were deployed in the city and sniffer dogs as well as "spotters", or men trained to detect any suspicious activity or people, were on stand by, a police officer said.

On the sidelines, Ivanka held talks with Modi, as well as Indian foreign minister Sushma Swaraj. Later she toured the conference center with Modi and met a few entrepreneurs, before watching traditional Indian dance performances in the inaugural session.

"This event not only connects the Silicon Valley with Hyderabad but also show-cases the close ties between the United States of America and India. It underlines our shared commitment toward encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation," Modi said.

India has become a major market for the



PM Narendra Modi with Ivanka Trump, daughter and adviser of the US President, during the inauguration of the Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017 in Hyderabad Photo Credit: PTI



United States, with two-way trade of about \$115 billion last year. They aim to raise that to \$500 billion by 2022. Military and strategic ties are also improving as China's influence

rises in Asia and beyond.

"The Trump administration sees India as a strategic partner and wants to engage with India more. When you look at sending of

Ivanka Trump, it is sending a very strong signal," said Mukesh Aghi, president of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum.

Source: Reuters

'LIKE A QUEEN': IN INDIA, IVANKA TRUMP EMBODIES US GLAMOUR

HYDERABAD (TIP): Ivanka Trump came to India to talk about empowering female entrepreneurs. But for many in this centuries-old southern city that has emerged as a technology hub, her trip has been a chance to savour the glamour of the American president's family.

On Wednesday, locals strained behind security barricades near a medieval fort hoping for a glimpse of their VIP visitor.

Irfana Begum, who was dodging barricades trying to figure out what road home was open for traffic, says Trump is confident, beautiful and "like a queen."

Begum says despite the inconvenience in getting about the city, she's very happy about the visit by Trump, the daughter of President Donald Trump and a senior presidential adviser.

Hyderabad cleared away beggars and filled potholes ahead of the visit. *Source: AP*

Mitra: The 'Made in India' robot that stole the show at GES Hyderabad

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Adviser to US President Donald Trump Ivanka Trump on Tuesday inaugurated the three-day Global Entrepreneur Summit in Hyderabad by pressing a button on an indigenously developed robot called Mitra.

Mitra has been developed by a Bangalore-based startup Invento Robotics that was set up in October 2015. The company has been founded by Balaji Viswanathan, who has previously worked in Silicon Valley and technology companies such as Microsoft. Viswanathan was recently in news for being the most followed person on Quora.

The company has been closely working with National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) and Associated Chambers of Commerce of India (ASSOCHAM)

"Mitra has been completely designed and developed in India. The idea behind the robot was to provide customised and contextual information to people," Kaundinya Panyam, a senior company executive said.

The indigenous Mitra runs on a proprietary operating system. The company sells multiple versions of the robot, customised for different sectors such as corporates and banking. It uses different chipsets depending upon the customisation and integrations that are incorporated within the humanoid. In some versions it uses Qualcomm's chipsets.

Featuring fibre glass body, the humanoid comes with a touchscreen on its chest which comes in handy when there's a lot of ambience noise, the executive said. On a single charge, Mitra can deliver a back up of 8-10 hours.

Invento said it has deployed a fully functional robot at a Canara Bank in Bangalore.

While the company is pushing the device primarily as a smart customer support assistance, it also sees other various use cases as well. For instance, the robot could be used as a party photographer, smart DJ or just a live tweeter.

Mitra also features a facial recognition technology which the company says is quite accurate, allowing the robot to quickly identify the person and deliver the customised services.

The humanoid also understands multiple languages. At the moment, Mitra supports Kannada and English but the company says it is soon going to add support for Hindi as well.

"Our robots can recognize speech in multiple languages and engage customers with smart conversations to provide better customer engagement and increase sales," said the company on its website.



Ivanka Trump, accompanied by Indian Ambassador to US Navtej Sarna, right, and his American counterpart Kenneth Juster, left, at the Golconda fort in Hyderabad on November 29.



External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj (R) in a meeting with Ivanka Trump, advisor to the US President, in Hyderabad.





KAJOL: MY BIGGEST GURUS ARE MY KIDS

Actress Kajol, a mother of two, said her children are her biggest gurus. "I've been learning from my kids ever since I was pregnant. I have learned a lot from my kids. My biggest gurus are my kids. I learn something new from them every day," Kajol said at an event in Mumbai.

"Sometimes there are words which I don't understand when they are talking, so they tell me the meaning with a lot of patience and ease. Sometimes it's their habits or outlook which I learn from. The most important thing I've learned from my kids is patience," Kajol added. She said she uses love and little threats when trying to make her children pick up a habit. But giving them knowledge is the right way. "The most important thing is that I believe when teaching a child, whatever it might be, you need to tell the reason behind it because every child asks the same thing, 'Mom, why?'"

"So we can impart as much knowledge (to them) as possible. Make them understand the importance of its necessity and its benefits and keep doing it repeatedly. I am sure it will remain in their minds and form a habit."

Asked how do she and her husband Ajay Devgn react to being caught doing something wrong by their children, she said, "If I am wrong and they catch it, then I apologize and rectify it."

"Ajay is perfect. He never makes any mistakes (laughs). He has OCD (Obsessive-compulsive disorder) when it comes to cleanliness. He keeps washing his hands over and over again."

Source: IANS

NARGIS FAKHRI ALL SET TO TIE THE KNOT WITH UDAY CHOPRA?

Nargis Fakhri and Uday Chopra's on-again, off-again status has often set tongues wagging. Now, it seems everything is finally settling down for the two who have never accepted their relationship on camera but have been dropping hints about each other through their social media accounts. In fact, sources claim the two are all set to get married.

According to a report in The Quint, a close family friend of the Chopras said, "There is definitely a wedding on the cards. In fact, from what we've been told, it may happen anytime early next year. At least that's where it stands at the moment. Uday is fully committed to marriage. He wants to make it legal with Nargis for the last two years. But she's commitment-phobic, both professionally and personally. She keeps running off to her home in New York. But now this time we're told she's in Mumbai to make the relationship legal."

The source further said that Nargis gets along quite well with Uday's mother Pam Chopra. The source also mentioned that Nargis has been staying with the Chopras in their Juhu bungalow.



MOVIE REVIEW

JULIE 2

CAST: RAAI LAXMI, ADITYA SRIVASTAVA, RAVI KISAN, PANKAJ TRIPATHI

Right at the beginning of Julie 2, we see Aunt Annie's (Rati Agnihotri) super-zoomed face followed by Raai Laxmi's character Julie, waking up to something that comes close to a poorly done Poo from Kabhie Khushi Kabhi Gham. "I'm the best," she says out loud with a certain discomfort and a forced demeanor.

The film follows Julie's trail from a young girl to a star to ending up as an actor whose career is now in ashes, courtesy "the dark entertainment industry". The dark entertainment industry is a reference to industry men who, barring one, all lust for her body- not for her acting skills, not for her talent but because "she's the best." The makers take you for dimwits because every obvious visual is followed by more obvious words. Like they actually get a producer to say, "Madam, yaha talent nahi, sirf body chalta hai" when Julie shows her portfolio or in another instance, because her name is Julie, the god in reference has to be Jesus and a particular dialogue in the film refers to Julie as Jesus' sweet child. And not one, not two, but his name is chanted many a time in the film and all in vain.

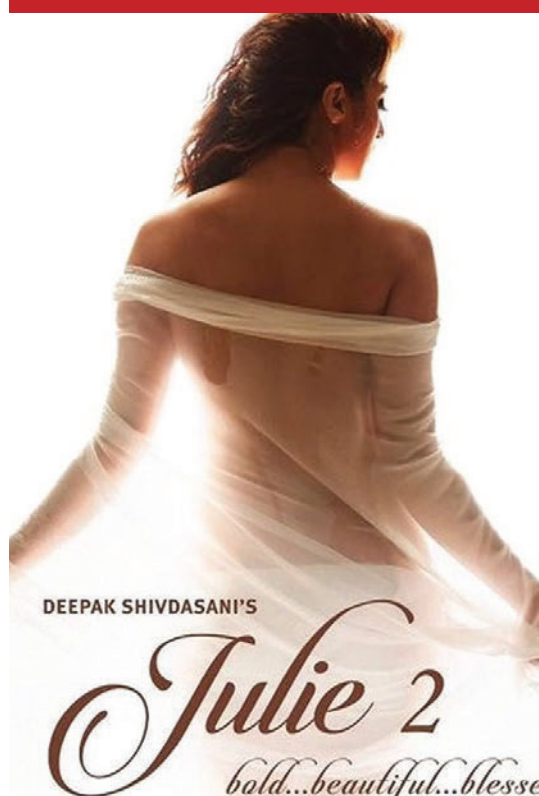
Cut to the chase, Julie decides to bog down and compromises to become a star. Her rise to stardom is flanked by clichés which don't even appeal on the paper now, let alone on celluloid- sleeping her way

to top- with a producer, an affair with an underworld insider, a relationship with a cricketer, a love story with a Southern industry superstar who is stereotypically more concerned about his public image than his personal life.

She becomes such a huge star that a French filmmaker named Jean Claude decides to cast her in a bilingual film (Hindi and English) that's aimed at being a contender at International film festivals. Yup, not kidding.

To celebrate her 25th birthday, Julie visits a jewelry shop and some godforsaken men loot the store with the apparent aim of killing the protagonist. She was right in front of them when they fire at least 20 shots at her and still couldn't get her. Such a pity that even if you use a microscopic lens to find logic to the scene in question, you'll fail.

Anyway, while it's crystal clear that it wasn't a regular burglary but a murder attempt, ACP Devdutt (Aditya Srivastava) steps in to investigate the case. And with him, comes a CID hangover that is far from authentic. Within four hours of the news, he gets his hands on the four masked men. "Ye dhai kilo ka nahi, dhai feet ka haath hai," he says to make things worse shatters any interest you may have developed. (No, we're sure you'd have walked out by now). The supposed thriller then follows a trajectory to find out the actual villain. The film is so illogical that even if you walk in without expectations, you'll be disappointed. And so poorly crafted that it can go down in textbooks as an example of how now to make a film. From unnecessary extra close up shots to dialogues that serve no purpose to acting that stands nowhere, to a plot that, well, doesn't exist- the film is mash-up of all things pointless.



DEEPAK SHIVDASANI'S

Julie 2
bold...beautiful...blesse



MARGOT ROBBIE WANTS TO STAR ALONGSIDE FEMALE ACTORS OF HER AGE

Actor Margot Robbie has said she wants to work with her contemporaries in films. The 27-year-old said she wants reality of her life to be "reflected" in the projects.

"I already work with a ton of female writers who are brilliant, and I want to work with female directors... I really want to work with actresses my own age," Robbie told. "I'm trying so hard to get projects up and running with an ensemble of young female characters, because that's my life, my group of girls, we're a gang and we roll together and I'm like: 'Why is that not reflected in film?'" she said.

Source: PTI

PRINCE HARRY TO MARRY GIRLFRIEND MEGHAN MARKLE



Actress Meghan Markle, who has got engaged to British Royal Prince Harry, has wrapped up her role in the legal drama 'Suits', production companies behind the show have announced.

A day after the actress said she was leaving her acting career behind to start a new life with Prince Harry following their engagement news, USA Network and Universal Cable Productions put out a statement confirming her departure, reports mirror.co.uk.

Markle, 36, played Rachel Zane in the series, rising up the ranks from paralegal to lawyer. The character is engaged to be married to Mike Ross, played by Patrick J. Adams.

The star has completed all her filming for the seventh season, which will return in early 2018, the network said.

"We want to send our most heartfelt congratulations to Meghan Markle and Prince Harry on their engagement," USA Network and Universal Cable Productions, both units of Comcast Corp, said in a joint statement.

"Meghan has been a member of our family for seven years and it has been a joy to work with her. We want to thank her for her undeniable passion and dedication to Suits, and we wish her the very best," the statement added.

Source: IANS

MOVIE REVIEW



MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

**CAST: KENNETH BRANAGH, PENÉLOPE CRUZ,
JOHNNY DEPP, JOSH GAD, MICHELLE PFEIFFER,
ADAM GARCIA, JUDI DENCH, WILLEM DAFOE,
OLIVIA COLMAN, TOM BATEMAN**

DIRECTION: KENNETH BRANAGH

Kenneth Branagh's film version of Agatha Christie's classic 1934 novel is a lavish but plodding affair. Murder on the Orient Express is directed by Branagh, and also stars the veteran Shakespearean actor as Hercule Poirot, the iconic Belgian detective character who featured in several of the author's stories.

This one is set on the famed Orient Express that's barreling across Europe with a disparate bunch of travelers, including an art dealer (Johnny Depp), his private secretary (Josh Gad),

an American widow (Michelle Pfeiffer), a Russian princess (Judi Dench), a governess (Daisy Ridley), a devout missionary (Penelope Cruz), and a handful of others, among them Poirot himself. After the train is stopped by a rockslide on the tracks during a snowstorm, one of the passengers is found stabbed to death in his locked compartment. Of course it's up to Poirot to interrogate the dozen or so strangers to figure out who did it.

The film is crammed with stars, and yet the biggest attention-grabber is Branagh's oversized mustache that more or less wraps itself around the front of his face. It's incredibly distracting, and along with his clunky accent, reduces Poirot to a caricature. Branagh also fashions the detective as something of an action hero, giving him a gun, and more than one chase scene. Fans of the book, prepare to be outraged.

The film is extraordinary to look at, boasting exquisite production design, flashy camerawork, gorgeous costumes, and staggeringly beautiful European landscapes. But it's let down by a script that feels dated and verbose, and unmistakably flat. There's way too much talking, and not enough sleuthing, leaving the viewer easily bored.

Dr. Satish Anand - A Portrait in Courage



1976 to 2016: A happy journey together, with blessings of OM: Gitanjali and Dr. Satish Anand



Gitanjali Anand and Dr. Satish Anand after marriage in 1976



A 2016 family picture. Gitanjali Anand, Vaishali Deshmukh, Aikta Anand-Sethi, Dr. Satish Kumar Anand

What is being courageous? What is being brave? What is being heroic? Please do not rush to a dictionary to find the definition. I have one simple explanation. It is being Dr. Satish Anand.

As Dr. Anand who has turned 75 and the family decided to celebrate the landmark occasion on December 2, I thought about this unsung hero who has immensely proved beyond any shadow of doubt that grit and determination; and faith in God can overcome all obstacles and bring one fulfillment of one's cherished desires.

Here is a man, I said to myself, who has proved himself to be a successful professional and an extremely fine human being, aware of his responsibilities and priorities despite odds of all hues in his life. A man born with an inhibiting affliction called Polio for which no treatment existed then. The family, Dr. Anand narrated to me, moved to India in 1948. His father, Manohar Lal Anand, and the rest of the family got separated during partition and were lucky to reunite after some time.

Dr. Anand was three years old when he suffered from Polio in the left lower extremity. That was in 1945. In 1948 when the family started their journey to India, his mother had him in his arms. The family was traveling in a truck which got stuck in the River Ravi. A Pakistani soldier suggested to my mother that she could throw me away in stead of carrying me with so much difficulty. Also, he said it will reduce weight in the truck which could then come unstuck. And, on top of it, he said she had 3 more children; so, she should have no hesitation in getting rid of a disabled boy of 5 years. Dr. Anand quoted his mother as saying, "I will die with him if my "OM" wishes. But you will know one day he will become a big person". She could easily have got rid of her disabled son, but she was not an ordinary woman. She was courageous, brave and heroic-qualities which Dr. Anand inherited from her.

Another great gift to him from his mother is the unflinching faith in "OM". "She instilled in me power of Faith", said Dr. Anand in one of his conversations with me recently. She told Satish, "Have Faith in your OM and do your karma (work/duty). Everything will follow". It is this valuable lesson of life which has helped Dr. Anand all the way in his life.

Thereafter, he read a few books by great minds, including Swami Vivekananda. He recalls how profoundly he was influenced by Swami Vivekananda's words: "To do your duty with honesty, sincerity and faith in Almighty is the biggest worship of God". He has always kept the golden words in his mind. He told me that since then he printed them on the front page of each of his books to always remind himself of the inspiring thought.

Another incident that Dr. Anand recalled to me was when he was being sent to England for studies in 1968. He said theirs was a middle-class family and he was the youngest of the four brothers. "My mother coordinated with my father to pull resources for my travel to UK. In one Havan at home, one of my mother's friends said to my mother why she was sending me to England since I have a physical problem of Polio. My mother replied:

"Problem is with you. See he became a doctor after all the hard work despite polio. And, he is not going alone. My OM is going with him". Dr. Anand added: "This taught me the power of Faith and Karma and this power never ever failed me at any point in my life. I owe it all to my mother. Hope, there are mothers, like my Mom who held my hand

firmly and inspired me to go forward in life with Faith in OM".

"The values I cherish today as an Arya Samajist have come

to me from my mother", says Dr. Anand.

Dr. Anand spoke about another woman in his life who was the second most powerful influence on him. This woman is his wife, Gitanjali with whom he got married in 1976. "Ever since she came in my life, Gitanjali has been a rock-solid support and partner at every step in my life". Well versed in teaching, Gitanjali was a professor of Home science in India. She proved to be an admirable mother to their two daughters -Aikta and Vaishali. Aikta is a Psychologist and School Counselor and the younger Vaishali is a pharmacist. Both are happily married and have families.

Gitanjali became the first woman President of India Association of Long Island (IALI) in 1995. She is a great volunteer. Be it an association or the Arya Samaj, she is absolutely dedicated to whatever work she is doing. She has been associated with quite a few organizations. Presently, she is Vice President of Association of Indians in America (AIA).

Dr. Satish Anand himself has been socially and professionally involved. He has been a member of AAPI - QLI since 1995. He was its President and now sits on Board of



Picture with grandkids from October 2017. From left: Dr. Satish Kumar Anand, Mukta Sethi, Aksha Sethi, Gitanjali Anand, Manav Deshmukh, Meera Deshmukh, Milan Deshmukh



Grandparents Gitanjali Anand and Dr. Satish Kumar Anand with Youngest daughter Vaishali Deshmukh with husband Amit Deshmukh and three kids Manav Deshmukh, Meera Deshmukh, and Milan Deshmukh



Oldest daughter Aikta Anand-Sethi with husband Mukesh Sethi and two daughters Aksha and Mukta Sethi.

Trustees. He was President of Federation of AAPI NY/ NJ/ CT. He is a member of Rajasthan Medical Alumni Association. Earlier, he was president of Gajra Raja Medical College Association.

Dr. Anand's contribution has been hailed by various organizations and institutions. In 2013, Rotary International honored him with Humanitarian Award.

Dr. Anand was born in Rawalpindi (now Pakistan) on October 21, 1942 to Manohar Lal Anand and Krishna Kumari. He studied for school at Mhow, near Indore in Madhya Pradesh, India. He got his Medical education at Medical College, Gwalior to become a physician in 1965. In 1968, he went to UK to do his residency program and finally got his MRCP in 1973. He came to the US in 1975 and worked as full-time internist. He took retirement in 2009.

Married to Gitanjali, the couple has two daughters, Aikta and Vaishali and are blessed with five grandchildren- Manav, Meera, Milan Deshmukh, Mukta and Aksha Sethi.

The eldest child of Anands, Aikta, who says proudly she is Dad's daughter, has this to say about her father: "Dad is the rock of our family, he is my heart my soul without whom I am nothing. He is indeed the biggest blessing in my life. God made humans, but I don't consider my father human. He is from a different universe a totally different breed of humans. People say they have lived to feel god or even see god, but I have felt and seen god in my father. If I could accomplish 20% of what my father has I would feel as if I did something good in my life".

Do not forget to join the family at the celebration of Dr. Satish Anand's 75 years of grit and determination; faith and karma; and hope and love.



Dr. Anand's first passport picture taken in 1967

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Trump was 'wrong' but UK-US relations will endure: Theresa May

LONDON (TIP): Prime Minister Theresa May on Thursday repeated her condemnation of US President Donald Trump's retweets of anti-Muslim videos posted by a British far-right leader but said US-UK relations would survive the row.

"I'm very clear that retweeting from Britain First was the wrong thing to do," she told a press conference broadcast on British television during a visit to Jordan, before adding that ties with Washington were "enduring".

"We're not afraid to say where we think the US got it wrong," she said, when asked about Trump's reaction to her rebuke+ on Thursday, in which he said May should focus more on eradicating "destructive Radical Islamic Terrorism" in Britain.

The prime minister also indicated that a state visit by Trump to Britain would proceed, despite calls from many lawmakers that it should now be cancelled.

"An invitation has been extended and has been accepted. We are yet to set a date," she said.

"This is a long-term special relationship that we have... It's in both our national interests," May added.

She focused her criticism on Britain First, saying that the fringe anti-Muslim group "seeks to spread division and mistrust among our communities."

"I think that we must all take seriously the threat that far-right groups pose... In the UK, we take the far-right very seriously," she said. (AFP)

Migration to UK plunges in year after Brexit, driven by EU citizens

LONDON (TIP): Net migration to Britain fell sharply by 106,000 to 230,000 people in the 12 months to June, with more than three-quarters of the drop due to EU citizens, official data showed on Nov 30.

The changes in migration suggested Brexit is likely to be a factor in people's decision to move to or from Britain, the Office for National Statistics said. (AFP)

Magnitude 6.0 earthquake hits southeast Iran, US Geological Survey says

KERMAN (TIP): A strong quake of magnitude 6.0 struck southeastern Iran near the city of Kerman on Dec 1, the U.S. Geological Survey said. The quake, initially reported as a magnitude 6.3, was centered 36 miles (58 km) northeast of Kerman, which has a population of more than 821,000.

It struck at 6:32 am (0232 GMT) and was very shallow, at a depth of 6.2 miles (10 km), which would have amplified the shaking. More details awaited. (Reuters)

Saudi prince Miteb Abdullah freed after \$1bn deal

RIYADH (TIP): Senior Saudi Arabian Prince Miteb bin Abdullah, once seen as a leading contender to the throne, has been freed after agreeing to pay over \$1 billion to settle corruption allegations against him, a Saudi official said on Nov 29. Miteb, 65, son of the late King Abdullah and former head of the elite National Guard, was among dozens of royal family members, high officials and senior businessmen rounded up this month in a crackdown on graft that has strengthened the power of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The official, who is involved in the crackdown and spoke on condition of anonymity, said Miteb was released on Tuesday after reaching "an acceptable settlement agreement".

The official said he believed the agreed sum to be the equivalent of over \$1 billion. "It is understood that the settlement included admitting corruption involving known cases," the official said, without giving details.

According to the official, Prince Miteb was accused of embezzlement, hiring ghost employees and awarding contracts to his own firms, including a deal for walkie talkies and bulletproof military gear. Prince Miteb is the first senior figure known to be released among identities.

The fate of billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, chairman of investment firm Kingdom Holding and one of Saudi Arabia's most prominent international businessmen, was not known. (Reuters)

Down on one knee, Harry proposed over roast chicken

LONDON (TIP): Prince Harry revealed on Nov 30 that he proposed to US actress Meghan Markle over roast chicken, and said she would be "unbelievably good" at her new royal role despite its pressures.

The couple said they were enjoying "a cosy night" at home in his cottage in the grounds of Kensington Palace earlier this month, "trying to roast a chicken", when he got down on one knee. "She didn't even let me finish, she said, 'can I say yes?..' and then there were hugs," Harry said in the couple's first interview since the announcement of their engagement on Monday.

They revealed they knew little about each other when they were set up on a "blind date" by a mutual friend.

Harry said he had never heard of Markle, while the actress added she was largely ignorant about the British royal family and just asked of their friend, "is he nice?"

The date went so well they immediately met up again before going



camping together for five days in Botswana just a few weeks later.

Harry said he thought his late mother Diana, too, would have been "best friends" with Markle. He admitted he was nervous about bringing Markle into the royal family, given the pressures it entails and his mother's own difficulties in the role.

Markle, who is of mixed race, said that the focus on her ethnicity was "disheartening", saying there were "a lot of mistruths" written about her but she refused to read it.

"All the stars were aligned... This beautiful woman literally tripped and fell into my life, I fell into her life," Harry said. (AFP)

Europe's Muslim population to grow, migration or not

BERLIN (TIP): Europe's Muslim population will continue to grow over the next several decades even if all immigration to the continent should stop, according to a study published on Thursday.

The Pew Research Center report modeled three scenarios for estimating the number of Muslims who would be living in Europe by 2050. All three used a mid-2016 estimate of 25.8 million as a baseline, but assumed different future migration rates.

Under the "zero migration" scenario, an estimated 30 million Muslims would make up 7.4 percent of Europe's population by 2050 compared to the 4.9 percent they comprised last year, the report projected. The researchers said that is mostly because Muslims are on average 13 years younger than other Europeans and also have a higher birthrate, the Pew researchers said.

The study estimates 58.8 million Muslims would account for 11.2 percent of the population in a "medium migration" scenario that has migration maintaining a "regular speed" _ defined by the Pew researchers as migration motivated by economic, educational and family reasons _ but not for seeking asylum as a refugee.

In the "high migration" scenario, the study projects that the record flow of migrants who came to Europe between 2015 and 2016 would continue indefinitely, resulting in 75 million Muslims in Europe, a 14 percent increase, by the middle of the century. Even with the most immigration, Muslims would "still be considerably smaller than the populations of both Christians and people with no religion in Europe," the researchers concluded.

Muslim immigrants have been a politically sensitive topic in Europe following the influx of newcomers in 2015 and 2016. Some countries have seen backlashes that have included populist parties campaigning on anti-Islam messages. The study was based on census and survey data, population registers, immigration data and other sources. The 30 countries it covered include the 28 European Union members, plus Norway and Switzerland. Not all countries would be affected evenly by future immigration, according to the Pew report. In the high migration scenario, Germany and Sweden would have the biggest increases because both countries took in the most asylum-seekers during the height of the refugee crisis two years ago.

While Muslims made up 6 percent of Germany's population last year, their proportion would go up to 20 percent by 2050. Sweden's Muslims, who were at 8 percent in 2016, would account for 31 percent of the population in that same scenario.

Meanwhile, some countries that had comparatively few Muslim residents in 2016 would continue to have few by 2050 in all three scenarios. (AP)

Syria regime bombing kills 19 civilians near Damascus

BEIRUT (TIP): Syrian regime air strikes and artillery fire killed 19 civilians on Nov 26 across the rebel-held Eastern Ghouta region outside the capital Damascus, a monitor said.

The deaths come despite the area falling within a so-called "de-escalation zone" put in place under a deal between government allies Russia and Iran and rebel backer Turkey.

Eastern Ghouta is already in the grip of a humanitarian crisis caused by a crushing regime siege of the area since 2013 that has caused food and medical shortages.

On Sunday, government air strikes on the areas of Mesraba and Madira killed 17 civilians, while artillery fire on the town of Douma killed another two civilians, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said.

"The toll could rise further because of the number of wounded people in serious condition," said Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman.

Regime bombardment of Eastern Ghouta in the last two weeks has killed more than 100 people, according to the Observatory. Rebels have also fired from the region into Damascus, killing several people.

Humanitarian access to Eastern Ghouta has remained limited despite the implementation of the truce zone, and a United Nations official referred to the region as the "epicentre of suffering" in Syria.

More than 340,000 people have been killed in Syria since the conflict began in March 2011 with anti-government protests. (AFP)

Israel races to head off UN settlement 'blacklist'

JERUSALEM (TIP): Israel and the Trump administration are working feverishly to prevent the publication of a UN database of companies operating in Israel's West Bank settlements, weeks ahead of its expected completion.

Israel is usually quick to brush off UN criticism but this time, officials say they are taking the so-called 'blacklist' seriously, fearing its publication could have devastating consequences by driving companies away, deterring others from coming and prompting investors to dump shares of Israeli firms.

Dozens of major Israeli companies, as well as multinationals that do business in Israel, are expected to appear on the list. The international community overwhelmingly considers the settlements, built on occupied land claimed by the Palestinians for a future state, to be illegal. Israel rejects such claims, saying the matter should be resolved in negotiations. (AP)

Iran warns it would increase missile range if threatened by Europe

LONDON (TIP): The deputy head of Iran's Revolutionary Guards warned Europe that if it threatens Tehran, the Guards will increase the range of missiles to above 2,000 kilometres, the Fars news agency reported on Saturday.

France has called for an "uncompromising" dialogue with Iran about its ballistic missile programme and a possible negotiation over the issue separate from Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

Iran has repeatedly said its missile programme is defensive and not negotiable.

"If we have kept the range of our missiles to 2,000 kilometres, it's not due to lack of technology. ... We are following a strategic doctrine," Brigadier General Hossein Salami said, according to Fars.

"So far we have felt that Europe is not a threat, so we did not increase the range of our missiles. But if Europe wants to turn into a threat, we will increase the range of our missiles," he added.

The head of Iran's Revolutionary Guards military force, Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari, said last month that Iran's 2,000-kilometre missile range could cover "most of American interest and forces" within the region, so Iran did not need to extend it.

Jafari said the ballistic missile range was based on the limits set by the country's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who is the head of armed forces.

Iran has one of the Middle East's largest missile programmes and some of its precision-guided missiles have the range to strike Israel.

"POLITICAL AND SPIRITUAL" SUPPORT

The United States accused Iran this month of supplying Yemen's Houthis



rebels with a missile that was fired into Saudi Arabia in July and called for the United Nations to hold Tehran accountable for violating two U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Iran has denied supplying the Houthis with missiles and weapons.

"Yemen is in total blockade. How could we have given them any missile?" Salami said, according to the Fars report on Saturday. "If Iran can send a missile to Yemen, it shows the incapability of (the Saudi coalition). But we have not given them missiles."

Salami said the Houthis managed to increase the range and precision of their missiles in a "scientific breakthrough."

Jafari, the head of the Revolutionary Guards, said on Thursday that Iran only provides "advisory and spiritual" assistances to the Houthis.

Iran long denied sending fighters to

Syria to help President Bashar al-Assad in the fight against the rebels, and said the Revolutionary Guards' presence on the ground was advisory

In what seemed to be a correction of Jafari's comments, Salami said on Saturday that Iran's support for the Houthis was "political and spiritual."

The United States has imposed unilateral sanctions on Iran, saying its missile tests violate a U.N. resolution that calls on Tehran not to undertake activities related to missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

The United States says Iran's missile programme is a breach of international law because the missiles could carry nuclear warheads in the future.

Iran denies it is seeking nuclear weapons and says its nuclear programme is for civilian uses only. (Reuters)

China quietly but relentlessly becoming global super power, says expert

WASHINGTON (TIP): China is quietly, but relentlessly becoming a global super power, according to an analyst.

In an opinion piece for the Washington Post, writer David Ignatius has said the recent meeting between President Xi Jinping and President Trump in Beijing during the latter's first visit to China significantly revealed a possible but understated grand and ambitious strategy on the part of Beijing.

Ignatius says in his article that President Xi while talking about and promoting the idea of "win-win cooperation," with Washington, simultaneously hinted that Beijing retains the patience to achieve its goal of being eventually recognised as a global super power.

He describes China's gentle rise as "mesmerising" and reflective of the Chinese slogan "hide and bide," which the United States now views as a case of "open power play".

According to Ignatius, one only needs to see China's new network of global institutions, including the "One Belt, One Road" (OBOR) plan to estimate and probably accept how it is now challenging the American-led order effectively.

According to two unpublished and unclassified studies commissioned by the Air Force, one report estimates that more than 64 nations could receive USD one trillion from China under the OBOR framework.

This, according to Ignatius, puts the 1947-conceived Marshall Plan, which provided about \$150 billion in current dollars, mostly to six countries, in the shade.

The report describes OBOR as "a program of unprecedented size and scope with the strategic intent of constructing a Chinese-led regional order in Eurasia."

The study describes, for example, how Beijing is financing a string of ports in the Indian Ocean region, including in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Pakistan, Burma, Djibouti, Kenya and the United Arab Emirates. The proposed investment is nearly \$250 billion.

China has also invested \$13.6 billion in Greece, buying control of the port of Piraeus and big shares of Greek utilities and fiber-optics companies. "Greece serves as a strategic beachhead for China into Europe," notes the report.

The Chinese are building railway lines to Europe and to every part of Asia, allowing them to bypass US-controlled sea lanes. China already has 40 rail routes to nine European countries. (ANI)

China says 259 arrested in 2017 for smuggling foreign waste

SHANGHAI (TIP): Chinese authorities have arrested 259 people for smuggling more than 300,000 tonnes of foreign waste into the country this year, the environment ministry said on Nov 30.

China told the World Trade Organization (WTO) in July that it would stop accepting imports of 24 types of foreign waste, including paper and textiles, by end-2017, and that it would eventually ban shipments of all waste products readily available from domestic sources.

The crackdown and ban on foreign trash, which reached as much as 47 million tonnes in 2015, has been a key element of China's ongoing "war on pollution". It is also part of the country's efforts to move up the supply chain and ease its reliance on low-grade industries.

While progress has been made, though, some regions are still failing to regulate the sector properly, allowing unscrupulous "illegal elements" to take advantage, said China Environmental News, the official publication of the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP).

The environmental news publication cited a recent case in Shantou in southeast China's Guangdong province in which 13 people were arrested for importing as much as 240,000 tonnes of plastic waste. It noted that 1,074 enterprises - more than 60 percent of the total involved in the sector - had broken regulations this year. As many as 871 firms have already been punished, with 94 ordered to stop operations completely, it said.

Some of the lawbreaking firms were found to have applied for import permits despite not meeting industry requirements. Some deceived the authorities by covering up previous violations.

Another 44 used concealed pipes or pits to hide pollution discharges, while 98 had operated pollution control equipment improperly, China Environmental News said. (Reuters)

Saudi prince vows new Islamic alliance 'will wipe out terrorists from earth'

RIYADH (TIP): Saudi Arabia's powerful crown prince vowed to "pursue terrorists until they are wiped from the face of the earth" as officials from 40 Muslim countries gathered Sunday in the first meeting of an Islamic counter-terrorism alliance. "In past years, terrorism has been functioning in all of our countries ... with no coordination" among national authorities, Prince Mohammed bin Salman+, who is also the Saudi defence minister, said in his keynote speech at the gathering in Riyadh. "This ends today, with this alliance."

The summit is the first meeting of defence ministers and other senior officials from the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition, which officially counts 41 countries and identifies as a "pan-Islamic unified front" against violent extremism.

The alliance was announced in 2015 under the auspices of Prince

Mohammed, whose rapid ascent since his appointment as heir to the throne in June has shaken the political scene across the region. The alliance groups largely, although not exclusively, Sunni-majority or Sunni-ruled countries.

It excludes Saudi Arabia's arch-rival, Shia-dominated Iran, as well as Syria and Iraq, whose leaders have close ties to Tehran. Sunday's meeting coincides with an escalation in tensions between Riyadh and Tehran, particularly over wars in Syria and Yemen and the political structure of multi-confessional Lebanon. Saudi Arabia accuses Iran of supporting armed groups across the Middle East, including Lebanon's Shiite Hezbollah and Yemen's Huthi rebels.

The meeting also comes as several military coalitions, with backers including both Iran and key Saudi ally the United States, battle to push the Islamic State group from its last remaining bastions in Iraq and Syria.

The alliance meeting in Riyadh brings together Muslim or Muslim-majority nations including Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Afghanistan, Uganda, Somalia, Mauritania, Lebanon, Libya, Yemen and Turkey.

Retired Pakistani general Raheel Sharif has been appointed commander-in-chief.

The alliance aims to "mobilise and coordinate the use of resources, facilitate the exchange of information and help member countries build their own counter-terrorism capacity," Sharif said. While the alliance officially includes Qatar, which is the target of a six-month boycott led by Saudi Arabia, organisers in Riyadh said no Qatari officials were present at the meeting. Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt and Bahrain abruptly cut diplomatic and trade ties with Qatar in June, accusing the emirate of being too close to Iran and supporting Islamist extremism. (AFP)

HAIRCUTS THAT MAKE OLDER WOMEN LOOK GORGEOUS

It can be hard knowing what to do with your hair as you get older. What's the right way to look sexy, confident and cool without looking like an awkward teenager who hasn't learned how to be an adult yet? The good news is that there are plenty of hairstyles that will work, all you have to do is pick the right one for you.

Choppy Layers

A collection of multiple layers which have no even length is known as "choppy layers." The idea is that they will create a large amount of additional hair volume which counteracts gaunt features (a common facet of getting a little older).

The important thing to know when having this kind of style worked in is that it must be no more than a half-inch shorter at the back or it looks really unbalanced and awkward.

Long-Layered Pixie Cut

The long-layered pixie cut is really good for almost any facial features. It suggests that the bearer of this hair style is someone with a certain amount of elegant sophistication. It's a good look for late night entertaining or for power dressing at board level.

The style focuses other people's attention on your face which can be useful for commanding respect. It's easiest to adopt if you already have a pixie cut and want to grow it out a little.

Layered Side-Swept Bangs

If you find that your hair is becoming limp and difficult to manage as you get older, that's OK – it happens to many women and the secret is not to fight it but rather to roll with it.

That's what layered side-swept bangs are for: You take advantage of the hair's natural inclination to hang in space and use it to make your eyes stand out and also to deliver some rejuvenating volume to the body of your hair.

Grown Out Cropped Hair

If the biggest issue that you face is that you don't feel you have time for regular trips to the



salon but you really don't want to let your hair style slide into an unrecognizable mess either, then you might want to consider grown out cropped hair.

This style maintains its shape as it grows out and doesn't need regular attention from a stylist. Just don't let it grow past the collar if you want to stay young looking.

Choppy Bob

This style isn't for everyone. It's really best deployed when you have a heart-shaped or perhaps an oval-shaped face. That's because it has a tendency to elongate the neck and you want to feel that's in balance with the rest of you to be confident with this cut.

If you are going this way, then you need to get your stylist to cut your hair dry so that you can see how the layers will sit naturally.

Pixie

The pixie cut is the ultimate weapon in any

woman's hair armory. It's without a doubt the easiest kind of style to maintain on a daily basis as it's never long enough to get viciously tangled.

However, it shaves years off at the flick of some scissors. It's a bold cut that tells the world that you are confident in yourself and that you know your years suit you.

If you want to live things up, mess the style a little when you go out and you'll be the coolest person in the room.

Wavy Bob

A wavy bob cut to about chin length can help to elongate your neck, which is perfect if you enjoy wearing collarbone cut dresses.

Bangs are not a mandatory part of this style, and you should only opt for them if you really want them. We've found that soft bangs can help make it seem like you have fuller roots. The current fashion for wavy bobs demands that you use a more crumpled texture.

Streaked And Stacked

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Long Blonde Bob

They do say that blondes have more fun and there's no need to abstain from that fun just because you weren't born blonde. It might be time to apply a little hair dye, in fact. The long blonde bob smacks of sophistication and it looks perfect in just about every possible social and professional situation. It's really easy to transform from office manager to night time belle without doing any work to your hair. *Source: mydaily magazine*

FOOD CORNER

MUTTON CURRY

INGREDIENTS

Mutton with bones - 3/4 kg (Three quarters of a kg), Onions - 5 (chopped), Ginger - 2" piece, Garlic - 15 cloves, Green Chillies - 3 (sliced), Tomato - 2 (pureed), Yogurt - 3/4 cup, Turmeric 1/2 tsp, Red Chili Powder - 1 tsp, Kashmiri Chili Powder - 2 tsp, Garam Masala - 1 tsp, Black Peppercorns - 1/2 tsp, Cumin Seeds - 2 tsp + 1 tsp, Coriander Seeds - 3 tsp (or Coriander, Powder - 2 tsp), Kasoori Methi - 1 tsp, Coriander leaves - 1/4 cup (finely chopped), Mustard Oil or ghee - 6 tbsp, Salt - to taste (about 1 tsp), Whole spices - 1 bay leaf, 1 black, cardamom, 1" piece cinnamon sticks, 3 cloves, Dry Red Chillies - 2, Water - 1 cup.

Method

- Chop the onions and green chillies. Puree the tomatoes.
- Grind together the cumin seeds, cloves, coriander seeds, garlic cloves, ginger and peppercorns with little water.
- Wash the mutton nicely. Marinate it with yogurt, turmeric powder and salt. Heat mustard oil in a pan or pressure cooker. Ghee can also be used instead. Add bay leaf, black cardamom, cinnamon stick and cumin seeds.
- Add the chopped onion and green chillies. Fry until it



turns golden brown in color. Add turmeric powder, red chili powder and kashmiri powder. Fry for just a minute.

- Add the marinated mutton, pureed tomato and the ground paste. Fry for couple of minutes to mix everything. Cover and cook for 5 minutes till most of the moisture dries up. Add about 1 cup of water and required salt. Also add the garam masala, kasoori methi and half of the chopped coriander leaves.
- Cover the cooker and cook for 2 whistles on medium flame. Let the pressure come down naturally. Open the cooker and garnish with coriander leaves. Tasty mutton curry is ready to serve.

TIPS TO GET LUSCIOUS LIPS



EXFOLIATE DAILY: Get a good baby brush or a brush with very soft bristles and exfoliate your lips gently every day in the morning. Remove those dead cells of the extra peeling layer.

MOISTURIZE: Choose a good lip balm to moisturize your lips. Don't let them dry at all. See that it has enough SPF protection so that it can protect you from the harmful sun rays and their side effects, that is, pigmentation. Apply after brushing your teeth in the morning and afternoon.

GET RID OF PIGMENTATION: Pigmentation is quite common these days. So it's important to get rid of it for beautiful and luscious lips, and for that nothing can beat a DIY. There are many ways and recipes among which the simplest method is to mix few drops of lemon juice with few drops of honey and apply it to the lips. Leave it for few minutes like a pack and wash it. If you wish, you can add some sugar to it and use it as a scrub too.

MOTHER'S STRESS DURING PREGNANCY PHYSICALLY AFFECTS BABY'S GROWTH

Mothers-to-be, here's one more reason for you to take care of yourself during pregnancy. According to a new study, taking stress during the beginning and the end of gestation period affects the growth of the baby. A research suggests that babies are physically affected by the stress level of their mother during pregnancy.

The findings indicate that stress during late gestation reduces the baby's growth during dependence, resulting in a reduced body size throughout development, whereas stress during early gestation results in largely- unaffected growth rates during dependence, but accelerated growth and increased size after weaning.

Researchers from the Universities of New Mexico, Gottingen, and German Primate Center, have proposed a hypothesis that largely predicts why there are highly variable patterns in the growth rates of disadvantaged offspring across 719 studies on 21 mammal species. Lead study author Andreas Berghanel says that the idea is that prenatal stress affected an offspring in two different ways depending on the timing of the stressor during pregnancy - yielding different outcomes before birth, after birth, and after weaning.

Berghanel states that prenatal maternal stress late in gestation causes mothers to invest less energy in their newborn, which leads to slower growth in the womb and during infancy, but doesn't affect growth later. By contrast, prenatal maternal stress early in gestation additionally causes the fetus to be entirely reprogrammed to deal with a reduced life expectancy.

This new comparative study finds all of these predictions are supported in a



The study result suggests that stress during late gestation reduces the baby's growth during dependence, resulting in a reduced body size throughout development

large sample of studies that each measured the effects of prenatal stress on size and growth of newborn compared to an unchallenged control group. They state that whether mothers are exposed directly to

stressors via food restriction or other adversities or were experimentally manipulated to increase

their 'stress hormones' for example, cortisol, the patterns of newborn's growth across developmental stage relative to the timing of the stressor remained the same.

Maternal stress during gestation causes numerous effects on infant physiology that extend well into adulthood. *Source: ANI*



BLOOD TEST MAY CUT LIVER DAMAGE RISK OF PCM OVERDOSE

LONDON (TIP): People who overdose on paracetamol could be helped by a blood test that shows immediately if they are going to suffer liver damage, a study has found.

Researchers at the University of Edinburgh in the UK say the test — which detects levels of specific molecules in blood — will help doctors identify which patients need more intense treatment.

It will also help speed the development of new therapies for liver damage by targeting patients most likely to benefit.

The test detects three different molecules in the blood that are associated with liver damage — called miR-122, HMGB1 and FL-K18.

The study, published in the journal *Lancet Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, measured levels of the three markers in more than 1,000 patients who needed treatment for paracetamol overdose.

They found that the test could accurately predict which patients are going to develop liver problems, and who may need to be treated for longer before they are discharged.

"These new blood tests can identify who will develop liver injury as soon as they first arrive at hospital. This could transform the care of this large, neglected, patient group," said James Dear, from the University of Edinburgh.

Source: PTI

MINDFULNESS TRAINING MAY HELP SHED KILOS

Mindfulness training may help people stick to weight-loss diet and shed kilos, a study has found. Researchers at the McGill University in Canada examined 19 studies conducted over the past decade. Mindfulness interventions in these studies involved either formal meditation, informal mindfulness strategies that focused on eating activity, or some combinations of these two approaches.

They found that interventions based on mindfulness proved "moderately effective for weight loss" and "largely effective in reducing obesity-related eating behaviours." Initially, when compared to participants treated with diet and exercise-based "lifestyle-change" interventions, those who received mindfulness training lost less weight by the end of the programme, according to the study published in the journal *Obesity Reviews*.

The researchers found that mindfulness participants had continued to lose weight, bringing their average weight loss to 3.5% of their initial body weight, while those in the "lifestyle-change" programs regained some weight. The findings are "encouraging" and "highlight the potential of using mindfulness training to support weight loss," said Kimberley Carriere, from the McGill University. *Source: PTI*

Artificial patch can repair damage caused after a heart attack

Researchers have developed a functioning artificial human heart muscle large enough to patch over damage typically seen in patients who have suffered a heart attack.

Unlike some human organs, the heart cannot regenerate itself after a heart attack. The dead muscle is often replaced by scar tissue that can no longer transmit electrical signals or contract, both of which are necessary for smooth and forceful heartbeats.

The end result is a disease commonly referred to as heart failure that affects over 12 million patients worldwide. The heart patch developed by biomedical engineers at Duke University in the US takes a major step toward the goal of repairing dead heart muscle in human patients.

"Right now, virtually all existing therapies are aimed at reducing the symptoms from the damage that's already been done to the heart, but no approaches have been able to replace the muscle that's lost, because once it's dead, it does not grow back on its own," said Ilya Shadrin, first author on the study published online in the journal *Nature Communications*.

"This is a way that we could replace lost muscle with tissue made outside the body," Shadrin added. For heart patches to work, it must be large enough to cover the affected tissue. It



must also be just as strong and electrically active as the native heart tissue, or else the discrepancy could cause improper beating of the heart.

"Creating individual cardiac muscle cells is pretty commonplace, but people have been focused on growing miniature tissues for drug development," Nenad Bursac, Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Duke, said.

Source: IANS

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FACEBOOK MAY SOON ASK YOU TO UPLOAD YOUR PHOTO FOR SECURITY

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): To strengthen security for its over two billion users, Facebook may soon ask them to upload a photo that clearly shows their face to prove that they are not a bot.

According to Wired.com on Wednesday, the social media giant is using a new kind of captcha -- a type of challenge-response test used in computing to determine whether or not the user is human -- to verify whether a user is a real person or just a bot.

A screenshot of the identity test shared on Twitter read: "Please upload a photo of yourself that clearly shows your face. We'll check it and then permanently delete it from our servers." Facebook later confirmed to Wired.com, saying the photo test was intended to "help us catch suspicious activity at various points of interaction on the site, including creating an account, sending Friend requests, setting up ads payments, and creating or editing ads".

A Facebook spokesperson was quoted as saying that the photo test is one of several methods, both automated and manual, used to detect suspicious activity.

The process is automated, including identifying suspicious activity and checking the photo. To determine if the account is authentic, Facebook looks at whether the photo is unique, the report said.

Further, users were locked out of their accounts while the photo was being verified.

A message said: "You Can't Log In Right Now. We'll get in touch with you after we've reviewed your photo. You'll now be logged out of Facebook as a security precaution."

Facebook users who suspect their account has been compromised can go to Facebook.com/hacked. *Source: IANS*

NASA to measure space debris around International Space Station



WASHINGTON (TIP): NASA is set to launch a sensor that will measure space debris around the International Space Station (ISS), which could help reduce the risk to human life.

The one square meter Space Debris Sensor (SDS) will travel on a SpaceX cargo mission on December 4 and will be mounted on the exterior of the station.

The sensor uses dual-layer thin films, an acoustic sensor system, a resistive grid sensor system and a sensor backstop to provide near-real-time impact detection and recording, the US space agency said.

Research from this investigation could help lower the risk to human life and critical hardware by orbital debris.

US-based aerospace company SpaceX will launch its Dragon spacecraft into orbit for its 13th commercial resupply mission.

The spacecraft will lift into orbit atop the Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in the US carrying crew supplies, equipment and scientific research to crew members living and working aboard the station.

Another investigation will attempt to pull fibre optic wire from ZBLAN, a heavy metal fluoride glass commonly used to make fibre optic glass. *Source: PTI*

CHINESE SATELLITE DETECTS MYSTERIOUS SIGNALS IN SEARCH FOR DARK MATTER

BEIJING (TIP): China's Dark Matter Particle Explorer (DAMPE) has detected unexpected and mysterious signals in its measurement of high-energy cosmic rays.

The satellite, also called Wukong or "Monkey King", has measured more than 3.5 billion cosmic ray particles with the highest energy up to 100 tera-electron-volts (TeV), including 20 million electrons and positrons, with unprecedented high energy resolution, reports Xinhua news agency.

This might bring scientists a step closer to shedding light on invisible dark matter.

"DAMPE has opened a new window for observing the high-energy universe, unveiling new physical phenomena beyond our current understanding," Chang Jin, chief scientist of DAMPE and vice director of the Purple Mountain Observatory of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), said on Thursday.

The initial detection results on the precise measurement of the electron and positron spectrum in an energy range between 25 giga-electron-volts (GeV) and 4.6 TeV were published in the latest issue of the academic journal, Nature.

Precise measurement of cosmic rays, especially at the very high energy range, are important for scientists to look for traces of dark matter annihilation or decay, as well as to understand the universe's most energetic astrophysical phenomena, such as pulsars, active

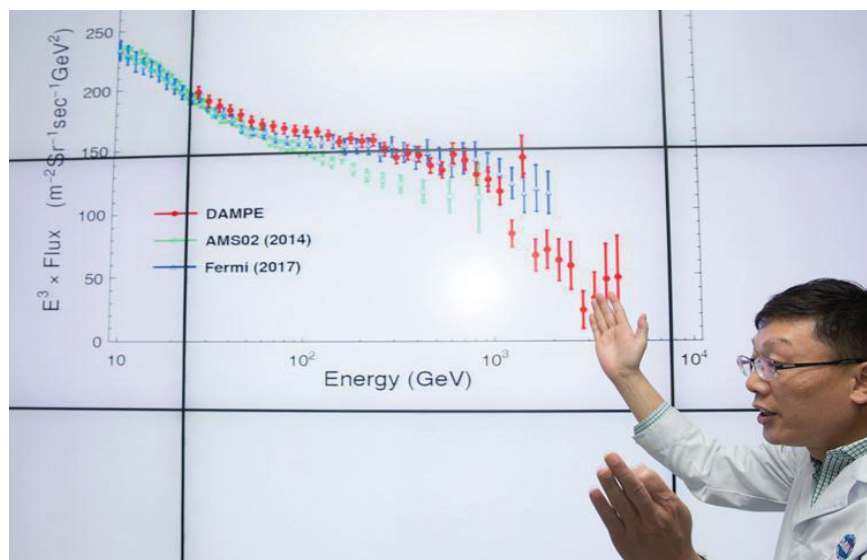


Photo taken on Nov. 2, 2017, shows Chang Jin, chief scientist of Dark Matter Particle Explorer (DAMPE) and vice director of the Purple Mountain Observatory (PMO) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), introducing the science achievement of DAMPE Satellite, "Wukong", at the PMO in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province.

Photo courtesy: Xinhua

galaxy nuclei and supernova explosions.

"Our data may inspire some new ideas in particle physics and astrophysics," said Chang.

Dark matter, which cannot be seen or touched, passes right through us as if we don't exist. The ghost-like material is one of the great mysteries of science.

Scientists calculate that normal matter, such as galaxies, stars, trees, rocks and atoms, accounts for only about 5 per cent of the universe. However, about 26.8 per cent of the universe is

dark matter and 68.3 per cent dark energy.

DAMPE was sent into an orbit of about 500km above the earth on December 17, 2015.

Also dedicated to exploring the evidence of annihilation or decay of dark matter particles in space are NASA's Fermi Space Telescope and the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer (AMS-02), a state-of-the-art particle physics detector operating on the International Space Station. *Source: IANS*

WORLD'S SMALLEST TAPE RECORDER BUILT FROM BACTERIA

NEW YORK (TIP): Researchers have converted a natural bacterial immune system into the world's smallest data recorder, laying the groundwork for a new class of technologies that use bacterial cells for everything from disease diagnosis to environmental monitoring.

The researchers at the Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) in the US modified an ordinary laboratory strain of the ubiquitous human gut microbe Escherichia coli, enabling the bacteria to not only record their interactions with the environment but also time-stamp the events.

"Such bacteria, swallowed by a patient, might be able to record the changes they experience through the whole digestive tract, yielding an unprecedented view of previously inaccessible phenomena," said Harris Wang from the CUMC.

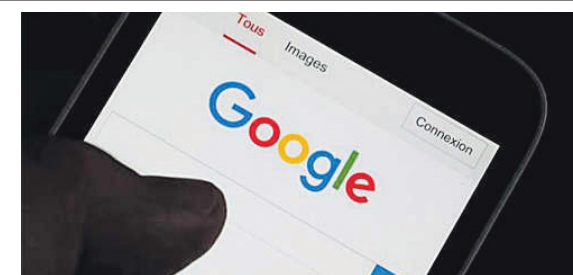
Other applications could include environmental sensing and basic studies in ecology and microbiology, where bacteria could monitor otherwise invisible changes without disrupting their surroundings, according to the study published in the journal Science.

Wang and his team created the microscopic data recorder by taking advantage of CRISPR-Cas, an immune system in many species of bacteria. CRISPR-Cas copies snippets of DNA from invading viruses so that subsequent generations of bacteria can repel these pathogens more effectively.

As a result, the CRISPR locus of the bacterial genome accumulates a chronological record of the bacterial viruses that it and its ancestors have survived. When those same viruses try to infect again, the CRISPR-Cas system can recognise and eliminate them.

Bacteria, swallowed by a patient, might be able to record the changes they experience through the whole digestive tract, yielding an unprecedented view of previously inaccessible phenomena

Source: PTI



Google faces inquiry over location data collection

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): After Google reportedly confirmed the practice of gathering location data from Android devices even when the service was disabled by users, regulators in South Korea summoned representatives of the tech giant this week for questioning.

Data protection officials in Britain are also looking into the matter, CNNMoney reported on Friday.

The probe in South Korea follows a report by Quartz which found that Android phones have been collecting the addresses of nearby mobile towers—even when location services are disabled—and sending that data back to Google.

This makes search engine giant and the unit of Alphabet behind Android to have access to huge amount of data that invades their privacy. Users cannot opt out of this even when their devices are factory reset, the report said.

Google reportedly confirmed the move which was undertaken "to improve the speed and performance of message delivery".

Google said Android phones are no longer requesting Cell ID codes, and collection should be phased out this month. *Source: IANS*

INDIA'S Q2 GDP GROWTH JUMPS TO 6.3 PER CENT, BREAKS FIVE-QUARTER SLIDE

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's economy regained momentum in the September quarter as the manufacturing sector shrugged off any teething impact from the July 1 implementation of the Goods and Services Tax to propel gross domestic product (GDP) growth to 6.3%.

GDP growth recovered in the second fiscal quarter from a three-year low of 5.7% in the preceding three-month period, while Gross Value Added (GVA) growth accelerated to 6.1% from 5.6% in the first quarter, according to official data released by the government on Thursday.

"The GDP figure for Q2 at constant prices is 6.3% versus 7.5% in the second quarter of the previous financial year," TCA Anant, Chief Statistician of India and Secretary to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, said at a press conference. "This reversal... in the trend is very encouraging."

GDP growth for the first half of the financial year (April-September) was 6% compared with 7.7% in the year-earlier period. GVA growth was at 5.8% compared with 7.2% over the same period.

"This indicates that perhaps the impact of demonetisation and GST is now behind us and hopefully in the coming quarters we can look for an upward trajectory," Finance Minister



The GDP data for the September quarter came on a day when it was reported that India's fiscal deficit at the end of October hit 96.1% of the budget estimate for 2017-18.

Arun Jaitley said. "The most significant aspect is that this quarter's positive result has been impacted significantly by growth in manufacturing," he added.

The manufacturing sector expanded by 7% in the quarter, a robust acceleration from 1.2% in the first quarter. Still, the pace was slower than the 7.7% seen in the second quarter of 2016-2017. Other sectors that witnessed growth of more than 6% were electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services, and trade, hotels, transport and communication services related to broadcasting.

"The latest set of numbers on growth... show that activity levels were recovering from the disruption caused in the first quarter," Anis Chakravarty, lead economist, Deloitte India, wrote in a note, adding that the break-up showed improved performance by manufacturing that could have possibly been affected by the implementation of the GST. "High frequency indicators such as auto sales suggest that demand has recovered since then and manufacturing could see better numbers in the quarters ahead," Chakravarty wrote.

Source: The Hindu

IMF TO REVISE INDIA GROWTH RATE FORECAST IN JANUARY



WASHINGTON (TIP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Thursday said it would update its growth rate forecast for India in January next year.

Recently, the US-based Moody's upgraded India's sovereign rating after a gap of 13 years to Baa2, with 'stable' outlook, from Baa3 earlier, citing improved growth prospects driven by economic and institutional reforms.

This was followed by S&P Global Rating, which kept India's sovereign rating unchanged at BBB- with stable outlook saying vulnerabilities stemming from low per capita income and high government debt balances strong GDP growth.

"We will be updating the forecast for India, including the growth rate, and that will be coming January with the update of our World Economic Outlook," IMF spokesman Gerry Rice told reporters at a news conference held at its headquarters here.

The IMF statement came as the latest figures revealed that India grew at 6.3 per cent in the September quarter compared to 5.7 per cent in the June quarter, reflecting an improvement in the Indian economy.

In its news dispatch from New Delhi, The Wall Street Journal said India's economic expansion accelerated in the latest quarter, ending a five-quarter slowdown and sparking optimism that the negative effects of recent economic policies may now be behind Asia's third-largest economy.

CNN reported that India's economy has bounced back from a year-long slowdown, but it was not enough to regain the global growth crown from China.

Source: PTI

Jet Airways, Air France-KLM announce tie-up to boost traffic



MUMBAI (TIP): India's Jet Airways and Air France-KLM announced a partnership to route more traffic through Europe and on to North America, in a potential challenge to Gulf carrier Etihad Airways that is a shareholder in Jet.

Indian international air traffic is booming, but much of the growth has been captured by the three big Gulf carriers including Etihad, which owns 24 per cent of Jet.

The "enhanced cooperation agreement" with Air France-KLM, signed on Wednesday in India's financial capital Mumbai, is designed to route more traffic and expand the number of flights to Europe and then onwards to the United States.

The agreement also includes Delta Air Lines, with which Air France KLM has an existing partnership.

International carriers are increasingly tying up on routes in the face of rising competition.

The Gulf will continue to be an important market and Jet will not reduce its operations there, Naresh Goyal, chairman of Jet, told reporters.

He added that Jet had a "great relationship with Etihad" and that would continue.

Bitcoin breaks \$10,000 barrier for first time

NEW YORK

(TIP): NBitcoin, a digital currency that allows individuals to transfer value to each other and pay for goods and services by-passing banks and mainstream financial system, has broken

through the \$10,000 barrier for the first time on Wednesday. The growth has delighted investors but at the same time it has sparked fears of a bubble.

The virtual currency hit a high of \$10,903 in Asia, which about 14 times its value at the start of the year, Bloomberg News reported.

The breakthrough is the latest in a spectacular run for the online money dubbed "digital gold" by its advocates, which began life in 2009 as a bit of encrypted software supposedly written by an unknown coder with a Japanese-sounding name.

Bitcoin, which was valued at just a few US cents when it was launched, has no legal exchange rate, no central bank backing it and is traded on specialist platforms.

What began as the preserve of computer nerds and financial experts has gained a following among a broader group seeking alternatives to traditional investments, while it has been used to pay for items from a pint in a London pub to a manicure.

The virtual currency has attracted as much anger as praise, however. The boss of JP Morgan Chase labelled it a fraud, while China has closed down Bitcoin trading platforms and South Korea this week expressed concern it could lead young investors to become embroiled in fraud.



INDIA, SPAIN SIGN URBAN TRANSPORT PACT

NEW DELHI (TIP): An Indo-Spanish technical cooperation agreement was signed between the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) and the Administrador de Infraestructuras Ferroviarias (ADIF), Spain.

The state-owned Spanish railway infrastructure company would provide institutional mechanism for mutual cooperation in the field of urban transport and implementation of Regional Rapid Transit System project.

The NCRTC is mandated to design, construct, operate and maintain rail based RRTS in National Capital Region. Minister Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri said the agreement would enable availability of technical advice on specific issues, besides providing training and collaboration in the technical areas of track, signalling, rolling stock, safety, multi-modal integration, station design etc.

SAMSUNG PIPS APPLE TO TOP SMARTPHONE SALES

NEW DELHI (TIP): With a 22.3 per cent market share, Samsung pipped Apple to grab the top spot in the global smartphone sales to end users (by vendor) in the third quarter of 2017, market research firm Gartner said on Thursday.

Apple registered a distant 11.9 per cent market share while Huawei 9.5 per cent at the third spot as the global smartphone sales reached 383 million units in the third quarter. In the second quarter, Samsung registered 20.7 per cent market share while Apple 13.7 per cent, indicating a drop for the Cupertino-based giant.

"Renewed pushes of the newly designed Galaxy S8, S8+ and Note 8 smartphones have brought back growing demand for Samsung smartphones which helped it compete against Chinese manufacturers and deliver a solid performance in the quarter," said Anshul Gupta, Research Director, Gartner.

Source: PTI

Shree Ganeshaya Namah



Horoscope Forecast for DECEMBER 2017

BY BEJAN DARUWALLA

Email: info@bejandaruwalla.com / Phone: +91-8141234275 / www.bejandaruwalla.com

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

RAMANATHASWAMY TEMPLE: SOUTHERNMOST JYOTIRLINGAM

The Ramanathaswamy Temple is dedicated to god Shiva located in Rameswaram island in the state of Tamil Nadu, India. It is also one of the twelve Jyothirlinga temples, where Shiva is worshipped in the form of a Jyotirlingam (English: pillar of light). It is one of the 274 Paadal Petra Sthalams, where the three of the most revered Nayanars (Saivite saints), Appar, Sundarar and Tirugnana Sambandar, have glorified the temple with their songs. The temple was expanded during the 12th century by Pandya Dynasty, and its principal shrines sanctum were renovated by Jeyaveera Cinkaiariyan and his successor Gunaveera Cinkaiariyan of the Jaffna kingdom. The temple has the longest corridor among all Hindu temples in India. The temple is located in Rameswaram, an island town in South India, considered a holy pilgrimage site for Shaivites, Vaishnavites and Smarthas.

According to the Ramayana, Rama, the seventh incarnation of god Vishnu, is believed to have prayed to Shiva here to absolve sin of killing a brahmana, committed during his war against the demon king Ravana in Sri Lanka. Rama wanted to have the largest lingam to worship Shiva. He directed Hanuman, the monkey lieutenant in his army, to bring the lingam from Himalayas. Since he took longer to bring the lingam, Sita, the wife of Rama, built a small lingam out of the sand available in the sea shore, which is believed to be the lingam in the sanctum.

Rameshwaram Temple is situated in the island of Rameswaram, off the Sethu coast of Tamil Nadu and is reached via the Pamban Bridge across the sea. The huge temple is known for its long ornate corridors, towers and 36 theerthams.

This Shivastalam is considered to be one of the holiest shrines in India. It represents the southernmost of the 12 Jyotirlingams of India and has been a time honored pilgrimage center held on par with Banaras. This shrine is regarded as the 8th of the Tevara Stalams in the Pandya region of Tamilnadu.

The construction of this temple began in the 12th century; nonetheless it was completed much later, during the reign of various rulers. Rameshwaram Temple is famous for embracing one of the twelve Jyotirlingas (lingam of light) of Lord Shiva. The temple is also accredited for being the southern most 'jyotirlinga' of India. It is believed that at this place Lord Rama offered his gratitude to Lord Shiva.

The Lingam of Ramanathaswamy is the presiding deity of Rameswaram Temple. The religious significance of this shrine has made it, one of the most visited temples of India. Rameshwaram (South) is one of the four major pilgrimage sites of Hindus, the other being Puri (East), Dwarka (West) and Badrinath (north). The main shrine adores the idols of Viswanatha Naicker and Krishnama Naicker.

In the inner section of the Ramalingeshwara, Ramalingam and Vishvalingam are placed side by side. Preserving the words of Lord Rama, Vishvalingam is worshipped before Ramalingam. Maha Shivarathri, Thirukalyanam, Mahalaya Amavasai and Thai Amavasai are the major festivals that are celebrated with gusto and fervor.

Theertham (Water springs): There are 36 Theerthams in Rameswaram of which 22 are in the temple and these waters are said to possess medicinal properties. Bathing in these is considered to be of great significance. The Agni theertham refers to the ocean while the Koti theertham is located within the temple itself

Encompassing nine levels, the eastern Rajgopuram (spire) soars to the height of 126 feet. However, the western 'gopuram' is not as high as the eastern 'gopuram', still it is equally captivating. The temple comprises numerous 'mandaps' having small shrines, dedicated to other deities. The colossal image of Nandi (Lord Shiva's Bull) captures the attention, due to its sheer size. It measures 12 feet in its length and 9 feet in its height. High fortifications encircle the temple, making a rectangle along with big pyramidal 'gopura' doorways on every side.

Rameswaram Temple is spread over an area of 15 acres and has lofty gopurams, massive walls and a colossal Nandi. Rameswaram Jyotirlinga also boasts of a 4000 feet long pillared corridor with over 4000 pillars, supposedly the longest in the world. The carved granite pillars are mounted



on a raised platform. Worth noticing fact about this corridor is that the rock is not indigenous to the island and is said to have been brought in from elsewhere in Tamil Nadu across the sea.

The eastern Rajagopuram towers to a height of 126 feet and has nine levels. The Western Rajagopuram is also quite impressive though not as tall as the Eastern one. The temple also has several mandapams with mini shrines to other deities. There is a huge Nandi measuring 12 feet in length and 9 feet in height with the idols of Viswanatha Naicker and Krishnama Naicker. The lingams are housed in the inner section of the Ramalingeshwara. High walls enclose the temple, forming a rectangle with huge pyramidal gopura entrances on each side.

The main deity (moolavar) of the temple, the Shiva linga installed by Lord Rama is kept inside this shrine. It is believed that the Shiva linga is built by beach sand by Sita(wife of lord Rama).

Vigrahas (metal idols) of Rama nathaswamy And Ambal Parvathavarthini (Urchavar idols used during festivals), Ram , Sita, lakshmana, sugriva, hanuman are kept near Ramanatha swamy shrine. These idols are used in festival times.

Vishnu Shrine in Rameswaram Temple

It is located north-west corner to the Ambal shrine. This Temple is one of the very few temples which have Vishnu shrines inside The Shiva temple. The posture of the Vishnu is called as "Anandha sayana". Other names: Pallikonda Perumal, Perumal

Santhana, Sowbagya Ganapathi

Literally the words santhanam and soubagyam means off springs and health, wealth, prosperity. It is believed that by worshiping this twin ganapathi one get Santhanam, sowbagyam. This shrine is situated at southwest corner to the Ambal shrine.

Palliyarai

This room is located at north east corner to the ambal shrine. Every night metal vigraha from Rama nathaswamy (Urchava moorthi) is taken from Rama nathaswamy shrine by a palanquin to this room and poojas were performed. And also every morning this vigraha is taken back to the Rama nathaswamy shrine after a certain ritualistic poojas.



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

INDIAN STARTUP FIRST TO SOLVE FACEBOOK GLOBAL CHALLENGE IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Bangalore based startup first in the world to finish all 20 Facebook QA bAbi tasks with 100% accuracy

BENGALURU (TIP): Data Val Analytics Inc, a Bangalore and Chicago-based Artificial Intelligence-(AI) startup is the first in the world to successfully complete a difficult 20-part challenge in AI created by Facebook in 2015. The test, known as the (20) QAbAbi Tasks hosted by Facebook AI Research (FAIR), assesses the ability of AI based programs to perform text understanding and reasoning.

To date, NO organization has been able to solve all the 20 tasks with 100% accuracy. However, using a unique approach, Data Val has successfully completed all 20 tasks with 100% accuracy. The Data Val approach focuses on the human way of understanding Language. It also has integrated multiple processes related to language pre-processing, word sense

disambiguation, conjunction processing, preposition association, co-reference resolution and time and space analysis. DataVal focuses on a holistic view of the environment and the ecosystem to reason and understand the situation, an approach similar to the human approach to problem solving.

AI is the new frontier technology of the future with far reaching implications on social, economic and political activities across the world. It will have a significant impact at home, business, factories, banking, government, education, health and lot more. All major global companies and universities have been working on AI for decades. With advances in high speed computing, low cost storage, open source software, cloud computing and smart

phones, AI is now in prominence. All leading companies like Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook, Apple, IBM and a handful of startups have substantial research and development under way on AI.

The success of Data Val in solving Q A bAbi tasks offers hope to address a variety of AI applications related to intelligent personal assistance, search engine, voice command & control applications, social media content analysis, and expert systems in fields such as Education, Health, Energy, Environment, Transport, Finance, Manufacturing, Services and Government.

DataVal Analytics Inc has offices in Bangalore, India and Chicago, USA with a small team of highly experienced data scientists and programmers focused on

Natural Language Understanding technology & Big Data Analytics.

The company has been founded by veterans from the Indian Army-Lt Col Shashi Kiran (Veteran) and Lt Col Naveen Xavier (Veteran). The team is mentored by the leading entrepreneur, innovator, policy maker and development thinker, Dr. Sam Pitroda as Chairman.

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FOUNDERS



Dr Sam Pitroda

Dr. Sam Pitroda is an internationally respected telecom inventor, entrepreneur, development thinker, and policy maker who has spent 50 years in information and communications technology (ICT) and related global and national developments. Credited with having laid the foundation for India's telecommunications and technology revolution of the 1980s, Mr. Pitroda has been a leading campaigner to help bridge the global digital divide.

Dr. Pitroda served as Advisor to the Prime Minister of India on Public Information Infrastructure and Innovation, with the rank of a Cabinet Minister. He served as the Chairman of the Smart Grid Task Force, as well as the committees to reform public broadcasting, modernize railways, deliver e-governance, and other developmental activities.

Dr. Pitroda is a Founding Chairman of five non-profit organizations including the India Food Bank, the Global Knowledge Initiative and the Institute of Transdisciplinary Health. He is also a founding Commissioner of the United Nations Broadband Commission for Digital Development and Chairman of the International Telecommunication Union's m-Powering Development Board that looks to empower developing countries with the use of mobile technology.

In addition, Dr. Pitroda is a serial entrepreneur having started several companies in the United States. He holds around 20 honorary PhD's, close to 100 worldwide patents, and has published five books and numerous papers and lectured widely all over the world. He is also the Chairman of DataVal Analytics Inc. He lives in Chicago with his wife.



Lt Col Shashi Kiran BP (Veteran)

Lt Col Shashi Kiran BP (Veteran) is a scientist at heart, known for his unconventional and out of the box thinking. He is a veteran with 20+ years of service in the Indian Army. He has worked in the field of Data Science, Information Technology & Information Security. He has developed many tools and applications for the Army including a Desktop Security tool.

Shashi Kiran is the Director, Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer of DataVal Analytics. He is primarily responsible for the development of the Natural Language Understanding Technology at DataVal.

Shashi believes that one day the computers can think like humans and will assist us in all walks of life.



Lt Col Naveen Xavier (Veteran)

Lt Col Naveen Xavier (Veteran) is an entrepreneur with a passion to create a globally renowned company in Analytics. He is a veteran from the Indian Army with over two decades of experience across diverse military assignments. He has a hands-on experience in conceptualizing and deploying Big Data Analytics Solution. At the core, he is an IT & Telecom professional with experience in Planning & Operating nationwide networks. He also has rich experience in architecting solution frameworks for national level government IT projects.

At DataVal Analytics, he is the Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer where he leads a team of dedicated professionals who apply machine learning algorithms to solve complex problems.

DataVal Team with Dr Sam Pitroda



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contd from Page 1

Tillerson to be Replaced..

The former ExxonMobil executive has also defended the Iran nuclear deal, which Mr. Trump last month disavowed.

Under the plan, which the paper said was developed by White House chief of staff John Kelly, Mr. Pompeo would be replaced at the CIA by Senator Tom Cotton, a Republican from Arkansas and an important Trump ally on national security issues.

That could leave Republicans with another seat to defend in the 2018 elections.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was unaware of any plans to oust him when he spoke to Senator Bob Corker on Thursday, Mr. Corker said.

"He's conducting business, as is the norm, and is unaware of anything changing, Corker, the chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told reporters.

Black money stacked...

going on, I don't want to get into that political debate because I am not in politics now," said the Vice-President.

He further said he has retired from politics, but not retired from public life

Mr. Naidu was speaking at a conference on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) organized by WASME in New Delhi.

"The money has come back. Some people are raising questions as to what is the purpose of the so-called demonetization. As an ordinary citizen of the country I understand that was the purpose. The money has come back to banks with address. How much is official, how much is unofficial... that will be decided by the

Reserve Bank," he said.

The Vice-President stressed that banks need to take care of the MSME sector, which is giving maximum employment.

Mr. Naidu emphasized that SME development needs to be centered around sustainability. He added that alleviation of poverty while simultaneously creating employment and wealth by following the principle of inclusive growth was the only way towards a peaceful world.

In the context of sustainable development goals (SDGs), the development of SME sector must be primary development agenda of national governments "so as to address the critical issues around economic growth, job creation, social stability, and environmental protection". (Source: PTI)

'Will 'utterly destroy' ...

missile tests leads to a war and asked all countries to sever economic and diplomatic ties with Pyongyang to punish it for its "acts of aggression".

Speaking at an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss North Korea's latest missile launch, US ambassador to the world body Nikki Haley said Pyongyang had brought the world closer to war with its latest test of a ballistic missile capable of striking the U.S. mainland, its most advanced yet.

The missile was launched from Sain Ni, North Korea on Tuesday, and travelled about 1,000 km before splashing down in the Sea of Japan, within Japan's Economic Exclusion Zone.

"If war does come, it will be because of continued acts of aggression like we witnessed yesterday. And if war comes, make no mistake, the North Korean regime will be utterly destroyed," Ms. Haley said.

"The dictator of North Korea made a choice yesterday that brings the world closer to war, not farther from it. We have

never sought war with North Korea, and still today we do not seek it," she said.

The U.S. along with Japan and South Korea had called for an emergency meeting of the Security Council after North Korea's missile launch.

U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday spoke by telephone with Chinese President Xi Jinping, whose country is an economic lifeline for North Korea, and asked him to put more pressure on Pyongyang. Mr. Trump also asked Mr. Xi to cut off China's crude oil supplies to North Korea.

In a tweet after the call, Mr. Trump said more punitive sanctions were around the corner.

"As successful as we have been in levelling multilateral sanctions against it, the North Korean regime continues to test new and more powerful missiles. And as it does, it continues its march toward a functional nuclear arsenal," Ms. Haley said.

She said the development of North Korea's missile systems demanded that countries further isolate the regime of Kim Jong Un.

"So today, we call on all nations to cut off all ties with North Korea. In addition to fully implementing all UN sanctions, all countries should sever diplomatic relations with North Korea and limit military, scientific, technical, or commercial cooperation. They must also cut off trade with the regime by stopping all imports and exports and expel all North Korean workers," she demanded.

The White House said North Korea posed a "grave threat" to the world.

"The North Korean threat is very grave. It's not just a threat to the United States or a threat to the region -- or the Korean Peninsula region, but a threat to the entire world and the civilized world," White House Principal Deputy Press Secretary Raj Shah told reporters.

"We're encouraged that more countries are taking more significant steps to help apply as much pressure as we can on North Korea," Mr. Shah said in response to a question. He, however, parried questions on Mr. Trump's tweet about more sanctions against North Korea.

The British Ambassador to the UN, Matthew Rycroft, said that the latest missile launch follows 19 previous launches this year, and North Korea's sixth nuclear test in September.

"The latest violation demonstrates, once more, North Korea's disregard for our collective security and the international obligations, that all of us, as law-abiding states, take upon ourselves," he said.

The latest North Korean missile launch is a dangerous provocation, he said.

"It demonstrates that all of our Security Council interests are at stake, and this is not just an issue for one region of the world. This affects the whole world now. So, the whole world needs to come together in response," said the British Ambassador.

Presiding over the meeting, the Italian Ambassador Sebastiano Cardi, who is the Security Council President for the month of November, strongly condemned the North Korean missile test. (Source: PTI)

Pope demands...

his recent silence over what the United Nations has declared to be a textbook case of "ethnic cleansing."

Arriving in Bangladesh from Myanmar, Pope Francis said it also was "imperative" for world governments to immediately provide assistance to help the Bangladeshi government cope with Asia's worst refugee crisis in decades.

In a speech before Bangladesh President President Abdul Hamid, government officials and ambassadors from around the

world, Pope Francis praised Bangladesh's sacrifice and generosity in welcoming in so many refugees "before the eyes of the whole world." He didn't identify the Rohingya by name, ethnicity or faith, referring only to "refugees from Rakhine state."

"None of us can fail to be aware of the gravity of the situation, the immense toll of human suffering involved, and the precarious living conditions of so many of our brothers and sisters, a majority of whom are women and children, crowded in the refugee camps," he said.

"It is imperative that the international community take decisive measures to address this grave crisis, not only by working to resolve the political issues that have led to the mass displacement of people, but also by offering immediate material assistance to Bangladesh in its effort to respond effectively to urgent human needs."

Pope Francis, a tireless and fearless advocate for refugees, outcasts and society's most marginal, had drawn criticism from human rights organizations and Rohingya themselves for having failed to speak out publicly about the Rohingya's plight while he was in Myanmar.

Pope Francis had remained silent out of diplomatic deference to his hosts, who consider the Rohingya as having illegally migrated from Bangladesh and don't recognize them as one of Myanmar's ethnic groups. More than 620,000 Rohingya have fled Myanmar and poured into Bangladesh refugee camps over the last few months amid a scorched earth campaign by Myanmar's military.

The Vatican defended Pope Francis' silence in Myanmar, saying he wanted to "build bridges" with the predominantly Buddhist nation, which only recently established diplomatic relations with the Holy See. Spokesman Greg Burke said Pope Francis took seriously the advice given to him by the local Catholic Church, which urged him to toe a cautious line and not even refer to the "Rohingya" by name.

Rohingya have faced persecution and discrimination in Myanmar for decades and are denied citizenship, even though many families have lived there for generations. The situation grew worse in August when the army began what it called clearance operations in Rakhine state following attacks on security positions by a group of Rohingya militants.

Rohingya who are living in camps in Bangladesh have described indiscriminate attacks by Myanmar security forces and Buddhist mobs, including killings, rapes and the torching of entire villages.

"Our people welcomed them with open arms, sharing food, shelter and other basic needs," he said. "Now, it is our shared responsibility to ensure for them a safe, sustainable and dignified return to their own home and integration with the social, economic and political life of Myanmar."

The Rohingya crisis loomed large over Pope Francis' arrival in Dhaka, where huge banners with pictures of the Pope and Mr. Hamid dotted billboards around town.

Security was tight and was of a particular concern after a Christian priest went missing in northern Bangladesh on Tuesday, and his family reported they received calls demanding money. Police said they were looking for the man but would not confirm if it was a kidnapping.

The country's leading English-language newspaper, The Daily Star, said in an editorial it felt "slightly let down" the Pope didn't mention the Rohingya crisis specifically while in Myanmar.

"We remain hopeful that given Pope Francis' legacy of standing up for the oppressed, he will speak out against the ongoing persecution of the Rohingya during this very important visit," the paper added.

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Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, lies in the middle of the Heritage Arc. This bustling city, famed for its Nawabi era finesse and amazing food, is a unique mix of the ancient and the modern. It is home to extraordinary monuments depicting a fascinating blend of ancient, colonial and oriental architecture.

There are many beautiful gardens, interesting museums and grand historical places to visit in Lucknow, the city of Nawabs. Among these, the Bada Imambara, Kaiserbagh Palace complex, British Residency and State Museum are of prime importance. You can also admire the beauty of the Rumi Darwaza, built by Awadh's ruler Asaf-Ud-Daula in 1784, capture the magnificent architecture of The Constantia in your camera or relax in the beautiful old gardens of the city. Remember to spend a day with your kids at the famous Lucknow Zoo and Kukrail Picnic Spot. Begum Hazrat Mahal Park and Kaiserbagh Palace complex are some of the other major heritage sites in the city.

CONSTANTIA

Now a part of the famous La Martiniere College in Lucknow, the Constantia is a grand creation of a Frenchman called General Claude Martin. Martin started the construction of this structure in 1785, with the intention of building a palatial residence in India. However, he couldn't live long enough to live in the house and died in the year 1800. The construction could finally be completed only two years of his death. The building was named after the main principle of Martin's life, which was 'Labore et Constantia' (energy and persistence). Before he died, he made a will stating his desire to use the property as a centre of learning and thus, Constantia became an integral part of the college. The architectural grandeur of this majestic building will remind you of the bygone era.

RUMI DARWAZA

An exquisite example of Awadhi architecture, the Rumi Darwaza is a 60-foot-tall gateway located close to historical landmarks such as Bada Imambara and Chota Imambara in the city of Lucknow. The exquisite arch-shaped doorway is as central to Lucknow, as India Gate is to Delhi or Gateway of India is to Mumbai. Built in the 18th century, Rumi Darwaza is famed for its intricate carvings, architectural beauty and the vantage point on its top which offers panoramic views of the city (though entry to the topmost point is restricted mostly). This striking gateway is also known as the Turkish Gate, because of its resemblance with the entrance gate in Istanbul.

BEGUM HAZRAT MAHAL PARK

Situated in the heart of the city, the Begum Hazrat Mahal Park was built in the memory of the beautiful Queen of Awadh, Begum Hazrat Mahal. Though the garden and monument were constructed by the Indian government to commemorate her contribution to the 1857 revolt, it is also immensely popular with couples now. This impressive garden in the Hazratganj region has striking wellsprings, beautiful trees and stone pathways. The greenery and serenity around the garden draws couples in large numbers.

KAISERBAGH PALACE

One of the most-visited tourist attractions in Lucknow, Kaiserbagh Palace complex is truly an architectural marvel. It was built by the Nawab of Awadh Wajid Ali Shah between 1848 and 1850. In the later years, the palace acted as a stronghold of Begum Hazrat Mahal during the 1857 mutiny. A major part of the palace was destroyed by the British forces after the Revolt of 1857. Though the palace is in ruins now, it remains a prime tourist hotspot in the city. Visitors can still see the pediments, lanterns, Moorish minarets and banisters here. Moreover, the tombs of Nawab Saadat Ali Khan (the fifth Nawab Wazir of Awadh) and his beloved wife Khursheed Zadi, rest on the northern terrace of

LUCKNOW: THE CITY OF NAWABS



palace's courtyard, which is another major highlight of the place. With its splendid architectural style, Kaiserbagh Palace is a must see attraction in the city.

JAMA MASJID

Built entirely in sparkling off-white sandstone, Lucknow's Jama Masjid is considered to be one of the most beautiful mosques in India. Constructed in the 15th century, this architectural wonder will leave you spellbound with the calligraphy on its walls, its picturesque domes and striking minarets. Standing tall with 260 pillars, the mosque has 15 arched domes complete with exquisite carvings and stone work. Still used for daily prayers, the mosque is decorated on special festivals such as Id-ul-Fitr and Id-ul-Zuha. Located towards the north-west of Chota Imambara, the mosque is an important landmark in the city of nawabs.

CLOCK TOWER

Also known as Hussainabad Clock Tower, Clock Tower is a 67 m tall structure constructed by Nawab Nasir-ud-din Haider in the year 1881. Displaying the finest works of art, the tower was built to commemorate the arrival of Sir George Couper, the first Lieutenant Governor of United Province of Avadh. Situated close to the famous Rumi Darwaza, the tower is a magnificent example of English architecture, and displays Victorian and Gothic structural designs. The mastermind behind the creation of this gigantic clock tower was none other than the famous royal clock maker, James William Benson. So do make it a point to visit this impressive building while you're in the city.

Source: HappyTrips



2ND TEST: INDIA BEAT SRI LANKA BY INNINGS AND 239 RUNS

NAGPUR (TIP): A ruthless India equalled their biggest victory margin, decimating a lacklustre Sri Lanka by an innings and 239 runs in the second cricket Test for a 1-0 lead in the three-match series, here.

The victory margin is identical to India's Test win over Bangladesh at Mirpur in 2007 when Rahul Dravid was captain.

Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin (4/63) completed a coveted personal milestone of fastest 300 Test wickets in 54 games, beating Dennis Lillee's previous record of 56 matches, as he took the last wicket of Sri Lanka, who were dismissed for a paltry 166 in their second innings.

Ashwin is ahead of some of the illustrious names, who had completed the milestone in quick time. Among them are Muttiah Muralitharan (58 Tests), Richard Hadlee, Malcolm Marshall and Dale Steyn (61 Tests each).

Ashwin, who had a match-haul of 8 for 130, bowled Lahiru Gamage with a doosra to bring down curtains on one of the most lop-sided Test matches in recent times. The celebrations were very muted with teammates shaking hands with Ashwin before quietly walking off the field.

Skipper Dinesh Chandimal (61) was the only Sri Lankan batsman to show some resistance as others never matched upto what is required to play highest level of international cricket.

The manner of abject surrender in this Test match would certainly hurt the island nation, which till few years back was a force to reckon in international cricket. Just like the Test matches in Sri Lanka, they lost the Test match well inside three and a half days.



Ishant Sharma (2/43) looked menacing as he bowled short and quick while Ravindra Jadeja (2/28) was the beneficiary of some sharp fielding from Murali Vijay and indiscretion from the part of opposition batsmen.

Umesh Yadav (2/30) had a chance of completing his 100 wickets in Test but fell one short as the Tamil Nadu tweaker got to his milestone first.

Dimuth Karunaratne (18) was the first to get out when he tried to flick Jadeja and Murali Vijay standing at short leg had the ball jam into him. The Tamil Nadu player

showed good reflexes as Karunaratne was left stunned.

Lahiru Thirimanne (23), currently a senior player in the team stunned one and all when he chased a wide delivery from Umesh Yadav to hand Jadeja at point the simplest of catches.

It was a shocking dismissal as the ball was on the imaginary sixth stump and should have been left alone.

Former captain Angelo Mathews (10) was expected to show some responsibility while batting alongside Chandimal but his choice of shot also left a lot to be desired.

Having hit Jadeja for a six over long-on, he tried the same shot over long-off but failed to clear Rohit Sharma at mid-off. The former skipper is a pale shadow of his self and questions have been raised about his form and commitment which has been hurting Lankan cricket for some time now.

Mathews used to look a fine player when Mahela Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara were around but post their retirement, he has not been able to find his mojo.

The Sri Lankan cricket had expected Mathews to carry on the legacy of Mahela and Sangakkara but over the past two years, he has failed miserably with no significant contribution in Sri Lankan victory.

Niroshan Dickwella (4) got a snorter from Ishant which he awkwardly fended off to Virat Kohli at third slip, who gobbled it on second attempt.

It was then Ashwin, who joined the party after Shanaka hit him across the line for a boundary and a six. But it was an act of desperation that was for a brief period of time before he was holed out at long-on by KL Rahul giving the off-spinner his 297th victim.

Dilruwan Perera and Rangana Herath were then dismissed in quick succession as he closed in on his world record.

For Chandimal, it was all about being helpless watching the manner of dismissals with none of the batsmen showing any stomach for fight. More than the technique, it was the temperament that was questionable considering that the pitch and conditions weren't the most difficult to bat on.

Source: PTI

Kohli rested for Sri Lanka ODIs; Rohit to lead

MUMBAI (TIP): Virat Kohli has been rested for the 3-match ODI series against Sri Lanka upon request for a break from cricket because of workload. Kohli will be replaced by batsman, Rohit Sharma as captain for the series which starts from December 10th.

"I'm not a robot, you can slice my skin and check if I still bleed," said Kohli at the beginning of the Sri Lankan series.

Sharma, who hit a brilliant century in India's 2nd Test against the Sri Lankans, will most probably lead the Indian side for the T20i series too if Kohli does not return. The Indian selectors have decided to rest Kohli ahead of India's tour of South Africa in January.

Kohli has played nine tests, 26 ODIs and 10 T20s and more international cricket than any other current Indian player.

Hardik Pandya, and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who opted out of the 2nd and 3rd Test to get married, will return to the 15 man squad, while Ashwin and Jadeja are still ignored. Fast bowler Siddharth Kaul and batsman Shreyas Iyer, who recently represented India in T20's are also in the 15 man squad. Axar Patel, Yuzvendra Chahal, and Kuldeep Yadav are the three spin options available for the three-match



ODI series for India.

India will play the final Test against Sri Lanka on Saturday in New Dehli under Kohli's captaincy. Shikhar Dhawan, who pulled out of the 2nd Test due to personal reasons, will also be making a comeback in the national team for the 3rd and final Test. It was earlier announced that the squad for the South African will be announced before the 3rd match starts.

INDIA'S SQUAD FOR ODI SERIES AGAINST SRI LANKA

Rohit Sharma (C) Shikhar Dhawan, Ajinkya Rahane, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Panday, Kedar Jadhav, Dinesh Karthi, M.S. Dhoni, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Jadhav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, and Siddharth Kaul.

Kohli, CoA agree on pay hike, FTP issues

NEW DELHI (TIP): India captain Virat Kohli and his predecessor MS Dhoni's demand for a pay hike for the team was today accepted by the Committee of Administrators (CoA), which also took their inputs on the issue of cramped scheduling.

Kohli and Dhoni, along with the national coach Ravi Shastri, met CoA chief Vinod Rai, Diana Edulji and BCCI CEO Rahul Johri here. "We had an extensive discussion with the players on the issues that pertain to them directly, which means the number of matches they have to play, the Future Tours Program (FTP) and compensation package etc," Rai said. "All their inputs were taken and we are going to factor those in. The FTP, we bounced it off them. Presentations have been made and they are in agreement with the FTP so that they get enough rest. Number of days, I can't tell you as we have not yet worked it out," Rai said.

As per the current pay structure, Grade A players are paid Rs 2 crore annually, Grade B players are in the Rs 1 crore bracket, followed by Grade C at Rs 50 lakh per year. The per Test match fee for the playing XI stands at Rs 15 lakh, while they are paid Rs 6 lakh and Rs 3 lakh per ODI and T20I, respectively. The players outside the playing XI, but in the squad, are paid half the amount.

The modalities of the new pay structure are, however, not yet known. The Indian team, which is scheduled to play a full series in England between July and September next year, will travel there two weeks in advance to get acclimatised with the conditions.

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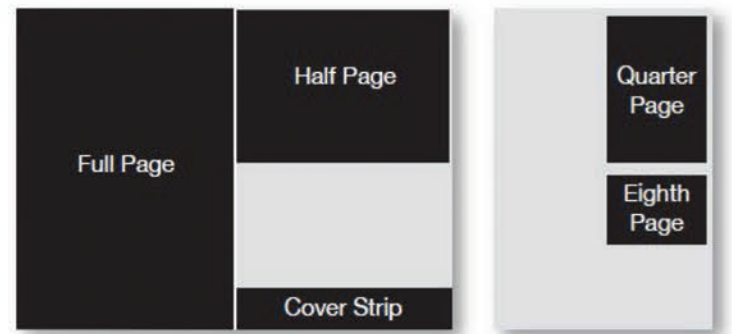


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