

At BRICS summit, India's PM Modi calls for tech revolution; reaffirms India's commitment to multilateralism



PM Narendra Modi, China's President Xi Jinping, South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa, Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Brazil's President Michel Temer at the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg Photo / Courtesy PTI

JOHANNESBURG (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, July 26, highlighted the importance of industrial technology, skill development and multilateral cooperation in creating a better world as he attended the BRICS Summit here. *contd on Page 20*

Facebook loses \$123 billion in value in a single day

NEW YORK (TIP): In possibly the biggest one-day drop of all time, Facebook shares, on July 26, opened at \$174.89, down 19.6 percent compared to yesterday's closing price of \$217.50 (NASDAQ: FB). When it comes to market capitalization, Facebook was worth \$629.6 billion yesterday. The company is now worth \$506.2. *contd on Page 20*

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Set to be Pakistan's PM, Imran Khan pitches for peace; says 'Blame game hurting both nations'

Ready to resolve all issues with India, including J&K



ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan is ready to improve its ties with India and his government would like the leaders of the two sides to resolve all disputes, including the "core issue" of Kashmir, through talks, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan said on Thursday, July 26, asserting that the blame game between the two neighbors, detrimental to the sub-continent, should stop.

"If they take one step towards us, we will take two, but at least (we) need a start," 65-year-old Khan said at his first public address after leading his party to victory in the *contd on Page 20*

Supporters of Imran Khan, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief, celebrate party's victory in Islamabad Photo / courtesy PTI

H-1B issue to figure in '2+2' talks, says India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj



NEW DELHI (TIP): Replying to queries in the Rajya Sabha, on July 26, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said: "I would like to state that so far there is no significant change with regard to H-1B Visas. Changes have taken *contd on Page 20*

"There has been no "major change" in the H-1B visa regime so far, rather the number of such visas has increased", said the External Affairs Minister. *Photo / Courtesy PTI*

Radio hosts call New Jersey's Sikh Attorney 'turban man'; face backlash



NEW YORK (TIP): America's first Sikh-American Attorney General Gurbir Grewal has been racially targeted by two radio hosts who repeatedly called him the "turban man" on air, drawing severe criticism *contd on Page 20*

New Jersey's Sikh-American Attorney General Gurbir Grewal Photo / Courtesy: Twitter @NewJerseyOAG

Trump and EU easing tariff tensions a 'ceasefire,' but pressure is still on



European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has a word with Trump

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Trump and the European Union appear to be backing away from a trade war. Mr. Trump and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker agreed Wednesday, July 24, to work toward eliminating tariffs, trade barriers and subsidies between the two economic giants.

The EU said it could buy more products from the U.S., including soybeans and liquefied natural gas. They also agreed to resolve the dispute over steel and aluminum tariffs.

Mr. Trump later tweeted a picture embracing Juncker, writing the U.S. and EU "obviously ... love each other."

It was a sharp change in tone for Mr. Trump, who spent weeks attacking the group. Earlier this month, in an interview with "CBS Evening News" anchor Jeff Glor, Mr. Trump called the EU "a foe, what they do to us in trade."

"How wonderful to go from foe to l'amore so quickly," said Ian Bremmer, Eurasia Group president and CBS News senior global affairs contributor, calling the latest development between the U.S. and EU a "ceasefire."

Bremmer said, however, that "there never was a trade war." "There were a couple of initial skirmishes back and forth. We have not taken our existing tariffs - the new ones, aluminum, steel - off of the Europeans, and we are continuing our investigation into the automotive tariffs. We're just putting a suspension on actually implementing them. So, the pressure is still on, but the tone has obviously changed," he said.

Bremmer said we need to see if policies actually get implemented.

"It reminds me of what happened after the Singapore meeting between Kim Jong Un and Trump. It sounded great. There was a deal. There wasn't anything concrete in the deal. We no longer talked about fighting each other, but in reality, U.S. policy and *contd on Page 20*

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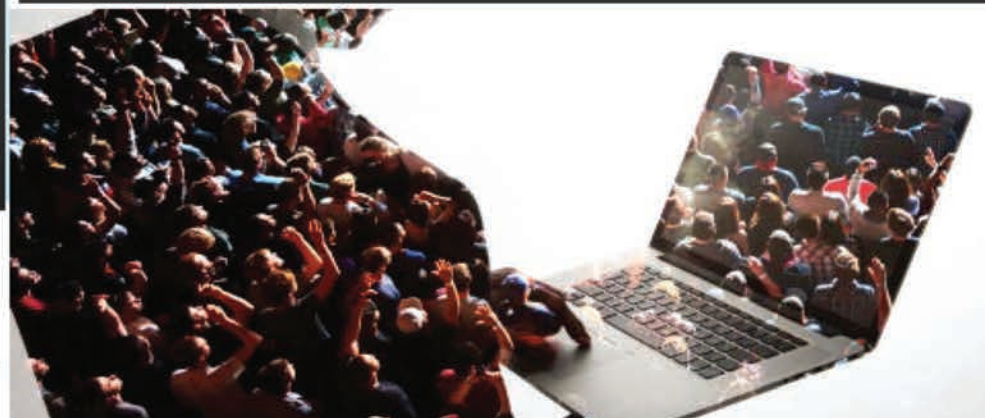
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UK Based Indian Entrepreneur's Start-Up Set to Combat Fake News

LONDON (TIP): UK based entrepreneur Lyric Jain, a Cambridge University engineering student originally from Mysore, developed the start-up that uses a machine-learning algorithm to sift fact from fiction is set to combat fake news around the world, including plans for a project specifically targeted at India.

The platform, which is currently going through technology trials with partners and advisors, will have its full public launch in September for the UK and the US, and hit India by October.

The aim is for the service to work as a news aggregator as well as an indicator of factual accuracy.

"The Logically platform gathers the biggest news stories from over 70,000 domains and determines the credibility of the claims across each article. It does this by using a machine learning algorithm that is designed to detect logical fallacy, political bias, and incorrect statistics," the 21-year-old techie explains.

"By illuminating the quality of information across these articles, logically provides users with a transparent and insightful view that allows them to determine how trustworthy the news they read really is," he said. With a growing number of cases of fake news being exchanged over the WhatsApp messaging service in India,



Indian origin UK based Lyric Jain has developed the start-up that uses a machine-learning algorithm to sift fact from fiction is set to combat fake news around the world

his start-up is exploring ways for artificial intelligence (AI) to accurately assess the validity of information faster than any human can.

India has over 200 million WhatsApp users and with the system being encrypted, it becomes extremely difficult for law enforcement to intervene and stop fake stories from spreading.

"Because of the highly emotive nature

of these stories, people are quick to react. This means the time it takes to disprove compelling fake news stories is often too long to prevent action being taken," Mr Jain said.

"We are still exploring options such as an instant verification chatbot on WhatsApp and will announce our plans by the end of the year," he said.

Logically has a board of advisers made up of alumni from both Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US and Cambridge University in the UK and has raised 1 million pounds in funding. It employs 38 people across the UK, India and the US and is planning to almost double that figure.

Mr Jain believes there is an urgent need for greater education around the issue of fake news and misinformation being spread, largely via online networks. "The technology we are developing will equip people with the tools they need in order to navigate a complex and confusing information landscape better than before, but governments still need to do a better job educating people on the real dangers of interacting with misinformation," he said. His platform, which combines AI and human intelligence as well as complex analytics, is planned as a first-of-its-kind "intelligent news feed" that he believes may prove to be the future of journalism.

Indian-Origin City Council Member gets a Proposal by a Special Speaker



Mr Vaibhav Bajaj was asked to address at the end of City Council meeting. While addressing, he asked council member Dimple Ajmera to marry him

WASHINGTON (TIP): A City Council meeting turned out to be a memorable one after the Indian-origin Charlotte council member was proposed to by a special speaker.

Mr Vaibhav Bajaj was asked to address at the end of City Council meeting. While addressing, he asked council member Dimple Ajmera to marry him, and then walked behind the dais, stood on one knee and gave her a ring, media report said.

In a council vote marked by 10 abstentions, Ms Ajmera singlehandedly passed the motion.

She later wrote on Twitter: "Any objections colleagues with this motion? Because Vaibhav Bajaj believes in bipartisan agreement. On a serious note, I'm grateful for a life partner who is family oriented, loving and compassionate."

Ms Ajmera came to the US from India when she was in high school, knowing little English. She graduated from the University of Southern California and moved to Charlotte eight years ago to take a financial services job with TIAA. She previously worked as a CPA in Los Angeles.

She was appointed to the District 5 seat in January 2017. She was elected to a City Council at-large seat in November.

Indian American World Bank Economist drowns at Bali Beach



Indian American 37-year-old, Aakansha Pandedrowned after strong currents pulled her away

JAKARTA (TIP): Indian-origin 37-year-old, Aakansha Pande, senior economist working with the World Bank drowned after strong currents pulled her away while she was swimming in a restricted area at a beach in Bali, the Indonesian media reported.

The beach lifeguard tried to save the lady who resided in Singapore and took her to Siloam Hospital where she was pronounced dead on arrival, the media reported.

Ms Pande, a US citizen, was Senior Health Economist at the World Bank where she focused on countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

She died after being swept away by strong waves while swimming in the evening at the beach in front of Double Six Hotel in Seminyak, Bali on June 21, the report said.

Quoting lifeguard officials, it said before the incident, Ms Pande had been warned twice by the beach lifeguard as she was swimming in an area where swimming was banned due to strong currents.

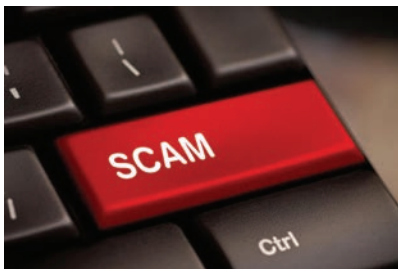
"We have put (no swimming signs) in the area. But she kept swimming," the official was quoted as saying.

Earlier, the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) had warned that high waves would hit Bali.

Indian-Origin People Sentenced in Massive US Call Centre Scam

NEW YORK

(TIP): Indian-origin people have been sentenced for up to 20 years in prison in the United States for their involvement in a multimillion-dollar India-based call center scam which defrauded thousands of US citizens of hundreds of millions of dollars.



The prison sentences for the 21 people convicted this week range from 4 to 20 years. "The stiff sentences imposed represent the culmination of the first-ever large scale, multi-jurisdiction prosecution targeting the India call center scam industry," US Attorney General Jeff Sessions said.

Several of the convicted will be deported to India after the completion of their sentence.

This case represents one of the most significant victories to date in our continuing efforts to combat elder fraud and the victimization of the most vulnerable members of the US public. "The transnational criminal ring of fraudsters and money launderers who conspired to bilk older Americans, legal immigrants and many others out of their life savings through their lies, threats and financial schemes must recognize that all resources at the Department's disposal will be deployed to shut down these tele fraud schemes, put those responsible in jail, and bring a measure of justice to the victims," Mr Sessions said.

According to US officials, the call center scam defrauded thousands of US residents of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Prosecutors said the Indian call centers used various telephone fraud schemes to defraud mainly vulnerable Americans, including the elderly and legal immigrants.

According to various admissions made in connection with the guilty pleas, between 2012 and 2016, the defendants and their conspirators perpetrated a complex fraud and money laundering scheme in which individuals from call centers located in Ahmedabad frequently impersonated officials from the Internal Revenue Service or US Citizenship and Immigration Services in a ruse designed to defraud victims located throughout America.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian-Origin Pennsylvania Physician Madhu Aggarwal Pleads Guilty to Healthcare Fraud

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian-origin Pennsylvania physician Madhu Aggarwal has pleaded guilty to charges of unlawfully distributing controlled substances and healthcare fraud, US Attorney Scott Brady said.



Indian-origin Pennsylvania physician Madhu Aggarwal has pleaded guilty to charges of unlawfully distributing controlled substances and healthcare fraud

Ms Aggarwal, who practiced at a clinic in Pennsylvania, and others conspired together to create and submit unlawful prescriptions for controlled substances such as buprenorphine and then unlawfully dispensed those substances to other persons.

Ms Aggarwal is also charged with healthcare fraud for allegedly causing fraudulent claims to be submitted to federal insurance program, Medicare for payments to cover the costs of the unlawfully prescribed buprenorphine.

Mr Schwab scheduled the sentencing for November, when she will face a sentence of 10 years in prison and a fine of USD 500,000 for the controlled substances offenses.

Ms Madhu Aggarwal faces an additional maximum imprisonment of 10 years and a fine of USD 250,000 for the healthcare fraud charge.

2 Indians held in Washington State for staying illegally: Officials

WASHINGTON (TIP): US border patrol agents have arrested two Indian nationals on charges of illegally staying in the country, the law enforcement agency said on Wednesday, July 25.

The two persons, arrested over the weekend, are now being processed for removal, the agency said in a media release.

The US Border Patrol said they encountered the Indian nationals during a routine immigration check operations of all passengers at a bus terminal in Spokane, Washington.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news

DONALD TRUMP DEFENDS TARIFFS IN KEY POLITICAL AREA: FARM COUNTRY

WASHINGTON (TIP): Facing criticism from allies and Republican worries about upcoming congressional elections, President Donald Trump traveled to two farm states Thursday, July 26, and urged backers to stick with him on trade, despite tariff battles with Europe and China that are undercutting crop prices.

"We just opened up Europe for you farmers," Trump told backers in Iowa before traveling to a reopened steel plant in Illinois to say that tariffs on steel and aluminum are leading to revivals of those industries.

"We've got aluminum coming out good, we've got steel coming out beyond good," Trump said during a trade speech in Granite City, Ill.

Farmers, however, have criticized Trump tariffs affecting their products, and Republicans are concerned that a depression of agriculture votes could cost the GOP control of Congress in November. They say that Chinese retaliatory tariffs in particular are hurting prices for soybeans, pork and other agricultural products.

Seeking to quell unrest, the White House this week announced a package of \$12 billion in aid to farmers being hurt by the trade wars. Republican lawmakers, however, denounced that plan as welfare, and said the best solution to farmers' troubles is to simply eliminate the tariffs.

While discussing trade during a workforce development conference at Northeast Iowa Community College in Peosta, Trump said, "The farmers love me; they voted for me."

At one point brandishing a campaign-style red hat that said, "Make Our Farmers Great Again," Trump touted new trade talks with Europe and said his tariffs are designed to force countries like China to change what he called unfair trade practices.

China and European countries have retaliated with their own tariffs on U.S. products, Trump acknowledged, and farmers in particular are saying that the penalties are



hurting sales.

Republicans and others have told Trump that the tariff wars are starting to hurt business people, including farmers and other key sources of votes in the November congressional elections.

"People are making their voices heard with this White House about the negative impact of tariffs, and the potential for greater negative impact," said Kevin Madden, a Republican consultant who has worked with private companies to promote free trade.

A coalition of conservative groups, including the National Taxpayers Union and Club for Growth, are urging Trump to pull back.

Tariffs "act as a tax on American consumers, raise costs for our manufacturers and drive our jobs to other countries," these

groups wrote in an op-ed for USA TODAY.

They could also hurt Republicans at the ballot box, no small thing as the GOP faces the possible loss of House and Senate majorities in the November elections.

Trump said the trade rivals are directing their tariffs toward certain products in pivotal political states, seeking to hurt him with voters.

"It's not nice what they're doing," Trump said. Trump visited Iowa and Illinois a day after proclaiming new talks with European Union officials about eliminating all trade barriers between the U.S. and Europe.

Making the announcement following a meeting with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, Trump suggested he would hold off on auto and other new tariffs against Europe as the talks took

place. He also said officials would try to "resolve" existing steel and aluminum tariffs, as well as "retaliatory tariffs" in general.

In Iowa, Trump told supporters that Europe has also agreed to buy more U.S. soybeans, and, "you're not going to be too angry with Trump, I can tell you."

President Donald Trump tosses a green "Make Farmers Great Again" hat into the crowd after his visit with eastern Iowa community leaders on Thursday, July 26, 2018, during a round table discussion at Northeast Iowa Community College in Peosta. Bryon Houlgrave/The Register

Warning that "tariffs and bailouts" will lead to an economic meltdown, Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., said "America's farmers don't want to be paid to lose - they want to win by feeding the world."

During his daylong tour of farm country, Trump said that the economy overall is flourishing. Noting the new economic growth numbers are due out Friday, Trump said, "I don't what they are, but there are predictions from 3.8 to 5.3 (percent)."

Farm states feature a number of close House and Senate races and could be decisive as to whether Republicans or Democrats wind up with control of Congress.

Jennifer Duffy, senior editor with The Cook Political Report, said the question is whether Republican farmers feel relief by the fall, right ahead of elections.

"If this farm aid is real and gets delivered, there may not be an issue at all," she said. "If not, and farmers don't feel President Trump is being straight with them, there could be a real problem."

Trump and advisers said he and the farmers want the same thing: A fair trading system.

"He's been pushing to get better deals, and he feels like he's getting them," said White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders.

The critics, she said, "want to see some results - but so does the president."

The U.S. Housing Market Looks Headed for Its Worst Slowdown in Years

WASHINGTON (TIP): They were fed up with Seattle's home bidding wars. They were only in their late 20s but had already lost two battles and were ready to renew with their landlord. Then, in May, their agent called.

Suddenly, Redfin's Shoshana Godwin told the couple, sellers were getting jumpy, even here in the hottest of markets. Homes that should have vanished in days were sitting on the market for weeks. There was a three-bedroom fixer-upper just north of the city going for \$550,000, down from more than \$600,000. They made the leap in early June and had closed by the end of the month, for list price.

The U.S. housing market -- particularly in cutthroat areas like Seattle, Silicon Valley and Austin, Texas -- appears to be headed for the broadest slowdown in years. Buyers are getting squeezed by rising mortgage rates and by prices climbing about twice as fast as incomes, and there's only so far they can stretch.

"This could be the very beginning of a turning point," said Robert Shiller, a Nobel Prize-winning economist who is famed for warning of the dot-com and housing bubbles, in an interview. He stressed that he isn't ready to make that call yet.

THE DATA: A slew of figures released this week gives ample evidence of at least a cooling.

Existing-home sales dropped in June for a third straight month. Purchases of new homes are at their slowest pace in eight months. Inventory, which plunged for years, has begun to grow again as buyers move to the sidelines, sapping the fuel for surging home values. Prices for existing homes climbed 6.4 percent in May, the smallest year-over-year gain since early 2017, and have gained the least over three months since 2012,



according to the Federal Housing Finance Agency. Shares of PulteGroup Inc. fell as much as 4.9 percent Thursday morning after the national homebuilder reported that orders had declined 1 percent from a year earlier, blaming rising mortgage rates.

"Home prices are plateauing," said Ed Stansfield, chief property economist at Capital Economics Ltd. in London. "People are saying: Let's just bide our time, there's no great rush. If we wait six or nine months we're not going to lose out on getting a foot on the ladder." That means "we're now looking at a period in which prices move more or less sideways, or increase no more quickly than growth in incomes, over the next few years."

Stansfield projects a 5 percent gain this year and a 3 percent increase in 2019. That compares with 10.7 percent in 2005, shortly before the crash.

SUPPLY LINES: Some of the most expensive markets, where sales are falling under the weight of prices, are now seeing substantial increases in supply, according to Redfin Corp. In San Jose, California, inventory was up 12 percent in June from a year earlier. It rose 24 percent in Seattle and 32 percent in Portland, Oregon. Those big jumps are from low numbers, so the housing crunch is still a serious problem.

"Inventory has increased quite a bit," Godwin, the Seattle agent, said. "We're seeing less competition."

Dustin Miller, an agent with Windermere Realty Trust in Portland, said he's trying to manage sellers' expectations, something he hasn't had to do since the end of the last housing boom. One customer, a baby boomer moving to a new home across the state, expected to have buyers fighting over her house. She got one bid, below her asking price.

"Buyers want to shop and take some time, as opposed to having to rush and throw offers in," Miller said. "It's the market correcting itself. At some point, you hit a peak of momentum, and then things level off."

This new wariness was noticeable in the latest consumer-sentiment data from the University of Michigan. In its preliminary July survey, 65 percent of Americans said it's a good time to buy a home, the lowest since 2008, when the economy was still in recession. Still, market watchers note that the housing sector has strong support from a healthy labor market and steady economic growth, which indicates a stabilizing trend for home prices rather than anything close to the experience of the crisis, when property values plunged.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Michael Cohen claims Trump knew in advance of 2016 Trump Tower meeting

WASHINGTON (TIP): Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's former personal attorney, claims that then-candidate Trump knew in advance about the June 2016 meeting in Trump Tower in which Russians were expected to offer his campaign dirt on Hillary Clinton, sources with knowledge tell CNN. Cohen is willing to make that assertion to special counsel Robert Mueller, the sources said.

Cohen's claim would contradict repeated denials by Trump, Donald Trump Jr., their lawyers and other administration officials who have said that the President knew nothing about the Trump Tower meeting until he was approached about it by The New York Times in July 2017.

Cohen alleges that he was present, along with several others, when Trump was informed of the Russians' offer by Trump Jr. By Cohen's account, Trump approved going ahead with the meeting with the Russians, according to sources.

To be clear, these sources said Cohen does not have evidence, such as audio recordings, to corroborate his claim, but he is willing to attest to his account.

Cohen privately testified last year to two Congressional committees investigating Russian interference in the 2016 election. A source familiar with Cohen's House testimony said he did not testify that Trump had advance knowledge. Cohen's claims weren't mentioned in separate reports issued by Republicans and Democrats on the House Intelligence Committee.

Contacted by CNN, one of Cohen's attorneys, Lanny Davis, declined to comment.

"He's been lying all week, he's been lying for years," said Rudy Giuliani, the President's attorney, to Chris Cuomo on CNN's "Cuomo Prime Time" on Thursday night.

He added, "I don't see how he's got any credibility."

Giuliani also said Cohen is "the kind of witness that can really destroy your whole



case" and called Cohen, who was a top Trump Organization attorney for a decade, a "pathological liar."

"Donald Trump Jr. has been professional and responsible throughout the Mueller and Congressional investigations," said Alan Futterfas, an attorney for Donald Trump Jr. "We are very confident of the accuracy and reliability of the information that has been provided by Mr. Trump, Jr., and on his behalf."

According to people who have discussed the matter with Cohen, he has expressed hope that this claim about the Trump Tower meeting will help him reach out to Mueller and possibly lessen his legal troubles. He's under scrutiny by federal prosecutors in Manhattan after Mueller referred Cohen's case to them.

The June 2016 meeting was arranged after a publicist who knew Trump Jr. told him in emails -- in no uncertain terms -- that a senior Russian official "offered to provide the Trump campaign" with damaging information about Clinton, and that the outreach was "part of Russia and its government's support for Mr. Trump." At the time, the Russian operation to

covertly boost Trump's candidacy wasn't publicly known. Trump Jr. responded, "if it's what you say, I love it," and started to arrange the meeting.

At the meeting, Trump Jr. was joined by his brother-in-law Jared Kushner and Paul Manafort, who was Trump's campaign chairman at the time. There were four Russians in the room, including a lawyer with Kremlin ties, a businessman who worked for an oligarch and a lobbyist with old KGB connections.

After news of the meeting broke in July 2017, the Trump team offered misleading explanations and changed their story several times. But one claim stayed consistent: that Trump had no knowledge of the meeting beforehand, wasn't told about it afterward and first learned about it one year later.

Those denials were repeatedly issued by Trump, his attorney Jay Sekulow, Trump Jr., Futterfas and White House press secretary Sarah Sanders. Those people denied that Trump had contemporaneous knowledge of the meeting on more than 15 occasions, according to CNN's analysis.

Trump said on July 12, 2017, that he "only heard about it two or three days ago." One week later, Trump repeated that he "didn't know anything about the meeting" because "nobody told me" about it.

Around that same time, CNN's Jake Tapper asked Sekulow to confirm Trump's claims that he only recently learned about the controversial meeting. Sekulow's response: "Yes, I swear."

But perhaps the highest-stakes denial was given by Trump Jr. in his testimony last year to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"He wasn't aware of it," Trump Jr. told lawmakers, referring to his father's knowledge of the meeting. "And, frankly, by the time anyone was aware of it, which was summer of this year, as I stated earlier, I wouldn't have wanted to get him involved in it because it had nothing to do with him."

Trump's critics have long doubted these denials. They point to a series of phone calls Trump Jr. made to a blocked phone number before and after the meeting. They also note that two days before the meeting, Trump mysteriously announced plans to give a "major speech" about Clinton's scandals. Trump Jr. says he didn't get any dirt at the meeting -- and the speech never happened.

Even Steve Bannon, the former White House chief strategist and top Trump campaign official, said the meeting was "treasonous" and speculated that "the chance that Don Jr. did not walk these (Russians) up to his father's office on the twenty-sixth floor is zero." Trump Jr. has denied Bannon's allegation. Bannon's comments, to author Michael Wolff for his book "Fire and Fury," triggered the bitter public divorce between Bannon and Trump in early 2018.

Axios reported that Bannon does not have first-hand knowledge about whether Trump Jr. told his father, and Bannon later said his "treasonous" remark was directed at Manafort and not Trump Jr. **(Source: CNN)**

North Korea hands over the possible remains of American war dead

OSAN AIR BASE, SOUTH KOREA (TIP): A US Air Force plane carrying what is believed to be the remains of US troops killed during the Korean War some 65 years ago arrived in Osan Air Base in South Korea on Friday morning.

Troops from various nations serving in South Korea under the United Nations Command presented an honor guard before the plane, as white-gloved troops in different uniforms descended the ramp of the US Air Force C-17, carefully holding cases wrapped in the UN flag.

The cases were transferred to silver minivans waiting on the runway.

The C-17 had left Osan Air Base earlier Friday to fly to the city of Wonsan, North Korea, before completing the return journey, the White House said in a statement.

In Wonsan the North Koreans turned over what they say are an initial 55 cases holding remains, a US official told CNN's Ryan Browne.

North Korean officials handed over the probable remains on the anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended the conflict, which claimed the lives of tens of thousands of Americans, over 600,000 Chinese, 600,000 Korean soldiers and over a million Korean civilians. **Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news**

House Speaker Ryan says he opposes conservative effort to impeach Rod Rosenstein, who oversees special counsel probe on Russia



House Speaker Paul D. Ryan said flatly Thursday that he opposed the effort to impeach Rosenstein

they delivered a new ultimatum for the production of investigative documents from the Justice Department and opened a rift among GOP leaders over how to deal with their demands.

House Speaker Paul D. Ryan (R-Wis.) said flatly Thursday that he opposed the effort to impeach Rosenstein and that he believed Justice Department officials were working in good faith to comply with the congressional oversight requests.

"I don't think this rises to 'high crimes and misdemeanors'," he told reporters, raising the specter that an impeachment trial could tie the Senate in knots, delaying top-priority conservative agenda items such as the confirmation of Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court.

WASHINGTON (TIP): Speaker Paul D. Ryan told reporters the Justice Department needs to comply with congressional requests for documents. But he said the response from Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein does not rise to the level of "high crimes and misdemeanors" that would warrant impeachment.

Ryan's comments came hours after 11 House Republicans introduced a resolution to impeach Rosenstein. The Justice Department has said it is cooperating with Congress.

Republican leaders averted a divisive vote on the resolution in the near term as the House breaks for its August recess.

A threat by House conservatives to impeach Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein stands to linger for at least another month, carrying implications for the Russia investigation, the future of the House Republican leadership and the midterm elections.

Members of the hardline House Freedom Caucus decided not to force a vote on their 12-page impeachment resolution Thursday, the last day lawmakers were scheduled to meet in Washington before September. But

Feds say 711 immigrant children can't be reunited with parents ahead of deadline

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO (TIP): The Trump administration struggled to meet a court-imposed deadline Thursday for reuniting immigrant children and their parents. Nearly 2,600 children ages 5 years and older were separated at the U.S.-Mexico border.

The government announced Thursday, July 26 evening that 1,820 of those children have been reunited with their parents, while 711 children remain in custody because their parents or relatives are ineligible for reunification.

Now they are heading to Massachusetts where they'll wait for a judge to decide whether they'll be granted asylum or sent back to Honduras. Immigration attorneys say the government is making unilateral decisions that include a parents' health condition and possible criminal history, with no oversight. "There's a lot of concern that those standards are being inconsistently applied, or parents are being arbitrarily denied access to their children," Sandweg pointed out. For the hundreds of ineligible children, shelters will continue to be their home while the government figures out its next move. **Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news**

I CAN BECOME CM ANYTIME, BUT NOT INTERESTED, SAYS HEMA MALINI

JAIPUR (TIP): Politician-actor Hema Malini has said she can become the chief minister anytime but would rather be free to pursue other interests.

"I am not too keen," the BJP MP from Mathura in Uttar Pradesh told reporters Wednesday evening in Rajasthan's Banswara city.

"If I want to I can become that (CM) in a minute, but I don't like to be tied up. My freedom of movement will end," she said when asked if she would become the CM if she got the chance.

The apparent reference was to the post in Uttar Pradesh, now held by her party's Yogi Adityanath.

She said she got to become an MP because of her film career. "I am known mainly because of my name in Bollywood, call it 'dream girl' or Hema Malini," she said adding that she had done a lot of work for the BJP even before entering Parliament.

Calling her Mathura constituency as the 'nagri' of Krishna, she said she loved working for the 'Brijwasi' people and added that she has done much work in her constituency as an MP during the last four years, referring in particular to the state of the roads.

She called the water crisis a global issue which should be the concern of every stakeholder. The MP praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying he has worked for farmers, women and the poor, and the country had progressed under his leadership.

"It is difficult to find a prime minister like him. Leaders of other parties may say anything but we need to see who has done more work for the country," she said.

Hema Malini, who is a Padma Shri winner and Bharatanatyam dancer, was in Banswara to perform at a religious function. *Source: PTI*



CBI seeks details of Choksi's whereabouts from Antigua

NEW DELHI (TIP): The CBI has approached authorities in Antigua for details on the whereabouts of fugitive diamondaire Mehul Choksi, allegedly involved in the Rs 13,500-crore scam in PNB and who has taken citizenship of the Caribbean country.

In a letter to the Antiguan authorities on Tuesday, the CBI cited diffusion notice issued by the Interpol against the fugitive businessman, who is Nirav Modi's uncle and his alleged partner in the crime, and sought details of his movement, landing and his present location. Choksi had taken citizenship of Antigua in November 2017, and oath of allegiance on January 15 this year. *Source: The Tribune*

'Vijay Mallya willing to come back home to face trial'

NEW DELHI (TIP): Embattled liquor baron Vijay Mallya, the main accused in a Rs 9,000 crore alleged bank fraud case, is understood to have sounded out to Indian authorities that he was willing to come back home to face the law, official sources said.

Mallya, who is contesting in a London court the Indian government's action for extradition, is said to have sent feelers to authorities that he would like to join the legal process in India and contest the recent action against him under the Fugitive Economic Offender Ordinance.

Under this recently promulgated ordinance, the government can immediately confiscate all linked properties of Mallya in the country and abroad.

However, top sources in investigative agencies said the final contours of the move are still not clear as they refused to divulge more details. *Source: PTI*



Turmoil in Punjab AAP: Khaira removed, Cheema is leader of oppn

CHANDIGARH (TIP): The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on July 26 removed its firebrand Bholath MLA Sukhpal Khaira from the post of leader of opposition (LoP) in Punjab assembly.

The party named first-time MLA from Dirba Harpal Singh Cheema, a Dalit face, as the new leader of the AAP legislature party. Khaira was appointed LoP in July last year.

The change was announced by Delhi deputy chief minister and in-charge of Punjab affairs Manish Sisodia on Twitter. "AAP has decided to change its leader of opposition in Punjab. Harpal Singh Cheema, MLA, Dirba constituency, shall be leader of opposition in Punjab assembly," he tweeted.

Sisodia followed it up with another tweet on the new LoP's Dalit credentials, expressing confidence that Cheema will emerge as a strong Dalit leader and become a voice of all marginalised communities of Punjab. He is the third leader of the AAP legislature party in Punjab in the last 16 months.

AAP's national convener and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has written a letter to the speaker of Punjab assembly, requesting him to appoint Cheema as the leader of opposition. Khaira, reacting to the announcement, said he discharged his duty with utmost sincerity, dedication and fearlessness. "If speaking the truth and espousing the cause of Punjab, Punjabis and Sikhs cost me LoP, I'm prepared to let go 100 such positions. Those at the helm have done what Cong-SAD-BJP wanted (sic)," he said in a tweet.

The AAP did not give any reason for his removal or details of the process followed. Kotkapura MLA Kultar Singh



Sukhpal Khaira



Harpal Singh Cheema

Sandhwan said the decision was taken in a meeting of party legislators in the national capital. "Those who were not present conveyed their consent over phone," he said, expressing inability to give the number of MLAs present. AAP legislature party deputy leader Sarvjit Kaur Manuke said she got a call from a central leader and agreed to go with the party's decision.

AAP state unit co-president Balbir Singh, whom Khaira recently accused of hatching a plot for his removal from the post, said the decision was taken by the party MLAs from the state. "Since I am not a legislator, I was not present and had no inkling," he said, welcoming the decision. Most other party leaders remained mum or kept their phones switched off. Lok Insaaf Party (LIP) chief Simarjeet Bains, a one-time alliance partner, said Khaira's sacking was a mistake. "Khaira had brought new energy to the party, but did not deserve to be treated in this shabby manner," he said.

Though Khaira's ties with the party leadership were uneasy ever since he publicly slammed Kejriwal for his apology to SAD's Bikram Singh Majithia to settle a drug allegation-related defamation case, his removal came just days after he accused Balbir Singh of levelling false allegations of accepting cash from party workers. A combative politician, Khaira, who had joined the AAP from the Congress in 2015, remained LoP for one year and his stint was marked by controversies. His purported statement on 'Referendum 2020', a movement initiated by US-based advocacy group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) for a separate Sikh state, had also earned the ire of the top leaders last month. While Kejriwal refused to meet Khaira, Sisodia rebuked him.

Meanwhile, Kharar MLA Kanwar Sandhu resigned as spokesperson of the AAP legislature party. He was appointed by Khaira three weeks ago. "I have resigned so that the new LoP can appoint his own team," he said. *Source: HT*

Sonam Wangchuk who inspired '3 Idiots' wins Ramon Magsaysay Award

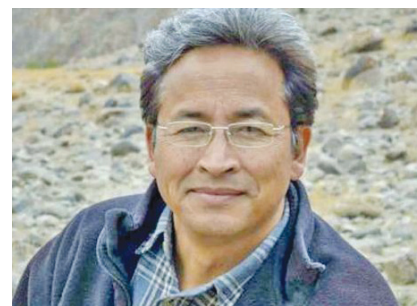
NEW DELHI/MANILA: Two Indians Bharat Vatwani and Sonam Wangchuk are among the winners of this year's Ramon Magsaysay Award, regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.

The two are among six individuals declared winners on July 26.

Vatwani is being recognised for "his tremendous courage and healing compassion in embracing India's mentally-afflicted destitute, and his steadfast and magnanimous dedication to the work of restoring and affirming the human dignity of even the most ostracized," the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation said in its citation for the winner.

Wangchuk, 51, is being recognised for "his uniquely systematic, collaborative and community-driven reform of learning systems in remote northern India, thus improving the life opportunities of Ladakhi youth, and his constructive engagement of all sectors in local society to harness science and culture creatively for economic progress, thus setting an example for minority peoples in the world," it said.

Youk Chhang from Cambodia, Maria



Sonam Wangchuk

de Lourdes Martins Cruz from East Timor, Howard Dee from the Philippines and Vo Thi Hoang Yen from Vietnam are other winners of the award.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation President Carmencita Abella said the winners "are clearly Asia's heroes of hope, moving their societies forward through their unequivocal pursuit of the larger good."

"In genuine solidarity with the disadvantaged and marginalised, each one has addressed real and complex issues with bold, and creative, and pragmatic action that has engaged others to do likewise. The results of their leadership are manifest in the changed

lives of the many they have influenced," she said.

"All are unafraid to take on large causes. All have refused to give up, despite meagre resources, daunting adversity and strong opposition. Their approaches are all deeply anchored on a respect for human dignity, and a faith in the power of collective endeavour," she said.

Established in 1957, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is Asia's highest honour. It celebrates the memory and leadership example of the third Philippine president after whom the award is named, and is given every year to individuals or organisations in Asia who manifest the same selfless service and transformative influence that ruled the life of the late and beloved Filipino leader. This year's Magsaysay Award winners will each receive a certificate, a medallion bearing the likeness of the late President, and a cash prize. They will be formally conferred the Magsaysay Award during formal presentation ceremonies to be held on August 31, 2018 at the Cultural Centre of the Philippines. *Source: PTI*

Hindus must have at least 5 children or they'll be minority: BJP lawmaker

BALLIA, UP (TIP): Days after saying that even Lord Ram would not have been able to put an end to the rising rape incidents, BJP lawmaker Surendra Singh, infamous for his loose and controversial statements, has done it again. This time, Mr Singh has said Hindu couples must have at least five children to keep Hindutva intact. He also said that giving birth to a child is 'prasad' (gift) from God.

Mr Singh, in an interview to ANI, said this step is necessary to increase the population of Hindus in India.

"It is the desire of every spiritual leader (mahant) for every couple to have a minimum of five children. This way the population will be under control, and Hindutva would remain intact," he told news agency ANI.

"Hindus should have at least five children. Two for the man, two for the woman and one surplus. Giving birth to a child is 'prasad' (gift) from God. India can become strong, when Hindus are strong. When Hindu is weak, India is weak..." Mr Singh was quoted as saying by news agency PTI.

According to him, the Hindu community should be concerned that



Surendra Singh says having 5 children necessary to increase the population of Hindus in India.

they will become a minority if there is "no balance in population control". "Hindus will be a minority, not due to terrorists but due to themselves," he said.

Earlier, the BJP MLA from Uttar Pradesh's Ballia had triggered a controversy by saying that "Those who

don't say 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' are Pakistanis". The leader has also been under fire for his brazen remarks like "Prostitutes better than government officials", "PM Narendra Modi is reincarnation of Lord Ram", "Mobiles responsible for rapes" among many others. (With inputs from PTI & ANI)

China's defense min to visit India by end of this year

BEIJING (TIP): Chinese Defence Minister Wei Fenghe has accepted an invitation to visit India and plans to do so by the end of this year, China said on Thursday, as a rapprochement between the two giant neighbours gathers pace.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed in April to open a new chapter in ties, just months after a dispute over a stretch of their high-altitude Himalayan border rekindled fears of war.

Speaking at a regular monthly news briefing, Chinese Defence Ministry spokesman Ren Guoqiang said both countries were currently in communication about Wei's visit, but gave no other details.

Hundreds of troops from both sides were deployed in 2017 on the Doklam plateau, near the borders of India, its ally Bhutan, and China after India objected to Chinese construction of a road in the Himalayan area in their most serious standoff in years.

There is still deep mistrust between the neighbours over their festering border dispute, which triggered a brief war in 1962. Source: Reuters

Rafale deal: Rahul fires fresh salvo

NEW DELHI (TIP): A day after details became public of a letter by Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG) Chairman Anil Ambani to the Congress President Rahul Gandhi expressing how he was "personally saddened" by the attacks the latter made in the Rafale fighter jets deal, Rahul mounted yet another offensive on the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his corporate connections.

Tweeting a picture of the ADAG Chairman with an accompanying report on his company by the Congress-sponsored National Herald newspaper, Gandhi said: "Mr 56 does love someone after all - 1 (He) Must wear a suit 2. Must have ₹45,000 crore debt. 3. Must have a TEN day old company. 4. Must never have made an aircraft in his life. Rewards of up to \$4 billion in "offset" contracts if you fulfil said criteria."

The fresh offensive came just 24 hours after the media reported a letter the ADAG Chairman had written to Gandhi on December 12, 2017 in which he had refuted allegations of his Reliance Group lacking experience to get the Rafale fighter jet deal and clarified that the BJP-led Centre had no role in the French group Dassault choosing his company as a local partner.

"... Considering that my entire family and I, starting with my respected father, have had the privilege of enjoying a very respectful relationship with the Gandhi family over generations as well as the Congress party for the past more than four decades, these statements have saddened and hurt our sentiments," Ambani said, adding that not only does his group have the necessary experience also the leaders in several important areas of Defence manufacture.

He said Reliance Defence has the largest shipyard in the private sector at Pipanav in



Gujarat and is currently building five Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels for the Indian Navy and 14 Fast Patrol Vessels for the Indian Coast Guard.

However, Gandhi has kept up his attack, saying that the BJP-led Centre is not revealing the details of the "shady deal" which escalated the price of the Rafale fighter jets from Rs520 crore per jet to Rs1,600 crore per jet.

Gandhi said he had met the French President who told him that there was no problem in sharing details relating to the Rafale deal in contrast to the Defence Minister who had cited a secrecy pact as the reason for not sharing details including cost of equipment and weapons.

Privilege motion moved

The Congress has since moved privilege motion in the Lok Sabha against the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for misleading the House about the secrecy pact with the French government on the Rafale deal. The BJP too has moved a privilege motion against Gandhi for misleading the House on the same issue.

WEST BENGAL TO 'BANGLA': STATE ASSEMBLY PASSES RESOLUTION TO CHANGE NAME

KOLKATA (TIP): West Bengal Assembly has passed a resolution to change the state's name from West Bengal to 'Bangla'.

The ruling Trinamool Congress government placed a proposal in the state assembly to change the name of West Bengal to "Bangla" in all languages.

The resolution passed by the West Bengal Assembly will now go to the Union Home Ministry and if the Ministry of Home Affairs gives a green signal then only the name of the state will be changed to 'Bangla'.

The Centre had sent back the state's earlier plan to change the name to "Bengal" in English, "Bangla" in Bengali and "Bangal" in Hindi.

The West Bengal Assembly had passed a resolution on August 29, 2016, changing the name of the state to Bengal in English, Bangla in Bengali and Bangal in Hindi.

But following Centre's reservations with the three names, the state cabinet passed a resolution to change the name of the state to "Bangla" in all languages on September 8, 2017.

CBI to probe FB-Cambridge Analytica data theft: Minister

NEW DELHI (TIP): The government has asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe political consultancy Cambridge Analytica's misuse of Facebook user data, law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told parliament on July 26.

"It is suspected that Cambridge Analytica may have been involved in illegally obtaining data of Indians which could be misused," Ravi Shankar Prasad said.

Facebook has faced increased scrutiny in the United States and the European Union over how Cambridge Analytica obtained the personal data of 87 million Facebook users. The consultancy allegedly used the data to support US President Donald Trump's 2016 election campaign.

The social network has promised to introduce reforms to its policies. Facebook was not immediately available for comment.

Earlier this month, Britain's information regulator slapped Facebook with a small but symbolic fine for breaches of data protection law in connection with the Cambridge Analytica data theft.

The telecom regulator has said that the existing framework for protection of personal data by companies and service providers is insufficient and recommended stricter rules to tackle data breaches following the scandal.

Facebook reported disappointing second-quarter results on Wednesday, saying its profit margins would plummet for several years due to the costs of improving privacy safeguards in the wake of the scandals. Source: Reuters

Hardik gets 2-yr jail in riot case

AHMEDABAD (TIP): Gujarat "Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti" convener Hardik Patel, his reservation agitation colleague Ambalal Patel and Sardar Patel Group (SPG) convener Lalji Patel were sentenced to imprisonment of two years by the Visnagar sessions court on Wednesday. A fine of Rs 50,000 each was imposed on them in connection with a 2015 "rioting case". They, however, were promptly granted bail to allow them to appeal against the verdict in the higher court. Fourteen others named in the FIR for the attack and vandalising the office of then BJP MLA Rushikesh Patel on July 23, 2015, were acquitted of all charges by the court.

Hardik, 24, later said his indefinite fast from August 25 to revive the reservation agitation for the Patels would remain unchanged. Legal experts interpreted the court order as an impediment for Hardik to contest the 2019 Lok Sabha elections despite attaining the age and eligibility. But Hardik said "if possible, he would prepare himself for contesting the 2019."

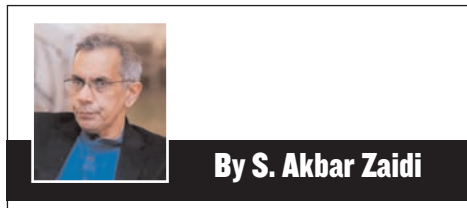



**GUEST
COMMENT**

Imran Khan has no time to lose in unveiling leadership style and rhetoric as PM

Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has exceeded expectations in emerging from Wednesday's election within touching distance of a majority. The former cricketer will come to the Prime Minister's office at the end of a bitter year, and his first test will be to assert a legitimate claim to power. The campaign for these federal and provincial elections in Pakistan has been called the "dirtiest" in its history, and the announcement of the results is already tainted by allegations of rigging and military interference. In fact, the removal of Nawaz Sharif as Prime Minister last summer and later from the electoral arena over a conviction on corruption charges had given the impression that the dice were loaded in Mr. Khan's favor. The former cricketer will be watched for how he emerges from the shadow of the campaign and the election itself. His immediate task is to negotiate assistance from the International Monetary Fund to stave off a balance of payments crisis. Pakistan has already sought more loans from China, with no sign that the costs of infrastructure projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will be recovered soon. His next set of challenges emerge from the region, where he will be expected to make good on promises made by Pakistan to Washington and Kabul to crack down on terror and bring the Taliban to the table for talks. Mr. Khan has long held that the U.S. must first pull out troops from Afghanistan and was called "Taliban Khan" for suggesting that Taliban militants were fighting for "independence". The next steps will take place amid great scrutiny of the tenor of his engagement with Donald Trump's administration, given the U.S. President's tough talk against Pakistan.

Mr. Khan will also have to tackle terror groups inside Pakistan, those that target Pakistani forces and those trained with Pakistan's support to target its neighbors. It is here that Prime Minister Khan will be most tested; these groups function with impunity, and it remains to be seen whether his softness during the campaign against them will carry over into the prime ministership. Significantly, he spent the most time on ties with India when listing his foreign policy priorities. While his comments on alleged human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir will not be viewed kindly in New Delhi, those on resolving disputes through dialogue must be regarded seriously. So far, he had distanced himself from what he called the "soft approach" of the Sharif government towards India. But after the election result, Mr. Khan claimed that no Pakistani leader had engaged more with India than he had. He offered to take two steps forward if India reciprocates. For the moment, he will also be aware of other odds that are stacked against him; not the least being that of becoming the first Pakistani PM to complete a full term. *(The Hindu)*



By S. Akbar Zaidi

While Imran Khan and his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) were fairly confident that they would emerge as the largest party in July 25 elections, they could not have imagined that they would make such a strong showing, resulting in Mr. Khan becoming Pakistan's next Prime Minister. Even some academics, supposedly looking at empirical data, got it very wrong. Although all the results have been neither verified nor notified, and many seats will have to be given up since many contenders, including Mr. Khan who had been leading in all his five constituencies, contested and won from more than one seat, no one is going to dare stand in the way of his greatest, crowning moment.

In many cases, the victory margins of the PTI are huge and impressive. The party has even made considerable inroads into former Prime Minister and Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) leader Nawaz Sharif's fortress of the Punjab, coming a near second. It will probably form government there as well, with many of the Independents and breakaway members. Many key members of the PML(N), including former national and provincial ministers, have been defeated, including in the party's core constituencies such as Lahore and Faisalabad. The PTI is the first party to be re-elected in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, increasing its seats. Perhaps the biggest shock has been the rout of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) in its perceived stronghold, Karachi, where again the PTI has made significant gains.

THE ESTABLISHMENT'S MAN: There are a number of reasons why the PTI has won. Some of these are part of Pakistan's perpetual political economy and are more standard, and there is one possible explanation which is particularly bizarre. It has been clear for many months now that Pakistan's military establishment, with support from the superior judiciary, did not under any circumstances want Mr. Sharif's party to win. This establishment went out of its way to ensure that he was disqualified and imprisoned, and that many of his former allies and comrades either joined the PTI or contested as Independents. In southern Punjab, several of Mr. Sharif's allies abandoned him en masse. Furthermore, the MQM in Karachi was broken up into many groups. There was much pre-poll rigging by the military. Independent commentary in the media was controlled and censored and many journalists and media houses were threatened and shut down. Open discussion and those dissenting were threatened in unprecedented ways, reminiscent of Pakistan's many martial laws.

Despite being the military's favorite representative, Mr. Khan must also be given credit for a forceful campaign. He could not have won without believing that he would. He

AS I SEE IT

PRIME MINISTER IMRAN KHAN

Can he mature fast enough for the requirements of his new office or will he need guidance?

“Mr. Khan, till now the vitriolic candidate and opposition leader, will have to mature to be a more sobering influence on government and on his many first-time, overly enthusiastic Ministers who are inexperienced in governance, much like himself. Probably the considerable influence of the military and the judiciary on him will go a long way in helping this. Or, perhaps, the current Mrs. Khan's visions will now guide his and the country's future”, says the author.



Imran Khan speaking to the media

traversed the country, speaking at multiple events on the same day in different cities. While the leaders of other parties did the same, he was more visible on electronic media and had a huge presence on social media. He was also told that it was important to have winnable candidates and advised to take many dubious candidates into his party who were considered electable. Pakistan's demography - with a large proportion of young and first-time voters, called 'youthias', supporting the PTI - is also likely to have worked in Mr. Khan's favor this time more than in 2013, given a considerably mauled PML(N).

ANOTHER EXPLANATION?: There is yet another reason being given for why Mr. Khan won so convincingly. Many months ago, a married woman and a mother of five, Bushra Riaz Wattoo, had a dream. A resident of Pakpattan in the Punjab, Ms. Wattoo was considered to be a pirni (female spiritual guide). She was believed to have been a 'modern' woman once who then turned to Sufism. She told her husband that Prophet Muhammad appeared in her dream one day and asked her to get married to Mr. Khan. This would not only remove all the hurdles in Mr. Khan's way to become Prime Minister but would also eventually usher in a golden era for Pakistan, she said. It was reported in different newspapers at the beginning of this year that Ms. Wattoo met and told Mr. Khan that he would become Prime Minister only if he got married before January 5. It was later disclosed that having divorced her husband, she married Mr. Khan on or around January 1 this year, and by all accounts her prophecy has come through.

Mr. Khan has shown himself to be abusive,

derogatory, misogynistic, arrogant and dictatorial, all within a few weeks. He has said that feminism degrades motherhood and that liberals 'seek blood' and are the most dangerous constituency in Pakistan. At the same time, he has been soft on the Taliban. During his campaign, he stated that he would have a nationalist, anti-U.S. and anti-India foreign policy. He is a born-again Muslim now with a Tasbeeh (rosary) in his hands, a conservative Muslim nationalist who believes in neoliberal economic policies. Since his party has not won a complete majority, he will have to be conciliatory and show a far more inclusive attitude towards other groups in Parliament than he has during his vile campaign.

On the day after the elections, seven losing parties called the elections rigged. One senior leader called them "the dirtiest polls in the history of Pakistan", and the PML(N) rejected the results outright. An all-party conference to discuss the results as well as the next step has been called for Friday. It is possible that the opposition parties may have learnt from the tactics of Mr. Khan in the previous Parliament. First, he did not accept the results, and as the enfant terrible, made much of the claim that the 2013 elections were completely rigged. He took his case to the streets in his famous dharna of 2014, and to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The ECP found almost no rigging during the 2013 elections, and he had to reluctantly accept the results.

IN NAYA PAKISTAN: The elections might be over - sordid, controversial and rigged as they have been. It is also very clear that Imran Khan is Pakistan's next Prime Minister. Whether his wife's prophecy of Pakistan entering a golden era will come true or not in Naya Pakistan will depend, to start with, on how the Prime Minister-designate handles the immediate expected backlash from the political parties which have lost. Mr. Khan, till now the vitriolic candidate and opposition leader, will have to mature to be a more sobering influence on government and on his many first-time, overly enthusiastic Ministers who are inexperienced in governance, much like himself. Probably the considerable influence of the military and the judiciary on him will go a long way in helping this. Or, perhaps, the current Mrs. Khan's visions will now guide his and the country's future.

(The author is a political economist based in Karachi. He teaches at Columbia University in New York, and at the IBA in Karachi)

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Trump's performance could help Republicans win the mid-term election



By Ven Parameswaran



If the U.S. economy grew @ 4%, this will make a big headline not only in the USA but the entire world. U.S. economy is the engine that drives the global economy.

President Trump, of course, will take full credit. He would argue that his economic policies have started finally working for the benefit of America and the world. Trump's massive historic tax cuts, deregulations, America first and better terms of trade, and running a lean government are having the positive impact on economy."



The government will release the 2nd quarter GDP on Friday, July 27th. According to the Conference Board, Federal Reserve and the IMF, the GDP growth for the second quarter will be between 4 and 5 per cent. For my analysis, let me take the lowest and the most conservative figure of 4%. If the U.S. economy grew @ 4%, this will make a big headline not only in the USA but the entire world. U.S. economy is the engine that drives the global economy.

President Trump, of course, will take full credit for the robust economy. He would argue that his economic policies have started finally working for the benefit of America and the world. Trump's massive historic tax cuts, deregulations, America first and better terms of trade, and running a lean government are having the positive impact on the economy.

It is true that the unemployment hit 3.8% in June. Unemployment amongst the Blacks, Latinos and Women is also the lowest recorded. Wages have been rising. The frustrated unemployed who stopped looking for jobs are back now, and the unemployment went up to 4% in July. Corporate earnings are going up substantially, thanks to the tax cut. Profits accumulated abroad have started coming back because of the tax incentives. The DOW Jones average is up 38% since Trump's election.

TRUMP'S NEW WORLD ORDER

Trump has challenged foreign countries without discrimination. He has been tough on our closest allies - Canada, U.K., France, South Korea, and Germany. He has questioned the effectiveness of NATO without strong defense. He has admonished our allies and members of the NATO for not paying their share of 2% of their GDP. He was even critical of Germany depending on Russia for importing \$600 billion of gas yearly. He said that Germany as our ally should be buying gas from us. I must point out that ever since NATO was created in 1949, it has not been able to defend one inch of European territory encroached by the Soviet Union or Russia. If the Europe had invested in strong defense, the NATO could have been a real tiger, not a paper tiger as now.

SYRIA: Trump used the military force twice to punish Syria, whereas Obama failed. Trump can take credit for defeating the ISIS. We do not see any more horrible pictures of Americans being killed and hung publicly.

ISRAEL: Israel was created in 1948. Trump is the first President to make Jerusalem its capital. The majority of the UN General Assembly voted against and the fake media warned of crisis. Trump's courageous action stands, and Israel is more secure.

NORTH KOREA: Trump is the first President to have a summit meeting with the North Korean leader in Singapore. Trump claims that the denuclearization process has started and could end within a year. What a change?



President Donald Trump

RUSSIA: Trump claims that his summit with Putin has contributed to better relations. The relationship was almost frozen during Obama's time.

PAKISTAN: Trump is the first President to punish Pakistan for encouraging terrorism in Afghanistan. Pakistan has behaved and for the first time, there is relative peace in Afghanistan. Trump has also demanded that Pakistan to rid of all terrorists from Pakistan. Trump is the first President to withdraw military aid to Pakistan.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE: Trump has started a revolution in international trade. He campaigned against all trade pacts including NAFTA, LAFTA, and others. He believes in America First. He has been a tough negotiator and if the economy is the mirror, once could say his policy is working. Today, the visiting Head of the European Union and Trump agreed to the goal of zero tariff.

MIDTERM ELECTIONS: WHO WILL WIN?

Trump is the most unpredictable in the world. All the so-called pundits, mass media, pollsters, politicians all have failed so far. I hate to predict. But, I can predict they will continue to predict and they will be again proven wrong. This, however, does not disallow me from making some calculated speculations. The elites and the coastal States are not going to decide the elections. Once again, the Middle America and the South will decide.

Senator Sanders of Vermont, who was stopped by Hillary Clinton, is now emerging as the leader of the Democrats and also attracting Independents. The party has been going from the left to the left. The defeat of the old horse, Congressman Crowley in NY, who was in line to become the Speaker, by a newcomer, a Socialist has given a wakeup call to the establishment. This means, Nancy Pelosi and her old leadership, aging over 70 are dead horses. Senators Elizabeth Warren, Kamala Harris, and Corcoran of NJ cannot compete with Sanders and Socialism. The transformation in the Democratic party has weakened the establishment and it has no place. We saw the Democrats got elected in Pennsylvania

supporting Trump policies. The Independents are looking for the best choice. THERE IS AN OLD SAYING, THE POCKET BOOK WILL DECIDE THE ELECTION. If so, the pocket book is the common denominator of winning ticket. Trump wins.

Targeting Trump for 24/7 by the mass media and the anti Trumpsters will not help them. Everybody knew Trump was a playboy and it is not news. Hillary Clinton tried the dirty politics, but Trump blasted her in the debates. Therefore, no tapes or videos are going to kill the ROBUST ECONOMY. Trump's popularity, even before the release of 2nd quarter GDP is 48%, higher than that of Obama's or Bush's at the same period. When Trump was elected it was 37%. But for the fake media, his popularity could have been 65%. In addition to the Robust Economy and the New World Order, Trump will be credited for nominating two judges to the Supreme Court. I am confident that Trump's second nominee for the Court will be approved before the midterm election. 90% of the Republicans approve Trump as of now. The GOP is most likely to add a couple of more senators and the House will be 50:50, meaning the GOP could end with a narrow lead of one!

Mueller investigation is a hoax as there is absolutely no evidence of Russian collusion with the Trump campaign. Professor Allan Dershowitz reputed legal scholar and attorney has written a book on AGAINST IMPEACHING TRUMP and has concluded that Mueller may have no choice but to write a narrative report.

QUESTIONS DIFFICULT TO ANSWER:

1. How did Trump give leadership to the U.S. economy?
2. How Trump, despite challenging all leaders of the world, came out victorious in creating a NEW WORLD ORDER.
3. What is Trump's mantra or magic?

(The author, Chairman, Asian American Republican Committee founded in 1988 came to the USA 64 years ago and lives in Scarsdale, New York. He can be reached at vpwaren@gmail.com)

Indian Lawmakers Modern Day Princes

By Prof. I.S. Saluja

I was going through a report on the security cover provided in India to thousands of designated VIPs and hundreds of thousands of lesser privileged people. One shudders to imagine the cost of providing security, and more than that, the dangerous consequences of the VIP culture for the country.

It also reminds me of the princely living of Indian lawmakers. Imagine the cost per MP or MLA who is provided free housing, free travel (not only for himself but for the family

and the staff), free transportation, free phones, and, on top, free security.

I look at the lawmakers here in the US and in neighboring Canada and wonder why India which takes pride in adopting everything Western - economy, technology, fashion- can't think of adopting the simple wage structure for lawmakers in the US and Canada.

In 1998, I was visiting Canada for the first time at the invitation of Hon Gurbax Singh Malhi, then a Member of Canadian Parliament (he later became a federal

minister). I was surprised to find that that he was not provided a free house, or a chauffeur driven car. There was no security guard. I learnt, members of parliament got salary; and a room and secretarial assistance in the Parliament House only, not at their residence.

But look at our Indian princes whose number at the time of India's partition may have been a couple of hundreds in around 500 princely states, has grown to a couple of thousands in the parliament (545 in Lok Sabha & 245 in Rajya Sabha); and in 29 legislative assemblies (the total will be

roughly around 5000).

A report published in The Hindu in March 2016 said government paid 2.7 lakh per month for a member of parliament. Travel and some other freebies are not included. And recently there have been upward revisions in salaries and allowances. I will leave it to readers to calculate the total financial burden on the people of India.

If you feel concerned at this unjust self-aggrandizement by Indian lawmakers, share this note, for the sake of India and Indians.

Blast near US, Indian embassies in China, man held for detonating explosive device

BEIJING (TIP): An explosion was reported outside the US embassy in Beijing on Thursday morning. No casualties were reported in the incident. The US embassy in Beijing confirmed the explosion outside the compound in the Chinese capital and said that there were no injuries to embassy staff.

"There was an explosion at approximately 1pm today in the public space off the southeast corner of the embassy compound. According to the embassy's regional security officer, there was one individual who detonated a bomb. Other than the bomber, there were no injuries. The local police responded," an embassy spokeswoman was quoted in the South China Morning Post.

The Beijing Police, however, pinned down the explosion to a man who set off a "suspected firecracker device".

"At about 1pm on July 26, a man ignited a suspected firecracker device at the intersection of Tianze Road and Anjialou Road in Chaoyang District, causing a deflagration, causing his own hand injury. He is not in any life-threatening situation. The nearby patrol police was quickly deployed to the scene. The situation is under control and the man was sent to the hospital, and no other personnel were injured at the scene."

The suspect has been identified as 26-year-old Jiang Moumou from Tongliao city, Inner Mongolia. Currently, the police are further investigating the case.

Photos and videos circulating on social media showed smoke billowing from outside



the Embassy which is surrounded by police personnel. The incident occurred in an area which has a number of embassies including the Indian embassy. Beijing is considered one of the most secure cities because of its

massive camera surveillance systems.

Chinese officials did not immediately comment on the incident but newspapers like Global Times put out reports soon after the incident, claiming that the incident was a self-

immolation attempt by a Chinese woman who had been detained. The paper subsequently claimed that there was no clarity on whether the explosion and the detention of the woman were related. (AP)

Wildfires kill at least 74 in Greece's 'Pompeii'

ATHENS (TIP): At least 74 people were killed in wildfires in the coastal town of Mati in Athens on Tuesday. Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras described the event as an "unspeakable tragedy" and expressed his condolences to the kin of deceased. The toll is expected to rise.

Hundreds missing in Laos after collapse of dam under construction: Hundreds of people in southern Laos are missing and many are feared dead, a day after an under-construction hydropower dam collapsed and swept away homes in flash flooding, state media reported on Tuesday. More than 6,600 people are homeless, the Lao News Agency reported.

Trump to provide \$12 billion in aid to farmers to ease trade pain: Amid fears of a growing trade war with China, the Trump administration has decided to pay up to \$12 billion to US farmers. Speaking at an event in Kansas City on Tuesday, President Trump reaffirmed his support for tariffs and pledged that "farmers will be the biggest beneficiary." Officials believe the aid as a temporary boost to farmers as the United States and China negotiate over trade issues. (IE)

Chile names Santiago archbishop as suspect in sex abuse cover-up

SANTIAGO (TIP): The Chilean public prosecutor's office has summoned the archbishop of Santiago to testify in an investigation into the alleged cover-up of child sexual abuse by members of the Catholic Church, the archbishopric said on Tuesday. The Santiago archbishopric said in a statement that Ricardo Ezzati had been summoned to speak with prosecutors on August 21 as a defendant accused of concealment. Prosecutors investigating criminal accusations against bishops, clerics and lay workers in the Roman Catholic Church in Chile are also probing claims that Ezzati and others covered up a network of 14 priests who systematically abused minors. Ezzati denied wrongdoing and vowed to cooperate with authorities. (Reuters)

In North Korea, people are eating dog meat to beat the heat

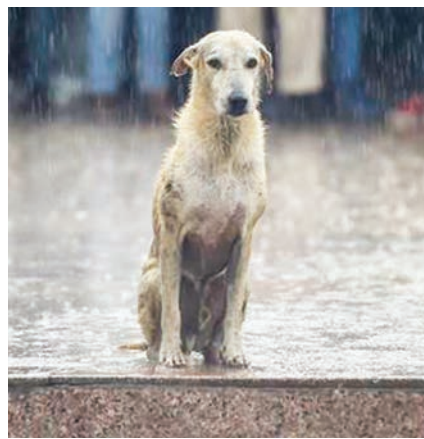
Euphemistically known as "dangogi," or sweet meat, dog has long been believed to be a stamina food in North and South Korea and is traditionally eaten during the hottest time of the year, giving a sad twist to the old saying "dog days of summer."

PYONGYANG (TIP): In North Korea, summer is not a good time to be a dog. In the sizzling heat, North Korea's biggest brewery is pumping out twice as much beer as usual, Pyongyang residents are lining up to get their "bingsu", a syrupy treat made with shaved ice and restaurants are serving up bowl after bowl of the season's biggest culinary attraction: spicy dog meat soup.

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The dates are fixed according to the lunar calendar and dog meat consumption centers around the "sambok," or three hottest days- July 17 and 27, and Aug 16 this year. Demand appears to be especially high this year because of a heatwave in East Asia. Temperatures in the North have been among the highest ever recorded, hovering near 40 degree Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in several cities.

As is the case with almost everything, good statistics are not available for how much dog is eaten in the North.



But in South Korea, where even President Moon Jae-in has dogs as pets, at least 2 million canines are slaughtered and eaten each year even though its popularity as food is waning. While many older South Koreans believe dog meat aids virility, younger people generally are either against the practice or indifferent to it and there has been increasing pressure to ban it altogether.

On both sides of the Demilitarized Zone, dogs used for their meat are raised on farms for that express purpose.

"It's been our national food since olden times," explained Kim Ae Kyong, a

waitress at the Pyongyang House of Sweet Meat, the largest dog specialty restaurant in the North Korean capital. "People believe that heat cures heat, so they eat dog meat and spicy dog soup on the hottest days. It's healthier than other kinds of meat." The restaurant's menu lists more than a dozen dog dishes, including ribs, hind legs, and boiled dog skin. Like their neighbors to the South, North Korean attitudes toward dogs are changing. It is increasingly common to see people walking their dogs on leashes in Pyongyang and other cities in the North, a trend that seems to have just begun to catch on over the past few years. Feral dogs are common in the countryside, however, and left to fend for themselves.

How leader Kim Jong Un feels about all this isn't known.

But in January he made a point of donating 30 pet dogs of seven breeds, including a bulldog, to Pyongyang's newly renovated Central Zoo, where dogs are put on display much like the wild animals. The canine center at the zoo is, in fact, one of its most popular attractions, and posters near the cages explain how to properly care for and feed, not eat canine companions. (AP)

Nigeria grazing violence kills many more than Boko Haram, poses serious stability threat: International Crisis Group

Violence related to grazing rights has occurred for decades but threatens Buhari's popularity in swing states as herders are mainly from the Fulani ethnic group, as is the president. Deaths have been politicised as his critics say he has not cracked down on the nomads, which he has denied.

LAKE CHAD (TIP): Violence in Nigeria between semi-nomadic cattle herders and settled farmers has killed around six times more people than deaths related to the Boko Haram insurgency in the first half of 2018 and poses a major threat to the country's stability, the International Crisis Group (ICG) said on July 26.

The think-tank said in a report the violence, concentrated in central states and largely driven by competition over dwindling arable land amid a rapidly growing population, killed more than 1,300 people between January and June this year.

Security is a key challenge for President Muhammadu Buhari as Nigeria fights the Islamist insurgency in the northeast and seeks to quell the communal violence before an election in February next year in which he hopes to secure a second term.

Violence related to grazing rights has occurred for decades but threatens Buhari's popularity in swing states as herders are mainly from the Fulani ethnic group, as is the president. Deaths have been politicised as his critics say he has not cracked down on the



nomads, which he has denied.

"Now claiming about six times more civilian lives than the Boko Haram insurgency, the conflict poses a grave threat to the country's stability and unity, and it could affect the 2019 general elections," said ICG in

its report.

VOW TO IMPROVE SECURITY

The think-tank cited a United Nations official as saying that the Boko Haram insurgency, which since 2009 has aimed to

create an Islamic state in northeast Nigeria, killed "over 200" people in the first six months of the year. Buhari, a former military ruler, took office in 2015 after winning an election largely on his vow to improve security across Africa's most populous country, which is the continent's biggest producer of crude oil. Troops and additional police officers have been deployed since the start of the year to improve security.

"The federal government has taken welcome but insufficient steps to halt the killings," said ICG. It said the government should "prosecute perpetrators of violence, disarm ethnic militias and local vigilantes, and begin executing long-term plans for comprehensive livestock sector reform".

A spokesman for the president declined to comment on the report's recommendations.

The violence has further stretched security forces already fighting Boko Haram insurgents who carry out gun raids and bombings in the northeast. Boko Haram has been pushed out of most of the territory it held in the northeast in early 2015 but militants still control an area in the Lake Chad region. (Reuters)

United Nations to support French Russian aid in Syria after initial denial

The 50 tonnes of aid arrived at Russia's Hmeimim military base in northwestern Syria from France on Saturday and came after an agreement reached between President Emmanuel Macron and Russian leader Vladimir Putin in Moscow following talks since May.

SYRIA (TIP): The United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Syria said on July 22 it was ready to provide support to a Franco-Russian initiative to deliver medical aid to government-controlled eastern Ghouta after earlier saying it would not.

France had said the cargo would be distributed under the independent supervision of a UN team so it could guarantee where and when it would go. A French diplomatic source said on Friday it was "not entrusting the aid with the Red Crescent".

The 50 tonnes of aid, including blankets, clothes and tents, arrived on a Russian plane to Russia's Hmeimim military base in northwestern Syria from France on Saturday and came after an agreement reached between President Emmanuel Macron and Russian leader Vladimir Putin in Moscow following talks since May.

"The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) will be distributing the aid and there is no UN supervision of the operation, contrary to previous reports," a UN spokeswoman in Damascus said on Tuesday.

However, OCHA's Syria office later contradicted those remarks on its Twitter feed.

"OCHA Syria welcomes the recent French-Russian initiative to deliver humanitarian aid to Eastern Ghouta. OCHA stands ready to provide whatever support is needed to ensure this important humanitarian operation is a

War of Words: US v Russia on Syria

Donald Trump has warned Russia in a tweet to "get ready" for US missile strikes in Syria after a UN security council meeting failed to stave off the prospect of military confrontation over a chemical weapons attack on a town outside Damascus.

success," it said. OCHA officials did not immediately respond to requests for clarification.

If delivery is delayed or goes astray, it could be embarrassing for Macron, who has for several months attempted to nurture a dialogue with Putin on Syria to break the deadlock on aid – as well as dashing the hopes for help of those in need.

Pro-government forces retook the eastern Ghouta region from rebels in April after besieging the region for years and launching a brutal bombing campaign with their Russian allies.

Since then little aid has entered eastern Ghouta, where about 500,000 people live.

France's Foreign Ministry said on Monday the aid had been "turned over to the UN, which will supervise its distribution".

"The remarks reported by OCHA (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) office in Damascus are not in line with the agreement reached with the Russians and the United Nations," a ministry source told Reuters on Tuesday.

"We are currently making the necessary clarifications and are confident that this humanitarian operation will be completed."

SARC published pictures on Twitter of it taking charge of the aid, saying that it would go to needy people among the most vulnerable but giving no timetable for distribution.

SARC, made up of volunteer aid workers, says it is a neutral humanitarian organisation but several aid sources suspect it comes under heavy pressure from Damascus. Dozens of volunteers have been killed in bombings and shelling during the fighting.

Macron considers aid delivery a first step to forging a wider political discussion with Russia to ultimately bring together international players to end the seven-year civil war.

Russia was also not supposed to take part in its distribution because Paris wanted the initiative to not be derailed for political purposes, French officials said. France, which has backed opponents to Assad in the seven-year civil war, cut off diplomatic ties with Damascus in 2011. (Reuters)

Japan executes six more members of doomsday cult behind sarin gas attack on Tokyo metro

SHINRIKYO (TIP): The last six members of a Japanese doomsday cult who remained on death row were executed Thursday for a series of crimes in the 1990s including a sarin gas attack on Tokyo subways that killed 13 people.

Thirteen members of the group had received death sentences. The first seven, including cult leader Shoko Asahara, were hanged about three weeks ago.

The cult, which envisioned overthrowing the government, amassed an arsenal of chemical, biological and conventional weapons in anticipation of an apocalyptic showdown. Its name Aum Shinrikyo means Supreme Truth.

The group's most notorious crime was the subway attack in 1995 that sickened 6,000 people and caused panic during the morning commute. The attack woke up a relatively safe country to the risk of urban terrorism.

Justice Minister Yoko Kamikawa called it a terrorist attack that even terrified people overseas. She said at a news conference that the six executed Thursday had collaborated with Asahara and other cult members systematically to conduct an unprecedentedly heinous crime that should never be repeated.

The cult had claimed 10,000 members in Japan and 30,000 in Russia. It has disbanded, though nearly 2,000 people follow its rituals in three splinter groups, monitored by authorities. (AP)



Alia Bhatt on nepotism: If I was on the other side, I would be heartbroken

Bollywood star Alia Bhatt, who is currently busy shooting for her upcoming supernatural flick *Brahmastra*, recently got candid about nepotism and how the concept operates in Bollywood.

The actor said that she understands why there has been so much noise about the 'N' word, further explaining that it is natural for talented and deserving people to get dejected if they don't get that one shot that they deserve to make a name for themselves in the industry.

"Of late, I have realised that there is no need to defend the nepotistic nature of the industry because it does exist. The reason why it has become an emotional debate is because those who don't get a chance, it is difficult for them. If I was on the other side, I would be heartbroken. I may have felt the same way. Yes, it does exist everywhere, but this is the only business where there's no fixed fund. You need to be at the right place at the right time. For instance, if you want to be a doctor, you study, give your examination and get a job. In the film business, you can do whatever you want, but there has to be that X-factor that people talk about," Alia told *The Times of India*.

DEEPIKA PADUKONE'S WAX STATUE TO BE UNVEILED AT MADAME TUSSAUDS MUSEUM

The first figure will launch in London early 2019, while the Delhi figure will follow a few months later to draw more attention to tourists and fans of the actress, a statement said.

Deepika, daughter of sports personality Prakash Padukone, made her Bollywood foray with *Om Shanti Om*, beginning a journey that has seen her experience a whole lot of success. Known for her savvy style and versatility seen via films as diverse as *Piku* and *Padmaavat*, Deepika has also done a Hollywood film *XX: Return of Xander Cage*.

She has received a number of national as well as global honours, but in the latest instance, Deepika Padukone has become part of the special group of people, who boast of having their wax statue at Madame Tussauds London, UK. Interestingly, the wax museum has a direct connect with her childhood days.

Interestingly, Deepika is now set to have her own life-size figure at the same museum. "Madame Tussauds London is known as one of the most iconic and popular places in the world. So, when I got a call from the team to have my wax figure put up, I was really overwhelmed," Deepika tells us.

The *Bajirao Mastani* (2015) actor admits that "life has come full circle today". "I had visited London for the first time with my parents. I was a little girl then and like most tourists, we also stood in a queue and bought tickets to [visit] the museum. I clearly remember standing next to [wax statues of] people, who had influenced my life in some way or the other. My parents are extremely proud and at this moment all I am feeling is gratitude and excitement," she says.

2018 has already turned out to be fantastic for the actor, who tasted huge success with *Padmaavat* (in which she played the title role) that made over ₹300 crore at the box office. Later, Deepika was also featured in the



prestigious *TIME* 100 Influential People of 2018 List followed by being a part of *Variety's* International Women's Impact Report 2018.

Talking of Madame Tussauds, Deepika's wax figure will be placed alongside statues of global A-listers such as Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie and Hellen Mirren, among others. Apparently, she is the first Bollywood star whose life-size figurine has made it to that

special section, as statues of other Hindi film stars have been kept in a separate Bollywood enclosure.

"It's a huge honour and achievement for her. But Deepika, on her part, believes that whoever makes it to Madame Tussauds is an achiever in some way or other, and that being a part of that legacy is exciting," says the insider.



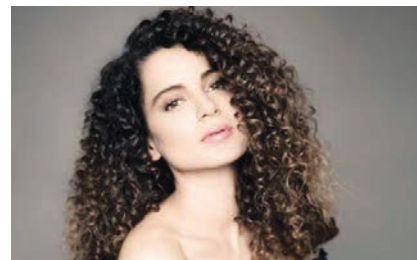
Kangana is a vision in white as she poses with Adiyogi under a stormy sky

Kangana Ranaut is a fitness freak and a yoga enthusiast. Her many videos on Instagram and interviews prove as much. Looks like she is getting deeper into other, more deeper, aspects of yoga.

Late on July 23, she posted a picture of herself with the majestic Shiva statue at the Coimbatore headquarter of the Isha Foundation. Dressed in a cream-coloured sari with a sleeveless blouse and with minimal makeup, she stands in a black-and-white contrast with the statue in the background. The grey monsoon clouds in the sky above add to the drama.

Sharing the post, her team wrote: "And time stood still! #KanganaRanaut soaking in the divinity and seeking the blessings of the almighty at #Adiyogi @isha.foundation @sadhguru."

Her team, which handles her Instagram page, of course can't help admiring Kangana. In one of the posts,



she is described as a 'symbol of purity' and a 'vision of oomph'. It isn't clear what is the purpose of her visit.

On the work, Kangana has her hands full. In mid July, she returned from the London shoot of her upcoming film, *Mental Hai Kya*, where she stars with Rajkumar Rao. She is also preparing for the release of her other film, *Manikarnika*, a historical drama of Rani Laxmibai, the brave queen of Jhansi, who died fighting the British, during the 1857 First Battle of Indian Independence. However, it is her quirky

look from *Mental Hai Kya* that has caught the fancy of many. Her pictures on Instagram from the film's shoot are striking—with crop of mad curls in direct contrast to her frocks in gentle, English colours and prints.

Mental Hai Kya brings together Kangana Ranaut and Rajkumar Rao again after *Queen*. The film is directed by National Award-winner Prakash Kovelamudi and produced by Ekta Kapoor. Explaining the concept of the film, Ekta had said during the launch of its first look, "Mental Hai Kya celebrates the beauty in imperfections and in being different and shouts out, 'sanity is overrated!' I'm thrilled to work with Kangana and Raj on this one."

Her other film, *Manikarnika*, is directed by Krish and KV Vijayendra Prasad has written the script. Kangana plays the titular role in the film, which also stars Sonu Sood and Ankita Lokhande in pivotal roles. *Source: HT*



Singer Demi Lovato hospitalised due to drug overdose: Reports

Singer Demi Lovato has reportedly been hospitalised in Los Angeles. According to a report by TMZ, she was taken to the hospital on Tuesday after a heroin overdose.

The report also suggests that she was taken to the hospital from her home in Hollywood and is currently being treated. Her condition is not known. Law enforcement officials also told TMZ that the patient was being treated with Narcan, a medication used to reverse the opioid overdose.

A representative for the Los Angeles Fire Department told People magazine they 'transported a 25-year-old female patient to a local hospital' from an address that matches Lovato's.

Lovato has been vocal about her struggle with addiction and eating disorder. In 2011, she was treated for bipolar disorder, bulimia and addiction. In June 2018 she released a song, Sober, detailing how she had relapsed after the treatment. The lyrics of the song goes, "Momma, I'm so sorry, I'm not sober anymore; And daddy, please forgive me for the drinks spilled on the floor; To the ones who never left me; We've been down this road before; I'm so sorry, I'm not sober anymore."

Fellow pop star Ariana Grande offered her support after the hospitalization report. She tweeted at Lovato, "I love you."

TAYLOR SWIFT TO STAR IN MOVIE ADAPTATION OF CATS

Taylor Swift has been cast in a big screen version of the stage musical Cats, in what will be the pop singer's biggest movie role so far, entertainment publications Variety and the Hollywood Reporter said on Friday.

The 28-year-old Look What You Made Me Do singer will join Oscar-winning singer and actress Jennifer Hudson, talk show host James Corden and veteran British actor Ian McKellen in the movie, the publications said.

Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber's Cats, based on a book of poems by T.S. Eliot, was first staged in London in 1981 and has been produced around the world. The movie version is a production of Working Title Films, which did not return requests for comment on the reports.

Swift, a 10-time Grammy winner whose Reputation album was the biggest seller of 2017 in the United States, made her film acting debut in the 2010 romantic comedy Valentine's Day.

The Hollywood Reporter, citing sources close to the production, said Hudson was expected to play Grizabella, whose character sings the show's famous Memory ballad.

Swift is being eyed as the flirtatious red cat Bombalurina, while McKellen will play the elderly feline leader Old Deuteronomy, the Hollywood Reporter said.

Britain's Tom Hooper, whose past credits include Oscar best picture The King's Speech and musical Les Miserables, will direct the movie, which is due to begin shooting in Britain in November, Variety said.

Source: Reuters



Miley Cyrus, Liam Hemsworth still together, despite split report

A new report claiming that Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth are "not together after enduring a rough few months" is provably untrue. Gossip Cop can debunk the split rumors. There's plenty of evidence showing the two are still a couple.

An article in this week's issue of NW, which was spread online by the Daily Mail, falsely claims that the singer and actor "have called off their wedding due to disagreements about when to have children." An alleged insider says Cyrus isn't ready to make the leap, adding, "She's strong-willed and you can't keep a free spirit locked up for long."

Over the past several months, according to the "source," Cyrus and Hemsworth "have spent a lot of time apart as they hadn't been getting along." To back up its contentions, the magazine notes that the singer deleted all of the photos on her Instagram account.

Last week, however, Hemsworth shared a video on his Instagram Stories in which he scares his fiancée while their driving in a car. Not only is it evident that the two are still together, but they're still playful and happy as well.

As for the reason behind Cyrus removing her Instagram photos, it has nothing to do with a breakup. "Entertainment

Tonight" reported last week that the singer is taking "a long needed break" from the social media platform and "feels it's healthy" to do so. The credible celebrity news show further noted that she and her fiancé "are very much together" and her decision to clear her account of photos "wasn't earth-shattering."

Just last week, Gossip Cop called out OK! Australia for publishing a similar story about Cyrus and Hemsworth calling off their wedding amid a breakup. And earlier this month, we busted RadarOnline for alleging that Cyrus and Hemsworth had "split for a second time." Obviously, both of those narratives were inaccurate.

NW and the Daily Mail claim that the engaged couple has broken up after months of fighting, but just last week, Hemsworth shared a video in which he playfully pranks his fiancée. Meanwhile, the outlets point to Cyrus deleting her Instagram photos as evidence behind a split. However, the reason for the singer purging her account has nothing to do with a nonexistent breakup. Hemsworth's video of the couple together, plus the valid explanation behind her missing Instagram pictures, is why these latest split rumors are earning a zero on our fact-check meter.

'Stop the deportation': Swedish student's impassioned plane protest prevents exile of Afghan asylum seeker

KABUL (TIP) : In a tearful protest, a Swedish student activist prevented an asylum seeker from being deported to Afghanistan by refusing to sit down until the man was removed from the flight. Elin Ersson, a student at Gothenburg University as per her Facebook profile, started live streaming her protest after learning that the man on the Gothenburg to Istanbul flight would be dispatched to another plane bound for war-torn Afghanistan.

The footage, which went viral and received more than half a million hits on July 22, garnered praise and admiration for the student who was struggling to maintain her composure. "I don't want a man's life to be taken away just because you don't want to miss your flight," she emphatically says. "I am not going to sit down until the person is off the plane."

When asked by a steward to stop filming, she vociferously said: "I am doing what I can to save a person's life. As long as a person is standing up the pilot cannot take off. All I want to do is stop the deportation and then I will comply with the rules here. This is all perfectly legal and I have not committed a crime." While Ersson received sympathy from fellow passengers during the tense standoff, she enraged few of them as well. Replying to an English-speaking man who attempted to snatch her phone, the Swedish student said: "What is more important, a life, or your time? ... I want him to get off the plane because he is not safe in Afghanistan. I am trying to change my country's rules, I don't like them. It is not right to send people to hell." (With inputs from the Guardian)

Myanmar denies demonetisation rumours

YANGON (TIP): Myanmar's Presidential Office has denied that it has issued an executive order to demonetise banknotes, saying that legal action will be taken against perpetrators of the fake news, media reported on July 24.

Director-General and Spokesman of the President's Office U Zaw Htay refuted the false executive order proliferating on Facebook, which is said to have been issued by the top office, the Global New Light of Myanmar reported.

The false presidential executive order, posted on the Facebook, reads: "Banknotes of 500 kyat, 1,000 kyat, 5,000 kyat and 10,000 kyat would be invalid beginning August 1."

Htay said that a probe is on and action would be taken against those spreading canards and trying to undermine the peace and stability of the country. He warned the public that there has been no official announcements nor orders concerning banknotes, Xinhua news agency reported. (IANS)

Dozens feared dead, rescuers search for missing after Laos dam collapse in Thailand

BANGKOK (TIP): Rescuers searched in difficult conditions on Wednesday for dozens of people feared dead and hundreds missing after a dam collapsed in a remote part of land-locked Laos, one of Asia's poorest countries, a government official said.

State media showed pictures of villagers, some with young children, stranded on the roofs of submerged houses. Others showed villagers trying to board wooden boats to safety in Attapeu province, the southernmost part of the country.

A senior Lao government official, who declined to be identified because he was not authorised to speak to the media, said dozens of people were feared dead and hundreds remain unaccounted for after the hydropower dam that was under construction collapsed on Monday.

"We will continue with rescue efforts today but it's very difficult, the conditions are very difficult. Dozens of people are dead. It could be higher," the Vientiane-based official told Reuters by telephone. The once-isolated Southeast Asian country, one of the world's few remaining communist states, has an ambitious dam-building scheme in order to become the "battery of Asia".

Its government depends almost entirely on outside developers to build its planned portfolio of dams under commercial concessions that agree to export electricity to its more developed neighbours, including power-hungry Thailand. (Reuters)

Pakistan Elections 2018: US condemns terrorist attack on Quetta polling station

An Islamic State suicide bomber blew himself up after he was stopped from entering the Tameer-i-Nau Education Complex school, serving as a polling station in 'sensitive' NA-260 constituency in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan.

QUETTA (TIP): The US today condemned the terrorist attack outside a polling station in Pakistan's southwestern Quetta city that left 31 people dead. An Islamic State suicide bomber blew himself up after he was stopped from entering the Tameer-i-Nau Education Complex school, serving as a polling station in 'sensitive' NA-260 constituency in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan.

"We strongly condemn today's attack on a polling station in Quetta that killed 31 Pakistani civilians and wounded 35 more as they courageously attempted to exercise their democratic right to vote," a State Department Spokesperson told PTI.

"We send our deepest condolences to the friends and families of those killed and wounded in this cowardly attack, and stand with the people of Pakistan in their fight against terrorism," the spokesperson said.

The State Department said that it continues to monitor the developments in Pakistan where the elections results are pouring in. "We continue to monitor developments and have consistently emphasised our



support for free, fair, transparent and accountable elections in Pakistan, as we do around the world," the spokesperson said.

Responding to a question, the spokesperson said that the US Mission in Pakistan did not deploy election observers. "We would refer you to the Election Commission of Pakistan for additional information on election conditions and results," the spokesperson said.

The attack in the troubled province of Balochistan is the second major

attack this month after nearly 150 people were killed and some 200 injured when a suicide bomber attacked an election corner meeting of the Baluchistan Awami Party in Mastung district.

Pakistanis voted today to choose a new government in the second democratic transition of power in the nation's 70-year history amid accusations of manipulation by the powerful army and concerns over the participation of Islamic hardliners in large numbers. (PTI)

Thai cave boys ordained as Buddhist novices to honour dead rescuer

The group listened to Buddhist chanting before they were given saffron robes to wear during an emotionally-charged ceremony that was broadcast live on Facebook by local authorities.

CHIANG RAI (TIP): Eleven boys from a soccer team, rescued from a flooded Thai cave in a drama that gripped global audiences, were ordained as Buddhist novices on Wednesday at a temple in Chiang Rai in memory of a volunteer diver who died during their rescue. The boys and their 25-year-old coach, Ekapol Chanthawong, arrived at the Wat Phra That Doi Tung temple in Chiang Rai's Mae Sai district dressed in white robes amid light rain and fog.

The group listened to Buddhist chanting before they were given saffron robes to wear during an emotionally-charged ceremony that was broadcast live on Facebook by local authorities.

The group had their hair shaved a day earlier in preparation to become novice Buddhist monks.

"Their lives will change now. This experience will help them to

appreciate their parents and give them a taste of Dhamma," Manit Prakobkit, vice chairman of the Mae Sai Cultural Council, told local media. The boys and their coach will live for nine days at a Buddhist temple and adhere to the teachings and precepts of Buddhism, which is Thailand's main religion.

One of the boys, fourteen-year-old Adul Sam-on is Christian and was not ordained.

An international operation to rescue the 12 boys and their coach ended on July 10 when the last of the group was brought to safety from inside the flooded Tham Luang Cave in Chiang Rai.

During the rescue operation, the boys' families promised that, in return for their safe rescue and in memory of diver Samarn Kunan, 38, the boys would ordain as novices.

Samarn, a former member of Thailand's elite navy SEALs unit,

was the only casualty in the operation to save the boys and their coach after monsoon rains trapped them inside the cave.

At the temple on Wednesday, the boys helped each other to put on their new garments in a ceremony attended by their relatives and Samarn's wife, Valeepoan Kunan.

The ceremony ended with attendees and temple visitors scrambling to collect pockets of coins scattered into the air – a custom in Thai ordination ceremony to signify giving up worldly treasures – with most catching the pockets in their umbrellas.

The boys and Ekapol had gone to explore the caves on June 23 when they became trapped. They survived for nine days on water dripping from rocks before they were discovered on a muddy mound by divers. (Reuters)

FEEL THE BEAUTY OF KOLLAM BACKWATERS

The coastal district of Kollam formerly known as Quilon lies 70 km from Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala. The first thing that comes to the mind of a Keralite when he hears of Kollam is the delicious cashew nut. The orchards and their abundant yield of the costly nut has led to the title “Cashew Kings” dispersed among some of the rich. The place is rich in marine yield also. It is one of the oldest ports and trading centers in Kerala. It finds mention in history pointing to its trading connection to Phoenicians and Romans before the start of Christian era.

Over 30% of the area is covered by the Ashtamudi Lake which derives its name from the meeting of the 8 streams. “Ashta” stands for 8 in Sanskrit. Kollam is the gateway to the backwaters of Kerala. It takes a cruise of only 8 hours to reach Alappuzha.

The sights around are so wonderful that a tourist does not want the cruise to end. You can see the water plants, such as Lotus with its head held high, water lilies almost in contact with the water surface, groups of ducks floating leisurely with not a care in the world. The Chinese fishing nets hanging from poles to the surface of water is a common sight. On the way you can stop at the Munroe Island. From Munroe Island also, a tourist can begin the cruise.

Kollam backwaters offer you unforgettable experiences. Alumkadavu village twenty three km from Kollam on the way to Allapuzha is one such. You can actually observe the vintage craft of fashioning a Housboat or “Kettuvallam”, which means a boat bound with ropes. Many families used to own one for their outing and spending some days on the river. It was widely used to transport cargo.

Going on a cruise in Kettuvallom or Houseboat through the Kollam backwaters to Alleppey will be an experience that one will never forget!!

The Amritanandamayi Asram is only 4 km away. Devotees and visitors flock there to experience the concept of “World is one large family”. Enjoy the view of Kayamkulam lake and Karunagapally lying on its bank, which the locals say was the playground of Kochunni a Robin Hood type of “dacoit” famous in Kerala folktales.

There are many famous temples built in the traditional style like the Devi Temple at Thevalakkara and Anandalalleswaram Temple.. The old Pullichira church is also nearby.

The Sree Dharma Sastha Temple with its view of Sasthamkotta fresh water lake invites you to spend a day there. This lake provides drinking water to most of Kollam town. A visit to the temple during day and the relaxing cruise on the moonlit water can be exhilarating experiences.

Asramam picnic village, a center of tourism activities in Kollam, is part of the government guest house complex. The Government guest house is around 200 years old and was the residence of Lord Munroe then. This picnic village lie facing Kollam backwaters.

The adventure park is the latest development here. You can hire any type of boat from the jetty. You can take an evening cruise and/or “go around” cruise from the village. There is a budget hotel conveniently situated near the park; and all this at 2 km away from town.



HOW TO REACH

BY FLIGHT

There are no regular flights from other major cities of the country to Kollam. Nearest airport is Thiruvananthapuram International Airport.

Kollam: 51 km away

Thiruvananthapuram International Airport (TRV), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Kollam: 129 km away

Kochi Airport (COK), Ernakulam, Kerala

BY TRAIN

Kollam is well connected to other major cities of the country via regular trains.

Railway Station(s): Kollam Junction (QLN), Eravipuram (IRP)



TRY NATURAL EXFOLIANTS FROM YOUR KITCHEN

Do you know that in order to achieve healthy, luscious skin you need to get rid of old dead cells, which reside in the deep layers of your skin?

Exfoliation, when done the right way, can make ageing skin look younger and preserve youthful appeal. And what if we tell you that the best of these exfoliants aren't expensive and are available in plenty right where you are! Excited? Read on to discover the top 5 natural exfoliants in your very own kitchen.

Honey

A healthy and sweet addition to your skin care routine, unprocessed honey is a superb antiseptic. This is because it has anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and anti-viral benefits. Loaded with antioxidants, honey helps in protecting and repairing the skin, by reducing skin inflammation too. Mix it in your hydrating facial scrub and it acts as a great moisturiser too.

Yogurt

An excellent staple food in your kitchen and healthy diet regimen, yogurt is full of lactic acid, which contains alpha hydroxyl acid (an acid present in prescription skin care treatments). Combine it with milk, and yogurt works as an excellent skin-smoothing exfoliant. All you have to do is apply yogurt on any part of your body, let it stay for 20 minutes and then rinse.

Baking soda

A must-use in baking and odor control procedures, baking soda is used extensively in high-end spa treatments. Now they may not leak it to you, but baking soda is used extensively in microdermabrasion treatments, which contains sodium bicarbonate. However, do note that the amount of baking soda you should be using on your skin should be quite moderate, as sensitive or mature skin can suffer from its harsh



effects. Best would be to add a pinch of it to your facial cleanser in the morning and enjoy a spa-worthy treatment at home.

Ground fruit seeds and nuts

Go for blackberry seeds or raspberry or ground almonds mixture and exfoliate your skin with these easily available ingredients. These ingredients help in removing dead cells, when massaged onto the skin in a smooth, circular motion. Avoid using sharp edged ingredients. Infact, make a puree of the nuts, almonds and readily

available fruit seeds and then apply them to your skin for a softer, smoother skin.

Sea salt

If you are looking for a facial scrub that really helps in opening your pores, then mixing sea salt with water is a great idea. Scrubbing your face with it in the morning is a great homemade exfoliation procedure. An inexpensive and quite popular body treatment at spas, sea salt scrubs help in detoxifying the body by stimulating blood circulation through vasodilation of blood capillaries inside the skin.



GET PRETTIER FEET WITHOUT A PEDICURE

Avoid all acetone products on your feet

Acetone is highly harsh on your nails, as it dries out the natural oils from them. Say no to acetone nail polish removers and opt for the acetone-free options for stronger and healthier nails.

Don't soak your feet

Remember all those times you soaked your feet in water, brimming with pride as to how careful you were about your care regimen? The truth is, you were only stripping the natural oils from your feet. Next time, just wash your feet with some mild soap instead.

Exfoliate all the way

Exfoliation is a mandatory process when it comes to caring for your feet. It helps in getting rid of all those pesky dead skin, to leave your feet feeling smooth and soft. Just use a pumice stone on your feet regularly for softer, prettier feet.

Get a foot massage

If you're really looking into taking proper care of your feet, we urge you to go for regular foot massage. Massaging some moisturiser onto your feet everyday helps lock in moisture and keeps your feet feeling supple for longer.

Change your diet

Make sure your diet includes a lot of calcium to walk your way to healthier feet. Foods like green leafy vegetables, fish and almonds are great for adding calcium to your diet, and will help tremendously in taking you one step closer to the feet of your dreams.

Guide to buying the right scent

Seasonal perfumes

Scents are known to evoke seasonal fragrances and moods. Winter perfumes should have rich scents along with sweet notes like amber, vanilla and cinnamon. There are various perfumes, which combine sweet fragrances like oranges, caramel, lemon, honey and fruits.

The right fragrance for you

WOODY: An ideal choice for cooler months and evenings, earthy tones are the feature of woody fragrances. These perfumes usually feature such scents as sandalwood, patchouli and cedar to give a rich and natural fragrance. Woody perfumes are easy to wear and versatile.

ORIENTAL: These perfumes are the strongest of all. With sensual overtones and rich undertones, this scent makes for quite heavy blends, but they are complemented by the fine scents of sweet vanilla, musk, sumptuous flowers and Oriental resins. Most Oriental perfumes have a wonderful crossing-over of qualities from all the other categories from the spicy fruit tones to warm woody tones and this makes them a superb choice for corporate environments, evening events and special occasions.

FLORAL: These have strong overtones of flowery fragrances. Overtone like rose, jasmine and lavender work perfectly for the winter season. These scents are feminine without being overpowering and are suitable as a day wear.

FRUITY: Fruity fragrances are spicy and fresh. They are quite youthful in their scent and apt for cool weather. In the winters, they invoke a sense of warm desserts and cider. They are an excellent choice for women who like classic fragrances but also want to add a little flair.

FOOD CORNER

CHOCOLATE BARBEQUE CHICKEN WINGS

INGREDIENTS

- 12-15 no Chicken wings
- Salt to taste, 1 tsp black pepper powder, 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp Kashmiri red chili powder/ paprika
- Oil for frying

For Chocolate Barbeque Sauce

- 1 tsp onion powder, 1 tsp garlic powder, ½ cup gms semisweet chocolate, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups ketchup, 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 tbsp. honey, 2 tbsp. vinegar
- 2 tbsp. unsweetened cocoa powder, 1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tsp. dry mustard, 2 tsp. chili powder
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. ground coriander

METHOD

- Apply garlic powder, onion powder, black pepper powder



and salt to the chicken wings for 2 hours.

- Coat marinated wings in refined flour then dip in egg wash and finally coat with breadcrumbs.
- Deep fry them into hot oil until crisp and golden in color. -To make sauce mix everything in sauce pan; cook, stirring occasionally, until thickened, about 3 minutes.
- Coat cooked chicken wings with the sauce and serve immediately with celery sticks

DARK CHOCOLATES IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEART

Now you need not be guilty of indulging in dark chocolates, as compounds found in cocoa may be good for your heart, a study has found.

The findings showed that consumption of flavanol-rich cocoa products was associated with improvements in specific circulating biomarkers of cardiometabolic health.

"We found that cocoa flavanol intake may reduce dyslipidemia (elevated triglycerides), insulin resistance and systemic inflammation, which are all major subclinical risk factors for cardiometabolic diseases," said Simin Liu, Professor at Brown University in Rhode Islands, US.

There were small-to-modest but statistically significant improvements among those who ate flavanol-rich cocoa product versus those who did not. The greatest effects were seen among trial volunteers who ate between 200 and 600 mg of flavanols a day (based on their cocoa consumption).

They had significant declines in blood glucose and insulin, as well as another indicator of insulin resistance called HOMA-IR. Further, they also saw an increase in HDL, or "good," cholesterol.

Participants who consumed higher doses saw some of the insulin resistance benefits and a drop in triglycerides, but not a significant increase in HDL. For the study, the team conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of 19 randomised controlled trials (RCTs) of cocoa consumption and included 1,139 volunteers in these trials. The results appear in the Journal of Nutrition.



For good sleep

Good news for all you chocoholics! Dark chocolates contain a vital nutrient that helps in regulating body clock, which may help you sleep better at night, claims a recent study.

Magnesium, present in many foods such as dark chocolate, nuts and green leafy vegetables, helps cells to cope in the body's circadian rhythm, researchers from the University of Edinburgh and University of Cambridge in the UK said.

Circadian rhythm or internal clock is responsible for different body functions like sleeping, waking and temperature, "Tech Times" reported.

"Internal clocks are fundamental to all living things. They influence many aspects of health and disease in our own bodies, but equally in crop plants and micro-organisms," said Gerben Van Ooijen from the University of

Edinburgh.

Researchers worked on three biological organisms — fungi, algae and human cells.

Using molecular analysis, they found levels of magnesium that oscillates as the cells undergo the 24-hour clock. This 24-hour rise and fall oscillation is important to sustain the cell's energy for the whole day. The presence of magnesium in cells also contributes to its metabolism or the efficiency of cells to convert nutrients into energy within the day. Magnesium also controls the burning of energy whenever the cells biologically need it, researchers said. The findings may help in the development of chronotherapy or the treatment depending on the body's circadian rhythm and the improvement of various crops that can be harvested in an extended season, they said.

Are your microwave containers safe?

Most of us are assured that our microwave containers are safe as it is mentioned at the back of the container and we are certain that it won't cause any problem. However, if you think that these are the only criteria needed to stamp them with a microwave-safe guarantee, think again.

What is wrong in using microwave-safe containers?

After doing the safety test (see box below), you can assure yourself that good quality microwave containers are safe for use. However, containers with very thin plastic body are not safe at all even though they may be marked so. Many studies conducted by scientists say that these containers release BPA (Bisphenol A), which can latch on to the food when it is heated. Exposure to BPA in small doses is considered to be more harmful than larger ones and the effects are longer. BPA is considered to be inherently toxic by environmentalists, too, who have urged a ban on it.

Dispose them at the earliest

It is better to avoid reusing containers that are used for take-aways and home delivery. According to



studies, such plastic containers have a high affinity for fats and once they come in contact with food high in oil or fat-based substances, they can never be truly clean for a second use. The plastic is irrevocably altered even though it was originally marked as food grade. Also remember, that any containers, if they have been used to store non-food items like detergent or paint should never be used for storing food.

Other safe options

Heavy glass jars, which are marked

food grade and used to store food can be directly used in the oven. It is also safe to re-heat food in good quality glassware. However, avoid decorative glass plates since the dyes and pigments used for the decorative colours and finish, may not be food grade. Even if there is a minute metallic trim and design on the glassware, it should be avoided. Paper towels or paper plates too are a safe bet to reheat food. If using ceramic ware, you need to check these first by heating them when they are empty.



DAIRY DIET BEFORE EXERCISE REDUCES RISK OF BONE BREAKS, NEW STUDY

A pre-exercise dairy diet may reduce the risk of bone breaks, according to the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS).

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) reported on Tuesday the AIS had found a dairy-rich meal around two hours before exercise could counter calcium lost during exercise.

Athletes in low-impact sports, such as cycling, rowing and swimming, lose calcium through sweating which can weaken the bones and lead to osteoporosis later in life.

Head of sports nutrition at the AIS, Louise Burke, said the research backed by Dairy Australia showed the body, when seeking calcium for blood sweat, used the digesting food rather than bones, Xinhua news agency reported.

"It stops your bones from having to dissolve a little bit, to put the calcium back into the blood stream, as to being lost from the blood sweat," said Burke.

"Your body is doing that to keep blood calcium levels stable."

"So any time it feels that a little bit is going down, it has to rush to the nearest available calcium source to get it back into the blood stream."

High-impact exercise like running stimulates bone growth and the opposite is true for low-impact exercise, where the lack of weight bearing activity leads to low bone mineral density.

The AIS suggested athletes consume three standard dairy serves before exercise.

"In one case, we have had the team chef create some breakfast recipes including cheese omelettes, bircher muesli and smoothies with milk and yoghurt to help athletes meet this target," Burke said.

Burke said weekend cyclists could benefit by considering what to drink after their morning rides.

"All cyclists could think about their choice of pre-ride breakfast or, when they stop at a cafe on a weekend ride, consider ordering a latte or hot chocolate rather than a short black."

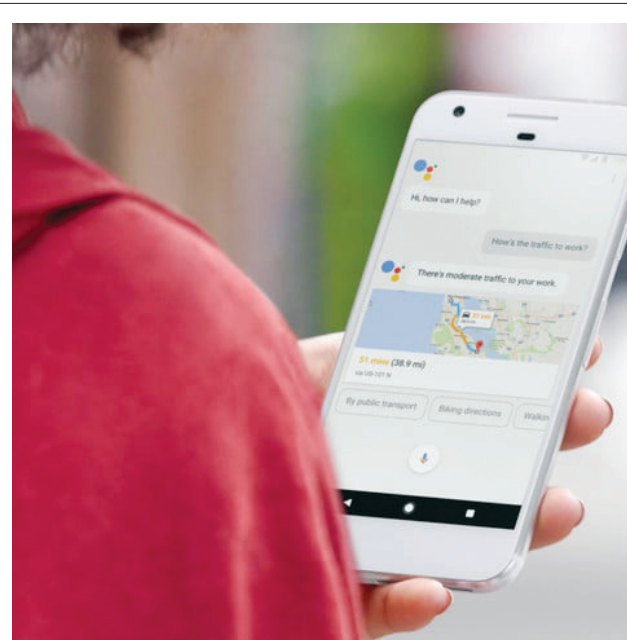
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ASK GOOGLE ASSISTANT TO MAKE VIDEO CALLS VIA DUO

In an update introduced by Google, Assistant will now be able to make video calls, including international ones on Google's video chat mobile app "Duo".

The feature would enable users to make video calls from their phones, contacts and messages apps using the mobile video chat app.

"If you use the Google Assistant: You can start a 'Duo' video call by saying or typing, 'Video call (name),' Google wrote in a post late on Monday.

The update was released on the latest version of "Duo" for both, Android and iOS based smartphones and tablets.

Users using Android 8.0 and up would have to sync their "Duo" settings using the "Account Sync" option.

For users, who do not have the app installed, the call would get redirected to another one of Google's messaging and video chat platform, "Hangouts".

The feature has started rolling out, but it may take some time to reach all users. *Source: IANS*

NEW COMPUTER MODEL PREDICTS WHEN ONLINE CONVERSATIONS TURN SOUR

Scientists have developed a computer model that can predict when civil conversations on the internet might take a turn and degenerate into personal attacks.

The researchers from Cornell University in the US hope this model can be used to rescue at-risk conversations and improve online dialogue, rather than for banning specific users or censoring certain topics.

After analysing hundreds of exchanges between Wikipedia editors, they developed the computer program that scans for warning signs in the language used by participants at the start of a conversation.

The program looks for signs such as repeated, direct questioning or use of the word "you" to predict which initially civil conversations would go awry.

Early exchanges that included greetings, expressions of gratitude, hedges such as "it seems," and the words "I" and "we" were more likely to remain civil, the study found.

"There are millions of such discussions taking place every day, and you can't possibly monitor all of them live. A system based on this finding might help human moderators better direct their attention," said Cristian Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil, an assistant professor at Cornell University.

"We, as humans, have an intuition of whether a conversation is about to go awry, but it's often just a suspicion. We can't do it 100 per cent of the time. We wonder if we can build systems to replicate or even go beyond this intuition," Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil said.

The computer model, which also considered Google's Perspective, a machine-learning tool for evaluating "toxicity," was correct around 65 per cent of the time. Humans guessed correctly 72 per cent of the time.

People can test their own ability to guess which conversations will derail at an online quiz.

The study analysed 1,270 conversations that began civilly but degenerated into personal attacks, culled from 50 million conversations across 16 million Wikipedia "talk" pages, where editors discuss articles or other issues. *Source: PTI*

SCIENTISTS DISCOVER FIRST-EVER LIQUID WATER LAKE ON MARS

In a tantalising find, a team of Italian researchers on Wednesday announced they have discovered a large saltwater lake near the south pole on Red Planet—raising a possibility that life may be there on Mars in some form.

The lake under the Martian ice stretches 20 km across, said the team led by Roberto Orosei from the National Institute of Astrophysics in Bologna in a paper detailed in the prestigious journal *Science*.

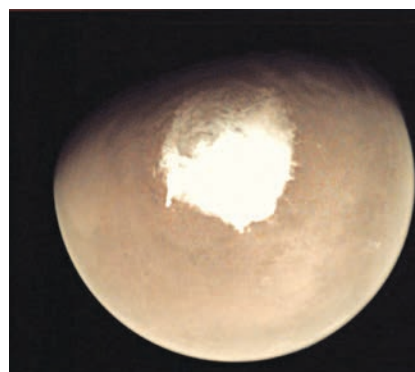
The lake is about 1.5 km beneath Mars's surface and is at least one metre deep.

The detection was made using the Mars Advanced Radar for Subsurface and Ionosphere Sounding (MARSIS) instrument on European Space Agency's Mars Express spacecraft.

If confirmed, it would be the first confirmed news of liquid water ever detected on the Red Planet.

"We discovered water on Mars," said Orosei.

In 2015, in the first-ever definitive signs of the presence of liquid water on the Red Planet, NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) captured strong evidence for seasonal flows of liquid salty water on the Martian



surface. In the new discovery, between May 2012 and December 2015, Orosei and colleagues used MARSIS to survey a region called Planum Australe, located in the southern ice cap of Mars.

They obtained 29 sets of radar samplings, mapping out an area exhibiting a very sharp change in its associated radar signal, about 1.5 km below the surface of the ice and extending sideways about 20 km.

The radar profile of this area is similar to that of lakes of liquid water found beneath the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets on Earth, suggesting that there is a subglacial lake at this location on Mars.

"Although the temperature is

expected to be below the freezing point of pure water, Orosei noted that dissolved salts of magnesium, calcium, and sodium—known to be present in Martian rocks—could be dissolved in the water to form a brine," said the study.

"Together with the pressure of the overlying ice, this lowers the melting point, allowing the lake to remain liquid, as happens on Earth," the researchers noted.

According to the journal *Nature*, if further studies confirm the existence of a lake, it could open new avenues for investigating Mars.

"It begins a new line of inquiry that's very exciting," Jim Green, NASA's chief scientist, was quoted as saying.

Nearly 4.5 billion years ago, Mars had six-and-a half times as much water as it does now and a thicker atmosphere.

But most of this water has disappeared into space and the reason is that Mars no longer has global magnetic fields, like on the Earth.

The magnetic field protects the Earth's atmosphere against degradation from energy rich particles from the Sun.

Orosei and team wrote: "There is no reason to conclude that the presence of subsurface water on Mars is limited to a single location". *Source: IANS*

'Facebook taking steps to block fake accounts, monitor abuse'

Social media giant Facebook has said that it has initiated a series of measures, including blocking fake accounts to combat fake news, proactively monitor abuse and increase advertisement transparency as part of its efforts to prevent outsiders' interference in any general elections across the world.

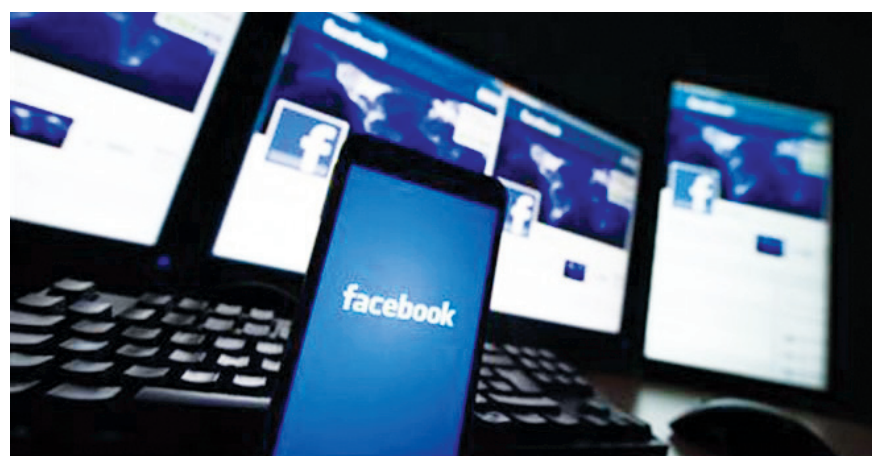
Facebook has been facing criticism for helping to spur violence and for its policies surrounding misinformation in general.

Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's founder and CEO, had to face grilling in the US and in the European parliament over the Cambridge Analytica scandal, in which Facebook was accused of unduly influencing the 2016 US electoral process.

The social media giant has done some work in the first half of this year to combat fake news all around the world like in Italy, Colombia, Turkey, and even the primaries for US midterms. By the end of the year it will have focused on more than 50 national elections all around the world, Samidh Chakrabarti, Facebook's head of the civic engagement, said.

Using machine learning Facebook has got more effective at either blocking, or quickly removing fake accounts.

"That's important since they're often the root of a lot of the bad activity that we see on our platform. We're now at the point that we stop more than a million



accounts per day at the point of creation," Chakrabarti said.

Facebook continues to expand its effort on combating fake news with 27 third-party fact-checking partners in 17 countries.

"We continue to bring increased levels of transparency to online political advertising," he said.

And finally, Facebook is proactively monitoring for abuse. "We've been able to apply powerful computational techniques that are traditionally used to fight spam and apply those to the civic space. And that's really made great advancements recently in our ability to precisely detect and disrupt organised information operations," Chakrabarti said. To make this happen, Facebook is investing both in technology and in

people. Members dedicated to this work having recently passed 15,000 and closer to 20,000 people by the end of the year. The social media giant reviews reports of bad content in over 50 languages, which it does round the clock.

According to Chakrabarti, Facebook is working with groups like the Digital Forensic Research Lab at the Atlantic Council, which works closely with its teams to get them real-time insights and intelligence on emerging threats and disinformation campaigns from all around the world.

It also includes collaborations with government, he said, adding that it is working with a superior electoral court and regional court and electoral law enforcement authorities, particularly around online ads. *Source: PTI*

4 of Indian-origin in Fortune's 40 under 40 list of influential people

NEW YORK (TIP): Four people of Indian origin, including three women, have been named by Fortune among 40 of the most influential and inspiring young people in business under the age of 40.

Instagram Cofounder and CEO Kevin Systrom and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, both 34, are tied for first place on the Fortune '40 Under 40' list.

Chief Finance Officer of the US' largest automaker, General Motors **Dhivya Suryadevara**, comes in at the fourth spot, followed by Vimeo CEO **Anjali Sud** (14), Cofounder and Co-CEO of Robinhood **Baiju Bhatt** (24) and Female Founders Fund founding partner **Anu Duggal** (32).

For the first time ever, Fortune also assembled a "supplementary honour roll" of the most impressive, young superstars who are transforming business at the leading edge of finance and technology.

The 'Ledger 40 Under 40' supplementary honour roll list shines a light on the pioneers building some of the world's fastest-growing businesses.

This list includes Senior Vice President of Product at real-time currency exchange and remittance network Ripple, 39-year old Asheesh Birla, digital currency wallet and platform Coinbase's chief technology officer Balaji Srinivasan, Director of MIT Digital Currency Initiative Neha Narula and Coinbase's vice president of operations Tina Bhatnagar.

Fortune said Suryadevara, 39, made history when it was announced she would become GM's first female CFO later this year, making the auto giant one of only two Fortune 500 companies led by a female CEO and CFO (the other is chocolate giant Hershey).

Sud, 34, joined video-sharing website Vimeo as head of marketing in 2014 and was last year named CEO, charged with focusing Vimeo as a cloud-based platform for video creation, distribution, and monetisation, targeting individuals and small- to medium-size businesses.

Bhatt, 33, cofounded financial services company Robinhood with Vlad Tenev in 2013 as an "egalitarian challenge to oldguard brokerage houses. Five years



Dhivya Suryadevara, Chief Finance Officer of General Motors



Vimeo CEO Anjali Sud



Co-founder and Co-CEO of Robinhood Baiju Bhatt



Female Founders Fund founding partner Anu Duggal

later, it has shot to a valuation of \$5.6 billion." This year, the company added Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies to the trading mix and now hope to build Robinhood into a full-blown digital bank, Fortune said.

Duggal, 39, launched Female Founders Fund in 2014 as a seed-stage

venture fund to invest in female-led technology companies. She had initially raised five million dollars and by May of this year, she closed \$27 million for her second early-stage fund, with a roster of limited partners, including philanthropist Melinda Gates, Fortune said.

Source: PTI

Flipkart to shut eBay in India, launch new platform for refurbished goods

NEW DELHI (TIP): E-commerce major Flipkart will shut down eBay.in next month and launch a new platform for refurbished goods as it attempts to tap into a large market segment that is predominantly unorganised.

Last year, Flipkart had raised USD 1.4 billion from global technology majors eBay, Tencent and Microsoft. In exchange of an equity stake in Flipkart, eBay had made a cash investment of USD 500 million and sold eBay.in (India business) to Flipkart.

"Based on our learnings at eBay.in, we have built a brand new value platform launching with refurbished goods - a large market which is predominantly



unorganised... As part of this launch, we will be stopping all customer transactions on eBay.in on 14th August, 2018 and transitioning to the new platform," Flipkart CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy said in an email to employees.

He added that key barriers to

refurbished goods — trust and convenience — can be solved at scale with Flipkart's customer base, and F1 Info solutions and services.

"We will keep evolving and bringing newer formats, categories and features which cater to the needs of our value-conscious middle India," Krishnamurthy said, adding all eBay.in sellers and customers will be migrated to the new platform.

"The new platform has a different value proposition compared to Flipkart, and will cater to a different target audience. We are committed to investing in this independent brand," he pointed out.

Source: PTI

GOVT MOVES COURT TO RECOVER \$3.8 BN FROM RIL, SHELL, ONGC



NEW DELHI (TIP): The government has moved the Delhi High Court to enforce a \$3.8-billion recovery from Reliance Industries (RIL), Shell and ONGC following an English court ruling over its share from the Panna-Mukta and Tapti fields in western offshore, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Wednesday.

In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Pradhan said based on the Final Partial Award (FPA) dated October 12, 2016, the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) had on May 25, 2017, raised demand for \$3.8 billion on ONGC, RIL and Shell towards Government of India share of profit petroleum and royalty.

RIL and Shell challenged the FPA before the High Court in London. ONGC was not party to the arbitration.

"The High Court, London, rejected the petition filed by RIL and Shell on April 16, 2018, except on one issue which was remanded to the Arbitral Tribunal," he said. "For enforcement of the FPA, Government has filed a petition before the Delhi High Court." In December 2010, BG Exploration & Production India Ltd, which was subsequently acquired by Shell, and RIL, initiated arbitration against the Government of India (GoI) after a dispute over the state's share of profit and royalty from Panna-Mukta and Mid and South Tapti contract areas off the west coast.

The Arbitration Tribunal gave its FPA on October 12, 2016. RIL and Shell initiated proceedings under the English Arbitration Act, 1996 to challenge the arbitration award before the English Commercial Court in November 2016.

Source: PTI

Maruti to recall 1,279 units of new Swift, Dzire for possible fault in airbag controllers



NEW DELHI (TIP): Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Wednesday said it is recalling 1,279 units of new Swift and Dzire models to inspect for a possible fault in the airbag controller units.

MSI in a statement said it would proactively and voluntarily undertake a recall for 1,279 vehicles (566 new Swift and 713 new Dzire) manufactured between May 7 and July 5, 2018.

"Recall campaigns are undertaken globally to rectify faults that may be potential safety defects. Starting July 25, 2018, owners of the vehicles included in this recall campaign will be contacted by Maruti Suzuki dealers for inspection and replacement of the faulty part free of cost," the company added. In May this year, MSI had asked customers of 52,686 new Swift and Baleno models to undertake a service campaign to inspect for a possible fault in brake vacuum hose. The company, however, said the exercise did not amount to a recall as the issue did not relate to safety.

Automobile manufacturers in India follow a voluntary recall policy adopted by industry body SIAM in July 2012, under which if a company is of the opinion that there is a manufacturing defect that compromises safety of vehicles, it will voluntarily rectify the problem free of cost to the customer.

Source: PTI

Homes burn as crews battle separate blazes in California

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (TIP): Homes burned as a fast-moving wildfire forced an entire Southern California mountain town to evacuate July 25, while tourists emptied from the heart of Yosemite National Park so firefighters could battle a growing blaze nearby.

Authorities ordered residents to leave Idyllwild, home to about 12,000 people, and surrounding forest communities in the San Jacinto Mountains east of Los Angeles. At least four homes burned as crews used aircraft to attack the flames that quickly burned nearly 5 square miles (12 square

kilometers) of dry brush and timber in inaccessible terrain. No injuries were reported.

Officers detained a motorist for questioning after people called 911 to report a suspicious vehicle near the fire's starting point in Riverside County, the California Highway Patrol said.

As his neighbors tried to corral dogs and horses, William Blodgett fled when flames hopped a highway near his home in Idyllwild. "We were all peeling out of there as fast as we could," he told KNBC-TV. "It was apocalyptic."

The fire is one of several across California

amid a statewide heat wave. To the north, in the San Francisco Bay Area, at least one home burned in a fast-moving blaze in Clayton, where houses are spread out around windy roads. Yosemite Valley, the scenic heart of the national park, was closed at noon Wednesday during the height of tourist season as smoke cast a pall on the region from a fire in the Sierra Nevada. The closure was heartbreaking for travelers, many of whom mapped out their trips months in advance to hike and climb amid the spectacular views of cascading waterfalls and sheer rock faces.

"We had one guest who planned a weeklong

trip," said Tom Lambert, who owns a vacation rental property near Yosemite Valley. "It was a father-daughter trip, for her high school graduation ... Now it's done. It's sad." Another guest had to delay plans to climb Half Dome.

The closure has also been a financial blow to Lambert and other businesses that rely on the summer tourist traffic.

Most people left the valley Tuesday when officials reluctantly announced the closure, park spokesman Scott Gediman said. The remaining campers packed up their gear Wednesday, joining the exodus that has been mostly orderly. (AP)

contd from page 1

Set to be Pakistan's...

general elections held on Wednesday. His party emerged as the single largest party in the National Assembly elections, amid rival parties' claim of "blatant" rigging by the army in Khan's favor.

Khan, who is set to be the next Pakistan PM, said Kashmir was the "core" issue between the two countries and it should be resolved through talks.

"I am a person who arguably knows most people in India because of my days in cricket. We can resolve the poverty crisis in S-E Asia. The biggest problem is Kashmir," he said, suggesting that the two sides should come to the table.

"We want to improve our ties with India, if their leadership wants it too. This blame game that whatever goes wrong in Pakistan's Balochistan is because of India and vice versa brings us back to square one," he said. He said good India-Pakistan relations would be beneficial for the entire region and suggested increased trade ties between the two neighbors. Ties deteriorated after the terror attacks by Pakistan-based groups in 2016 and India's surgical strikes in PoK.

Trump and EU easing...

North Korean policy hasn't actually changed that much. That's exactly what we're seeing right here," Bremmer said.

Bremmer said Mr. Trump has leverage and gets more from the Europeans in the short term than if he were just being "Mr. Nice Guy" - similar tactics he used with Brazilians, Argentinians and South Koreans.

"But the actual relationship between Trump and these European leaders is enormously damaged," Bremmer said. "And long term, that erodes the strength of these institutions and architecture, which will have an impact."

"Let's be clear: everything Trump has done in policy over his first year and a half has been made to try to get the American economy to be juiced in the short term. He's more than happy to blow out the budget, doesn't care about long-term deficits."

As for Mr. Trump's private meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier this month in Helsinki, Bremmer said policies related to Russia also did not change.

"The Americans didn't recognize Crimea as part of Russia. They haven't actually suspended military exercises in the Baltic states," Bremmer said.

"If you look at actual American policy toward Russia even after this extremely unusual Helsinki summit, the reality is: U.S. policy toward Russia is deeply broken, and it's probably unbalanced, getting a little bit worse. Not much to see here on policy," he added.

(Source: CBS)

At BRICS summit...

Modi said the new industrial technology

and digital interface that the world is building is an opportunity and also a challenge.

Prime Minister also reaffirmed India's commitment to multilateralism, international trade and rules-based world order.

Mr. Modi is expected to meet BRICS leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Originally, the first four countries were grouped as "BRIC" before the induction of South Africa in 2010.

(Source: PTI)

Facebook loses \$123...

In other words, Facebook has lost \$123.4 billion in value overnight.

Today's performance isn't due to yet another data misuse or election interfering scandal. The company has reported disappointing earnings. For the first time, Facebook's growth is stalling.

There are barely more people checking Facebook every day compared to previous quarter. Even worse, Facebook's user base shrank in Europe. Facebook is still growing, but it's clear that GDPR combined with a saturated market aren't helping the company.

That's why Facebook is trying to change the narrative. For the first time, the company shared a new "family of apps audience" metric. There are 2.5 billion people using at least one of the company's app - Facebook, Instagram, Messenger and WhatsApp.

It's clear that Facebook thinks Instagram and ephemeral stories represent the future of the company. But this is going to be a question mark in the coming months as it's unclear if Instagram can generate as much money as Facebook's main app.

Most people have been focused on Facebook's losses for now. It's a staggering event. But it's now time to look at Facebook's business model and understand what's happening.

Facebook is an incredible success story. It became a massive business in just a few years. But the company has a dangerous business model. Thousands of employees are looking for ways to collect more data. Business teams can then sell expensive ads because they're perfectly targeted.

And the best way to optimize those efficient ads is by making addictive products. If you spend more time looking at stories, you're going to be exposed to more ads.

That's why Facebook optimizes for engagement. You get outraged, you become sad, you like and you share. And Facebook makes money.

This year is a turning point for Facebook. People will look back at this moment as an inflection point in the company's trajectory. But it's still unclear if Facebook has the answer to its structural issues.

(Source: Queens Daily News Ticker)

H-1B issue to figure in...

place, but no significant changes are there so far".

However, the "danger" (of change in rules)

persisted and there are concerns over the tightening of the visa regime in the US following President Donald Trump's "Buy American, Hire American" policy which India will effectively raise at the '2 plus 2' dialogue on September 6.

In fact, the number of H-1B visas had gone up from over 1.08 lakh in 2014 to 1.29 lakh visas now. As many as 1,08,817 H-1B visas were issued in 2014 and 1,19,952 in the following year, she said.

Though as per Congress' Anand Sharma there was "42 per cent increase in the proportion of H-1B petitions denied for Indian professionals from the third to the fourth quarter of the financial year 2017".

"Yesterday, the National Foundation for American Policy (NFAP) has released the report. I will share it with the minister," he added. However, as per Swaraj, it was not a government report and that her figures came from the government records.

India, she said, had already taken up the issue with the US on relevant platforms and would further discuss it at the inaugural '2 plus 2' dialogue between the two countries in New Delhi on September 6.

"I assure you that in the '2 plus 2' dialogue, we will certainly and forcefully raise this issue also," she said. (Source: PTI)

Radio hosts call New...

from politicians and netizens over their "xenophobic and racist" comments.

Dennis Malloy and Judi Franco, who host the "Dennis and Judi Show" on the radio show NJ 101.5FM, were talking about Grewal's decision to suspend marijuana prosecutions in New Jersey when they began calling him the "turban man".

"You know the attorney general guy? I'm never going to know his name, I'm just gonna say the guy with the turban," Malloy said.

"Turban man!" Franco repeated in a sing-song tone. "If it offends you, then don't wear the turban, man, and I'll remember your name," Malloy said, as both the hosts laughed.

"But Turban Man -- is that highly offensive?" "To me? No. To people who wear turbans, could be," said Franco.

"Could be. But if you called me Baseball Hat Man and I was in a culture where no one wears baseball hats, should I be offended?" Malloy said.

"Uh, no. I would say no," Franco replied.

"So, anyway. The attorney general -- Turban Man -- says he's not going to prosecute pot things until September," Malloy said, laughing during the conversation.

Grewal, 44, however, retorted sharply and said he is the 61st Attorney General of New Jersey.

"I'm a Sikh American. I have 3 daughters. And yesterday, I told them to turn off the radio," he tweeted.

"This is not the first indignity I've faced, and it probably won't be the last. Sometimes, I endure it alone. Yesterday, all of New Jersey heard it. It's time to end small-minded intolerance," Grewal tweeted from his personal twitter account.

He also posted a link to an address he gave in May at the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies conference, where he talked about issues of hate and intolerance.

In his speech, he had said that comments targeting him on social media have been "stomach-turning" as he shared with the audience that he has been called racist words like "towel-head" and "terrorist".

He recalled the day he was nominated to become the 61st Attorney General of New Jersey, a commentator had asked where will Grewal "park" his "elephant."

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, who had appointed Grewal to his post, strongly condemned the language of the radio hosts, demanding action by the station.

"Outraged by the abhorrent and xenophobic comments mocking @NewJerseyOAG on The @DennisandJudi Show on @nj1015. Hate speech has no place in NJ and does not belong on our airwaves. Station management must hold the hosts accountable for these intolerant and racist comments," Murphy tweeted.

The radio station later tweeted that it is aware of the "offensive comments" made by Malloy and Franco during the broadcast.

"We have taken immediate action and have taken them off the air until further notice. We are investigating the matter and will have further comment shortly," it said in the tweet.

Hoboken Mayor Ravi Bhalla, also a Sikh-American who wears the turban, tweeted, "Hey 'Racist Man' @DennisandJudi : I'm a Jersey guy, born & raised, and so is NewJerseyOAG Grewal - this type of racist garbage has no place in Jersey. Get with the program! #RacistManDennis #jerseypride #educateyourself."

Bhalla also thanked Murphy for "standing up and speaking out" in support of Grewal.

Grewal, who was previously Bergen County Prosecutor, became the nation's first Sikh state attorney general after the state Senate approved his nomination this year. Grewal is born to Indian immigrant parents in Jersey City and was raised in the state's Hudson and Bergen counties.

The clip quickly garnered attention on Twitter and civil rights advocacy group ACLU of New Jersey tweeted a link with an audio pronunciation of Grewal's name, saying "Turban man? Is that offensive?" Yep. (If you have to ask...). Racism isn't cute. It's just racist." Twitter users too slammed the racist remarks saying there is no place for such language. Amardeep Singh, ACLU NJ Board Member and co-founder of rights group Sikh Coalition tweeted "let's go after the advertisers of the show as well."

City of Hoboken's Deputy Chief of Staff Jason Freeman tweeted that racism has no place in the "New Jersey that we live in."

"No person should ever be judged by their Turban, Kippah, Cross, Hijab, or anything else that represents their faith. @DennisandJudi needs a lesson in the kind of NJ that we all want to live in," he added.

(Source: PTI)

GURU PURNIMA

Guru Purnima, also known as Vyasa Purnima, commemorates the birth anniversary of Ved Vyasa – the author and a character in the epic Mahabharata. The day is also believed to be the day when Gautam Buddha gave his first sermon at Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh. Guru Purnima is celebrated on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Ashadha, which coincides with June or July according to the Gregorian calendar. In 2018, Guru Purnima falls on July 27.

The word 'Guru' is derived from two Sanskrit words 'Gu' meaning 'darkness or ignorance' and 'Ru' meaning 'removal'. Hence, Guru is believed to be the removal of darkness from our lives. On this day, disciples offer puja to their gurus and seek their blessings. In India, the day is celebrated by thanking teachers and seeking blessings from them and also by remembering teachers and scholars from the history. In Nepal, Guru Purnima is a national holiday and celebrated as Teachers Day.

In the yogic tradition, the day is celebrated as the occasion when Lord Shiva became the first Guru after he began the transmission of yoga to the Saptarishis.

Significance

Guru Purnima is believed to be the day when Krishna-Dwaipayana Vyasa – author of Mahabharata was born to sage Parashara and Satyawati. Hence the day is also called as Vyasa Purnima. Sage Vyasa worked for the cause of Vedic studies by gathering all the Vedic hymns and further dividing into four parts based on rites and characteristics. The four parts are namely Rig, Yajur, Sama, and Atharva.

Buddhist legend

Five weeks after Buddha attained enlightenment, he traveled from Bodhgaya to Sarnath to meet his five friends and teach the Dharma. He knew his five companions would be able to understand Dharma, he taught them and as a result, they also became enlightened. Hence, the community of enlightened ones was found. The sermon Buddha gave to five of his companions was called 'Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta'. The sermon was given on the full moon day of the Ashada month. The Sangha later grew to 60 and Buddha sent them in all directions alone to teach the Dharma. These 60 monks are called 'Arahants'.

Tithi

- Purnima tithi begins: July 26, 2018 at 11:16 pm
- Purnima tithi ends: July 28, 2018 at 1:50 am

The Guru and Shishya

Today, the daily life of most people is filled with hectic activity and problems. One who imparts precise knowledge on appropriate spiritual practice for acquiring peace of mind and Anand (Bliss) and how to perform it is



none other than the Guru. In the life of a disciple, the Guru holds supreme importance; because a disciple cannot realise God without Guru. Through these articles, the disciple will understand the true nature of the Guru through various aspects such as the Guru's form exhibiting paternal love for the devotee, His compassionate nature, various mediums of bestowing grace on the disciple etc. This will lead to strengthening of devotion in the disciple unto the Guru and he will be able to obtain maximum benefit from the existence of the Guru.

CHANDRA GRAHAN

The celestial body would also be tinged with a reddish hue, a phenomenon popularly referred to as a blood moon.

Director, Research and Academic, MP Birla Institute of Fundamental Research, MP Birla Planetarium, Debiprosad Duari told PTI, "Viewers in India are lucky, since the eclipse, both partial and the total, will be entirely visible from all parts of the country."

The eclipse would also be visible in parts of South America, much of Africa, West Asia and Central Asia, he said.

The total lunar eclipse would last for one hour and 43 minutes while partial eclipses, which would precede and follow the total eclipse, would last more than an hour, he said.

To start at 11.54 p.m.

The partial eclipse of the moon would start at 11:54 pm IST on July 27 and the total eclipse would begin at 1 am on July 28. The moon would look the darkest at 1:52 am on July 28 and it would continue till 2:43 am.

"After this period, the moon will remain partially eclipsed till 3:49 am of July 28. It will be a golden opportunity for celestial enthusiasts in India as the eclipse will be visible almost throughout the night," Mr. Duari said.

During a total lunar eclipse, the Moon's disk can take on a dramatically colourful appearance from bright orange to blood red and more rarely dark brown to very dark gray, depending upon the part of the Earth's shadow it would be passing through. This was the reason a totally eclipsed Moon, at times, was called as blood moon.

Describing 2018, as a year of lunar eclipses, Duari said the last total lunar eclipse took place earlier on January 31.

Here are do's and don't everyone should follow during Lunar eclipse 2018:

Here is Dos:

- As per the Hindu script Doorva or tulsi leaves should be placed in all eatables in the kitchen to maintain their purity. The Tulsi leaves and doorva grass has the blessings of the three Hindu gods Brahma, Vishnu, Mahesh.

- During lunar eclipse one should recite *HARE RAM HARE RAM, RAM RAM HARE HARE HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA, KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE.*

- It is important for pregnant ladies to read "Bhagwat Geeta" during a lunar eclipse and also recite *OM DEVKI SUDHA GOVINDA VASUDEV JAGATPATE DEHIME TANEY KRISHNAN TWAMAHAM SHRNAM GATAH* as many times as she can.

- One should eat freshly cooked food after Grahan.

- Bath should be taken with clothes worn on the body.
- The female running in the menstrual period must take bath after the Grahan.

Things, not to do during Lunar Eclipse

- One should not urinate or latrine during the eclipse period.
- One should not sleep during the eclipse.
- According to Hindu Script, everyone should avoid eating anything during the eclipse.
- Should not drive any vehicle during the eclipse.
- A pregnant lady should strictly not cut vegetables or use a knife during an eclipse.

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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.'



DHONI MOST POPULAR INDIAN SPORTSPERSON

Received more votes than Kohli and Tendulkar in survey conducted by YouGov

NEW DELHI (TIP): MS Dhoni might have come under fire for his pedestrian batting displays during the recently concluded limited overs series against England, but the former Indian cricket team skipper remains a popular figure in India.

Dhoni received more votes than current India skipper Virat Kohli and cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar in a survey conducted by YouGov to determine the most popular people in the world.

In the 'India' section of the study, Dhoni was the most voted for sportsperson with an "admiration score" of 7.7% and is also the second-most voted for person on the list, behind only India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The next most voted for sportsperson on the list was Sachin Tendulkar with 6.8%, while Virat Kohli was next with a vote percentage of 4.8.

MS Dhoni, who has won the T20 World Cup in 2007 and the 50-over World Cup in 2011, recently added another notable achievement to his already envious list of accomplishments.

He became fourth Indian and 12th person in ODI history to score 10,000 runs. The milestone was achieved during second ODI against England at Lord's.

Virat Kohli will lead the Indian cricket team in a five-match Test series against England, which is India's first tour of the country since 2014. The first Test begins on August 1 at Edgbaston. *Source: HT*



MS Dhoni (L) and Virat Kohli are two of the most popular cricketers in India and the world. Pic courtesy: AFP

WOMEN'S HOCKEY WC

India lose 0-1 to Ireland



LONDON (TIP): Indian women are in danger of missing out on a quarter-final berth after Ireland pulled off a 1-0 victory in a hockey World Cup group league match, here.

A 13th minute penalty corner conversion by Anna O'Flanagan was all that Ireland required as they doggedly defended to record consecutive upsets in the tournament en route a quarter-final berth. Ireland had earlier shocked world no. 7 USA 3-1 in their tournament opener.

It was also India's second consecutive defeat to Ireland having lost to the same opponents 1-2 in their last encounter at the Hockey World league Semifinals in Johannesburg last year.

By virtue of this win, Ireland are now leading Pool B with six points, followed by England (2 points), India and USA (1 point each).

Placed six places above Ireland in the world rankings at No 10, the Indians came into the

match as favourites but they never looked the part. Ireland, on the other hand, grew in confidence as the match progressed and looked more threatening.

Clearly, India lacked energy and vision and with temperatures and humidity soaring high, Rani Rampal and his team were caught napping by the Irish on more than one occasion.

It was not that India did not create enough chances. If they failed to secure a single penalty corner in their 1-1 draw against England, they secured as many as seven penalty corners today but failed to utilise a single one.

Ireland took an early lead from their first penalty corner when O'Flanagan scored with a great deflection from a set piece. In total Ireland earned three penalty corners.

India also had chances to score from open play but the forwards lacked finishing touch as Ireland well. *Source: PTI*

Dale Steyn to retire from white ball cricket after 2019

MUMBAI (TIP): Plagued by injuries over the last couple of years, veteran South Africa fast bowler Dale Steyn is aiming to retire from limited overs cricket after the 2019 World Cup in England.

"I will be trying to get to that World Cup (in England). But after the World Cup I don't see myself playing white ball cricket for South Africa. By the time the next World Cup comes, I will be 40," Steyn said at a promotional event, here.

Steyn is hopeful that his huge experience would help him earn a place in that UK bound World Cup squad.

"If you look at the (SA) batting line-up, our top six have played 1,000 games, but lower half - from eight to eleven who are currently playing - not even 150 games. You need to draw on experience.

"I hope that will be my trump card when the selection comes to the World Cup. I may not necessarily play all the time. But I think my experience will help with me just being there," he said.

However Steyn said that he would love to continue playing Test cricket even after 2019 World Cup.

"When it comes to Test cricket, I would like to play as long as possible. I have finally come out of a cloud of injuries. I broke my shoulder and in my first game on return (against India at Cape Town), I landed in a foothole. It was rotten luck."

"It's quite difficult to come back from a broken shoulder, especially with your bowling arm. I feel that's (injury) gone and now I am fit. I played two Test matches without an injury (against Sri Lanka recently), bowled at good pace and never went off the field because of niggles. It's a big plus," he added during an event organised by 'Go Pro'.



Steyn, however, struggled for wickets against Sri Lanka. He got one each in the two innings of the opening Test and none in the second.

"Wickets are something that's not guaranteed. I am happy I came out 100 per cent (fitness wise). That's the biggest cloud I have gotten over, especially after the last two years," he explained. *Source: PTI*



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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**

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE JULY 30 - AUGUST 5, 2018

Aries:

Ganesha says you are in for a windfall. Lady luck is on your side. The heavens have opened and there is generous cascade of goodies. You are the master of all that you survey. Your star favors travels, meetings, conferences, interviews, trips, more brainpower, contacts, communication, correspondence and contracts. Mercury gives an impetus to all of the above in the sun sign where it is placed.

Taurus:

'Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it,' said Goethe. You do just that. You are on a ball run, a veritable blitzkrieg. This is a fantastic period. Not only do challenges disappear or get sorted out, but you also scale new heights. You are filled with zest and new zeal. You take risks and they come off. You waltz through life to the chants of a beat known only to you. Ganesha watches, fascinated.

Gemini:

There are expenses and many purchases. You prepare nest egg and make wise investments. You don't want to be caught off guard and so take the necessary precautions. You plan carefully for a secure old age. Children may be leaving home for higher studies. Elders who have had any sort of hospitalization recover well. Your health too is fine, though I feel weight issues could dog you a bit as you are prone to add weight to your middles.

Cancer:

Having been a sportsman in my youth, let me quote Wayne Rooney, the English football player: 'You are trying to put yourself in the moment and trying to prepare yourself to have a memory before the game.' Like him, you plan out the larger picture. You are on terra firma and hum along nicely without any roadblocks. Your ambitions are aroused, and you want to be the leader of the pack. There is intensity in your dealings and you will not settle for half measures.

Leo:

There is rapid progress in all areas. You charge life with a burnished and glowing scimitar. Ganesha is impressed. You crack new deals and lead from the front. You may also take the family for a luxurious holiday, probably on a cruise liner or to some exotic location. You want to be surrounded by loved ones and are in an indulgent and festive mood. There is nothing holding you from going overboard. You also make time for charity and feel good about it.

Virgo:

You live and love large. There are ego bursts and engorged passions. You are ready to take on the opposition in unarmed combat, so high are the energy drives. This is a great time for sports people and those in the armed forces. You are also disciplined and hard-working and run through every detail with a comb. You are in leadership mode. You script your life with heroism. You play the field, and nothing can stop you.

Libra:

There are secret deals and liaisons. There are crazy mood swings too and you could be downright irritable one moment and most charming the next. You are a bundle of contradictions and keep everyone guessing. Friends and loved ones simply cannot fathom you. Like Jung said, 'Show me a sane man and I will cure him.' The cookie crumbles and rebuilds without warning, over and over again.

Scorpio:

There are maudlin moments. You walk down memory lane and cry at the slightest slice of regret. This could be a very tough time for women in particular; also, for the men who partner them, and for their extended families. Your emotions are all over the place. They are eloquent, flamboyant, exaggerated and without any basis. You go looking for a guru. Some of you visit psychiatrists and take recourse to tantra, yantra and mantra.

Sagittarius:

'A human being is a part of the whole called by us, the Universe. But he experiences himself, his thoughts, and his feelings as something separate from the rest; an optical delusion of his consciousness. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty,' said Albert Einstein. You do just that.

Capricorn:

Tendencies of one period often slip into another. Let me emphasize that these are mere tendencies. I am not God, and this is a general reading. A lot depends on free will, biorhythms, circumstances and several other factors. The fact that I am accurate most of the time is a different issue altogether. 'True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that an edifice that produces beggars needs restructuring,' said Martin Luther King Jr, the civil rights leader.

Aquarius:

You are moving fast and furious like Nikki Lauda, the legendary race car driver. You are ultra-sensitive, confused, suspicious, scared and touchy. Despite this, you make progress. You sign big deals and expand your business interests. There could be international travel and you chair important meetings. Those in love take the object to their desire to the next level. You bond ethereally. Children bring joy and there are happy times in the family.

Pisces:

This can be a very productive creative phase. Those in the arts excel. Even those in other persuasions take recourse to music, dance, songs and acting. You take time off from the clutter and rush of life. You want to move at your own sweet pace and hear the daffodils sing and watch the grass grow tall and green. You want to taste the true essence and meaning of a higher power. You want to leave all the planning and strategizing aside and take refuge in the ennobling arms of what Osho called existence.



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