

**The INDIAN PANORAMA**  
EVER TRUTHFUL  
**REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA SPECIAL EDITION**

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**Indian Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla Presents Credentials to President Donald Trump**



**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Ambassador of India to the United States, Harsh Vardhan Shringla presented his credentials January 11 to US President Donald Trump at the Oval office of the White House. President Trump warmly welcomed Ambassador

*contd on Page 20*

*President Trump displays Ambassador Shringla's credentials*

**Trump has announced his intent to appoint Indian-American Prem Parameswaran to Advisory Committee**



**NEW YORK (TIP):** US President Donald Trump has announced his intent to appoint Indian American Prem Parameswaran to a presidential advisory committee, according to a White House release.

*contd on Page 4*

*Prem Parameswaran is the Group Chief Financial Officer and president of Eros International's North America operations. Seen in the picture with President Trump. (File picture)*

## 2020 US Presidential Election: Women outnumber men in announcing they are in the race



*Elizabeth Warren, Kamala Harris, Kirsten Gillibrand, and Tulsi Gabbard are the four women who have announced, as on Jan 17, they are in the race for 2020 Presidential election*

**I.S. SALUJA**

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The 2020 Presidential election is still more than a year and a half away, but the list of

potential Democratic challengers to President Trump is growing. Candidates are already throwing their hats into the 2020 presidential ring.

So far, four women and three men have announced they are in the 2020 Presidential race. Here's the list.

*contd on Page 20*

## 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Devji Celebrated at the Indian Consulate in New York

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The Indian Consulate here on January 14 celebrated Shri Guru Nanak Devji's 550th birthanniversary to spread the Guru's message of peace, equality and brotherhood.

Government of India has decided to celebrate the 550th Birth Anniversary of the First Guru of the Sikhs, Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji throughout India and across the globe, in a grandand befitting manner.

Consulate General of India, New York held the inaugural celebration withan evening of Sikh devotional music (Gurbani Sangeet) performed by well-knownartist Bhai Baldeep Singh.

*contd on Page 20*



*Bhai Baldeep Singh mesmerized the audience with his soulful singing in classical ragas of the divine message of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Seen in the picture, from left to right: Parminder Bhamra, Dr Francesca Cassio, Bhai Baldeep Singh, and Sandhya Anand.*

*Photo / Jay Mandal-on assignment*

## DFW Airport Named Air Transport World's 2019 Global Airport of the Year

**Award recognizes DFW for exceptional service and innovation**

**DALLAS-FORT WORTH AIRPORT, TX (TIP):** Dallas Fort Worth International (DFW) Airport has been recognized as the 2019 Airport of the Year award by Air Transport World (ATW), the leading media brandserving the global airline and commercial air transport industry for more than 50 years.



ATW will formally recognize DFW Airport and all award winners at a ceremony on March 26.

The coveted honorrecognizes DFW's innovation in providing a world-class customer experience, global leadership insustainability, cost effective and efficient operations, excellent partnership with airlines, and collaborationwith local communities to further develop the economic benefits of aviation in the Dallas-Fort Worthregion.

"It's truly an honor to be recognized as Air Transport World's Global Airport of the Year, and it's a credit tothe nearly 2000 employees of DFW Airport, who continually go above and beyond to take care of customers, address the needs of stakeholders, and engage with our surrounding communities," saidSean Donohue, CEO of DFW Airport.

"DFW is experiencing the fastest growth in more than a decade,and we see it as an opportunity to welcome the world to the Dallas Fort Worth region and advance theinnovation and collaboration that deliver for our customers and make our communities stronger." "This honor is yet another major acknowledgment that DFW Airport is a growth engine for Dallas and allof our regional partners," said Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings.

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# Indian Americans nominated to Key Administrative Positions in Trump Administration



*Rita Baranwal, Aditya Bamzai and Bimal Patel have been nominated to key administrative positions*

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Three Indian Americans, namely Rita Baranwal, Aditya Bamzai and Bimal Patel have been nominated to key administrative positions by President Donald Trump.

Rita Baranwal was nominated for the post of Assistant Secretary of Energy (Nuclear Energy), Aditya Bamzai for member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board and Bimal Patel as the assistant secretary of Treasury. The nomination has been sent to the Senate on January 16.

Dr. Rita Baranwal joined Idaho National Laboratory's (INL) Nuclear Science & Technology directorate in August 2016 as the Director for the Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN) initiative.

Prior to joining INL, Dr. Baranwal served as the director of Technology Development and Application at Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Cranberry, Pennsylvania. Her

previous positions at Westinghouse included director of Core Engineering and manager of Materials and Fuel Rod Design. Prior to joining Westinghouse, she was a manager in the Materials Technology organization at Bechtel Bettis, Inc. where she led and conducted R&D in advanced nuclear fuel materials for the US Naval Reactors program.

Aditya Bamzai joined the University of Virginia School of Law's faculty as an associate professor in June 2016. He teaches and writes about civil procedure, administrative law, federal courts, national security law and computer crime. Before entering the academy, Bamzai served as an attorney-adviser in the Office of Legal Counsel of the U.S. Department of Justice, and as an appellate attorney in both private practice and for the National Security Division of the Department of Justice. Earlier in his career, he was a law clerk to Justice

Antonin Scalia of the U.S. Supreme Court and to Judge Jeffrey Sutton of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He is a graduate of Yale University and of the University of Chicago Law School, where he was the editor-in-chief of the law review.

Bimal Patel currently serves as deputy assistant secretary of the Treasury for the Financial Stability Oversight Council. Before joining the US Department of the Treasury, Mr Patel was a partner and head of the Financial Advisory and Regulation practice in the Washington, DC, office of O'Melveny and Myers LLP. Additionally, he has served as an adjunct associate professor at Stanford University, teaching an undergraduate course on banking regulation. Mr Patel earned his BA from Stanford University, MPP from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and JD from the Georgetown University Law Center.

## Indian worker's visa petition decision delay: McKinsey Sues Homeland Security



*Aashay Kirit Shah can only legally work for the company until Feb. 14*

**NEW YORK (TIP):** On January 15, management consulting firm McKinsey & Co. filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia against the Department of Homeland Security, alleging that DHS is 'Unlawfully dragging its feet in approving an H1B visa', reports the Bloomberg.

According to the report, department's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services denied the visa petition of McKinsey's employee Aashay Kirit Shah. That decision was reversed by USCIS's internal appellate body, but nearly six months later USCIS has taken no further action and given no indication of whether or when it will grant Shah's petition.

"Under his current F1 student visa, Shah can only legally work for the company until Feb. 14. After that, the company will be forced to fire him, and Shah would have to leave the country" the report quotes McKinsey.

The company requested the court to let Shah stay in the country and continue working for McKinsey while this case unfolds, it added.

As an Engagement Manager at Greater Minneapolis-St. Paul Area, Dr Shah works in the company's healthcare systems, pharmaceuticals, and medical products practice group. Shah earned his bachelor's degree in pharmacy from University of Mumbai. He is an alumnus of University of Iowa from where he did PhD in medicinal and pharmaceutical chemistry. Shah is also Founder & President of The University of Iowa Graduate Student Consulting Club (UIGCC).

## Indian American Elected to AD28 Executive Board at CA Democratic Party Caucus Elections

**Parminder Aujla**

**SACRAMENTO (TIP):** Indian American Council member Rishi Kumar of Saratoga, California was recently elected to the Executive board (E-board) of the California Democratic Party and a Delegate in the 28th Assembly District Caucus voting conducted at Campbell CA on January 13th, 2019. He landed the top number of Delegate votes among the "Male/Other than self identified female delegates" running and also got the top spot in the E-Board race. There were a total of thirty-three candidates running in the Delegate election and four for E-board.

*Read full story on  
www.theindianpanorama.news*

## Indian American Doctor Indicted in Healthcare Fraud Case Freed on Record-Setting Bond



*Padma Shri Dr Rajendra Bothra was indicted in one of the largest healthcare fraud cases in the US history*

**DETROIT (TIP):** Indian American Doctor Rajendra Bothra, who was indicted in an unprecedented case of healthcare fraud in the United States last month, has been freed on a record setting bail bond of US \$7 million. U.S. District Judge Stephen Murphy III authorized the bond release of Bothra of Bloomfield Hills, on January 15. But he has been barred from leaving the country.

Bothra, 77, who was awarded Padma Shri,

India's fourth-highest civilian award, was indicted along with five other physicians in the alleged US\$464 million healthcare fraud conspiracy, which the federal government said fuelled the opioid epidemic.

According to reports, Bothra who owned and operated The Pain Center and the Interventional Pain Center at Warren sought to bill insurance companies for the maximum number of services and procedures possible with no regard to the patients' needs. He along with other five physicians prescribed more than 13.2 million doses of opioids, including oxycodone, oxymorphone, hydrocodone and hydromorphone, the feds say. Brand names include Vicodin, Oxycontin, Percocet and Norco, among others.

Bothra, one of the most high-profile Indian-American Republican Party activists and fundraisers, will be released on home confinement and tracked by a GPS tether, must identify all assets under penalty of perjury, Detroit News reported.

## India - born Muslim Leader Shafi survives vote to oust him

**FORT WORTH, TX (TIP):** Texas Republicans failed to oust Shahid Shafi, an India-born Republican leader in Texas. Several local party members took issue with his Muslim religion and tried to oust him. It was alleged that Shahid Shafi opposes the GOP's pro-Israel stance and prefers Islamic law over US law. The motion to remove Shahid Shafi from his position as vice chairman of the Tarrant County Republican party failed by a vote of 139-49 on Thursday, January 10 night.



*Shafi is a surgeon and city council member in a Fort Worth suburb*

Speaking to reporters after the vote at a church in Fort Worth, Dr Shafi said: "As an immigrant to this great country, I am honoured and privileged to receive the support of my fellow Republicans."

Shafi was appointed by party officials to his post in July 2018 but several of his colleagues took issue with his religion and claimed he had connections with terrorist organisations. Grand Prairie precinct chairwoman Dorrie O'Brien led the effort to oust Shafi. The vote was widely condemned by Texas Republicans, including Governor Greg Abbott, Senator Ted Cruz and Republican Land Commissioner George P Bush.

Shafi, a surgeon and city council member in a Fort Worth suburb, has repudiated the allegations that he favors Shariah law, insisting he supports the American court system. Shafi, who was born in India and raised in Pakistan, became a US citizen in 2009.

## Indian American Raj Shah Quits Trump Administration



Shah was the first Indian-American to hold the position of White House principal deputy press secretary

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Indian-American Raj Shah, a Republican political aide serving as the White House as Principal Deputy Press Secretary and Deputy Assistant to the President, has left President Donald Trump's administration.

Shah has joined Ballard Partners as head of Media Group, the press wing of the lobbying firm and will work with Jamie Rubin, former spokesman to Democratic Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who joined the firm last year.

Shah started his White House innings in January 2017. He was the first Indian American to hold the position of White House principal deputy press secretary.

During his White House tenure, he handled crisis communications for the White House and oversaw the administration's efforts to confirm Justice Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court.

Prior to joining the Trump administration, Shah was in charge of opposition research at the Republican National Committee.

**contd from page 1**

## Trump has announced his intent to appoint Indian-American Prem Parameswaran to Advisory Committee

Parameswaran is the only Indian American among the 12 members the president intends to appoint to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Based in New York, Parameswaran is the Group Chief Financial Officer and president of Eros International's North America operations.

Trump also announced his intent to designate Elaine L Chao to be Co-Chair of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, the release said Thursday, January 17.

Other members, the president intends to appoint to the panel are Michelle Park as co-chair; Paul Hsu as co-chair; Jennifer Carnahan, David B. Cohen, Grace Y Lee, George Leing, Jan-Ie Low, Herman Martir, Amata Coleman Radewagen, Sean D Reyes and Chiling Tong, as per the White House release. **(Source: PTI)**

# Embassy of India Celebrates Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** To Celebrate the 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the Embassy of India, in association with various US-based Sikh organizations and Gurudwaras, hosted an evening of Sikh devotional music (Gurbani Sangeet) performed by well-known classical raga singer Bhai Baldeep Singh on Saturday, 12 January 2019 at AMP auditorium in North Bethesda, Maryland.

The program marks the first in a series of events planned to commemorate the 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. The ceremony was attended by over 200 members of the Indian community, media, think tanks and local government officials.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla highlighted several key decisions taken by the Government of India to honor Guruji's 550th Birth Anniversary, such as, development of Kartarpur in Gurdaspur District of Punjab, development of Sultanpuri Lodhi as a Heritage town, establishment of a center for interfaith studies at Guru Nanak Dev



Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla addressing the gathering. Bhai Baldeep Singh (Inset)



Bhai Baldeep Singh (left of Ambassador Shringla), and performers with the Ambassador

University, among others.

Ambassador Shringla pointed out that Guru Nanak Dev Ji travelled far and wide to spread the message of God and founded an egalitarian faith that emphasizes ethos with honesty and compassion as intrinsic tenets.

Highlighting the role of half a million strong influential Sikh community in the United States, Ambassador Shringla stated that "Embassy and our Consulates in the U.S. have chalked out a calendar of activities including musical concerts, seminars, and Interfaith

events through the year".

Throughout the program Bhai Baldeep Singh, along with an ensemble of talented accompanying musicians, held the audience captive with his masterly presentation of mystical hymns of Shri Guru Nanak Dev ji.

## Trump told me to have polls rigged: Cohen

**NEW YORK (TIP):** US President Donald Trump's former personal attorney Michael Cohen has said that he paid the head of a small technology company thousands in 2015 to rig online polls at "the direction of and for the sole benefit of" Trump.

Cohen was responding on Thursday, January 17, to a report in The Wall Street Journal that he paid John Gauger, the owner of RedFinch Solutions LLC, between \$12,000 and \$13,000 for activities related to the President's campaign, including "trying unsuccessfully to manipulate two online polls in Trump's favor" and creating a Twitter account called "@WomenForCohen" that "praised (Cohen's) looks and character, and promoted his appearances and statements boosting" Trump's candidacy, reports CNN.

In making the claim, Gauger told the Journal that he was not fully paid for the work, though the daily said Cohen was reimbursed \$50,000 -- the amount the two originally agreed on for Gauger's services -- by the Trump Organization.



Gauger, according to the daily, also received a boxing glove "worn by a Brazilian mixed-

arts fighter" along with the cash payment.

Later Thursday in a statement to CNN, Cohen said his actions were "at the direction of and for the sole benefit of Donald Trump. I truly regret my blind loyalty to a man who doesn't deserve it".

Cohen has publicly broken with Trump since cooperating with special counsel Robert Mueller's ongoing probe into alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

He is expected to testify before the House Oversight Committee on February 7 and is prepared to discuss topics related to hush money payments and aspects of the Trump Organization, including the roles of the President and his children.

Cohen has already pleaded guilty and was sentenced in December to three years in prison on multiple charges, including two campaign finance crimes tied to illicit payments made to silence women during the presidential campaign.

**(Source: IANS)**

# USIBC Hosts Warm Welcome Reception for New Indian Envoy



Mrs. Nisha Biswal, President, U.S.-India Business Council, welcomes Ambassador Shringla (extreme left)



Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla in a meeting with Congressman Raja Krishnamurthy during the welcome reception

Washington DC (TIP): On 15 January 2019, the US-India Business Council (USIBC) hosted a welcome reception in honor of Harsh Vardhan Shringla, India's new Ambassador to the United States. Congressmen, senior US government officials, representatives of U.S. companies, industry associations and a cross-section of the media were present at the event.

In his remarks, Ambassador Shringla spoke about the remarkable transformation that India-US relations have undergone in recent years. He emphasized that this transformation has been characterized by a growing convergence of strategic and commercial interests. He also highlighted the multifaceted cooperation between India and the U.S. in a wide range of sectors, including trade and economic cooperation, security and defence ties, energy, and science and technology.

Ambassador Shringla stated that India-U.S. trade relationship reached new heights in 2017 with bilateral trade reaching \$126 billion. He noted with satisfaction that this upward trend continued in 2018 marked by new developments such as purchases of petroleum, LNG and civilian aircraft from the U.S. He expressed confidence that this remarkable growth would continue in 2019 and beyond.

Ambassador Shringla also held a meeting with Mr. Thomas J. Donohue, CEO and President of U.S. Chamber of Commerce, along with Ms. Nisha Biswal, President of the USIBC.

Formed in 1975, the USIBC has a membership of over 300 companies. Its aim is to engage the private sectors of both countries to enhance investment flows and serve a direct link between business and Government leaders.

## Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi Appointed to Serve on the House Intelligence Committee



Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi was elected in November 2016 to represent the 8th District of Illinois

CHICAGO (TIP): On January 16, Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, who represents 8th District of Illinois, was appointed by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to serve on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI), which is tasked with overseeing the activities and budget of the 17 intelligence agencies of the United States.

"It is very humbling to be chosen to serve on the Intelligence Committee this Congress, and I am ready to join with my colleagues in preserving the safety and security of our nation," said Raja Krishnamoorthi. "The intelligence challenges and international threats facing our country today are vast, ranging from terrorism to cyberwarfare to investigating Russia's previous, and continuing attempts to sabotage our democracy. I am honored that the Speaker and Caucus have placed their trust in me and the contributions I'll make to the Committee. When I took the oath of office, I swore to protect and defend the Constitution from all threats, foreign and domestic, and I know that the work we do under the leadership of Chairman Adam Schiff will fulfil that solemn duty."

Krishnamoorthi, 45, was chosen along with Congresswoman Val Demings of Florida, Sean Patrick Maloney of New York and Peter Welch of Vermont as the four new Democratic members of HPSCI.

## Man plotting to attack White House arrested

WASHINGTON (TIP): A young man from the southern US state of Georgia was arrested on charges of plotting to attack the White House and several other federal buildings in Washington DC, a US attorney said on Wednesday, Jan 16.

The suspect, 21, identified as Hasher Taheb from Georgia state, planned to attack with explosives that included a homemade explosive and an anti-tank rocket, BJay Pak, US Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia told reporters, reports Xinhua.

Taheb was acting alone, said Chris Hacker, FBI special agent in charge of the Atlanta office. He has been under investigation since the FBI received a tip more than a year ago, according to local media. Taheb made a brief court appearance on Wednesday in Atlanta. His next appearance is scheduled for January 24. (Source: IANS)

## US TO ROLL OUT NEW MISSILE DEFENSE PLAN

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Trump administration will roll out a new strategy for a more aggressive space-based missile defense system to protect against existing threats from North Korea and Iran and counter advanced weapon systems being developed by Russia and China.

Details about the administration's Missile Defense Review - the first compiled since 2010 - are expected to be released during President Donald Trump's visit to the Pentagon with top members of his administration.

The new review concludes that in order to adequately protect America, the Pentagon must expand defense technologies in space and use those systems to more quickly detect, track and ultimately defeat incoming missiles. Recognizing the potential concerns surrounding any perceived weaponization of space, the strategy pushes for studies. No testing is mandated, and no final decisions have been made.

Specifically, the US is looking at putting a layer of sensors in space to more quickly detect enemy missiles when they are launched, according to a senior official.

The US sees space as a critical area for advanced, next-generation capabilities to stay ahead of the threats, added the official.

The administration also plans to study the idea of basing interceptors in space, so the US can strike incoming enemy missiles during the first minutes of flight when the booster engines are still burning.

(Source: PTI)

## Former PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi may be the next World Bank Chief

WASHINGTON (TIP): The White House is considering Indian American Indra Nooyi, the former CEO of PepsiCo, for the position of new World Bank President, according to media reports.

World Bank's current president Jim Yong Kim had earlier this month announced that he would step down from his post in February. If selected, Indra Nooyi will be the second Indian-born woman to work in a key post in US-based financial institution. Last month, IMF appointed Harvard professor Gita Gopinath as first woman Chief Economist.

According to reports, other candidates being considered for the position are Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs, David Malpass and President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, Ray Washburne.

According to New York Times, Nooyi's name was forwarded by Ivanka Trump who considers her a mentor and inspiration. "Indra, you are a mentor + inspiration to so many, myself included. I am deeply grateful for your friendship. Thank you for your passionate engagement on issues that benefit the people of this country, and beyond," Ivanka Trump had tweeted soon after Nooyi stepped down as the CEO of PepsiCo.

Nooyi joined PepsiCoin 1994 and was named CFO in 2001. She was named President and CEO in 2006. She has consistently ranked among the world's 100 most powerful women. In 2014, she was ranked at number 13 on the Forbes list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women and was ranked the 2nd most powerful woman on the Fortune list in 2015.



Indra Nooyi quit PepsiCo last August after 12 years of association with the global beverage giant

## Will make nephew join BSP movement: Maya

**LUCKNOW (TIP):** BSP national president Mayawati on Thursday declared that she would now actively associate her nephew Akash Anand with the BSP movement, teaching him the ropes of the business of politics. At the same time, she claimed that her party was completely clean of dynastic politics.

Speaking to a news channel, Mayawati hit out at a section of the media which she described as "anti-Dalit" for focusing on her brother Anand Kumar's son Akash presence at her programmes in recent days. Referring to media reports about the nephew reportedly sporting branded shoes on her birthday, which cost approximately Rs75,000, Mayawati hit back saying that during her regime as part of anti-Dalit conspiracy, "misleading news about her sandals had also become the topic of media headlines".

"Similarly, now the media is targeting my nephew's footwear quoting its price as if they had bought it for him," said Mayawati. According to her, this reflects the nervousness of the BJP with the BSP-SP alliance in UP coming together and threatening the chances of their return to power.

Source: *The Tribune*

## Cong seeks RBI probe into Ajit Doval's son's tax haven hedge fund

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Seeking investigation by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval's son Vivek Doval's Cayman Islands hedge fund, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Thursday said the central bank must publish the source of funds received from tax havens.

"Within 13 days of PM Modi announcing demonetisation, Vivek Doval opened a hedge fund in Cayman Island, which is a tax haven. Opening funds there is not illegal, but questions must be raised on how as per RBI data from 2000 to 2017, India received Rs 8,300 crore FDI from Cayman, but post demonetisation, India received approximately the same amount in just one year alone," Ramesh said at a press conference in New Delhi.

Referring to the Bhartiya Janata Party's (BJP) committee formed in 2011 on "Indian Black Money Abroad: Secret Banks and Tax Havens", which included RBI director S Gurumurthy, Doval, IIM-Bangalore professor R Vaidyanathan and senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani, the senior Congress leader said. "In his own report, Doval had said that details of FDI from tax havens must be made public. We are just asking them to adhere to their own report."

## EC directs probe into 'fake news' of LS polls schedule

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Election Commission on Thursday directed the Delhi chief electoral officer (CEO) to ask the city police to investigate the "fake news" of Lok Sabha poll schedule being circulated on social media. The CEO has also been asked to seek action against unnamed persons and entities under relevant laws to prevent rumour-mongering, official sources in the poll panel said.

# Opposition rally will be the death knell for BJP: Mamata

**KOLKATA (TIP):** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday, January 17, said the mega opposition rally being hosted by the Trinamool Congress here on January 19 would sound the "death knell" for the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls and regional parties would be the deciding factor.

She also claimed that the BJP's seat count in the General Election will not cross more than 125.

The number of seats that the state parties will win will be much more than the BJP's, she further claimed.

"The federal parties, that are the regional parties, will be the deciding factor after the elections," she told newsmen here.

"The rally will sound the death knell for BJP ... Obviously they (BJP) will not cross more than 125 seats," she said in reply to a question.

"Every political party has a vision ... This will be a grand alliance of people," Banerjee said about the rally.

She visited the Brigade Parade grounds here, the venue of the rally, to check the arrangements.

Asked whether the rally would be like the one she held in 1993 against the then ruling Left Front in the West Bengal, Banerjee said, "I was then a leader of the state Youth Congress. But now there will be various opposition leaders who will be attending the rally. I don't want to say anything, let them (opposition leaders) say. I want to hear them. Everything will be based on consensus," she added. Banerjee said the rally would start from 12 noon.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's party Trinamool Congress is hosting a mega opposition rally in Kolkata on January 19. File photo

"Several leaders will attend, and everybody will speak more or less. They will address the nation."

Asked to comment on BSP supremo Mayawati not attending the rally, she said the party's senior leader Satish Chandra Mishra will be here. "This is a big thing for us."

Senior Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Abhishek Manu Singhvi will attend the program, she said.

"I have come here to look at the security arrangements as so many former and present

chief ministers, former prime minister and several important leaders will be attending the rally. We are all waiting for them," she said.

Chief Ministers Arvind Kejriwal, HD Kumaraswamy, N Chandrababu Naidu, former Prime Minister HD Devegowda, former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah and RJD leader Tejaswi Yadav, DMK's M K Stalin, besides dissident BJP MP Shatrughan Sinha are among those likely to attend the mega rally. Source: *PTI*

## 'Nawabs of negativity don't carry credibility': Arun Jaitley on Opposition's grand alliance

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Finance minister Arun Jaitley launched a scathing attack on the opposition's grand alliance (mahagathbandan), saying the 'Nawabs of Negativity' may come together, but they wouldn't hold together or carry much credibility among the people ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

Speaking from New York through video conferencing at the CNBC-TV18's Indian Business Leaders Awards (IBLA) ceremony, Jaitley said the alliance is a weak, fragile combination "where survival is the priority and policy probably comes very low down in the priority" and the "situation looks scary".

On the upcoming elections, he said there was a necessity for continuity of policy, stability, decisiveness, ability to take up challenges, "and not something which is a weak, fragile combination where survival is the priority and policy probably comes very low down in the priority".

When asked about the challenge of a united opposition, he said the main consideration of the people would be leadership.

"And I think that's something where we score. The kind of individuals who have staked their claims (in the grand alliance), from Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Telangana and from the privileged family of Delhi, if you look at it, the situation looks fairly scary," he said.

On the performance aspect, he said the Narendra Modi government has done a lot which "we have reason to be proud of".

On the narrative aspect, he said falsehood cannot be constitute a permanent narrative as it collapses and falls apart.

Jaitley said as against leadership, decisiveness and performance, opposition's unity is based on an arithmetic that is based on a negative politics and



seeks to "keep one man out" — referring to PM Modi.

He observed that India is a highly aspirational politically conscious society which will not opt for a suicidal cause.

"Such a society would opt for a tried and tested established leadership. Nawabs of negativity may come together. But that's not something where they are going to hold together and carry much credibility as far as the people are concerned," he said, asserting that the opposition's arithmetic would not succeed in India.

On the upcoming budget, when asked whether it would be a full budget or an interim one on account of the election year, Jaitley said there are some challenges that would need to be addressed off immediately, but "we intend to work within the conventions that exist".

"We have done well. We are proud of our performance," he said, adding that there was no reason to have any nervousness on the eve of the vote of account or the elections and he was completely confident.

## Rahul, Like Aurangzeb, Last Emperor Of His Sultanate: BJP

**JAIPUR (TIP):** Rajasthan BJP vice president Gyan Dev Ahuja has compared Congress president Rahul Gandhi with Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, suggesting that the Congress "empire" was coming to an end.

He said the Congress president is the "last emperor" of the Congress "sultanate", just like Aurangzeb.

"Like Aurangzeb who was the last emperor of the Mughal sultanate, Rahul Gandhi is the last emperor of this sultanate. The end of the Congress is certain," he told reporters in Jaipur. Contrary to what the BJP leader said, Aurangzeb who died in 1707, was not the "last" of his dynasty.

The last Mughal ruler was Bahadur Shah Zafar, who died in 1862. But Aurangzeb is often seen as the last of the prominent Mughal kings as the empire began disintegrating after him. Gyan Dev Ahuja also questioned Rahul Gandhi's claim of being a "janeu dhari" (a Hindu who wears the sacred thread), saying his party should name the priest who conducted the ceremony for it.

# Gurmeet Ram Rahim sentenced to life in 2002 journalist murder case

**PANCHKULA (TIP):** A special CBI court in Panchkula on Thursday, January 17, sentenced self-styled godman Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh and three others to life imprisonment for the murder of a journalist over 16 years ago.

The Dera Sacha Sauda chief and the three others convicted last Friday in the case appeared before the court through video conferencing.

"All four have been sentenced to life imprisonment," CBI counsel H.P.S. Verma said.

On January 11, special CBI Court judge Jagdeep Singh had convicted the four men for the murder of journalist Ram Chander Chhatrapati in 2002.

All four were convicted under section 302 (murder) and 120 B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code.

Ram Rahim appeared through video conferencing from Sunaria jail in Rohtak, where he is already serving a 20-year-sentence in a rape case.

The three others – Nirmal Singh, Kuldeep Singh and Krishan Lal – appeared from Ambala jail.

The journalist was killed in Haryana's Sirsa in October 2002 after his newspaper published an anonymous letter alleging sexual exploitation of women by the godman at the Dera headquarters in the same town.

Ram Rahim was named as the main conspirator in the case.

Chhatrapati's family approached the Punjab and Haryana High Court in 2003, seeking the transfer of the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

The investigation was later handed over to the CBI which filed the chargesheet in July 2007.

In August 2017, the sect leader was brought to the Panchkula court where the CBI court judge pronounced the verdict in rape case.



## TIMELINE OF CASES AGAINST DERA SACHA SAUDA CHIEF

**2002:** Anonymous letters written to then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High court by two female disciples (Sadhvis) alleging that they were raped and sexually exploited by Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh.

**July 2002:** Former sect manager Ranjit Singh murdered in July 2002. Singh was murdered by sect activists, allegedly at the behest of its chief "as he knew too much" about activities inside the sect headquarters. Case is under trial with the CBI court.

**October 2002:** Sirsa-based journalist Ram Chandra Chhatrapati shot dead, allegedly by sect supporters, after he wrote about shady activities inside the sect headquarters near Sirsa in his newspaper 'Poora Sach'. Ram Rahim told his aides that Chhatrapati be silenced.

**November 2003:** The Punjab and Haryana High Court orders a CBI probe into the rape and sexual exploitation of the Sadhvis by the sect chief.

**December 2003:** CBI begins investigation into the rape case against the sect chief.

**July 2007:** CBI files charge-sheet against the sect chief in rape case.

**2007-17:** Nearly 200 hearings of the rape case held over 10 years. The sect chief continued to be on bail granted to him by the trial court (earlier located in Ambala in Haryana).

Petitions filed by the sect chief, through his counsels, in High Court and Supreme Court over this period. Leads to delay in case being heard by trial (CBI special court) court.

**August 2017:** Trial court concludes hearing. Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh convicted by special CBI court in Panchkula on August 25. Sentenced to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment on two counts of rape.

**January 2019:** Special CBI court convicts Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in the murder of Sirsa-based journalist Ram Chandra Chhatrapati. Three aides of the sect chief also convicted.

## 1 dead, 9 trapped in avalanche at Khardung La in Ladakh

**SRINAGAR (TIP):** One person died and nine were trapped under snow after an avalanche in Ladakh's Khardung La pass on Friday, January 18, morning. Rescue operations are underway and sources say some vehicles are also trapped.

Jammu and Kashmir has been witnessing heavy snowfall in the past few days. The Met department on Thursday issued an avalanche warning for nine districts of Jammu and Kashmir—Anantnag, Budgam, Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Kargil, Kulgam, Kupwara and Leh.

Divisional administration had warned people not to move around in avalanche prone areas, store enough edibles and other essentials as both surface and air connectivity is likely to remain disrupted during this period.

The weather office has forecast another spell of snow from January 19 to 23 in Kashmir due to heavy precipitation. The MeT department has asked people to plan their travel accordingly.

The administration has kept at least 23 snow clearance machines ready. "If snowfall continues and there is some substantial accumulation on roads, we will be putting the snow clearance machines into service after midnight so that the arterial roads are clear by Thursday morning," executive engineer, mechanical engineering department, Abdul Rashid Bhat said.

## Body spotted in Meghalaya mine



**GUWAHATI (TIP):** The Indian Navy's underwater remotely operated vehicle (ROV) Wednesday evening spotted a body during the search for 15 workers trapped in an illegal coal mine in Meghalaya since December 13, according to officials involved in the rescue operation. However, there is no clarity as to how long it will take to retrieve the body, which could be in a decomposed state, the officials said.

A joint rescue operation involving nearly 200 personnel from the National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF), Indian Navy as well state agencies, has been on at a "rat-hole" mine at Khloo Ryngksan in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills district for the past one month. The rat-hole mining involves digging of small holes into the ground to extract coal.

Illegal mining is rife in the district and a National Green Tribunal ban on such activities has been in place for four years.

"Yes, the Navy-operated ROV has found a dead body," S S Syiemlieh, additional deputy commissioner, East Jaintia Hills said on Thursday. The Navy also confirmed the development on Twitter: "The depth is 160 feet (and not 60 feet) and the body has been pulled up to the mouth of rat-hole mine and shall be extracted out of the mine under the supervision of doctors."

## Supreme Court nod To re-opening of dance bars in Maharashtra

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Standards of morality in a society changes with time, the Supreme Court said on Thursday while setting aside certain provisions of a 2016 Maharashtra law, which restricted licensing and functioning of dance bars in the state.

The top court, which paved the way for grant of licences and re-opening of dance bars in Maharashtra, said the state can neither exercise "social control" with its own "notion of morality" nor take exception to staging dance performances per se.

"It needs to be borne in mind that there may be certain activities which the society perceives as immoral per se. It may include gambling (though that is also becoming a debatable issue now), prostitution etc. It is also to be noted that standards of morality in a society change with the passage of time," said a bench of Justices A K Sikri and Ashok Bhushan.

The top court quashed several provisions of the Maharashtra Prohibition of Obscene Dance in



Hotels, Restaurant and Bar Rooms and Protection of Dignity of Women (working therein) Act, 2016, including installation of CCTV cameras in dance bars, saying it was "totally inappropriate and amounts to invasion of privacy".

The court said a particular activity, which was treated as immoral few decades ago, may not be so now as societal norms keep changing with time.

"Social change is of two types, continuous or evolutionary and discontinuous or revolutionary. The most common form of change is continuous. This day-to-day incremental change is a subtle, but dynamic, factor in social analysis," the bench said.

## Congress' Rs 199 crore income in 2017-18 its lowest in 11 years

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Congress party has declared Rs 199 crore of income for 2017-18, a 12% decline from the previous year and its lowest in 11 years, according to the annual audit report filed by the party with the Election Commission of India (ECI) and data compiled by election watchdog Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The ECI made the audit report public on Thursday. ADR data is available on its website.

The Congress party's income for the year is a fifth of the Rs 1,027 crore declared by its key opponent, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In 2016-17, the Congress declared Rs 225 crore of income. The Congress earned more than the BJP every year between 2001-02 and 2012-13, after which the BJP, which won national power in 2014, overtook the grand old party and maintained its lead, data shows. In fact, the Congress party's share in the combined income of the two biggest national parties was just 16% in 2017-18, its lowest

since 2001-02. Is a party's electoral success linked to an increase in the donations it receives?

"It is possible that parties that are likely to win get more donations," said Trilochan Sastry of the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore, who is also a founding member of the ADR.

It's a matter of concern since parties that win will then be " beholden to the corporate who donated money than to the people", Sastry said, adding: "We need to move to a system where people instead of corporates donate money so that parties are answerable to them."

Out of the Congress's Rs 199 crore of income in 2017-18, Rs 5 crore came in donations from electoral bonds, which political donors can buy from banks to pay political parties without revealing their identities. Such donations amounted to Rs 210 crore for the BJP, making it the biggest beneficiary of the instrument.



## GUEST COMMENT

### Wall of shame: on Mexico border wall

**The shutdown over the Mexico wall demand will long define Donald Trump's presidency**

It began as a populist campaign promise that brought President Donald Trump's supporters cheering to their feet and paved the way for his election. Now, the border wall with Mexico has become a morass of partisan bickering that has stalemated the U.S. federal government into a three-week-long shutdown, leaving nearly 800,000 public sector workers furloughed without pay. At the heart of this political crisis is the increasingly bitter polarization of public opinion over immigration. On the one hand, Mr. Trump has steadily contributed to the strident and crude anti-migrant rhetoric, characterizing prospective migrants from Latin America as drug-dealers, rapists and violent criminals and shutting down the U.S. border to travelers from certain Muslim-majority countries. On the other, his insistence that he will not sign any appropriations bill to break the funding logjam in Congress and end what could soon become the longest shutdown in U.S. history, unless that bill includes \$5.7 billion in financing for a border wall, has gone down badly with Democrats, who control the House. Matters took a darker turn as Mr. Trump doubled down on his refusal to negotiate over funding for the wall and said he may declare a state of national emergency over this uncomfortable status quo.

There are disquieting questions about the veracity of some of Mr. Trump's claims: migrant border crossings have been in decline for the best part of two decades; it is through legal ports of entry and not unauthorized crossing points that hard drugs such as heroin enter the U.S.; and even the State Department has admitted that no terror operatives have entered the U.S. through Mexico. Then there is the more blatantly flawed reasoning touted by the President that "Mexico will pay" for the wall. Now it appears that even Mr. Trump is backing down on his claim, arguing that Mexico would only "indirectly" fund it through trade deals. It is well-known that only corporations pay tariffs under these deals, not governments, and hence no such payment will come from Mexico. Even as the acerbic back-and-forth between Mr. Trump and Congressional Democrats continues, the deeper malaise is a profound disagreement among Americans on what their nation's very soul stands for. Is the U.S. truly a melting pot, a country built on the prowess of entrepreneurship and technology, in large part driven by immigrants seeking the "American dream"? Or is it a declining world power that has squandered too much to other nations and peoples and is readying itself for an uncompromising battle to claw back what it reckons it has lost? If it is the latter, then we could expect Mr. Trump's vision to succeed, but if not, a course correction is in order. *(The Hindu)*

## AS I SEE IT

# Lok Sabha elections 2019: The contours of contest ahead

**In the Lok Sabha election, voters will assess whether they are better off today than they were five years ago**



By Mahesh Rangarajan

This summer will see a carnival of democracy in the general election. Much has changed in just five years. The elan of Narendra Modi's party is more muted this time. Last weekend, key opponents, the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party, joined forces in Uttar Pradesh, making the contest real and not a walkover. The Index of Opposition Unity cannot predict outcomes, but no one can afford to ignore it.

The Congress's victories in the Assembly elections in three north Indian States have given it a shot in the arm. Equally important, the older party is firming up alliances in the southern States. The 131 Lok Sabha seats in five States (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana) and two Union Territories (Lakshadweep and Puducherry) have been critical to it in times of trouble.

The Telangana poll outcome was sobering for both the large national parties. Regional nationalism is not new to Indian politics: Jammu and Kashmir and Tamil Nadu were precursors. Regional formations have long governed West Bengal, Odisha and now Telangana. They may well hold the keys to power in New Delhi.

In 2014, it was the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that led in securing allies. Between then and now, BJP president Amit Shah has helped expand its footprint. Not only does it have more MLAs than the Congress, but its cadre fights every election like there is no tomorrow.

The challenge lies elsewhere. The Congress may have lost in 2014 and come down to a historic low of less than one in five votes cast. Yet, only a decade ago, in May 2009, the roles had been in reverse. It was Congress that had then polled 29% and the BJP just 19% of the popular vote.

### Pages of political history

This time is different. It is 1971 that will be the textbook case for the ruling party. When the Grand Alliance said it would oust Indira Gandhi, she replied she wished to banish poverty. She won hands down.

Mrs. Gandhi did not have to contend with a powerful Dalit-led formation in the Ganga valley which commands 20% of the vote. Many of today's regional parties were yet to be formed. She captured the public imagination. It was a gamble and she won hands down. Mr. Modi too will fight to the last voter. He will try to be the issue. He has sounded the tocsin against dynasty, caste and corruption. Hence the record in getting visible benefits to the individual and the family. The gas cylinder, the light bulb, that rural road: each will, he hopes, add to his appeal.



History has another instance too. The 2004 general election was held early. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was confident that 'India was Shining'. The dream came apart on counting day. Rather than a unified Opposition (for there was none in the all-important State of Uttar Pradesh), ground-level discontent denied the ruling alliance another chance.

And yet, there is the cloud of the horizon. Even in 2004, the Congress was only a whisker ahead of the BJP - just seven seats more in the Lok Sabha. The Congress had 145 seats to the BJP's 138. The key was on the ground, where the mood had shifted. The economic upturn began in 2003, but voters did not see gains early enough for the ruling bloc to reap an electoral harvest.

### The poll planks

In 2014, the challenger drew on the tiredness with a decade of a Congress-led government and promised a fresh start. Runaway inflation and the specter of corruption undercut the appeal of the Congress. This time the issues have changed. It is the squeeze on farm incomes and rural debt that are the key poll planks. Similarly, the issue of jobs is more pressing than ever. Cultivators across all strata and young people seeking productive employment want answers.

Two States are key. Maharashtra, a State critical in the histories of both the Congress and the BJP, is not only seeing a coming together of Opposition forces; it is undergoing drought and rural distress. Ominously, key farmer-led allies have walked across. Uttar Pradesh, a bastion of the BJP, has rival Dalit and Mandal-led parties coalesce for the first time in a quarter century. Both States have something in common. In both, sugarcane cultivation is a determinant of electoral fortunes.

Cane (not caste) and jobs (not community slogans) may hold the key. Ganna and Naukri, not reservations or the emotive Mandir issue. What matters more: bread or identity? Even when both count what takes precedence?

Government policy has had a key role in this denouement. By according priority to consumers in cities (who want low prices for cereals, oil seeds and pulses), the government did not have to pay heed to rural residents who need to earn more. The latter, as producers, are

larger in number and percentage than in any other democracy.

India still lives and votes in its villages. Under Mr. Shah, the cadre, organization and outreach have made the BJP a vastly larger party than any other. But economic policies can strain such organizational gains.

Democracy is about more than development. In a polity where people can throw their rulers out, it is centrally about politics. Since 1999, there has been a bi-nodal system, and the choice is not simply between Mr. Modi and Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

### The battle lines

We have effectively a one-party government with a firm hand on the wheel (but with the danger of an over-centralization of power). Against this, is ranged a looser coalition in which regional forces and rural interests have more play. Needless to add, the latter will be rockier, more contentious and tough to manage in a coherent fashion.

The Modi government is driven by ideology and not pragmatism on a range of issues. This is the first ever BJP government with a view of culture, history and politics that seeks to remake history as much as the future. Is this the party's agenda or the country's? This is a question in the background: if the Ram temple issue comes to the fore, it will be a major choice for the voter.

The pluralism and Hindutva debate have another dimension more so than ever, namely the federal question. Across the Northeast (including Sikkim), far more important to the country than its 25 Lok Sabha seats indicate, the idea of citizenship is at variance with the new Citizenship Bill passed by the Lok Sabha. Across the country, State-level parties see an accretion of powers in the federal government unseen since the 1980s.

True, Mr. Modi has a wider mass appeal than any one since Mrs. Gandhi. But history is witness that such appeal can also have limits if voters decide that enough is enough. Has that point been reached? We simply do not know.

More central is the question of questions. Are you better off than you were five years ago, and if not, why not? If so, and even if not, do you think we are moving in the right direction?

In 2014, The Economist observed that if India had the per capita wealth of Gujarat, the country would rank with Spain. Has that dream come true or it is unravelling and fast? How voters answer that will show who they stand with.

*(The author is Professor of History and Environmental Studies at Ashoka University, Haryana)*

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# Will India Take a Cue from China to Launch an Economic Revolution?



By Ven Parameswaran

**M**ao-Tse-Tung established Peoples Republic of China in 1949. It was backward and far behind India. China continued to be behind India till 1979. The USA opened diplomatic relations with China in 1979. President Reagan offered friendship and full cooperation to help and develop China. He sent his Treasury Secretary, Don Regan, former CEO of Merrill Lynch to China to offer investment in building infrastructure and modernizing China in exchange for China opening up and liberalizing its economy.

China gave carte blanche to the U.S. and allowed the U.S. business to implant capitalistic tools. The U.S. and China built huge large-scale factories to manufacture consumer and industrial goods for export to the U.S. and other countries. As there was no holds bar, the U.S. private industry was able to establish its presence in China. China, unmindful of its communist ideology did not hesitate to plant capitalism in China. This process, in the next twenty years from 1980 to 2000 brought prosperity to China. China had a comparative advantage with the U.S. resulting in the U.S. closing much of its



Modern China

manufacturing. The U.S. relied on importing from China everything it wanted at a lower price.

From almost nothing, China became the second global economic superpower, thanks to the U.S.A. and capitalism. China became the most modern nation. Everyone who has visited China is highly impressed and pleasantly shocked with the gigantic progress China has made within a short period of two decades.

## India's opportunity

President Trump has made India America's closest ally on a par with the U.K. He has offered 100% transfer of U.S. technology. He has also made deals for joint military and naval exercises and drills. Because of comparative advantage and oversupply of professional managers, engineers and scientists, the US is eager to set up large scale manufacturing in India to produce

military hardware, planes, missiles, etc.

The U.S. is ready and willing to replicate with India what it did with China. India does not have to invent a new wheel. The big question is whether India is willing to open and liberalize its economy as China did?

India needs to set up large scale factories to manufacture consumer, industrial and military goods for export and domestic consumption. This will create huge employment opportunities. India needs to find at least 10 million new jobs every year.

Progress and development contribute to democracy. If India is failing to feed the poor, it is no democracy. India has a comparative advantage with China now. Wages in India are much lower than in China. India is the largest English-speaking country in the world. It has a large supply of cheap labor and professional engineers and managers.

President Trump is interested in diversifying US imports from China to India. There has never been a better opportunity for India.

If the path is well trodden, India can legitimately hope to grow @ 12% for the next decade.

*(Ven Parameswaran, MBA, Columbia Business School, was President & CEO, First Asian Securities Corporation, New York; Senior Adviser to Imagindia Institute, a think tank in New Delhi. He can be reached at vparameswaran@gmail.com)*

# Give us back friendliness of late 1970s

**Both nuclear rivals have almost tried all options - wars, dialogues and trade - but to no avail. The two sensitive issues, Kashmir and terrorism, have been hampering progress in other areas for long..... In 2009, at Sharm-el-Sheikh, Pakistan's former Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani and his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh agreed to cooperate on fighting terrorism together. That was the most remarkable development after the deadly Mumbai attacks.**

BY SHAHZAD RAZA

**P**akistani schoolchildren of the 1980s had a great fascination with Indian classic Mahabharat, which was telecast on Doordarshan and used to reach TV sets across the border through analogue antennas. The character of Bheem was quite popular among viewers.

That generation of the late 1970s or early 1980s, which had no remorse watching Indian entertainment shows, transferred the same fascination to their children who had Chotta Bheem to enjoy. Those who had access to PTV in India would still remember the character of Chaudhry Hashmat Ali of one of the greatest Pakistani drama, Waris.

People were then beginning to forget the horrific memories of the Partition and two unfortunate wars. Pakistani agencies were not meddling in the Kashmir affairs and their Indian counterparts were not colluding with Afghans to fan separatism in Balochistan. Osama bin Laden and his jihadis were preparing to defeat the Red Army. Uncomprehending then was the frequent stalemates on multiple issues, including Kashmir, water, visas, trade, etc. India granted Pakistan MFN status, vying for access to Afghanistan and Central Asia. However, Pakistani policy makers did not respond.

Things changed drastically after the collapse of the Soviet Union, leaving Pakistan to bear the burden of refugees and radical ideologies. The jihadis had no inclination to return to their barracks like a regular army. Many of them joined Kashmir separatist groups, sparking serious tension between the two neighbors.

The complexities of proxy war were not suitable for both India and Pakistan, given their proximity, economies and cultural bonds. Yet, the two countries have been exhausting themselves since the end of the first Afghan war. Both nuclear rivals have almost tried all options - wars, dialogues and trade - but to no avail. The two sensitive issues, Kashmir and terrorism, have been hampering progress in other areas for long. During Gen Pervez Musharraf's regime, a remarkable progress was made on the Kashmir issue. The last People's Party government almost convinced the then Indian government to stop accusing Pakistan of sponsoring terrorism. In 2009, at

Beating Retreat ceremony at Wagah Border



Sharm-el-Sheikh, former Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani and his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh agreed to cooperate on fighting terrorism together. That was the most remarkable development after the deadly Mumbai attacks.

The successive PML-Nawaz government took several bold initiatives but for one reason or other things went back to square one. For a long time, Indian policy makers kept on pressing Pakistan to leave the issue of Kashmir until there was a congenial atmosphere. Pakistani establishment was not listening. Now both civilian and

military leaderships in Pakistan are talking about building the same atmosphere through economic and cultural ties. The Indians are not listening, perhaps because of the impending General Election.

Musharraf and his PM Shaukat Aziz envisioned if the bilateral trade was increased it would diminish the state-level animosity. They often cited the example of Germany and France that how the World War-II rivals rebuilt their relations through trade. The incumbent government of PTI in Pakistan feels the same. Germany and France are a classic example for the neighboring countries to repair the fractured relations. The South Asian rivals have their own Alsace-Lorraine - Kashmir. The nature of conflict and emotional attachment with the beautiful territory cannot be underestimated.

Both have their stakes in Afghanistan. What if the two sides, somehow, start considering that barren land their Alsace-Lorraine. What if Pakistan and India take over the process of rebuilding Afghanistan together? Dialogue with the Taliban seems to have entered the final stage. Pakistan can still use whatever leverage left over Taliban. And India can pull strings and make Afghani establishment toe the line. Together, the two countries could do wonders in Afghanistan. While shifting their joint interests into a third country, both neighbors must revive once strong cultural ties.

Warmongers need to take a back seat. The next course should be determined by the likes of late Asma Jehangir and Arundhati Roy. Can't Pakistan's real estate tycoon Malik Riaz build urban metropolises in Afghanistan, with steel provided by Lakshmi Mittal? Otherwise, dare one can say that sudden death is much better than prolonged and painful illness through slow poisoning.

*(Source: Tribune India)*

## Car bomber kills 10 in Colombia police academy attack

**BOGOTA (TIP):** A car bomb exploded at a police academy in Colombia's capital Bogota on Thursday, killing at least 10 people and wounding over 50 in an attack that prompted fears of a return to the country's violent past.

Authorities said the car broke through checkpoints into the grounds of the General Santander School and exploded, shattering windows of apartments nearby. It was the deadliest attack in Bogota since the government struck a 2016 peace deal with the Marxist FARC rebel group.

President Ivan Duque called the explosion a "crazy terrorist act" against unarmed cadets and said he had ordered police and the military to find the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

"Colombians have never yielded to terrorism, we have always defeated it. This will not be an exception," he told a news conference at the school in the south of the city.

Investigators had identified the car's driver as Jose Aldemar Rojas Rodriguez, who was among the dead, said Colombian Attorney General Nestor Humberto Martinez.

He said the vehicle, a gray Nissan Patrol SUV, was carrying 80 kilograms (176 lb) of the high explosive pentolite, which has been used in the past by Colombian guerrillas. (Reuters)

## An Irish burger chain claims trademark win over McDonald's

**DUBLIN (TIP):** A European Union regulator has ruled that McDonald's must give up trademark rights to one of its cornerstone products — the Big Mac — in a long-running dispute with an Irish fast-food chain called Supermac's.

The decision is potentially a big reversal for McDonald's, which has argued that Supermac's sounds confusingly similar to Big Mac. Earlier rulings from the EU's Intellectual Property Office in favor of McDonald's had forced Supermac's, a string of restaurants mainly in rural Ireland, to shelve its plans to expand in Europe. But last week, the office accepted the Irish chain's argument that McDonald's had not properly registered its Big Mac trademark. It was an unlikely victory for a company with annual revenue of about \$93 million (\$82 million euros) over one taking in \$22.8 billion. "The name Supermac comes from when I used to play Gaelic football — that was my nickname as a boy," he said. "We felt we should be allowed to use any part of my own name we liked so long as it doesn't infringe on anyone else's name. McDonald's, which did not immediately respond to requests for comment, can appeal the decision.

The dispute dates to 2014 when McDonald's — famously defensive of its brands and trademarks — opposed Supermac's application for an EU trademark for its name.

McDonald's cited its company name and many "Mc"-branded products — McFlurry, McNuggets, McMuffin. But the case came down to the similarity between Supermac's and Big Mac, the only McDonald's brand using Mac instead of Mc. (Mac is a common Irish and Scots surname prefix, meaning "son of," and is often shortened to Mc. At the time, the Intellectual Property Office ruled that the fact that both Macs came after a similar qualifier — Super and Big — could "result in a likelihood of confusion. (NYT)

# Sudan protesters, police clash as anti-Bashir unrest spreads

**KHARTOUM (TIP):** Stone-throwing Sudanese demonstrators battled security forces in Khartoum on Thursday, witnesses said, and a child and a doctor were reported killed at the start of a fifth week of protests against President Omar al-Bashir's 30-year rule.

Protests also broke out in six other cities in some of the most widespread disturbances since the unrest began on Dec. 19. The Sudan Doctors' Committee, a group linked to the opposition, said the doctor and child were killed by gunshot wounds during the violence.

Hundreds of protesters gathered in front of a government-affiliated private hospital in Khartoum's Burri neighbourhood, where activists said the two died of their injuries. The protests continued into early Friday.

Demonstrators chanted: "Freedom" and "Until the morning, we're staying," video footage showed.

Police could not immediately be reached for comment on the reported deaths.

The protests were triggered by price rises and cash shortages, but have quickly developed into demonstrations against Bashir.

In the day's most violent clashes, police in Burri fired rubber bullets and tear gas and chased demonstrators with batons, witnesses said. Several people were overcome with tear gas, while some were bruised by rubber bullets and others beaten.

Hundreds of young men and women blocked streets and alleyways with burning tyres, witnesses said. Some hurled stones at security forces. Many recited the chant that has become the crying call of demonstrators: "Down, that's it," to send the message that their only demand is Bashir's fall. Demonstrators also taunted security forces by ululating each time a stone-throwing demonstrator hit police, witnesses said.

A live video posted on social media and verified by Reuters showed security forces pointing guns at protesters in Burri. A sound of gunfire could be heard.

### 'WHY ARE YOU SHOOTING?'

In the video, a demonstrator yelled: "Why are you shooting?" as protesters, some wearing masks as protection from tear gas, ducked to avoid the firing. It was not clear if rubber or live bullets were used. One man who appeared to be injured and had spots of blood



on his shirt was carried away.

"There were people shooting at us," one protester told Reuters.

He said he saw five people fall to the ground, adding he was not sure if they were hit by rubber or live bullets. He said he saw a few other injured people being carried away. Security forces blocked the area and the wounded were unable to reach a hospital, he said.

Instead they were being treated in a makeshift emergency room inside a home. At some point, security forces approached the makeshift clinic and fired tear gas into it as the wounded were being treated, three witnesses said.

A police spokesman could not immediately be reached for comment on the witnesses' account of the Burri clashes. Hundreds also protested in al-Qadafiy, Atbara, Port Sudan, al-Dueim, Omdurman and Al-Ubayyid, drawing tear-gas volleys from police, witnesses said. Security forces have at times used live ammunition to disperse demonstrations. The official death toll stands at 24, including two security forces personnel. Amnesty International has said that more than 40 people have been killed.

### BASHIR BLAMES FOREIGN 'AGENTS'

Bashir has blamed the protests on foreign "agents" and said the unrest would not lead to a change in government, challenging his opponents to seek power through the ballot box. U.N. High Commissioner for Human

Rights Michelle Bachelet said on Thursday that she was deeply worried about reports of excessive use of force by Sudanese security forces. "The government needs to ensure that security forces handle protests in line with the country's international human rights obligations by facilitating and protecting the right to peaceful assembly," said Bachelet, a former Chilean president.

Sudan has struggled economically since losing three-quarters of its oil output — its main source of foreign currency — when South Sudan seceded in 2011, keeping most of the oilfields.

The protests began in Atbara, in northeastern Sudan, a month ago when several thousand people took to the streets after the government raised bread and fuel prices to reduce the cost of subsidies.

Bashir, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court over charges, which he denies, of masterminding genocide in the Darfur region, had been lobbying to be removed from the list of countries, along with Syria, Iran and North Korea, that Washington considers state sponsors of terrorism.

That listing has prevented an influx of investment and financial aid that Sudan was hoping for when the United States lifted sanctions in 2017, according to economists.

Sudan has been rapidly expanding its money supply in an attempt to finance its budget deficit, causing spiralling inflation and a steep decline in the value of its currency. (Reuters)

# Canadian woman briefly detained at Beijing airport: Reports

**SHANGHAI (TIP):** A Canadian woman whose father is a dissident jailed in China was briefly detained and "bullied" by security agents while transiting through Beijing's main airport on Wednesday, the Toronto-based Globe and Mail newspaper said.

Ties between the two countries have been strained since the December arrest in Vancouver of a senior Chinese executive on a US arrest warrant, which was followed by China's detention of two Canadians, on suspicion of endangering state security.

In the most recent incident, the woman, Ti-Anna Wang, was pulled off a plane by six police officers, separated from her husband and detained with her daughter for almost two hours while connecting in Beijing en route to Toronto from Seoul, the paper said.

"It was a shocking, terrifying and senseless ordeal with no purpose but to bully, punish and intimidate me and my family," Wang was quoted as saying in an email to Irwin Cotler, head of the Montreal-based Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights.

China has expressed outrage over Canada's arrest of Meng Wanzhou, chief financial officer of Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, alleged by US authorities to have deceived international banks into clearing transactions with Iran.

In what many analysts and diplomats believe to be retribution, China has since detained two Canadians and, on Monday, sentenced a third to death for drug smuggling after an unusual and swift retrial.

China's foreign ministry has denied there is

a link.

The Globe and Mail said Wang was denied use of her phone and computer, and not allowed to contact the Canadian embassy. Chinese officials told her she was not allowed to return to Canada and put her on a flight back to South Korea, it added.

Wang's father, Wang Bingzhang, is a pro-democracy activist abducted in Vietnam in 2002 by Chinese agents before being imprisoned for life in China on charges of espionage and terrorism, the rights group Human Rights in China has said.

The Globe and Mail said Ti-Anna Wang was barred from entering China last week when she arrived at Hangzhou airport, despite having obtained a visa in August to visit her ailing jailed father. (Reuters)

# UK's Prince Philip, 97, escapes unharmed from car crash

**LONDON (TIP):** Queen Elizabeth's 97-year-old husband Prince Philip escaped uninjured from a car crash while driving on Thursday near the Sandringham estate in eastern England. Buckingham Palace confirmed Thursday's accident. "The Duke was not injured," it added in a statement.

Police said two people in a car that collided with that of the prince, also known as the Duke of Edinburgh, were both taken to hospital for minor injuries but later discharged.

Pictures from the scene showed a Land Rover overturned on the side of the road. The accident occurred when Philip was pulling out of a driveway onto a main road, the BBC reported, quoting a witness saying he was very shaken.

Philip drove former President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle to lunch during their state visit to Britain in 2016.

A palace spokeswoman later confirmed Philip was at the wheel and was checked by a doctor afterwards. He did not go to hospital and was now back at Sandringham, the private country residence owned by Queen Elizabeth in the county of Norfolk.

Famous for verbal gaffes but generally regarded with wry affection by Britons, Philip married Elizabeth in 1947 and has been by his wife's side throughout her long reign. Since retiring from official solo duties in 2017, he has appeared in public alongside the Queen and other members of the royal



family at events and church services.

He had successful hip replacement surgery last year.

The former naval officer did not accompany the Queen to a church service on Christmas Day last month though a royal source said he was in good health.

Kate Williams, a royal historian, said it would be a blow to Philip if the incident ended his driving days. "He really loves driving and takes a great pleasure in it and were he not allowed to drive he would find that quite painful," she said.

There is no legal age in Britain to stop

driving, but after 70 people must renew their licence every three years.

Outspoken yet intensely private, Philip developed a reputation for brusque comments and often headline-grabbing remarks during ceremonial events.

A stray comment about "slitty eyes" during a visit to China in the 1980s became symbolic of his gruff and often unguarded manner. Even into his 90s, his off-the-cuff comments could still get him into trouble, such as when he exasperatedly swore at a photographer during an event in 2015. (Reuters)

# Kenya hotel siege over, militants and at least 21 victims dead

**NAIROBI (TIP):** Kenyan security forces have killed all the Somali militants who stormed an upscale Nairobi hotel compound, taking at least 21 lives and forcing hundreds of people into terrifying escapes, the government said on January 20.

Fifty people believed to have been in the complex remained unaccounted for on Wednesday afternoon, the Kenya Red Cross said, raising the possibility of a much higher final death toll.

The bloody bodies of five attackers were broadcast across social media as President Uhuru Kenyatta announced the end of a 20-hour overnight siege that echoed a 2013 assault that killed 67 people in the Westgate shopping centre in the same district.

Somali group al Shabaab, an al Qaeda affiliate fighting to impose strict Islamic law, said they carried out the attack in revenge for U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

"The security operation ... is over and all the terrorists eliminated," Kenyatta said in a televised national address, looking drained and grave. Kenyatta did not specify how many assailants there were, but CCTV clips showed at least five dressed in black, some sporting green grenade belts.

One militant is seen in one clip waiting outside a restaurant before blowing himself up in a cloud of debris just after 3 p.m. (1200 GMT). Another explosion near the entrance gate, possibly a grenade, ignites three cars before four men stroll by firing assault rifles and split into two groups.

One group entered a nearby office building, where they left a grenade in the lobby, a private security professional present during the attack told Reuters. Then they shot into

elevators and offices as they searched for victims up to the sixth floor.

The other group raked the restaurant with gunfire. Eventually the militants holed up on or near the top floor of the hotel, taking potshots at those fleeing, he said.

## BLOODSTAINED TABLES

Sixteen Kenyans – including a policeman – an American 9/11 survivor, and a British development worker were among the casualties, police chief Joseph Boinnet said. Three more victims were of African origin but their nationality was unknown, he added.

Some victims had been dining in the Secret Garden restaurant and lay slumped at bloodstained tables, video seen by Reuters showed. In its two-page statement claiming responsibility, al Shabaab said: "This operation ... (was) a response to the witless remarks of U.S. president, Donald Trump, and his declaration."

Asked about the group's claim, a White House National Security Council spokesman said in a statement: "This senseless act is a stark reminder of why the United States remains resolved in our fight to defeat radical Islamist terrorism."

Air strikes against the group have intensified under Trump, but Tuesday's attack showed that the insurgents retain the ability to strike outside Somalia's borders.

Neighbouring Kenya, a hub for multinationals and the United Nations, became a frequent target for al Shabaab after Kenya sent troops into Somalia in 2011 to try to create a buffer zone along its long, porous border.

The dusitD2 complex is home to offices of international companies including Colgate

Palmolive, Reckitt Benckiser, Pernod Ricard, Dow Chemical ad SAP, as well as the dusitD2 hotel, part of Thai group Dusit Thani.

Hiram Macharia, marketing executive at LG Electronics, said he grabbed a fire extinguisher and headed downstairs after the first blast.

"Then we saw two of the attackers firing at the elevators and we turned back," he told Reuters outside the hotel. "They were firing twice at each of the elevator doors and the two staircase doors on each floor as they walked up the building. One of them fired at our office doors, entered slightly and then moved on." Macharia and some colleagues hid under desks, but one person ran to the roof and was shot dead there, he added.

## WESTGATE MISTAKES AVOIDED

Security forces appeared to have avoided some of the mistakes made during the 2013 attack, when police and soldiers shot at each other, then soldiers looted the Westgate mall.

One private security worker at the scene said many of the explosions, especially those followed by a short burst of gunfire, were Kenyan special forces using small charges to blow open locked doors and clear rooms.

About a dozen armed foreigners of various nationalities were also there, he said, including embassy staff and private security advisers trying to rescue clients.

Mamadou Dia was on a business trip from Paris for STP Consultants when he ended up huddled in a room with Chinese and Canadian hotel guests and a waiter.

"They told us by text that the police knew we were in that room and that they would come, and one and a half hours later, the police came to evacuate us," he said. (Reuters)

## Yemen combatants start talks in Jordan on prisoner swap deal

**AMMAN (TIP):** Yemen's warring sides started talks in Amman on Wednesday on how to implement a prisoner exchange that will allow thousands of families to be reunited as part of UN-led peace efforts, UN officials and delegates said.

Delegates from the Iran-aligned Houthi movement and the Saudi-backed Yemeni government met in the Jordanian capital to discuss the swap, which was agreed in UN-led talks in Sweden in December.

"The two parties exchanged the list of prisoners in Sweden and they're now discussing steps to implement it," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters in New York.

Western nations, some of which supply arms and intelligence to a Saudi-led coalition backing the government, have pressed the two sides to agree confidence-building steps to pave the way for a wider truce and a political process to end the war, which has killed tens of thousands of people.

As part of that effort, the two sides exchanged lists of some 15,000 prisoners for a swap that delegates said would be conducted via the Houthi-held Sanaa airport in north Yemen and the government-held Sayun airport in the south.

The measures also included a plan to withdraw from the contested port city of Hodeidah, a lifeline for millions facing famine, and place it under the control of an interim entity.

Hadi Haig, the head of the Yemen government delegation, said the two sides were verifying the prisoner lists as part of a five-stage process before the swap takes place.

The swap would be overseen by the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The operation will require the Saudi-led coalition to guarantee that air space is secure for flights, the ICRC said. (Reuters)

## Greek PM Alexis Tsipras wins confidence vote, eyes Macedonia accord

**ATHENS (TIP):** Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras won a confidence vote in parliament on Wednesday, clearing a major hurdle for Greece's approval of an accord to end a dispute over Macedonia's name and averting the prospect of a snap election.

Tsipras called the confidence motion after his right-wing coalition partner Panos Kammenos quit the government on Jan. 13 in protest over the name deal signed between Athens and Skopje last year.

Parliament gave Tsipras 151 votes, meeting the threshold he required in the 300-member assembly. His leftist Syriza party has 145 seats in parliament while additional support was gleaned by defectors of Kammenos's ANEL party and independents.

"I call upon you with hand on heart to give a vote of confidence to the government which gave battle, which bled, but managed to haul the country out of memorandums and surveillance," Tsipras said, referring to Greece's international lenders who kept the country on a tight leash for years. (Reuters)



## DISHA PATANI TO STAR OPPOSITE SALMAN KHAN IN KICK 2

Disha Patani has been on a roll of late. After delivering a box-office hit along with Tiger Shroff in *Baaghi 2*, the actor signed on for Salman Khan's next mega project *Bharat*. And now, a report in a leading daily claims that she is all set to play the lead opposite Salman Khan in the sequel to his 2014 blockbuster *Kick*.

The report claims that the actress has been spotted visiting producer Sajid Nadiadwala's office a few times recently and rumour has it that she is in talks with him for signing on as the female lead for *Kick 2*. Although we haven't heard any confirmation from the concerned parties, we sure are excited at the idea of this fresh pairing.

Meanwhile, we have also heard that Disha will be part of Tiger Shroff's *Baaghi 3*. Well, for those of you wondering how can she be in the film since she died, according to the grapevine the film will have a fresh script with the same pair.

# KATRINA DISAGREES WITH THE TERM 'ITEM SONG'

Katrina Kaif has come a long way in the 16 years she has been a Hindi film actor — from being known mainly for her dancing ability, to her acting talent being proved by films such as *New York*, *Rajneeti* and *Zero*. On how this journey has been so far, Katrina says, "Sometimes I feel it has been long, and sometimes, not long at all. Someone the other day said 'Jab Tak Hai Jaan was six years ago', to me it feels two and a half maybe. It doesn't feel like years. Time just flies. I feel myself to be really fortunate. Without getting into too many details, all my experiences have taught me. Some have been good, some not so good. I've gone through some interesting times and phases."

Today, as many female actors such as Deepika Padukone and Anushka Sharma have turned producers, not many know that Katrina nearly became a producer over a decade ago. "There are people right now... I spoke about getting into production 8-10 years ago, it just never happened." Prodded on what held her back, she adds, "In life, you have these ideas. Nothing held me back. I got caught up with different aspects in different areas of my own life. I don't know if it will happen again, but I would like to, if ever."

She even has a story planned. "It will definitely be a co-production of some sort. About two strong female characters, in a larger set-up. Size doesn't matter, the story does. It will be a cinematic experience for an audience to see something like that. Nothing to preach or bore the audience. We will see where we go with that..." adds Katrina, who will be seen in *Bharat* next, alongside Salman Khan.

In an age where the whole conversation has steered towards films fronted by women, and making workplaces safer for women is a priority, 'item songs' are not looked upon kindly. Katrina is one of the best dancers Bollywood has churned out,



with songs such as *Chikni Chameli* and *Shiela Ki Jawani* scorching the big screen. But filmmaker Karan Johar, in a recent interview, had said, "I have no problem with like a girl dancing, that's not an item number. An item song is when she is objectified and when there are men lusting for her like *Chikni Chameli*. I don't think I would ever do that again."

Ask Katrina her reaction, and she replies, "I disagree with the word 'item song'. I can only speak for me, and cannot comment for other girls, ladies, directors or producers. I can speak about my take on music and dancing. We can get into a debate for each lyric and exactly what it said! For me, my idols in dancing are [late] Sridevi ji,

Madhuri (Dixit Nene), Madonna and Beyonce. These are women... if you go see Beyonce in a concert tomorrow, how she represents herself, I don't think they are objectifying women. They are expressing and empowering themselves."

She goes on to add: "If you feel you are being objectified by your choreographer and what you are doing in the song, then please, by all means, I really hope you never do that. Dance is a wonderful art form. If you are dancing to express yourself, that's a beautiful thing. It's not a wrong thing. Everything in life cannot be given... I feel sometimes when we are trying to make changes, everything starts getting piled up together." *Source: HT*

## 'Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi': Facts about the film

In just a matter of days, fans will finally get to see Kangana Ranaut in her warrior queen avatar, going to battle against the British in 'Manikarnika: The Queen Of Jhansi'. The intriguing trailer, beautiful songs and fiery stills have only increased the hype and anticipation surrounding the film.

Ahead of its big release, the makers have unveiled a photo of the leading lady in her bridal attire. Kangana looks breathtaking in the elaborate red outfit with heavy jewellery and flowers adorning her neck and hairdo.

'Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi' which is scheduled to release on January 25, 2019, also features Ankita Lokhande as Jhalkaribai, Atul Kulkarni as Tatya Tope and Danny Denzopa as Ghulam Ghaus Khan in the film.

This Republic Day is going to be thunderous at the box-office with two big films locking their horns. Kangana Ranaut starrer 'Manikarnika: The Queen Of Jhansi' and Nawazuddin Siddiqui starrer 'Thackeray' will be hitting the theatres around the same time.

Speaking about the same at the music launch of 'Manikarnika...', Kangana said, "No one has told us to shift our release date and in fact no one has approached us. It's a big

window and I think two films can easily release. There was no pressure."

Earlier, even Emraan Hashmi starrer 'Cheat India' was supposed to release on January 25. However, the makers of 'Thackeray' have reportedly been demanding a solo release asking the makers of 'Cheat India' to either postpone or prepone their release. Owing to this, 'Cheat India' will now be hitting the theatres a week before, on January 18.

Ever since the trailer of 'Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi' has been released, people have been eagerly waiting for the music launch of the movie. Veteran Bollywood music composer trio Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy have given the music to the movie. The trio have been a part of the industry for over two decades and known for some memorable tracks and the music of 'Manikarnika' is touted to be one of their most memorable works.

At the trailer launch, Shankar Mahadevan crooned one of the tracks, 'Main Rahun ya na rahun' from the movie and people have been raving about it ever since. 'Bharat' song, featured in the trailer already has the audiences and fans eager with anticipation.





## KATE MARA EXPECTING FIRST CHILD WITH HUSBAND JAMIE BELL

Actors Jamie Bell and Kate Mara are expecting their first child together. According to Page Six, Mara, 35, told 'Mary Poppins Returns' star Emily Blunt about her pregnancy at the recently concluded Golden Globes.

According to the outlet, Mara is five months along.

The 'House of Cards' star and Bell, 32, started dating after they met on the sets of 2015 superhero drama 'Fantastic Four'.

The couple confirmed their engagement in January 2017 and later that year, they tied the knot in a Los Angeles ceremony.

Bell was previously married to 'Westworld' star Evan Rachel Wood from 2012 to 2014 and the two share a son, who was born in 2013.

# LADY GAGA, ANGELINA JOLIE WARRING OVER CLEOPATRA ROLE

Oscar-winning Angelina, 43, has been in on-off talks for months with studio bosses over playing the part, which was essayed by Elizabeth Taylor in a 1963 film version.

But Gaga, 32, is now also in the running following the success of 'A Star Is Born', her big screen debut as a leading lady.

Lady Gaga, Angelina Jolie warring over Cleopatra role | English Movie News - Times of India

"There's every reason to think that whoever gets to play her this time round is going to enjoy an equally lofty perch in the motion picture industry."

The movie won four Academy Awards and sparked controversy over Taylor's on-set affair with co-star Richard Burton. They later wed and divorced twice.

It was billed at the time as an 'epic historical drama', but new Cleopatra is being touted by producers as a 'dirty, bloody political thriller told from a feminist perspective'.

The source said it could be so close between Jolie and Gaga that 'both of them will have to audition a pretty rare ask of an A-list star'.



## Anna Faris congratulates Chris Pratt on engagement

Chris Pratt's ex wife Anna Faris has congratulated the actor on his engagement to girlfriend Katherine Schwarzenegger.

Faris hit Instagram to comment one day after Pratt shared that he had popped the question to Schwarzenegger following just seven months of dating, reported.

The 'Mom' actress, wrote on his post: "I'm so happy for you both!! Congratulations!"

Faris and Pratt, split up in August 2017 after eight years of marriage and have remained friendly exes for the sake of their son Jack.

They tied the knot in July 2009 when they eloped to Bali, Indonesia on a whim and they finalised their divorce just three months ago in October 2018.

A host of stars also congratulated Pratt and Schwarzenegger including her mother Maria Shriver, who described them as "two loving kind caring spiritual people."

Faris has also found a new love. She has been dating cinematographer Michael Barrett, since October 2017.



## Kate Hudson is open to more children in future

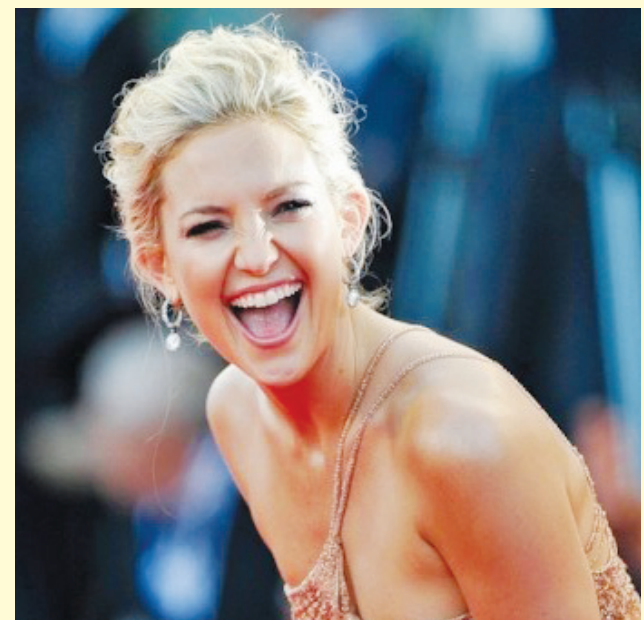
Actress Kate Hudson said she does not have any problem in having more children in the future. In an interview, Hudson, who has Ryder (15) with former husband Chris Robinson, Bingham (7) with former fiancé Matt Bellamy and three-month-old Rani with boyfriend Danny Fujikawa, spoke about her love for children.

"I love babies. I mean, if it happens again, it happens again, you know? I'm never going to said no," Hudson said.

"I think that Danny is going to want a boy of his own for sure. Granted, he has inherited two boys and it is a lot in the house. But he comes from three boys. So I think that, yeah. We will see."

The 'Bride Wars' star is happy with the way her sons have bonded with their sister.

"It's really cute to see them with her. They can't stand how cute she is. It's completely different than when Ryder had his brother: He was like, 'When can he play? When can he do things?' They want to teach them everything they know," she added.



## Islamic teacher placed on restriction order for extremist teachings

**SINGAPORE (TIP):** A religious teacher and another person were placed under restriction order (RO) by Singapore authorities for extremist teachings that promote violence, according to a Ministry of Home Affairs statement.

Murad Mohd Said, 46, has been placed on a RO under the Internal Security Act for spreading exclusivist and extremist teachings that promote violence, the statement issued Wednesday stated.

He taught that it was compulsory to kill apostates, defined broadly to include non-believers, Sufis, Shi'ites, and Muslims who have renounced Islam or disregarded texts and rulings from the Quran and Sunnah, it said.

The statement said a person issued a RO has to adhere several conditions and restrictions such as not allowed to travel out of Singapore and change address and employment.

Said also taught that Muslims were allowed to defend themselves by waging "armed jihad" against "infidels who persecuted them", it said.

Murad also encouraged his students to withdraw from Singapore's secular society, disregard secular laws, and adhere to the rulings of Syariah law instead, the ministry said. His student Razali Abas, a 56-year-old technician, met him in 2012 and started attending his classes. Abas was placed under a RO to "prevent him from continuing his downward spiral into extremism", the statement said.

Over time, Abas became convinced that it was legitimate to kill those he felt were oppressors of Islam, it said.

He began to seek out individuals with militant-looking profiles on Facebook, seeing them as "heroes" who were making sacrifices he could not make himself, according to the statement. It said their posts also reinforced his belief in armed violence and his admiration and support for terrorist groups such as the Al Qaeda.

The statement added that Murad's binary "us versus them" worldview and violent teachings, which he propagated to his students and followers, could have led them to develop extremist views, as well as lead to inter- and intra-faith tensions.

His statements on the primacy of Syariah law over secular laws also undermine Singapore's secular nation-state system, the ministry said. (PTI)

## Malaysia revises school textbook that tells girls sex is shameful

**MALAYSIA (TIP):** The Malaysian education ministry has ordered the removal of a page from a school textbook which warned young girls that having sex would bring shame on their families and urged them to "protect the modesty of their genitals". An illustration in the textbook, issued to all eight- and nine-year-olds in Malaysia, instructed girls to get changed behind closed doors, wear clothes that covered up their bodies, and not to visit quiet places alone. Using the example of a young girl called Amira, the page in the textbook, titled "saving modesty", said the implications of young girls compromising their "modesty" included bringing shame and emotional distress on themselves, being ostracised by friends and becoming a source of shame for their families. (The guardian)

# Pakistan may prefer weak, destabilised Afghanistan: Report

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Pakistan may view a weak and destabilised Afghanistan as preferable to a strong and unified one, according to a Congressional report which also highlights India's lack of desire to pursue a deeper defence cooperation with Kabul.

The report "Afghanistan: Background and US Policy in Brief" prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) comes amidst intensification of efforts by the Trump administration to hold peace talks with the Taliban by seeking help of Pakistan.

US special envoy to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad Thursday held talks with Pakistan's Foreign Secretary in Islamabad after extensive discussions in Kabul as part of his efforts to arrange the first-ever direct talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

Khalilzad arrived in Pakistan to seek Islamabad's help to convince the Taliban to return to the negotiating table to end the 17-year-long Afghan war.

"Pakistan may view a weak and destabilised Afghanistan as preferable to a strong, unified Afghan state (particularly one led by a Pashtun-dominated government in Kabul; Pakistan has a large Pashtun minority)," the CRS said in its report for lawmakers on January 17.

"Afghanistan-Pakistan relations are further complicated by the large Afghan refugee population in Pakistan and a long-standing border dispute over which violence has broken out on several occasions," said the report.



"Pakistan sees Afghanistan as potentially providing strategic depth against India, but may also anticipate that improved relations with Afghanistan's leadership could limit India's influence in Afghanistan," said the report, a copy of which was made available to PTI.

India's interest in Afghanistan stems largely from India's broader regional rivalry with Pakistan, which impedes Indian efforts to establish stronger and more direct commercial and political relations with Central Asia, it said.

The report said that India has been the largest regional contributor to Afghan reconstruction, but New Delhi has not shown

an inclination to pursue a deeper defence relationship with Kabul.

The Afghans themselves appear divided on the wisdom of cultivating stronger ties with India, it observed.

The report concludes Congress could also seek to help shape the US approach to potential negotiations around amending the Constitution or otherwise altering the highly centralised Afghan political system, through legislation and public statements.

The core issues for Congress include its role in authorising, appropriating funds for, and overseeing US military activities, aid and regional policy implementation, it said. (Economic Times)

## 'Example to the world': Sri Lanka president plans to copy Duterte's war on drugs

**COLOMBO (TIP):** Sri Lanka's president has praised his Philippines counterpart Rodrigo Duterte's brutal war on drugs, which has taken thousands of lives, calling it an "example to the world".

In a speech during a visit to the Philippines this week, Maithripala Sirisena said he intended to replicate Duterte's ruthless approach to tackling illegal drug use.

"The war against crime and drugs carried out by you is an example to the whole world, and personally to me," said Sirisena. "Drug menace is rampant in my country and I feel that we should follow your footsteps to control this hazard."

In his own statement, Duterte said that their aligned vision could mean partnering with Sri Lanka in the future to address international drug trafficking.

Duterte's bloody war on drugs, which has seen police handed unprecedented powers to carry out drug-related raids and arrests, has officially killed more than 5,000 people since 2016, though campaigners allege the real death toll could be up to 20,000. Those who have died have mainly been the urban poor. The international criminal court (ICC) is carrying out a preliminary investigation into whether the extrajudicial killings constitute crimes against humanity.

Duterte has remained unrepentant about the scale of the deaths in the crackdown, saying he would promote police officers who "massacre" drug dealers and describing those killed as "just carcasses to me".

The speech was not the first time Sirisena has signalled his admiration for Duterte's war on drugs. In July, Sri Lanka ended its 43-year moratorium on executions to bring back hanging as a punishment for drug dealers, a move the Sri Lankan president said was directly inspired by Duterte's policy in the Philippines.

During a cabinet meeting in July, Sirisena said he "was ready to sign the death warrants" of repeat drug offenders, according to his spokesperson Rajitha Senaratne. Nineteen drug offenders who were serving life sentences now face the death penalty.

The Sri Lankan government says narcotics are a growing problem in the country and in January this year, authorities seized a cocaine stash worth \$108m from a single shipment in the port of Colombo, which is a growing hub for international drug trafficking.

"We were told that the Philippines has been successful in deploying the army and dealing with this problem," said Senaratne in July. "We will try to replicate their success." (The guardian)

## China to bolster ties with Bangladesh on all fronts: Envoy

**DHAKA (TIP):-** Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Zuo on January 17 said his country wants to enhance its bilateral ties with Bangladesh on all fronts in the coming days.

The Chinese Ambassador made the remarks while addressing a function - "Happy Chinese New Year Gala 2019" - at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the evening.

The Chinese Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangladesh China Friendship Centre and Department of Culture and Tourism of Yunnan Province of China jointly arranged the event.

Ambassador Zuo said friendship between the people of the two countries is the key to state-to-state relationship, and their heart-to-heart communication contributes to deeper friendship between the two countries.

He said cultural exchange is an important bond through which friendly ties between Bangladesh and China could be developed and enhanced on all fronts.

Cultural exchange is a key part and solid foundation for China-Bangladesh strategic partnership of cooperation in the new era, he said.

"I hope the people from our two countries could continue to strengthen communication," said Ambassador Zuo adding that they would continue to deepen mutual understanding, expand cooperation and friendship so as to further deepen the friendly ties between Bangladesh and China.

Chinese New Year is the most important traditional festival for the Chinese nation, with a history of over 4000 years.

"But this is still most vivid manifestation of traditional Chinese culture all over the world," he said.

This gala festival is staged in over 400 cities of more than 130 countries to spread happiness in a harmonious atmosphere to convey the New Year message from China to all. Ambassador Zuo said this festival will feature some haunting performances of dance and acrobatics of Bangladesh and China. Cultural Secretary Roxana Malek, and Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Liaquat Ali Lucky also spoke on the occasion.

A total of 1000 people from different ministries, departments, diplomatic missions enjoyed the gala night of Chinese New Year. (UNB)

# MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.: THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a social activist and Baptist minister who played a key role in the American civil rights movement from the mid-1950s until his assassination in 1968. King sought equality and human rights for African Americans, the economically disadvantaged and all victims of injustice through peaceful protest. He was the driving force behind watershed events such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the 1963 March on Washington, which helped bring about such landmark legislation as the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and is remembered each year on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a U.S. federal holiday since 1986.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, the second child of Martin Luther King Sr., a pastor, and Alberta Williams King, a former schoolteacher.

Along with his older sister Christine and younger brother Alfred Daniel Williams, he grew up in the city's Sweet Auburn neighborhood, then home to some of the most prominent and prosperous African Americans in the country.

## Montgomery Bus Boycott

The King family had been living in Montgomery for less than a year when the highly segregated city became the epicenter of the burgeoning struggle for civil rights in America, galvanized by the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision of 1954.

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, secretary of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery bus and was arrested. Activists coordinated a bus boycott that would continue for 381 days, placing a severe economic strain on the public transit system and downtown business owners. They chose Martin Luther King, Jr. as the protest's leader and official spokesman.

By the time the Supreme Court ruled segregated seating on public buses unconstitutional in November 1956, King—heavily influenced by Mahatma Gandhi and the activist Bayard Rustin—had entered the national spotlight as an inspirational proponent of organized, nonviolent resistance.

King had also become a target for white supremacists, who firebombed his family home that January.

## Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Emboldened by the boycott's success, in 1957 he and other civil rights activists—most of them fellow ministers—founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), a group committed to achieving full equality for African Americans through nonviolent protest.

The SCLC motto was “Not one hair of one head of one person should be harmed.” He would remain at the helm of this influential organization until his death.

In his role as SCLC president, Martin Luther King, Jr. traveled across the country and around the world, giving lectures on nonviolent protest and civil rights as well as meeting with religious figures, activists and political leaders.

During a month-long trip to India in 1959, he had the opportunity to meet family members and followers of Gandhi, the man he described in his autobiography as “the guiding light of our technique of nonviolent social change.” King also authored several books and articles during this time.

Letter from Birmingham Jail

In 1960 King and his family moved to Atlanta, his native city, where he joined his father as co-pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church. This new position did not stop King and his SCLC colleagues from becoming key



March on Washington.



1965 Selma to Montgomery March.

players in many of the most significant civil rights battles of the 1960s.

Their philosophy of nonviolence was put to a particularly severe test during the Birmingham campaign of 1963, in which activists used a boycott, sit-ins and marches to protest segregation, unfair hiring practices and other injustices in one of America's most racially divided cities. Arrested for his involvement on April 12, King penned the civil rights manifesto known as the “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” an eloquent defense of civil disobedience addressed to a group of white clergymen who had criticized his tactics.

## March on Washington

Later that year, Martin Luther King, Jr. worked with a number of civil rights and religious groups to organize the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, a peaceful political rally designed to shed light on the injustices African Americans continued to face across the country.

Held on August 28 and attended by some 200,000 to 300,000 participants, the event is widely regarded as a watershed moment in the history of the American civil rights movement and a factor in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

## ‘I Have a Dream’

The March on Washington culminated in King's most famous address, known as the “I Have a Dream” speech, a spirited call for

peace and equality that many consider a masterpiece of rhetoric.

Standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial—a monument to the president who a century earlier had brought down the institution of slavery in the United States—he shared his vision of a future in which “this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.’”

The speech and march cemented King's reputation at home and abroad; later that year he was named “Man of the Year” by TIME magazine and in 1964 became the youngest person ever awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In the spring of 1965, King's elevated profile drew international attention to the violence that erupted between white segregationists and peaceful demonstrators in Selma, Alabama, where the SCLC and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) had organized a voter registration campaign.

Captured on television, the brutal scene outraged many Americans and inspired supporters from across the country to gather in Alabama and take part in the Selma to Montgomery march led by King and supported by President Lyndon B. Johnson, who sent in federal troops to keep the peace.

That August, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act, which guaranteed the right to vote—first awarded by the 15th Amendment—to all African Americans.

## LESSONS FOR LEADERS

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is undoubtedly one of the greatest leaders in American history. From the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott to his famous “I Have a Dream” speech at the March on Washington, Dr. King has become known as a fearless and inspirational pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement.

There is much to be said for his resilient spirit. As influencers in modern-day corporate America, we can learn volumes about being strong, devoted and moral leaders by looking at how Dr. King rallied those around him to fight for a worthy cause.

### KNOW WHAT YOU REPRESENT

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood for equality. A fervent believer in his cause, he committed his life to fighting for equal rights. As leaders, we have to clearly define our brands. What do we stand for? Who do we represent? What are our core values? When can we answer all of these questions clearly and concisely, we are more likely to devote our time and energy to supporting and spreading our brands.

### COMMUNICATE YOUR MESSAGE CLEARLY

Dr. King utilized every opportunity to communicate his beliefs to others. He spoke about it so passionately, that people saw it as his calling. Do your clients, peers or even employees know what you represent? Are you communicating your brand clearly and strategically? Dr. King delivered a number of speeches and led countless rallies, but he always made sure his core message was known.

### DON'T BE AFRAID TO TAKE RISKS

In a time when his beliefs were not popular among the vast majority of people, Dr. King was constantly stepping into the light to lead his supporters in peaceful rallies and boycotts. He could have easily sat back and silently supported the cause, waiting for someone else to take the lead. He courageously chose to take risks – risks that ultimately cost him his life. Are we, as leaders, willing to take risks, even though they are unpopular, in order to benefit our companies? Are we putting ourselves out there and trying new things? We cannot expect to move forward, if we are too afraid to take risks.

### DON'T LET SETBACKS DEFINE YOU

If anyone knew setbacks, it was Dr. King. Records show he was arrested more than 20 times. His home was bombed, and he was consistently being harassed by those who did not agree with his way of thinking. Despite facing trial after trial, he pressed on because he truly believed in that for which he was fighting. How do we react when we face setbacks? Are we quick to make excuses or accept defeat? Or do we regroup and find a way to accomplish the task regardless of the circumstances? Dr. King used his setbacks as motivation to continue striving for equal opportunity.

### SHARE YOUR VISION

‘I have a dream.’

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. leaves quite a legacy. We would be wise, as leaders, to learn from his courageous example and to develop our skills as communicators and influencers, as we work toward our goals and chase our dreams.

# DO YOU MISS YOUR EX-PARTNER ALL THE TIME?

Breakups suck. Even when they're totally mutual and you know they're for the best, they can spike terrible feelings of uncertainty, fear, and regret. Yuck. Sometimes we truly miss people after a breakup because, after all, it's a loss, and we were used to our life with him. But is it really your ex your missing, or just the idea of him? Here are some signs it might just be the latter.

## YOUR IDEA OF HIM IS WHO HE WAS

You miss the guy that you thought you knew at the beginning of your "perfect" relationship, not the douche who cheated on you.

## YOU'RE CLINGING TO HIS POTENTIAL.

Maybe he promised that he would change, or that you truly see the person he is inside without all the bull around him. He might be great someday, but you certainly don't have to wait around through the not great stuff at the expense of your own happiness.

## YOU'RE TOTALLY BLIND TO HIS DOWNSIDES

Everyone has good and bad qualities, but if you only see his good ones, you might be a little off track.

## YOU'RE AFRAID YOU CAN'T DO BETTER

When we panic about getting out there again, we might think it's easier to stick with a mediocre thing, but that's not honoring you – or him in the long run.

## YOU MISS CUTE TEXT MESSAGES

It's super nice to have someone check in while you're working, but do you miss your boyfriend or the companionship alone?

## YOU FEEL SUPER CLINGY

When we end a relationship, it can be confusing and painful. Maybe you'll get back together again one day if the timing is right and if you're a good match, but it's unlikely.



Relationships end for a reason. Sometimes when we feel over the top clingy or scared, it's because you know it's truly over but don't want to admit it to yourself.

## YOU KNOW HE'S NOT "THE ONE"

You were certain that there's no future with this dude, but for some reason you're trying to pretend like that doesn't matter anymore.

## YOU LIKED WHAT YOU DID TOGETHER

Are you sure you're just not missing the Mexican restaurant you guys used to go to? Maybe you're more bummed out about not having a date than about the man who got away.

## YOU MISS SEX

Hard as it is to imagine, there is probably someone out there who is going to be even better in bed than he was.

# Acne-causing habits you should stop

**N**ot washing your face properly : It is important to use good medicated cleansers twice a day, but hard cleansers and washing too frequently can make the acne worse and face drier.

Using dairy products on a daily basis : Dairy products have abundance of hormone IGF 1 (Insulin-like growth factor 1) which is specially found in milk. It can cause inflammation in humans. Milk causes insulin spike in humans that makes the liver produce IGF 1. This can cause excess sebum production causing more clogged pores and thus, the acne. Try to reduce dairy product consumption.

Using smartphones too much : Smartphones are one of the common causes of breakouts. This is because when your phone is placed on skin while talking to someone, you press bacteria into your pores and ultimately, get pimples. So, use ear phones to keep a check on breakouts.

Applying body cream on face : Many body care products can give you acne on your face. Some people apply body products on their face to get some more beauty benefits. But it is better not to use body products on face. Feel free to use face cream on dry patch of body, but using a body lotion on your face could cause acne.

This could specifically be the case if your skin is sensitive and the facial lotion you generally use is oil and fragrance-free, and then you reach for a scented and thicker body lotion in the hope to achieve the same hydrating results.

Diet issue : Sweet food items may not always be good for skin. Diet rich in sugar or food with high glycemic index can be a cause for acne. Avoid sugar, carbohydrate-rich food and starch for acne-free skin. Eat small meals with diet rich in fruits and vegetables.

## Here's how you can choose your night cream smartly

Night time is when one's skin gets the maximum rest, repair and time to rejuvenate. So always remember to wash and deep cleanse your face before you apply your night time moisturiser for the best results. But how do you decide what constitutes a



good moisturiser? Divya Mehta, co-founder of skincare brand Epique, shares tips to keep in mind when deciding on a good night cream:

It doesn't need to have the word 'night' to describe it : The difference between a night cream and any other is that it doesn't have UV protection or any sunscreen ingredients in it. Hence you don't necessarily need to use a cream that uses the word 'night' to define it. So long as the cream does not contain sunscreen, works well with your skin type and is rich in active ingredients, you are good to go!

High concentration of active ingredients : Look for components such as boswellia serrata, coffee bean extract, centella asiatica, andrographis, liquorice, colesus forskolin, horse chestnut, oils, vitamins like E and C and other antioxidants to name a few (in your night creme). In addition to these, actives need to be highly concentrated to address specific mature skin issues.

Deep penetrating and light weight in texture : Ensure the cream texture is light, penetrates deeply and is comfortable for your skin. Try avoiding creams that sit on the skin's surface and don't get absorbed well, causing the skin to feel oily.

## FOOD CORNER



## GRILLED CHICKEN

### Ingredients

8 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, 1 pinch salt and ground black pepper to taste, 2 cups peach preserves, 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, 2 tablespoons soy sauce, 1 tablespoon finely chopped garlic, 1 tablespoon mustard, 4 ripe peaches, halved and pitted

### Method

- Preheat grill for medium heat and lightly oil the grate. Season chicken breast halves with salt and black pepper.
- Stir peach preserves, olive oil, soy sauce, garlic, and mustard in a bowl; season with salt and black pepper. Reserve about 1/2 cup peach sauce.
- Place chicken on preheated grill; cook until golden brown, 6 to 7 minutes, then flip chicken. Continue cooking for 5 to 6 minutes. Brush both sides of the chicken with peach sauce. Cook until no longer pink in the center and the juices run clear, 4 to 5 more minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read at least 165 degrees F (74 degrees C).
- Arrange peach halves cut side down on the grill. Grill for 2 minutes, flip, and brush with reserved 1/2 cup peach sauce. Continue to grill until peaches are tender, 3 to 4 minutes more.

## FISH BIRYANI

### INGREDIENTS

1 kilograms fish fillets, 1 cup ghee, 4 teaspoon powdered, turmeric, 5 chopped onion, 2 teaspoon coriander powder, 6 cloves, 1 cup beaten yoghurt (curd), 2 tablespoon sultanas, 5 cup basmati rice, 1 teaspoon salt, 5 tablespoon cashews, 4 teaspoon Red chilli powder, 2 inches cinnamon, 5 chopped tomato, 3 litre water



### METHOD

- Mix the marinade ingredients, lemon juice and turmeric and rub into fish fillets. Keep aside for about 30 to 45 minutes.
- Heat 2 tablespoon ghee in a pan. Saute rice for about 10 to 15 minutes. Add 2 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon turmeric powder and 3 litres of warm water. Mix gently and bring to a boil.
- Lower the flame and cover pan with a lid and cook till water is absorbed. Heat 1 cup of ghee. Fry the sultanasa and remove. Add cashewnuts and fry till golden brown. Fry onions in the same pan till golden brown. Add chilli powder, coriander powder and 3 teaspoon turmeric powder. Add 8 to 10 teaspoon of water and the whole spices. Mix well.
- Fry for about 3 to 4 minutes, stirring all the time. Add the fish pieces along with 2 teaspoon salt and saute for about 5 to 8 minutes. Pour 1 cup of water and bring it to a boil. Add tomatoes and curd. Reduce heat and cook till gravy thickens. Grease a heavy bottomed pan with 1 tablespoon ghee. Spread the fish pieces, rice and reserved sultanas and cashewnuts in layers. Repeat until the topmost layer is rice garnished with sultanas and cashewnuts. Cover pan and cook over low heat for 5 to 8 minutes. Remove and serve hot, garnish with fried onions or spring onions.



# BEST SNACKS FOR HEARTY HEALTH

Snacks are often considered to be unhealthy, but this is simply a matter of selection. When unprepared, most of us tend to grab the first thing that we see.

Usually, this is always an unhealthy snack as junk food is readily available at every nook and corner these days. Eating these junk foods leaves our hearts open to ailments and poor health, while increasing our waistlines. But what about healthy, heart-friendly snacks? With the help of Dr. Sheetal - Consultant, Sports Nutritionist and Clinical Dietician, we give you a list of 20 snacks that will not only maintain your heart health but also help you shed extra kilos.

## Mushroom egg white omelet

This combination of mushroom and egg white is perfect for your heart health. It is low in calories, delicious and requires not much time to prepare. Hence, it is an all time favorite snack.

## Dalia upma

Dalia upma is a perfect snack to re-energize yourself because it provides you with valuable fibre, minerals and vitamins.

Just make sure you use less oil and more vegetables to make it more nutritive.

## Whole wheat egg white crepes

Made with the mixture of wheat flour, skimmed milk and egg whites, these whole wheat crepes are perfect for a health conscious person.

This snack is blended with taste and nutrients, which makes it an ideal snack option.

## Carrot, green peas & brown bread sandwich

This is an easy to prepare sandwich and is a great way to add protein, vitamin A and fibre to your diet. Add a dash of mayo, some ketchup, boiled carrots and peas and grill it to make it even more delicious.

## Egg white spinach omelet

If you are watching your cholesterol level, and a big fan of eggs but can't eat them, then this snack is just the thing for you.

When spinach is cooked with egg whites, it makes it a perfect calorie cutter snack for the day.

## Hara dhania whole wheat roti

Replace your regular rotis with this healthy alternative.



The hara dhania or coriander, and whole wheat flour, makes it a healthy and yummy snack.

## Pudina egg white omelet

This omelet is prepared with a mixture of pudina and egg whites, making it a healthy, low calorie snack.

## Idli sandwich

A light twist to the popular South Indian snack we all love. For best benefits, prepare this at home with a low-oil and low-salt recipe. Slice the idli and stuff with stir fried vegetables like cabbage or sprouts to make this a healthy snack for your day.

## Whole wheat noodles with vegetables and egg white

This is a savory snack, filled with loads of health benefits. Add variety of vegetables like carrots and green peas to make it healthier.

## Baked white pumpkin palak cutlets

Prepared with the mixture of white pumpkin and palak makes it a snack full of nutrients and proteins. Add a dash of tomato ketchup to make it yummier.

## Chicken breast brown bread sandwich

This is a very easy and time saving snack for every non-vegetarian. Add a few lettuce leaves and mint chutney to make it delicious and healthy.



## Prolonged sitting may raise cancer risk in women

Spending more leisure time sitting is linked with 10 percent higher risk of cancer, including breast and ovarian cancers in women, says a study led by an Indian-origin researcher.

"The higher risk was present even after taking into account body mass index (BMI), physical activity, and other factors," said the study led by Alpa Patel from American Cancer Society.

Surprisingly, the study that appeared in the journal Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers, and Prevention, found no association between sitting time and cancer risk in men.

"Longer leisure-time spent sitting was associated with a higher risk of total cancer risk in women, and specifically with multiple myeloma, breast and ovarian cancers, but sitting time was not associated with cancer risk in men," the study said.

While extensive research links physical activity to cancer prevention, few studies have examined the link between sitting time and the risk of specific cancers.

Over the past few decades, time spent sitting has increased due to several factors, including technological advancements, like computers and video games, and changes in transportation.

For their study, investigators compared leisure time sitting to cancer risk among more than 146,000 men and women (69,260 men and 77,462 women) who were cancer-free.

Between 1992 and 2009, 18,555 men and 12,236 women were diagnosed with cancer.

The researchers found longer leisure-time spent sitting was associated with a 10 percent higher risk of cancer in women after adjustment for physical activity, BMI and other factors.

The association was not apparent in men.

"Further research is warranted to better understand the differences in associations between men and women," the study said.

## New sleeping pill can help patients wake up in response to threat

Japanese scientists have shown that a new class of sleeping pill that preserves the ability to wake in response to a threat, unlike the commonly prescribed drugs that muffles a sleeping brain's "intruder alert".

Even during sleep the brain continuously processes sensory information, waking us if it detects a threat. But the most widely prescribed class of sleeping pills, known as benzodiazepines, makes us less likely to rouse in response to sensory input.

The findings showed that millions prescribed on these sleeping pills would sleep through a fire alarm as someone vacuuming next to their bed.

However, the new class of drugs called dual orexin receptor antagonists (DORAs) more selectively targeted the brain's sleep or wake pathways, which gives them safety advantages over benzodiazepines, said researchers from the Kagoshima University.



These include a reduced "hangover effect", with DORAs less likely to affect driving ability the day after use.

"Benzodiazepines stimulate the widespread brain receptor GABA-A, which makes us sleepy but also suppresses off-target brain areas—including the 'gatekeeper' that decides which sensory inputs to process," explained author

Tomoyuki Kuwaki, Professor at the varsity. In the study, published in Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience journal, mice that were given the new experimental hypnotic drug DORA-22 wake as quickly when threatened as drug-free sleepers—and then fall back asleep as quickly as ones given standard sleeping pills, once the threat is gone.

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## COULD APPLE BRING NEW IPOD TOUCH, USB-C CABLES FOR IPHONES IN 2019?

A revised iPod touch and USB-C cables for iPhones could be on Apple's list of offerings in 2019, according to a report from Macotakara—a Japan-based supply chain blog.

"Details on what changes a new iPod touch might feature are unclear at this point, but it is long overdue for an update. The report also goes on to say that the 2019 iPhones 'might' make the switch to USB-C," 9To5Mac quoted the report as saying on Monday.

The iPod touch is largely targeted at youngsters who are not ready for a smartphone and its 6th generation was released in 2015 which Apple continues to sell with 32GB of storage for \$199.

"Further, Macotakara says that those who are working on the iPhone's USB-C transition indicate it has not yet reached the reference design stage as yet," the report said.

The iPhone-maker did bring the USB-C cables along with the 2018 iPad Pros.

"Even though Macotakara has a decent track record, but like most supply chain sources, it can struggle with details such as timing," the report added. *Source: IANS*

## Invite friends to enjoy events together on Facebook

Facebook is testing a new feature to let users share events that they are interesting in attending to, on their "Stories" so that they can coordinate with friends and enjoy events together.

According to a TechCrunch report on Monday, the test will involve a new option to "Share to Your Story" that appears when you visit an event's page on Facebook.

"If shared, friends will see a tappable sticker within your Story that includes the event details and lets friends respond that they're also 'interested' right from the Story itself," the report added.

Friends also can tap on the sticker in the Story to visit the event page.

"There's also a link to the event page built in and a way to start a group chat on Messenger with friends who responded," said The Verge.

The test is currently rolling out to users in the US, Mexico and Brazil.

To use the new test feature, go to the Events page, click "Share" below the date and time of the event, then tap "Share to Story".

Friends tap "interested" to say they may attend, and you'll be able to see these responses. *Source: IANS*



# YOUTUBE REVISES GUIDELINES TO ADDRESS DANGEROUS PRANKS, CHALLENGES

Aiming to let its users know that dangerous viral pranks such as the Bird Box challenge or the Tide Pod stunt have no place on the platform, video-sharing giant YouTube has updated its community guidelines.

The move comes in the wake of Bird Box challenges that are going viral, and that urge participants to go around wearing blindfolds.

"YouTube is home to many beloved viral challenges and pranks, but we need to make sure what's funny doesn't cross the line into also being harmful or dangerous.

"We've updated our external guidelines to make it clear that we prohibit challenges presenting a risk of serious danger or death, and pranks that make victims believe they're in serious physical danger, or cause children to experience severe emotional distress," Camilla, Community Manager, TeamYouTube, wrote in a blog post late on Tuesday.

Earlier this week, a teenager in the US state of Utah crashed her car while performing the Bird Box challenge being blindfolded, according to the Mashable.

The video-sharing platform has seen a surge in users posting recordings of



themselves engaging in dangerous stunts/challenges.

The Google-owned company started removing videos of the Tide Pod challenge a year ago. The challenge involves participants putting their health at risk by eating the bright-coloured laundry detergent packs known as "pods". YouTube is also threatening strikes against channels

that "egregiously" violate policies with their videos' thumbnail images or web links, even if the videos themselves are innocuous, according to the Engadget.

Users who rack up multiple strikes will lose their access to custom thumbnails, and those who get three strikes in 90 days will lose their accounts completely, the report added. *Source: IANS*

## Mice flown to space may help decode ageing: NASA



Groups of mice sent aboard the International Space Station (ISS) may help better understand the process of ageing in space and on Earth, according to NASA.

The investigation will provide space-flown samples to scientists from academia, industry and government agencies, who have agreed to share their data and results in an online database that is open to the public.

Rodent Research-8 (RR-8) will examine the physiology of ageing and the effect of age on disease progression using groups of young and old mice flown in space and kept on Earth, NASA said in a statement.

"The objective is to expose the mice to microgravity and track physiological changes," said Michael S Roberts, deputy chief scientist at the US National Laboratory, a sponsor of the investigation.

"Tissue samples from space-flown animals are extremely valuable to biomedical research and opportunities to use the space station are limited to a few

missions each year," Roberts said.

"This investigation was conceived primarily to provide the biomedical research community on Earth with tissues from mice exposed to microgravity," he said.

Previous research has shown that spending time in space causes bone density loss, immune dysfunction, cardiovascular issues such as stiffening of arteries, and loss of skeletal muscle mass and strength in both humans and rodent models.

These changes resemble ageing in people age on Earth, but happen more quickly. That makes spaceflight an opportunity to study—and perhaps lessen—the effects of ageing.

The investigation will keep a group of young mice (10-16 weeks old) and another group of older mice (30-52 weeks old) on the space station for different periods of time—approximately 30 and 60 days—to make it possible to examine that accelerated ageing process more closely. *Source: PTI*

## YouTube to remove share activity feature

Video-sharing giant YouTube has announced that it will kill the feature that allows users to automatically share their YouTube Activity on micro-blogging site Twitter after January 31.

Twitter currently allow users to share their YouTube activity via options such as going to YouTube Settings, then to Connected apps and choosing "Share your public activity to Twitter".

Instead, the platform is urging users to share videos on social networks directly from YouTube via the Share button.

Users will see an option to share on social platforms right after a successful new video upload, The Star reported late on Saturday.

However, users would still be able to add links from their social media to their YouTube channels and share videos from pages.

The platform also stated that this new update will not affect items that have already been shared on Twitter prior to the removal date. Those posted activities will remain on Twitter, the report added. *Source: IANS*



# INDIA'S FDI CURBS IN E-COMMERCE COULD HIT ONLINE SALES BY \$46 BN

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** India's new foreign investment restrictions for its e-commerce sector, which includes giants such as Amazon.com Inc and Walmart-owned Flipkart, could reduce online sales by \$46 billion by 2022, according to a draft analysis from global consultants PwC seen by Reuters.

Under the changes, e-commerce firms in India will from Feb. 1 not be able to sell products via companies in which they have an equity interest or push sellers to sell exclusively on their platforms.

Announced in December, just months before a general election due by May this year, the rules were seen as an attempt by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to appease millions of small traders and shopkeepers, who form a key voter base and say their businesses have been threatened by global online retailers.

Industry sources told Reuters the policy would delay or derail some investment plans and push companies such as Amazon and Flipkart to create new, more complex business structures.

In a private analysis PwC conducted based on estimates provided by the industry and using publicly available information, it forecast that online retail sales growth, tax collections and job creation would be severely hit if companies changed their business models to comply with the new policy.

The draft analysis has not been made public. PwC India, in response to Reuters' questions, said it "does not endorse any of these assumptions or conclusions, nor have we conducted any



independent study on this".

"As a matter of policy, we do not comment on company specific issues," PwC said.

The analysis produced by PwC showed that the gross-merchandise value of goods sold online could reduce by \$800 million from expectations in the current fiscal year that ends in March, a document seen by Reuters showed. Then, the sales would dip drastically below previous forecasts, lopping off \$45.2 billion in the next three years, the data showed.

To be sure, sales would still be growing, but at a less robust rate than envisaged before the policy change.

Online retailers often use gross merchandise value, or GMV, based on

monthly online sales as a measurement of performance, as they typically make revenue from the commissions they get from sellers.

The analysis also said that by March 2022 the Indian policy could lead to the creation of 1.1 million fewer jobs than may have been previously expected and lead to a reduction in taxes collected of \$6 billion. Amazon and Flipkart have both sought an extension of the Feb. 1 deadline, but a source at India's commerce ministry told Reuters the government was unlikely to agree.

Amazon said in a statement it remains "committed to be compliant to all local laws" but has asked the government for an extension of four months.

Source: Reuters

## TIM COOK SAYS APPLE TO REDUCE HIRING AMID WEAKER IPHONE SALES

Apple Inc. will cut back on hiring for some divisions after selling fewer iPhones than expected and missing its revenue forecast for the holiday quarter, according to people familiar with the matter.

Tim Cook, Apple's chief executive officer, made the disclosure to employees earlier this month in a meeting the day after he penned a letter to investors about the company's recent struggles, particularly in China. During the meeting, Cook was asked if the company would impose a hiring freeze in response. He said he didn't believe that was the solution. Instead, Cook said some divisions would reduce hiring, according to the people, who asked not to be identified discussing private matters.

Cook said he is yet to fully determine which divisions would cut back on hiring, but said that key groups such as Apple's artificial intelligence team would continue to add new employees at a strong pace. He also emphasized that a division's importance to Apple's future isn't measured by hiring rates.

Source: Bloomberg

## World Bank Sees Global Growth Slowing To 2.9% In 2019

The growth of the global economy is expected to slow to 2.9 per cent in 2019 compared with 3 per cent in 2018, the World Bank said on Tuesday, citing elevated trade tensions and international trade moderation.

"At the beginning of 2018 the global economy was firing on all cylinders, but it lost speed during the year and the ride could get even bumpier in the year ahead," World Bank chief executive officer Kristalina Georgieva said in the semi-annual Global Economic Prospects report.

The World Bank outlook comes as the United States and China have been engaged in a bitter trade dispute, which has jolted financial markets across the world for months. The two economies have imposed tit-for-tat duties on each other's goods, although there were signs of progress on Tuesday as the two countries prepared to enter a third day of talks in Beijing. Growth in the United States is likely to slow to 2.5 per cent this year from 2.9 per cent in 2018, while China is expected to grow at 6.2 per cent in the year compared with 6.5 per cent in 2018, according to the World Bank.

Emerging market economies are expected to grow at 4.2 per cent this year, with advanced economies expected to grow at 2 per cent, the World Bank said in the report.

Source: Reuters

# Odds of a hard Brexit have these Asian companies fretting

The growing alarm after UK Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit deal suffered a defeat in Parliament isn't just unsettling for British politics. Global businesses are on edge as well.

Asian companies, whose operations and investments stretch far into Britain and the European continent, have a lot at stake as they face higher tariffs and costs. Tuesday's setback will do little to cure the anxiety. Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond has sought to assure business leaders that their no-deal nightmare scenario could still be avoided, but with only 10 weeks left before the UK is due to leave the European Union, companies are bracing for a potential hard exit.

"Japanese companies should have been making preparations for the possibility of a hard Brexit, but now the reality of carrying out those measures is getting closer," Hiroaki Nakanishi, chairman of the country's largest business lobby Keidanren, told reporters in Tokyo Wednesday.

**Here's what Asian companies are saying about Brexit:**

### Honda

The Japanese automaker said Wednesday that a hard Brexit would seriously impact its European operations, even though it is



implementing countermeasures. New checks at the border could disrupt its logistics systems, while tariffs on goods moving between the EU and U.K. would hurt its competitiveness, it said. "We now look to the government to deliver a clear, legally certain path forward to avoiding no deal and to delivering the conditions that support the continued competitiveness and productivity of our sales and manufacturing operations," it said.

### Toyota

Asia's biggest carmaker has said it would

temporarily halt its production in the U.K. if Britain storms out of the EU without a trade agreement, disrupting weekly revenue of 60 million pounds (\$77 million) generated there, the company's Europe President, Johan van Zyl, said in October. Japanese firm wants tariff-free trading after Brexit, he has said.

### Sony

Sony Corp., grappling with questions over its employees and distribution and sales channels, said Wednesday it is closely monitoring the Brexit news. Its European head office is located southwest of London in

the town of Weybridge. The Japanese technology giant has a sales office and a factory in the U.K.

### Panasonic

Panasonic Corp. said Wednesday that it's preparing for different scenarios to limit the impact on its operations. It shifted its Europe head office from near London to Amsterdam on October 1, and transferred about 10 people from the facility as well. The move was made partly to ward off potential negative effects of Brexit and also because the electronic maker's holding company was already based in the Dutch city, it said in August. The company, which produces televisions, digital cameras and tablets in the U.K., won't move its factory, a spokeswoman said in October.

### Japan Tobacco

Japan Tobacco Inc. said Wednesday it's assuming a "negative impact" on exports and imports. "We're always looking at how to improve efficiency in our global supply chain by taking into consideration cost, taxes and other regulations," a spokeswoman said. The company sells Camel and Winston cigarettes in the U.K. and had about 41 percent of the country's tobacco market as of September. The sticks sold in the U.K. are made and imported from the EU region, according to the company.

Source: Bloomberg

## India Association of Long Island (IALI) new elected officials sworn in

**MINEOLA, NY (TIP):** The Oath ceremony for India Association of Long Island Elected Executive officers 2019 along with Executive Council members with Ad-hoc Committees members was held on Friday, January 11th, 2019 at the Nassau County Executive & Legislative Building in Mineola.

History was created by India Association of Long Island in having the Oath taking Ceremony in Nassau County Legislative Building. There were around 200 guests present to witness this ceremony. Among the guests were Hon. Richard Nicoletto Presiding Officer, Nassau County Legislature, and Mr. Jack Schliemann - Nassau County Comptroller, and Past Presidents of IALI.

The program with the welcome speech by Mr. Zahid Syed Commissioner of Human Rights Nassau County, Indu Gajwani, the Cultural



Chair of IALI 2019 welcomed all the guests and congratulated the Elected President Lalit Aery, EC team and committee members. The presentation began with Seeking God's blessings "Ganesh Vandana dance by Tara Chaudhary", followed by

National anthem (both Indian and Star-spangled Banner) by Nipun Marwaha. Mantras chanted by Mr. Narinder Kapoor 'chair Meditation Forum' created a pious atmosphere. Dr. Anila Midha Past President IALI did the honors by introducing

newly elected president Mr Lalit Aery. Mrs Gunjan Rastogi 'Past president 2018' was presented a Plaque. Mr. Lalit Aery thanked the past presidents & all the guests who graced the ceremony with their presence. In his speech Mr Lalit Aery highlighted some of the plans his team will be working on to serve the community and helping in the progress of IALI.

Oath was taken by President Lalit Aery, Vice President Shashi Malik, Secretary Hargovind Gupta, Treasurer Rajeev Chaudhary, EC members: Kuljeet Ahluwalia, Sushil Khanna, Neeru Bhambri, Ravi Kanta Verma, Deepa Goyal, Dr. Ramesh Gupta, Neelam Srivastava, and Advisory committee members Dr. Anila Midha & Mrs. Bina Sabapathy.

(Read full story on [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

contd from page 1

### 2020 US Presidential Election: Women outnumber men in announcing they are in the race

Kamala Harris, current U.S. Senator from California; Elizabeth Warren, current U.S. Senator from Massachusetts; Tulsi Gabbard, current U.S. House rep, HI-02; Kirsten Gillibrand, current U.S. Senator from New York; Julian Castro, former U.S. HUD Secretary and former Mayor of San Antonio; John Delaney, former U.S. House Rep - MD-06; and Richard Ojeda, former West Virginia State Senator.

The list is expected to grow by the day. Some major candidates eyeing Presidency in 2020 are Joe Biden, former U.S. Vice President, former U.S. Senator; Michael Bloomberg, former Mayor of New York City and businessman who has often hinted at the possibility of his throwing hat in the ring; Cory Booker, current U.S. Senator from New Jersey; Beto O'Rourke, former U.S. House - TX-16; Bernie Sanders, current U.S. Senator from Vermont; Eric Holder, former U.S. Attorney General; Oscar De La Hoya, former championship boxer; Amy Klobuchar, current U.S. Senator from Minnesota; Sherrod Brown, current U.S. Senator from Ohio; Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles; and Terry McAuliffe, former Governor of Virginia. Interestingly, Republicans are observing strict silence.

### Indian Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla Presents Credentials to President Donald Trump

Shringla to Washington and wished him every success in his high responsibilities as India's Ambassador to the United States. The President fondly recalled his friendship with Prime Minister Modi and his recent telephone conversation with the Prime Minister. He highlighted the broad range of strategic interests and fundamental democratic values shared between "our two countries".

Ambassador Shringla in his remarks conveyed warm greetings from the President and the Prime Minister of India to President Trump and the First Lady, Melania Trump.

Ambassador Shringla also added that India was greatly encouraged by the President's strong personal commitment to take the India-US strategic partnership forward. "India and the United States are the world's largest and the oldest democracies. Our relationship has been nurtured by shared belief in democratic values, individual freedom and rule of law,

and increasingly, by strong convergences of interest on key regional and global issues making ours a truly global partnership. I am excited to assume my important new responsibility at a moment of great promise and reckoning in India's relations with the United States. Our relations have been transformed dramatically under your leadership, building on continuous and incremental progress in recent times. Close personal friendship between you and my Prime Minister, and the unstinting support from both of you to our bilateral relations, have allowed the Indian and American peoples to come together like never before" he said in his written remarks to the President.

Ambassador Shringla assured President Trump of his commitment to expand key pillars of the bilateral relationship including economic relations and trade ties, defense and security, energy, science and technology and global issues, among others.

### DFW Airport Named Air Transport World's 2019 Global Airport of the Year

"I may be biased, but I think this is the best international airport in the United States and we have seen in recent years that the world is taking notice. Businesses are moving to Dallas-Fort Worth at an astonishing rate, and most of them acknowledge the number of destinations and non-stop flights from DFW as a key part of their decision."

"The recognition of DFW as Airport of the Year demonstrates how the Airport and our region can achieve success on a global scale," said Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price. "The Airport Board of Directors and the DFW team laid out a strategic plan several years ago, planning for the future, and they have delivered their vision for transforming travel."

For 45 years, the ATW Airline Industry Achievement Awards have recognized the best businesses and people in aviation. DFW joins an exclusive list of global gateway airports that have recently won Airport of the Year, including Hong Kong International Airport, London Heathrow and Singapore-Changi Airport.

"Dallas Fort Worth International Airport truly stood out for its innovation, operational excellence and focus on serving its customers - passengers and airlines," said Karen Walker, Editor-in-Chief, ATW. "DFW has invested in infrastructure and technology to improve its facilities, efficiencies and sustainability, all the time continuing its operations as a global mega-hub. DFW richly deserves to be recognized as the 2019 ATW Airport of the Year." The US India Chamber of Commerce DFW congratulated "our partner" Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport for the prestigious award.

(Read full story on [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

### 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Devji Celebrated at the Indian Consulate in New York

Bhai Baldeep Singh is a classical vocalist (Dhurpad, Var & Chant), jori & pakhawaj exponent. He was accompanied by Dr Francesca Cassio, Sikh Musicology Chair at the Hofstra University, Long

exponent.

Throughout the program, Bhai Baldeep Singh along with the accompanying musicians, held the audience captive with his masterly presentation of mystical hymns of Guru Nanak.

Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty felicitated the artists and thanked the gathering for their presence.

Prominent members of the Sikh community, as also guests from other communities, attended the event.



Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty felicitated Bhai Baldeep Singh and the accompanying musicians. Seen in the picture, from L to R: Parminder Bhamra, Dr Francesca Cassio, Bhai Baldeep Singh, Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty, and Sandhya Anand

Photo / Jay Mandal-on assignment



A view of the audience

Photo / Jay Mandal-on assignment

Island; Parminder Bhamra, Pakhwaj maestro, based in Italy, and New York based Sandhya Anand, Carnatic violin

Langar, cooked at Gurdwara Nanak Darbar, Long Island, New York, was served to all guests.

# HINDU GODDESSES

Hinduism has both masculine and feminine representative deities of the supreme power of the universe. All major deities have both male and female counterparts. Goddesses in Hinduism are the representation of Shakti, the feminine source of power in the universe. They are highly revered and powerful. They play a central role in the creation, protection, and destruction of the universe. Here is the list of 10 Hindu Goddesses that are the source of the power in the Hindu religion.

## Kamadhenu

Kamadhenu is the mother of all cows and the goddess of plenty. She is capable of fulfilling the truest wishes of her devotees. Her iconography describes her as a cow with the head of a woman and breasts, or as the cow containing various deities inside her. Kamadhenu emerged in the process of the great Samudra Manthan, which was the churning of the great oceans together by the Asuras and the Devas. Cows are revered in Hinduism because of the goddess Kamadhenu. Each part of Kamadhenu's body carries symbolic importance. For example, her four legs represent the four Vedas, the horns symbolizes the gods, the humps stand for the Himalayas, etc. The cow is also worshiped as the mother of the earth as her milk nourishes human life.

## Tulsi

Tulsi is the goddess worshiped and revered in the form of a basil plant. The herb/plant has medicinal as well as mythological importance in Hinduism. The story of Tulsi is often associated with Vrinda and Jalandhar. Jalandhar, who was born through the third eye of Lord Shiva became very powerful and threatened the existence of the gods. His power was also a result of the devotion and fidelity of his wife Vrinda, who was an ardent devotee of Vishnu. In order to kill Jalandhar and save the world and the gods from his wrath, Vishnu decided to take the form of Jalandhar and approach Vrinda, thus causing her to commit infidelity towards her husband. This deprived Jalandhar of his powers achieved through the devotion of his wife. After realizing that it was Vishnu, Vrinda curses him to be born as a stone which is the Shaligram. She eventually throws herself into the pyre and is reborn as Tulsi.

## Ganga

Ganga, the river is a popular goddess in Hindu mythology. She is the daughter of Parvat Raj Himalaya or Himavan and sister to goddess Parvati. She ascended towards heaven to cleanse the sins spread by Tarkasur, one of the demon kings. She descended back on earth to rinse away the sins of the humankind at the request of Shiva. During her descend Ganga was held on in the hair of Shiva to prevent the destruction of Bhumi Devi (mother earth) as Bhumi Devi would not be able to bear the waters falling from heaven. Ganga to the present day flows as the river through the Himalayas and down to the plains of India. Devotees strongly believe that dipping into the holy river washes away sins and negativity.

## Sita

Sita, also known as Janaki is the incarnation of Lakshmi. She is the daughter of Janak, the king of Janakpur. Her name Janaki comes from her birthplace. Janaki Mandir, located at Janakpur in Nepal is dedicated to Sita. She is believed to have been evolved from Bhumi and is also the daughter of mother earth. She is the consort of Ram and a central character in the epic Ramayana. Sita follows Ram in his 14 years exile from Ayodhya during which she is abducted by the demon king of Lanka, Ravana. It is this act of Ravana, that leads to the battle where Ram kills Ravana and saves Sita. She is also remembered and revered for the Agni



Parikchya she gives at Ram's order to prove her chastity. Sita is the representation of feminine power and virtues in Hinduism.

## Kali

Kali is the fierce representation of Shakti. She is also known as the destroyer or the one who liberates the soul and provides moksha. She is an incarnation of Parvati/Durga. Kali was born to defeat the demon named Raktabeech, who had the boon that each drop of his blood that touches the ground would evolve into a new powerful demon. Thus, Kali is seen as a fierce angry goddess with the garland of skulls, a knife and a bowl in her hands. During the battle she had to cut Raktabeech, fill her bowl with his blood and drink it. She continued doing so and as a result became very aggressive and destructive. To protect the world from her anger, Shiva, her husband lay down under her feet to calm her down. As a result, she bit her tongue due to embarrassment after realizing her mistake. Thus, her iconography also has lord Shiva lying beneath her feet and Kali biting her tongue.

## Saraswati

Saraswati is the goddess of wisdom, music, and learning. She is also known as Sharada. She is the wife of Brahma. Saraswati is one of the goddesses among the Tridevi, which is the feminine counterpart of the Tridevs in Hinduism. Her vahan is the swan or the goose. Her iconography is portrayed with four hands two of which hold the veena, a musical instrument. Saraswati Puja is observed on the

goddesses in Tridevi. She is the wife of Vishnu and reincarnates alongside her consort on earth. Lakshmi does not only represent materialistic wealth but also glory, joy, and honor. Her vahan is the owl and also the white elephant Airawat.

## Parvati

Parvati is one of the goddesses among the Tridevi. She is also known as Gauri. She is also the wife of Shiva and the mother of Kumar and Ganesh. Parvati is the rebirth of Sati, who was once the wife of Shiva but plunged into the fire due to her father's insulting behavior towards her husband. Parvati was born as a mortal to Parvat Raj Himalaya. It is through constant penance and devotion she was able to attain the full power of Shakti and become one of the most revered goddesses and also the rightful wife of Shiva. Parvati is the caring and motherly representation of Shakti. Her vahana is depicted as the lion or tiger.

## Durga

Durga is perhaps one of the most well-known manifestations of Shakti. She is one of the principal deities worshiped in Dashain/Navaratri, one of the most important festivals of Hindu devotees. It is also the celebration of the death of Mahisasur, one of the most powerful demon gods. Mahisasur with his power of devotion was successful enough to get the boon of only being killed by a woman. The demon king believed it to be impossible for a goddess to be powerful enough to be able to kill him. Durga is thus also known as Mahisasur Mardini (the slayer of Mahisasur). She is also the representation of the feminine power and roles in the universe. Her iconography shows her riding the lion or the tiger and holding the Trishul. She is also portrayed with multiple hands and the dead body of Mahisasur being stabbed by her Trishul.

## Radha

Radha is almost always portrayed alongside Krishna. She is also known as Radhika or Radharani. It is believed that Radha and Krishna are incomplete without each other. Radha is the companion and friend of Krishna, who is also his divine power and the Shakti. While Radha is not the incarnation of goddess Lakshmi (the consort of Vishnu), she is regarded as higher than Rukmini (the wife of Krishna, and the incarnation of Lakshmi). Radha is known for her immense devotion towards Krishna, which shows the longing of each devotee to be united with the supreme. It is through the power of her devotion she was able to achieve the status of a goddess and worshiped by a large number of devotees.

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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?"**

**"Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."**

# 'The Finisher': How often MS Dhoni finishes matches in the final over in ODIs

In his 15-year-long career, MS Dhoni has earned distinctions of being called as "Captain Cool", his tactics are termed as "Mahi way" and he has been hailed as the creator of a newly-developed shot – "the helicopter". But if there is one phrase that has chased him all his cricketing life, it has been "India's best finisher". There was once a time, when commentators, pundits, and fans, used to bet whether Dhoni would finish the game off with a six.

Even though he changed his cricketing style, slowed down his run rate, and started playing more of a "captain's role" in the latter stage of his career, one still believes in the 37-year-old Dhoni's abilities to finish off the game in style for India. And after a wait of six years, Mahi did it again in Adelaide.

After Virat Kohli was dismissed for 104, the onus to take India home was on his broad shoulders. Needing 7 runs off the final over, MS Dhoni smacked a big one off Jason Behrendorff to make life easier before stealing a single for the series-levelling win. A look at his past records in the ODI format shows that it is after a span of six years that Dhoni has won the match for India in the final over and remained unbeaten.

Coincidentally, the last time Dhoni took India to a win in the final over was also against Australia. Chasing 351, in 2013, India needed 6 runs to win in the final over. Facing James Faulkner, the former Indian skipper played a dot ball, and then hammered the left-armer for a boundary. On the next ball, he took a double to give his side the win.

Overall, it is for the seventh time that an unbeaten Dhoni has taken India to a win in the final over in ODIs. Out of the previous 6 wins, on three occasions, he accomplished victories with a six in the final over, just like he did in Adelaide. What makes MSD special and his knack of chasing things down late is also in the



fact that he tries to not leave things to the final ball. Of these instances, only once has a match gone to the final ball.

The first one came in 2009 against the West Indies. In a rain-truncated match, India needed 11 runs to win in the final over. Mahi was handed the strike on the second ball of the final over off Jerome Taylor and he launched it towards deep midwicket for the maximum. The game was eventually finished with Yusuf Pathan scoring the final run on the second last delivery. Later, in 2012, Dhoni hammered a six off Australia's Adam McKay to help India cover the 13-run deficit in the final over.

In 2013, Dhoni smashed 16 runs in the final over against Sri Lanka to reach the required target of 204. With only one wicket in hand, and needing 15 runs to win in the final over, the right-handed batsman smacked a six, a four and another six, in three balls to take India home. Dhoni's innings in Adelaide has come after much criticism for his slow

strike rate and deteriorating form. Fans can hope his showing in the second ODI will calm the furore about Dhoni, at least until the coming World Cup.

Dhoni is just 34 runs away from becoming the fourth Indian batsman after Sachin Tendulkar, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma to complete 1,000 ODI runs in Australia. The former Indian cricket team captain will be joining an elite list of players if he manages to achieve the feat on Friday in the final third ODI between India and Australia.

Virat Kohli smashed his 39th one-day international century as India claimed a dramatic six-wicket victory over Australia at a sweltering Adelaide Oval on Tuesday to level up the three-match series at 1-1.

Skipper Kohli contributed of 104 of his side's runs as they successfully chased down their victory target of 299 for the loss of four wickets to send the series into a decider on Friday at Melbourne Cricket Ground.

## FOR A CHANGE, BOWLING MAKES INDIA WC FAVOURITE



**ADELAIDE (TIP):** Former Australia fast bowler Jason Gillespie feels the current Indian bowling attack, led by Jasprit Bumrah, makes the team favourites alongside England for the upcoming World Cup. "I think the Indian attack is well balanced. Bumrah has been rested for obvious reasons but their attack is still quite good," said Gillespie. "Everyone offers different things, and you add Bumrah to it, and they are well placed to mount a challenge for the World Cup. I think England are the obvious favourites, but India won't be far behind."

Gillespie singled out Bumrah for special praise and said the young right-arm pacer's unorthodox action makes him a different bowler from others. "I enjoy watching Bumrah bowl. He just ambles in but when he gets to the crease, he almost has a slingshot action. He bowls at good pace, hurries the batsmen up, and he can also change his pace a lot. He is a very fine bowler," said the 43-year-old former pacer.

"His action does stand out. It is a braced front leg, delayed bowling arm action. It gets you to the crease quickly, and delivers that sling shot. It is what generates his pace.

"But you need to be strong to be able to do that. Bumrah is robust and fit to bowl long spells in Test cricket. He keeps his pace up throughout a Test and this is what makes him an exciting bowler," Gillespie said.

The Australian team, which is currently going through a rebuilding phase, is eyeing its first ODI series win since January 2017. Gillespie said it was the best for opportunity for youngsters to stake a claim in the World Cup-bound team. "Obviously they are missing a couple key personnel from both batting and bowling perspectives. But the team will look very different in the World Cup. So it is a wonderful opportunity for these players and selectors to look at different options in pressure situations," said the Adelaide Strikers' coach.

Source: PTI

### Malaysia Masters

## Saina, Srikanth move into quarters, Kashyap bows out

**KUALA LUMPUR (TIP):** Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth registered victories in their singles matches to advance to the quarterfinals of the Malaysia Masters. Saina, seeded seventh, outclassed Hong Kong's Pui Yin Yip 21-14 21-16 in her second round encounter. She will now take on second seed Japan's Nozomi Okuhara.

Srikanth, seeded seventh, took 65 minutes to edge past Wong Wing Ki Vincent 23-21 8-21 21-18 and maintain his unbeaten run. He will now face fourth seed Son Wan Ho of South Korea in the last-8 stage of the tournament.

However, the pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy went down to Indonesia's Ni Ketut Mahadewi Istarani and Rizki Amelia Pradipta 18-21 17-21 in the second round. Also, Parapulli Kashyap bowed out of the tournament after a 17-21 23-25 loss to Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia.

Source: IANS



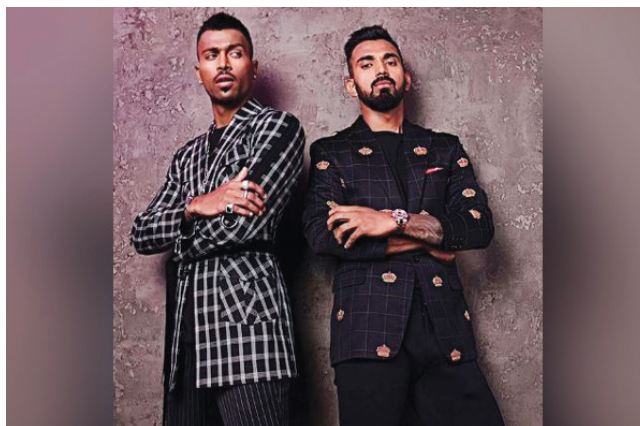
## Matter in court, fate of Pandya, Rahul hangs in balance

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** With the Supreme Court adjourning proceedings on all BCCI matters for a week, suspended Indian cricketers Hardik Pandya and KL Rahul's wait for a closure to the furore over their sexist comments got longer on Thursday. Pulled midway out of the tour of Australia, the suspended cricketers' future was left uncertain after the hearing was adjourned by the two-judge Bench following current amicus curiae Gopal Subramaniam's resignation on health grounds.

"Now that the SC has taken cognisance of the case and already asked the new amicus to come back after a week, CoA chief cannot appoint an ad-hoc ombudsman as it will be contempt of court," said a senior BCCI official.

The appointment of an ombudsman was sought by CoA to investigate the duo's objectionable comments on women on a chat show. With the bench nominating former Additional Solicitor General PS Narsimha as the new amicus, the case of appointment of a permanent or ad-hoc ombudsman will only come up as and when the new amicus takes charge.

Thursday's developments mean the return of the two players, who have already missed the ongoing ODI series against Australia, could well be delayed beyond the New



Zealand series, which starts next week.

Asked what's the way out now, the official said, "An ad-hoc ombudsman can still be appointed but only after the former ASG decides to take up the assignment and he is convinced that an ad-hoc ombudsman is a necessity for an early closure so that the cricketers can resume national duty." 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@bejandaruwala.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwala.com) and on phone **011-91-8141234275** [www.bejandaruwala.com](http://www.bejandaruwala.com)**

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE JANUARY 21 - JANUARY 27, 2019

### Aries:

Ganesha says you begin the period on a soft and mellow note. There are pending domestic issues to deal with, like the health of children, spouse and parents. Elders may need medical intervention and you will be busy raising funds and doing the rounds of specialists. It is all a part of life and the package has every aspect. You will go through it and emerge trumps. But, as of now, there are some mountains to climb.

### Taurus:

There are expenses and indulgences. You could spend too much, and realize it later when you check your accounts. This could put you in a spot. There could also be emotional issues to resolve. Relationships could be troublesome. There could be break-ups, separations, divorce and a few other related issues. Just ensure that you do not give a handle for anything to explode in your face.

### Gemini:

Your love life sees a new tenor. It intensifies in quantity and quality. You sow your oats as though it is being carted to the black market in the next five minutes. There will be feelings and emotions that transport you out of the ordinary, make it all seem like a fantasy, a dream come alive. There are powerful energies at play in various areas of your life. This is a powerful period and it is up to you to use it well.

### Cancer:

There are no demons eating you up and you are at peace with yourself. You are on a solo run like the great marathon runners. You prefer doing your own thing and you work wonders. You want to travel light and fast. There are several unfinished projects and your hands are full. Your plate overflows with work and responsibilities. You cannot abandon anything. People depend on you.

### Leo:

This is a light and pleasant time. You look for happy times and easy social interactions. You avoid conflicts of any kind. You keep away from difficult or contentious matters. You may even walk away from confrontations and compromise, take a step back, and agree with the most ridiculous ideas because, in essence, you want to keep peace. Real problems may be swept under the carpet.

### Virgo:

You may look for mentally stimulating relationships and interesting activities that keep you charged and challenged. The species that adapts to change survives, says Darwin, and not the strongest or the fastest. You are ready for change, to bob with the waves. The world is changing every moment and you cannot be obsolete. You do well on the work front and there is a rise in prestige. Ganesha wishes you well.

### Libra:

There is powerful intensity in all your endeavors. You want to do new things and take risks. There could also be several affairs of the heart. There is an independent and rebellious streak, eager to find expression, and you want to buck the trend and do whatever is not expected of you. You are impatient and a rebel. You discard what is expected of you and follow your own drummer. This could be wild time for youngsters.

### Scorpio:

You get a clearer idea of your life. You get answers to pressing questions. You are in an altruistic state and help out without expectations. You look for beauty and may take to music, poetry plays and good films. You are filled with idealistic romanticism in whatever you do. You give in relationships, and wonder why it hurts! You compromise all the way and allow yourself to be run over, trampled, mowed down. Ganesha smiles in amusement.

### Sagittarius:

You could have power struggles with persons of authority. There are strong ego drives and you refuse to take anything lying down. You could be overweening and domineering. You could also be rash and not care two hoots about the feelings of others. Do not resort to violence. Count till ten at least before you react, and take deep breaths. The best solution is to avoid situations that are inflammable.

### Capricorn:

There is more stability and yet there is fleeting depression. We are all filled with contradictions. 'Show me a sane man and I shall cure him,' said Camus, quite rightly. The human mind is unpredictable and can twist and turn any time, anyway. You could also feel lonely, unloved and uncared for. This may not be true in all probability it isn't, but your mind is made up.

### Aquarius:

You have prepared yourself for the worst. Your moods do not reflect reality. Your inner world is playing with demons. Relationships are a real casualty here. You will find it unusually difficult to relate to others, even at the platonic or cordial level. You are negative, cold, insensitive and insecure, with low self-image. This is a rough time for women in particular. There could be separations and breakdowns in relationships.

### Pisces:

You take recourse to food and drink, and other indulgences. You could also throw away money shopping and gambling. You could also become a recluse and run away from situations. I must add here that astrology never compels. This is a general reading, and a lot depends on your personal chart. Please remember that there are over seven billion people on the planet and only twelve signs.



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