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## India's Focus now is Private Sector led Growth, says NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar

**BIDISHA ROY**

**NEW YORK (TIP):** In its first five years, the Modi government has done the foundational work for India's targeted growth, and now it's time to focus on accelerate the growth - which must be led by private sector, says Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog.

Addressing a gathering at the 'India Investment Seminar' organized by the Indian Consulate at New York, July 17, Dr. Rajiv Kumar spoke on India's Investment scenario and economic reforms and interacted with New York's Investment Community.

In his welcome note, Consul General Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty gave a brief summary of accomplishments of Dr Kumar who took over as Vice Chairman NITI Aayog in the rank

*contd on Page 32*



NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar addressing a gathering at the 'India Investment Seminar' organized by the Indian Consulate at New York, July 17. Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty is seen on the right.

## India is doing more to tackle climate change than any other country, says India's Railway Minister in London



India Inc. Founder & CEO Manoj Ladwa conducted an in-depth Fireside Chat with Piyush Goyal

**LONDON (TIP):** The Indian High Commission in London in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and India Inc. on July 14 hosted an event in honor of India's Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal in London during his UK visit. This was the Minister's first visit to the UK since taking office in the new Government.

India Inc. Founder & CEO Manoj Ladwa conducted an in-depth Fireside Chat with Piyush Goyal, which involved a wide-ranging interaction between the minister

*contd on Page 32*

## US House votes to condemn Trump over his 'racist' tweets



Reporters trying to seek comment of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

**WASHINGTON (TIP):**

In a rare move, the US House of Representatives has passed a resolution to condemn President Donald Trump's "racist" tweets against four non-white Democratic congresswomen who have been critical of his harsh immigration policies.

The vote on Tuesday, July 16, came days after Trump's tweets about four newly elected lawmakers - Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts, and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan - triggered widespread uproar.

Trump, on Sunday, July 14, in a series of controversial tweets, said that four Democratic Progressive congresswomen should just "go back" to where they came from.

Moved by Congressman Tom Malinowski, the resolution was passed by the 435-member House of Representatives, the Lower House of the US Congress, on a partisan line of 240-184 votes.

*contd on Page 32*

## Republic of Palau becomes 76th country to sign the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement

**NEW YORK (TIP):**

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement, 15 July 2019, at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, New York. President Remengesau recognized the ISA as a key initiative for promoting sustainable energy. Palau became the 76th country to sign the ISA Framework Agreement. To date, a total of 54 of the 76 countries have ratified the Framework Agreement.



Tommy Esang Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau signing the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement, 15 July 2019, at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, New York. India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin is seen standing on extreme left

Photo: / Jay Mandal- On Assignment

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## Ambassador Shringla Inaugurates Queue Management System at New York Consulate



Ambassador Shringla on July 15 inaugurated the Queue Management System. He is flanked by Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty, on his left, and Deputy Consul General Shatrhna Sinha, on his right.

Photo / Jay Mandal-on assignment

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** The Consulate General of India, New York has launched 'Queue Management System' to manage queues of applicants who come to the Consulate for various services and also to improve the overall quality and delivery of services rendered at the Consulate. The new Queue Management System (QMS) considerably reduces the waiting time in availing the consular services.

Ambassador of India to the United States Mr. Harsh Vardhan Shringla on July 15 inaugurated the Queue Management System at Consulate General of India, New York. Ambassador was also apprised of various initiatives taken by Consulate

General of India, New York for the welfare of the applicants availing consular services at the Consulate, such as free coffee and free photocopying machine and Internet facilities. The Consulate provides about 150000 persons with various services annually.

Ambassador Shringla also interacted with applicants present at the Consulate. Applicants lauded various initiatives taken by CGI, New York to improve the overall quality and effective delivery of services. Queue Management System considerably reduces the waiting time and will make delivery of Consular services a hassle free and comfortable experience.

## Rotary Foundation approved a grant for 25 Shelter Homes for Kerala Flood Victims

### Ravi Bhoopapur raises \$194,750 through Rotary for housing for flood victims in Kerala

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Long Island based eminent Rotarian & Philanthropist Ravishankar Bhoopapur has managed to raise \$194,750 for funding to provide 25 low cost housing in the Kottayam and Pathanamthitta districts of Kerala, India for the people affected by the floods there last year. In the second phase of this initiative, another 25 houses will be provided for.



the occasion and take leadership roles to help when disasters strike like the Gujarat Earthquake and Tsunami in south India in the past. Commented Kamlesh Mehta, also a past Rotary District Governor, "It is an excellent humanitarian service arranged by Ravi as he took the lead in securing such a big Rotary Grant.

Everyone on Long Island should take inspiration from him."

The Rotary Foundation has confirmed through a letter dated July 15 to Rotary District 3211 (located in Kerala) and District 7255 (Long Island and parts of NYC) about the approval of the Rotary Global Grant of \$94,750 to match the \$100,000 raised locally. Bhoopapur is thankful of the role of Dr Thomas Mathew (President of AKMG - Association of Kerala Medical Graduates) and Mr Biju Chacko (ECHO charity) for the Kerala flood relief fundraiser held last year at Cotillion in Jericho, New York.

Bhoopapur, past Rotary District Governor, informed proudly: "This is one of the biggest grants in recent years I got approved and raised full funds for."

He is known for his penchant to rise to

Ravi Bhoopapur, President of Xavier University School of Medicine, Aruba since 2008, has been a very active member of Rotary International and has donated generously to Rotary and raised funds for its various projects. The Rotary Foundation has honored him with its highest award "Service Above Self" for his commitment to humanitarian work worldwide. He is a board member of numerous charities, hospitals and businesses. He is the founder of the "Gift of Life India" that has been instrumental in saving over 6,000 children's lives to date by providing free heart surgery to children under the age of 15. He is also a recipient of the "Ellis Island Medal of Honor".

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*Sanjeev Kapoor*



# IN TOWN

**NEW YORK (TIP):** NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar and India's Ambassador to the US Harsh V Shringla were in town recently. While Mr. Kumar spoke at the United Nations and at the Indian Consulate here

on several aspects of Budget and Investment, Ambassador Shringla inaugurated an initiative to manage queues at the Consulate and met with community and political leaders.

**Here are some of the events captured in pictures by Jay Mandal / on assignment.**



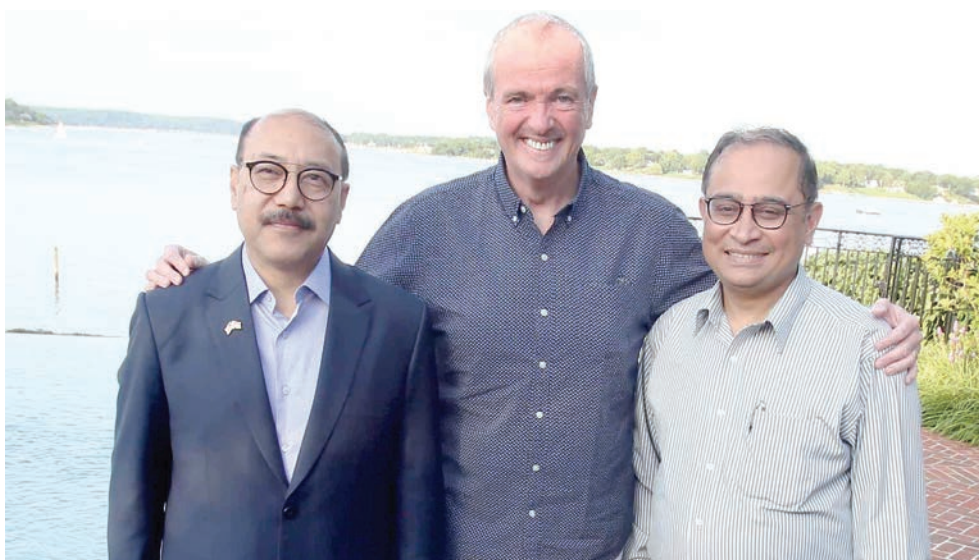
Ambassador Harsh V Shringla during a meeting with NITI Aayog VC, Rajiv Kumar in NYC. Also in the Photo, Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty, July 15, 2019



Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog meets with Annika Strandhäll, Minister for Social Security of Sweden on the sideline of HLPF, 2019, July 16, 2019



From Left, Sanyukta Samaddar, Joint Secretary, NITI Aayog; Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin, PR, Indian Mission to the UN; Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chair, NITI Aayog; Achim Steiner, Director UNDP; and Renata Dessallien, UN Country Head, India release the report on "Localising SDG's Early Lessons from India, 2019" during a special meeting at the United Nations, July 15.



Ambassador Harsh V Shringla at an informal dinner reception, hosted in his honor by the New Jersey Governor, Phil Murphy and his wife Tammy Murphy at his private residence in NJ. From L to R: Ambassador Harsh V Shringla, Governor Phil Murphy and Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty



Ambassador Harsh V Shringla during a photo session with the Hosts, Governor Phil Murphy (right) and his wife Tammy Murphy at their private residence in NJ. Photos / Jay Mandal-on assignment



## Senate confirms Indian American J. Nicholas Ranjan as district court judge



*The U.S. Senate on July 10 confirmed 41-year-old Pittsburgh lawyer J. Nicholas Ranjan as a judge in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.*

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The U.S. Senate on July 10 confirmed 41-year-old Pittsburgh lawyer J. Nicholas Ranjan as a judge in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

J. Nicholas Ranjan, a partner with K&L Gates in Downtown and nominated by President Donald Trump, was confirmed by an 80-14 vote.

Ranjan's practice focuses on appellate and complex commercial litigation, with an emphasis on energy law, class action defense, and domestic arbitration.

He has been selected by Chambers USA as one of the top commercial litigators in Pennsylvania multiple times, with clients commending his "creative approach and responsiveness." He has also been selected as a fellow with The Litigation Counsel of America, which is an invitation-only trial lawyer honorary, representing less than one-half of one percent of American lawyers.

Mr. Ranjan is the pro bono coordinator for the firm's Pittsburgh office. During his time in this position, the Allegheny County Bar Association awarded the firm the pro bono law firm of the year award. He also is the chairman of the Pittsburgh office's diversity committee and is a member of the K&L Gates global diversity committee. He is active in leading diversity initiatives within the firm and in the community. For these efforts, he was a recipient of the Leadership Excellence Award, awarded by the Pittsburgh Leadership Conference.

## Indian American Appointed to Georgia State Board

**ATLANTA (TIP):** On July 16, Georgia Governor Brian P. Kemp appointed fourteen people to various boards, commissions, and authorities including an Indian American.

Kartik H. Bhatt has been appointed as a consumer member for the Georgia Board of Examiners for the Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts. Bhatt and his wife, Twisha, have a child and live in Marietta. Bhatt is a property manager with Laxminarayan 108, LLC.

# Indian American Professors at UC San Diego Receive Presidential Early Career Awards

**SAN DIEGO (TIP):** Two Indian American Professors are among four faculty members from the University of California San Diego who have been named recipients of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE).

Piya Pal, professor of electrical and computer engineering; and Padmini Rangamani, professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering-both at the Jacobs School of Engineering are the recipients of the highest honor bestowed by the United States government to scientists and engineers in the early stages of their independent research careers.

"Our efforts to attract, retain and grow nationally recognized, top-quality, diverse faculty at UC San Diego are paying dividends to our students as well as our community," said UC San Diego Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla. "Through leadership in their respective fields, dedication to accessible public education, and commitment to community engagement, these four early-career faculty members demonstrate UC San Diego's vision to be a leading student-centered, research-focused, service-oriented public research



*Piya Pal, professor of electrical and computer engineering; and Padmini Rangamani, professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering*



university."

Pal was recognized for her fundamental contributions to signal processing by designing innovative geometries and developing new optimization techniques that overcome bottlenecks of traditional array designs, and for enhancing fundamental performance limits of sparse inference problems. She was nominated by the

Department of Defense.

Rangamani was recognized for her exceptional research accomplishments in the advancement of Theoretical Biophysics in physical biology and medicine, and for fundamental contributions to the physical understanding of lipid bilayers. She was nominated by the Department of Defense.

## Indian American Stillman Student Surya Makkar Receives Information Technology Management Scholarship



*Surya Makkar (center) is interning with the Bank of America as a financial analyst  
Photo / Courtesy Stillman School of Business*

**NEWARK (TIP):** Surya Makkar, a mathematical finance and information technology management major in the Stillman School of Business, received a \$2,500 scholarship from the New Jersey Society for Information Management (NJ SIM) Foundation.

Makkar is one of four students in the state who received this scholarship at the foundation's annual charity golf outing. The New Jersey Chapter of the Society for Information Management, one of 30 chapters in the country, is a professional association of executives, academics and consultants in the information management field. The New Jersey chapter's nonprofit organization,

the NJ SIM Foundation awards an annual scholarship to IT management students who demonstrate both academic excellence and leadership in their schools' IT programs.

David Rosenthal, associate professor and chair of the Department of Computing and Decision Sciences, nominated Makkar. Rosenthal taught Makkar in his Management Information Systems (BITM 2701) course during his freshman year and serves as his academic adviser.

Makkar is also actively involved in the University community. This summer, he is interning with the Bank of America as a financial analyst.

## Indian American Art Dealer Charged in Antiquities Smuggling Racket

**NEW YORK**

**(TIP):** Disgraced Indian art dealer Subhash Kapoor, previously the owner of the Art of the Past gallery in Manhattan, and seven co-conspirators have been charged with operating a \$145 million smuggling ring that dealt with thousands of looted antiquities over a period of 30 years.



*Subhash Kapoor will be extradited to the US following the completion of his long-running trial in India*

The Manhattan District Attorney's Office filed criminal charges against Kapoor and seven others and arrest warrants for the eight men were filed in New York City criminal court on July 15. Subhash Kapoor will be extradited to the US following the completion of his long-running trial in India. Currently he is on trial in Chennai for allegedly running a \$100 million international smuggling racket. On 30 October 2011, Kapoor was arrested at Frankfurt International Airport and on 14 July 2012 extradited to Chennai, India on charges of receiving artifacts that had been stolen from disused temples in southern India. Many of these objects were purchased by museums throughout the world. For example, in 2008 an 11th-century Chola-period bronze statue of a Dancing Shiva was sold by Kapoor to the National Gallery of Australia for \$5.6 million. The statue was allegedly stolen from a temple in Tamil Nadu.





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# Who's looking out for immigrants? Asks community leader Albert Baldeo

Thriving communities built on the backs of immigrants, and with their blood, sweat and tears, have become ghost towns, retreating in fear and panic as the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement service (ICE) launched macabre raids, presumably to rid the USA of "these terrible people," although America itself is a "nation of immigrants."

It is as draconian, as it is un-American, and will only divide the nation further. It is evil. Some people conveniently ignore our history that we are a great nation because of immigration, to score cheap political mileage. Some even feign amnesia that their closest families are immigrants themselves. What hypocrisy!

In these communities, which receive little city, state and/or federal funding, immigrants are treated like orphans and step children. They deserve better! Yes, immigrants have paid their dues in political, economic and historical ways, but continue to be exploited, marginalized and ignored. Most politicians see their communities as milking cows for campaign cash, and then slither away when issues confront these communities. They cannot be found. So when you see these so-called leaders, ask them, "What have you done for me lately? Where were you when ICE struck?"

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. advised, "We have to demand our check!" This



Community advocate Albert Baldeo points to the now quiet hub of Richmond Hill-Ozone Park at Lefferts Boulevard and Liberty Avenue. Many local businesses and the economy are suffering, and people panicking, due to ICE's intrusion into immigrant communities all across the USA.

great civil rights leader meant that immigrant communities, like everyone else, have to demand what the USA has promised. Their check is good, and their track record is irrefutable. In 2008, the Richmond Hill- Ozone Park community made the gut wrenching sacrifice to help Democrats re-capture the NY State Senate since 1965, a watershed moment

in our political history, when I assisted State senator Joe Addabbo defeat Serf Maltese after 20 years in office. "The road to the Senate majority passed through Baldeo's people in Richmond Hill, Democratic leaders gleefully gloated then." Where are they now?

Immigrants have developed flourishing communities from decaying

neighborhoods to the thriving economic engines that now contribute massively to the national and local economies.

So where are these people when we need their help and their voice? Sadly, they are missing in action. The holy scriptures caution us that ingratitude is a major sin. We therefore demand that all of our elected officials, from Governor Cuomo and Mayor DeBlasio to our Senate and Congressional Representatives, State Senators, Assembly members, City Council members and others, Community Boards, NGOs, political, religious, cultural, social and economic organizations-indeed everyone, come out and denounce this barbaric initiative to make immigrants the whipping boys of American politics.

You know who you are. You need to say in unison loudly to ICE that NYC is a sanctuary city, and that you condemn and demand an immediate halt to the despotic and mean measures that have disrupted the local economies, businesses, fellow Americans and visitors-indeed, everyone, living and working in this nation that belongs to so many.

( Albert Baldeo is a civil rights activist and community advocate. As the President of the Baldeo Foundation and Liberty Justice Center, he has continued the fight for justice, equal rights, dignity and inclusion for all. He can be contacted at the Baldeo Foundation: [AlBaldeo@aol.com](mailto:AlBaldeo@aol.com) or (718) 529-2300.)

## Queens Borough President Katz announces lineup for 2019 "Katz Concert Series"

### Free Outdoor Summer Concerts Throughout Queens

**QUEENS, NY(TIP):** Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, in partnership with the Kupferberg Center for the Arts at Queens College and NYC Parks, announced the full schedule of the fifth annual "Katz Concert Series," a slate of free outdoor concerts taking place this summer in various locations throughout Queens.

"Summers are all about free concerts in the parks," said Borough President

KATZ. "We're delighted to continue the partnership and bring this concert series back for the families of Queens."

"Queens College is delighted once again to partner with Borough President Melinda Katz and NYC Parks in presenting the Katz Concert Series, which showcases wonderful musicians in outdoor venues throughout our borough," said WILLIAM TRAMONTANO, Interim President of

Queens College. "This vital series fulfills the goals of the Kupferberg Center for the Arts at Queens College, making top cultural programming readily accessible to our students, their families and the Queens community."

"There's nothing sweeter than free summer concerts in NYC Parks," said NYC Parks Commissioner MITCHELL J. SILVER, FAICP. "Borough President Katz's Concert Series brings communities together to celebrate music and gives everyone a great reason to enjoy all that our parks have to offer."

The 2019 Katz Concert Series began on June 18 with a Celebrate Jerusalem concert in MacDonal Park in Forest Hills featuring Yoel Sharabi and his band. It resumes Sunday, July 21 in Springfield Gardens and runs through August 25 at other parks in Rockaway Beach, Long Island City, Bayside, Cambria Heights and Far Rockaway, and on the campus of Borough President Katz's alma mater, St. John's University.

The full upcoming schedule for the Katz Concert Series can be found below, along with brief descriptions of the



"Summers are all about free concerts in the parks," said Borough President Katz.

scheduled talent. All performances are free admission and will last approximately 90 minutes. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and/or blankets to these outdoor events.

\*\*\*PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR COMMUNITY CALENDAR\*\*\*

<http://www.queensbp.org/katzconcerts/>

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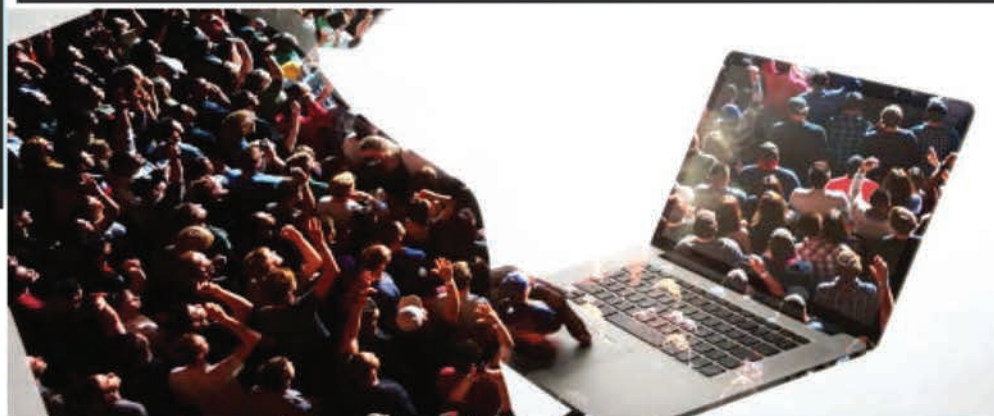
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## GUEST COMMENT

*Send Jadhav home; It could trigger a fresh start for Indo-Pak talks*

Every new path in Indo-Pak relations ends in a treacherous cul-de-sac. Yet, after every ambush the twins born of colonial cunning go back to start it all over again. Even Ajmal Kasab walking up and down the South Mumbai streets with an automatic rifle in hand did not change the pattern; nor did four wars and the splitting of Pakistan into two. Indira's generosity after victory, Vajpayee's peace bus, Manmohan Singh's Sharm el-Sheikh blunder and Modi's surprise birthday gift for Nawaz Sharif, nothing ever changed the

Pakistan deep state's attempts to bleed India with a thousand cuts and a million mutinies. But the Pulwama bomb attack and the retaliatory Balakot airstrikes have broken the cycle of Pak attacks and Indian negotiations.

It is in this context we need to look at the recent events: the verdict of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) asking Pakistan to review its decision to execute Kulbhushan Jadhav, the arrest of Hafiz Saeed the very same day and the just-concluded Kartarpur corridor talks. The Government of India, with great reverence to the Guru,

upholding the Sikh sentiments, has rightly kept the Kartarpur corridor out of the ambit of Indo-Pak negotiations. Apart from Sikhs, only Hindus worship at gurdwaras and revere the Guru, yet Pakistan tried its best to ban Hindus to turn the corridor communal. Despite all these provocations and the legitimate fear of Pakistan fanning 2020 secessionist fires, New Delhi has honored the wishes of its Sikh and Hindu believers by building the corridor.

Now, if Pakistan really wants to break out of its vicious cycle of terror

and talks, it should let Jadhav go home. The ICJ verdict does not acquit Jadhav, as it did not have the jurisdiction to examine the evidence for and against the accused. But the spirit of the ICJ decision is in favor of Jadhav's return. Beyond the breach of Article 36, 1 (b) of the Vienna Convention, what have been exposed are the mock trial and the use of a former Indian Naval officer as a tool to settle diplomatic scores. Pakistan cannot achieve anything more by keeping Jadhav in its custody. Jadhav's release can lure India back to the talks table. *(Tribune, India)*

## AS I SEE IT

**Reading Pak gestures carefully after Jadhav verdict**

By MK Bhadrakumar

*India needs to thoroughly explore Pakistan's recent behavioral pattern against the backdrop of its extraordinary victory in the four-decades-old Afghan civil war that is finally sailing into view - after so much of trials and tribulations, risking Pakistan's internal stability.*



Kulbhushan Jadhav

Shock and awe in the world of politics work in unpredictable ways. They could have disastrous consequences or could have a salutary effect on the protagonists involved and have a chastening influence, leading to something good.

The shock and awe that the then US President George W Bush hoped to administer to Iraq by invading that country destroyed that country and led to mayhem.

In comparison, the shock and awe that the then Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev gave to his American counterpart John Kennedy in 1962 by dispatching radars and missiles to Cuba had the desired effect. Khrushchev prevailed upon the US to remove the nuclear missiles deployed in Turkey as a reciprocal step for his willingness to not press ahead with the planned deployment of the Soviet missiles on the Caribbean island-state.

The invocation of such poignant slices of modern history helps to underscore that the shock and awe of the imminent specter of the return of the Taliban to the mainstream political life in Afghanistan - and Pakistan's success in bringing it about - need not necessarily be taken as defeat from the Indian point of view.

Henry Ford, the great American industrialist who founded the iconic motor company, once said, "Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently."

The clue almost always lies in humility, which keeps out hubris. There was no rationale for waging a proxy war with Pakistan on the tragic Afghan turf, since no matter how anyone tried, Pakistan wouldn't have caved in, given the high stakes involved. If nothing else, the 2,200-kilometre long open border with Afghanistan alone could have motivated Islamabad to seek a friendly government in Kabul that is receptive to its core

concerns and vital interests of national security.

A former Director General of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) once told this writer that if an Afghan had a toothache, he got it fixed by a dentist in Peshawar.

India can and should learn to live with the emerging reality in our region - Taliban's ascendancy to power in Kabul, Pakistan's reasonable success in ensuring that the future power brokers on the northern side of the Durand Line are friendly and cooperative, and, third, Afghanistan's inexorable transformation as a regional hub of China's Belt and Road Initiative.

The time has come to address India-Pakistan tensions, which is fundamental to regional security and stability. Signs are looking good that Pakistan is in the

least interested in triumphalism. Three most recent trends must be noted. One, the guns have fallen silent on the border and incidents of infiltration sharply declined. Two, Pakistan bowed to make concessions on the Kartarpur Sahib pilgrimage. And, three, Pakistan has unceremoniously reopened its airspace, bringing much relief to Indian travelers.

What lends enchantment to the view is that these nascent trends appeared as the countdown began for the verdict by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague in the case of Kulbhushan Jadhav, who is on death row in a Pakistani jail.

A consensus ICJ ruling is usually arrived at through candid discussions, which the plaintiff and the defendant are privy to, informally. Quite obviously, such a fair denouement may provide the exit door for both Islamabad and New Delhi to move on, and it is entirely conceivable that both countries are in a chastened mood today over an a priori history that is best laid to rest.

Surely, this is where the most recent 'goodwill gesture' by Pakistan over the Kartarpur Sahib pilgrimage assumes particular significance. The differences between the two countries dramatically narrowed once Pakistan assured India without caveats that it will not allow pro-Khalistan activists to use the 'Peace Corridor' to indulge in anti-India activities. Indeed, very little time is left before the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak in November.

It is often the case in life that others may open the doors, but you must enter by yourself. To be sure, India needs to

thoroughly explore Pakistan's recent behavioral pattern against the backdrop of its extraordinary victory in the four-decades-old Afghan civil war that is finally sailing into view - after so much of trials and tribulations and after committing such massive resources in men and material, risking Pakistan's own internal stability.

The recent Pakistani stance vis-a-vis India is devoid of any traces of triumphalism. The time has come for the Indian leadership to take a big leap forward to begin a serious conversation with Pakistan. The heart of the matter is that a rare opportunity may be at hand for the two countries to discuss the rites of passage to a new era based on a moratorium on asymmetrical or proxy wars. This needs to be done at the leadership level.

An improvement in the India-Pakistan relationship will provide an open sesame to the emerging regional security scenario to turn it into an opportunity for India's development. It will require that India jettisons its notions of the Taliban being a creature of darkness and a reset of regional policies that puts in perspective the tumultuous period that followed the Saur Revolution in 1978, which is breaking loose and drifting into history books. Importantly, the normalization of the India-Pakistan ties - and making them predictable - is the sine qua non for a steady enhancement of India's partnership with China to make it strategic, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set his eyes upon as a historic legacy of his leadership.

*(The author is a former ambassador)*



# India-US ties and the Soviet baggage



By KP Nayar

**Till about a decade ago, India and the US were talking to each other on 38 platforms. Now they are talking at one another. Such difficulties have been compounded by a tendency in India to run down Trump and view him as a bull in the global diplomatic China shop. But there is hope as the new External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, does not believe in demonizing Trump.**

At the root of most of the gripe in recent weeks about the state of relations between New Delhi and Washington is a long-standing popular expectation since the demise of the Soviet Union that as India and the US got closer, the latter would become a substitute for Russia. Because of the heavy American influence on the think tank community and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the public discourse on Indo-US relations has also fostered such an expectation.

Policymakers within successive Indian governments since then Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao - during whose tenure the Soviet Union collapsed - have mostly had serious reservations about such a perception. Unfortunately, their American counterparts have both publicly and privately encouraged the policy line that with the fall of the Berlin Wall and with the East bloc gone, all that was needed was for India and America to consummate their marriage that was made in heaven and ordained by their horoscopes matched by the constellations of democracy, English language, the rule of law and so on.

Additionally, after the George W Bush-Manmohan Singh nuclear deal, which ended India's long nuclear winter, Americans at every level of strategic thought, both within their administrations and outside, nursed a sense of entitlement about India. When Sanjaya Baru, then PM's Media Adviser, handed over the first consignment of Alphonso mangoes to then US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in June 2007 at the annual meeting of the US-India Business Council, a senior State Department official standing next to this writer loudly exclaimed: "We give India the nuclear bomb and all we get in return is a basket of mangoes."

This official's reaction was patently an exaggeration, but it reflected the strong feelings within the Washington establishment then - as also now. Till 2007, mangoes - like many other Indian agricultural products - could not be exported to the US despite New Delhi's

strenuous efforts because of stringent US regulations.

In May 2006, Boeing invited Indian journalists based in Washington to visit the company's highly secure and heavily restricted Integrated Defense Systems headquarters in St Louis, Missouri, where its modern military aircraft were being designed and developed. Word had been out then that India was about to order 126 medium multi-role combat aircraft (MMRCA), the biggest military aviation deal in history. Indo-US defense trade had not picked up in 2006 to anywhere near what it is today.

Pin-stripe-suited Boeing senior executives, who flew down to St Louis to smoke exquisite cigars and sip premium cognac with the journalists at the Ritz Carlton's Cigar Club, were smug in their belief that the MMRCA deal would go to US companies which were preparing to bid as soon as the tendering process was set in motion by the Congress-led government. "We have been told that in six months everything would be completed once the process begins," he said confidently.

In the end, it took a decade to sign an agreement for partial purchase of the original 126 planes and the deal did not go to American companies. This anecdote is worth narrating because it is just one of the many examples of how companies in the US have little idea of how to do business in India and are ill-equipped to cope with the peculiarities of decision-making in the Indian government.

Just as US administrations want to send Indian-Americans as Ambassadors to India in the belief that they can swing things for them in New Delhi, US companies and lobbying groups hire retired bureaucrats from Lutyens' Delhi whose contacts are from a bygone era. But when things go wrong, the blame is on India, as many Americans in the Donald Trump administration and outside are doing now.

But six months after Hillary Clinton became Secretary of State, she found these 38 groups to be mere talking shops. During a visit to New Delhi in July 2009, she persuaded her Indian counterpart SM Krishna to scrap these working groups. In their place, Clinton and



Krishna created the lofty sounding 'five principal pillars' of their relationship: strategic cooperation; energy and climate change; education and development; economics, trade and agriculture; science, technology, health and innovation.

In retrospect, this was a mistake. When there were 38 working groups, there was constant toing and froing between the two sides and they were in constant and unbroken dialogue offering numerous windows to understand differences and disputes. India and the US were talking to each other then on 38 platforms. Now they are talking at one another.

Such difficulties have been compounded by a tendency in India to run down Trump and view him as a bull in the global diplomatic China shop. But there is hope because the new External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, does not believe in demonizing Trump. When he was Foreign Secretary, within a month of Trump's inauguration as President, Jaishankar began advising those in India who practice diplomacy and engage in strategic thought. "Do not demonize Trump, analyses Trump. He represents a thought process. It is not a momentary expression" what Trump is saying, has been Jaishankar's approach. If Trump is re-elected President next year, India will have to follow this advice in letter and spirit or give up on India's most important foreign policy priority.

*(The author is a Strategic Analyst)*

## The Kulbhushan Jadhav Case at the International Court of Justice



By Ambassador Asoke  
Kumar Mukerji

In March 2016, Kulbhushan Sudhir Jadhav, an Indian national, was detained by Pakistan, accused of performing acts of espionage and terrorism on behalf of India. In April 2017, he was sentenced to death by a military court in Pakistan. On 8 May 2017, India filed a case against Pakistan at the International Court of Justice or ICJ in The Hague, alleging violations by Pakistan of its obligations under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963. Article 36 of the Convention specifically required Pakistan to inform India, "without delay", of the detention of Kulbhushan Jadhav, inform Kulbhushan Jadhav of his rights, and allow Indian consular officials access to Kulbhushan Jadhav.

Pakistan rejected India's claims by using a variety of legal arguments during the hearing of the case at the ICJ. On 17 July

2019, the ICJ delivered its judgement, stating that the "Court finds that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in the matter of the detention and trial of an Indian national, Mr. Kulbhushan Sudhir Jadhav, has acted in breach of the obligations incumbent on it under Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations." In the landmark judgement, the ICJ unanimously asserted that it had jurisdiction over the case, since both India and Pakistan were signatories of the Vienna Convention. The ICJ rejected Pakistan's efforts to divert the case to either an arbitral tribunal or a conciliation commission, holding that India had the right to approach the ICJ directly in this matter. The ICJ rejected Pakistan's argument that the Vienna Convention did not apply to cases of persons detained for alleged espionage. The Court found that Pakistan, by not informing India for three weeks of Kulbhushan Jadhav's arrest, and not providing India consular access, had violated its obligations under the Vienna Convention which required it to do so "without delay". The ICJ rejected Pakistan's attempt to apply its obligations under Article 36 of the Vienna Convention

in a conditional manner, dependent on India's actions on other issues.

The heart of the ICJ judgment is contained in Section 6, which recommends ways to remedy this violation of the Vienna Convention by Pakistan. Calling Pakistan's denial of its obligations to uphold Kulbhushan Jadhav's rights, including the right to consular access, "internationally wrongful acts of a continuing character", the ICJ has asked Pakistan to comply with both obligations. It has opined that the "appropriate remedy in this case to be effective review and reconsideration of the conviction and sentence of Mr. Jadhav", which "must be performed unconditionally" by Pakistan. This would include Pakistan "enacting appropriate legislation" if needed to ensure justice. Till then, the ICJ has ordered the "continued stay of execution" as an "indispensable condition for the effective review and reconsideration of the conviction and sentence of Mr. Jadhav."

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi said after the judgment, "Truth and justice have prevailed. Congratulations to the ICJ for a verdict based on extensive study of facts. I am sure Kulbhushan Jadhav will get

justice. Our Government will always work for the safety and welfare of every Indian."

The ICJ judgement is significant for at least three reasons. First, the judgement is binding on "the parties and in respect of that particular case" according to Article 59 of the ICJ Statute. Second, the judgement vindicates India's consistent belief and advocacy in using the rule of law to ensure justice for her citizens, and the peaceful settlement of disputes between states. Third, implementing the judgement will act as a litmus test for the principle of international cooperation, on which the current multilateral system, including the rule of law, is founded. In the wider framework, the ICJ judgment embellishes India's track record since 1947 of giving substance to Article 13.1 of the UN Charter, which calls for "the progressive development of international law and its codification". The provisions of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations have been significantly amplified by this case.

*(The Commentary was written for All India Radio)(The author is a former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi)*



## Taliban close Afghan health facilities run by Swedish group

**KABUL (TIP):** The Taliban forced a Swedish non-profit group to close 42 health facilities it runs in eastern Afghanistan, the organisation said July 17, the latest attempt by the insurgents to show strength amid negotiations to end the country's nearly 18-year war.

The Taliban currently control nearly half of Afghanistan and are more powerful than at any time since the 2001 US-led invasion.

In Sweden, Sonny Mansson, the country director of the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, told The Associated Press that the Taliban threatened the NGO's staff by saying that if they do not close the facilities, "it would have consequences for themselves and their families."

Parwiz Ahmad Faizi, the group's communications manager, said the facilities were closed after Afghan forces last week raided a clinic run by the NGO in Daimirdad district. The Afghan troops, acting on intelligence, were allegedly looking for suspected Taliban fighters hiding in the clinic. — AP

## Afghan radio station closes down following Taliban threats

**KABUL (TIP):** The head of a local radio station in eastern Afghanistan says it was shut down after repeated threats from the area's Taliban commander. Ramez Azimi, director of the Samaa station in the city of Ghazni, the capital of eastern Ghazni province, says he received phone calls as well as written warning notes purportedly from the Taliban commander. Azimi says the Taliban, who control several districts in Ghazni province, threatened them because three of the station's 16 employees are women. Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, denied the insurgents had threatened Samaa. AP

## 52 rescued after cloud burst wreaks havoc in Pakistan

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** The Pakistani military rescued 52 people in a remote village of Pakistan's Neelum Valley where torrential rains triggered off by a cloudburst wreaked havoc in the region, an Army statement said on Tuesday.

According to the the army's media wing Inter-Services Public Relations, the 52 individuals have been evacuated to camps and safer places. Search operation for drowned persons is in progress, Xinhua news agency reported.

Local media reports said that 22 people -- two security personnel, nine locals and 11 preachers who were staying in a mosque were killed after being wiped out by flashflood in the region on Monday. IANS

# Pak's anti-graft agency arrests ex-PM Abbasi

**LAHORE (PAKISTAN) (TIP):** Pakistan's anti-corruption agency arrested former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on July 18, drawing a furious response from opposition parties, which accused the government of trying to silence its opponents.

The National Accountability Bureau said in a statement, Abbasi had been arrested in a case that was opened last year over a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal project.

The arrest, as Abbasi was on his way to a news conference in the eastern city of Lahore, adds to a political scene already thick with accusations of corruption and abuse of office with opposition parties planning a day of protest next week.

"I believe today is yet another black day in Pakistan's history," Ahsan Iqbal, a senior parliamentarian from Abbasi's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, told reporters, accusing Prime Minister Imran Khan of trying to suppress opposition. "We are not afraid of your fascist acts. Don't think that you will gag our voices through such arrests," he said.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the head of



the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the other main opposition party, condemned Abbasi's arrest, which he said was part of a government "witchhunt" against elected representatives. The PML-N was already engaged in a bitter standoff with Khan's government, which came to

power last year accusing Abbasi and his predecessor, Nawaz Sharif, of large-scale corruption and mismanagement of the economy. Sharif was disqualified by the Supreme Court in 2017 over accusations that eventually led to a seven-year jail sentence for receiving undeclared income. — Reuters

## US ban on Myanmar army chief not enough, says UN



**KUALA LUMPUR (TIP):** A US travel ban on Myanmar's army chief and three other top officers for their role in orchestrating a crackdown against Rohingya Muslims does not go far enough, a UN rights investigator said on July 18. The sanctions announced on Tuesday were the strongest censure yet from a Western power since the army launched its offensive against the stateless minority in August 2017 following attacks on police posts.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said army chief Min Aung Hlaing and the other officers were responsible for human rights violations—including extrajudicial killings during the "ethnic cleansing" of Rohingya when more than 740,000 people were driven into Bangladesh. But the United Nations

Special Rapporteur to Myanmar, Yanghee Lee, said the US move "does not go far enough, it should go further".

Lee, during a visit to Malaysia, criticised the sanctions as unrealistic, saying that the officers were unlikely to travel to the US anyway.

Washington should go further by seizing their assets, and those of their families, and extending the sanctions to cover other senior commanders, she said. Myanmar does not recognise the Rohingya as one of its many official ethnicities, insisting they are interlopers from Bangladesh.

The US, Canada and the European Union have previously passed sanctions against members of the powerful military, but stopped short of reaching the very top of leadership. AFP

## Thailand's new Cabinet sworn in, ending rule by army junta

**BANGKOK (TIP):** Thailand's new Cabinet was sworn in on Tuesday, creating a nominally elected government after five years of military rule but keeping power in the hands of the same allies of the army.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn presided over the swearing-in of the 36-member Cabinet, during which they pledged their loyalty to the constitutional monarch.

"Every task has obstacles. Every mission faces problems," he told them in brief remarks. "It is normal to take on work and solve problems so that the country can be run smoothly according to circumstances."

The Cabinet afterward regrouped at Government House for its first meeting.

Prayuth Chan-ocha, who as army commander seized power in a 2014 coup and then served as junta leader and prime minister, returns to serve again as prime minister.

This time he was elected by a parliamentary vote after a March general election gave pro-military parties a majority.

The junta, which had given itself almost unlimited powers without oversight, was dissolved with the inauguration of the new Cabinet.

The election was held under a new constitution and laws enacted by Prayuth's junta aimed at disadvantaging established political parties.

Critics say the vote was undemocratic and engineered to prolong rule by the military and its conservative allies. AP



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## Indian Convicted in Killing of Estranged Wife in Arizona



Avtar Grewal found guilty of killing his wife in Ahwatukee in 2007

**PHOENIX (TIP):** An Indian origin man accused of killing his estranged wife in Arizona in 2007 before fleeing to India for several years has been convicted of first-degree murder.

Twelve years after Avtar Grewal, 44, killed his 30-year-old wife Navneet Kaur, a jury has found him guilty of first-degree murder for his wife's death on July 16.

According to media reports, Grewal killed Navneet Kaur in her Ahwatukee house in 2007 after she told him she wanted a divorce. He strangled her and then submerged her in a bathtub of water and fled to India. He was arrested by international authorities and extradited back to the US in 2011.

His sentencing is scheduled for August 23.

## 'You had the Nobel Prize?' Trump learns of Yazidi activist Murad

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** US President Donald Trump on July 17 appeared unfamiliar with the work and cause of Nobel laureate Nadia Murad as she pleaded with him to help the Yazidis of Iraq.

Murad, one of thousands of women and girls from the ancient faith abducted by the Islamic State group as they overran swathes of Iraq in 2014, joined a group of survivors of religious persecution who met Trump in the Oval Office on the sidelines of a major meeting at the State Department.

After Murad explained how her mother and six brothers were killed and that 3,000 Yazidis remained missing, Trump said, "And you had the Nobel Prize? That's incredible. They gave it to you for what reason?" With little pause, Murad, who was jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last year, repeated her story.

"After all this happened to me, I didn't give up. I make it clear to everyone that ISIS raped thousands of Yazidi women," she said, referring to the Islamic State group. "Please do something. It's not about one family," she said. Trump, who has boasted of crushing the self-styled caliphate of the Islamic State group that once stretched across Iraq and Syria, also appeared at a loss when Murad asked him to press the Iraqi and Kurdish governments to create safe conditions for the Yazidis to return. "But ISIS is gone and now it's Kurdish and who?" Trump asked, before later telling her, "I know the area very well." AFP

# ASPIRE PAC Endorses Sri Kulkarni; Indian American Candidate Running for Texas' 22nd Congressional District

**HOUSTON (TIP):** ASPIRE PAC, the political arm of Asian American and Pacific Islander Members of Congress, voted to endorse and support Indian American candidate Sri Kulkarni in his campaign for Texas' 22nd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"Sri has served his country and community with dedication and distinction throughout his life, and ASPIRE is thrilled to endorse his campaign to represent Texas," said Congresswoman Grace Meng (D-NY), Chair of ASPIRE. "Sri knows what's at stake in protecting American families, and he will fight to protect access to healthcare and safe schools for our children in Congress."

Srinivas Rao Preston Kulkarni is a former diplomat and a candidate for a seat in the United States House of Representatives in Texas's 22nd congressional district in 2020. In 2018, he narrowly lost a Congressional race in the same district to incumbent Congressman Pete Olson.

Sri received a Pearson Fellowship to serve as a defense, foreign policy, and veterans' affairs advisor in the U.S. Senate, working on some of the most critical threats facing our



In 2018, he narrowly lost a Congressional race in the same district to incumbent Congressman Pete Olson

national security. Sri went on to earn a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Harvard, where he started an initiative called "Breaking Bread," aimed at reducing the partisan hostility and divisiveness afflicting our country.

Inspired by a calling to serve his country, Sri was commissioned as a United States Foreign Service Officer by Secretary of State Colin Powell. In the Foreign Service, Sri served tours overseas in Iraq, Israel, Russia,

Taiwan, and Jamaica, promoting American values.

ASPIRE PAC was established to work for fair representation in the U.S. Congress by supporting and increasing the number of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) policymakers and federal candidates with large AAPI constituencies. The PAC works to support the values and address the issues important to the AAPI community.

## Indian Envoy discusses strengthening India US ties at Leadership Summit

**WASHINGTON (TIP) :** India's Ambassador to the US Harsh Vardhan Shringla participated in a conversation with Dow Wilson, President & CEO, Varian Medical Systems at the 2nd Annual Leadership Summit of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) held in Washington DC July 11.

In his remarks, Ambassador highlighted the enormous potentials of the India-US bilateral economic & strategic partnership. Ambassador Shringla said that strengthening trade will require empowering ministers and coming up with solutions that are mutually beneficial for both sides.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and Senior Advisor to the President Jared Kushner were among the prominent speakers at the summit. "There is an opportunity to lift the values of the whole world, create more markets, and be more entrepreneurial through the US-India strategic partnership", said Pelosi.

"Our trade differences are a lot less than the opportunities. Lets deepen our relationships with traditional trade partners through USMCA and NAFTA and turn to the real challenge i.e. China", said Senator Dan Sullivan.

On the sidelines of the summit, Ambassador met Speaker Nancy Pelosi,



Ambassador Harsh V Shringla met Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi on the sidelines of US-India Strategic Partnership Forum Second Annual Leadership Summit and discussed strengthening India US ties (Picture Courtesy - Indian Embassy)

Secretary Wilbur Ross, Senior Advisor Jared Kushner and senior industry representatives, including Ambassador Manuel Rocha, SVP, Global Corporate affairs, Xcoal Energy & Resources; Ankhi Das, Public Policy Director-India, South & Central Asia, Facebook; Dr.

Vivek Lall, Vice President, Lockheed Martin Corporation; Harvinder Singh, Divisional VP, Abbott; Vishal Wanchoo, President & CEO, South Asia GE India; and Sudipta Bhattacharya, Country Head and Shailesh Vyas from the Adani Group.



# HOUSTON TO HOST PM MODI IN SEPTEMBER

**HOUSTON (TIP):** The Texas India Forum, a Houston-based non-profit, will host "Howdy, Modi!" a large community summit that will host India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the region on September 22, 2019. "Howdy", shorthand for "How do you do?", is a friendly greeting commonly used in the southwestern United States.

The event is expected to bring together tens of thousands of people to encourage and explore common interests and an expanded partnership between the United States and India's fast growing economy. Texas alone has over 500,000 people of Indian descent, contributing significantly to signature sectors including space, energy, medicine, education, information technology, and business.

"There is unprecedented synergy between our region and the aspirations of a 'New India' that Prime Minister Narendra Modi represents. The American dream shares many similarities with emerging Indian dream, and an event of this scale suggests an opportunity to build bridges across two great democracies," said Jugal Malani, a convener of the "Howdy, Modi!" organizing committee.

Attendance at the summit will be free,



This will be the first trip to the United States for Prime Minister Modi after his landslide victory in Indian elections earlier this year

but passes will be required. Passes are available on a first-come-first-serve basis and exclusively through an online registration process (www.howdymodi.org). Hundreds of prominent business and community leaders from across America are expected to attend.

In addition to the Prime Minister's address, the program is expected to include a cultural program that showcases the Indian-American

community and will be broadcast live online and on television channels reaching over 1 Billion people across the United States and India.

This will be the first trip to the United States for Prime Minister Modi after his landslide victory in Indian elections earlier this year. The Prime Minister of India has previously addressed similar gatherings at Madison Square Garden in New York and the SAP Center in San Jose.

## Trump secures billion dollar deal to eradicate AIDS from US in a decade

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The US has now reached a stage wherein it can eradicate AIDS from the country in a decade, President Donald Trump has said. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told cabinet colleagues on Tuesday that the administration had entered into a tie up with Gilead, an American biotechnology company that focuses primarily on antiviral drugs used in the treatment of HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and influenza.

"The President secured a historic deal to get 2,00,000 courses of treatment per year for the next 11 years of free drug for our program to be able to treat people that keeps them from being able to get HIV, even if they have at-risk behaviours" Azar said.

The deal is worth billions of dollars, which Gilead has promised to contribute over the next decade. "We're really at a point where we can eradicate AIDS from the United States within 10 years," Trump said. Terming it a "historic" agreement, Azar said the US has a chance to stop HIV within 10 years from being an "epidemic" in this country. "It is going to be one of President Trump's great legacies for history, is the eradication of HIV as an epidemic here in the United States," he added. PTI

## U.S.-India Bilateral Trade Projected to Grow to \$238 billion by 2025, says Trade Report

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) estimates that U.S.-India bilateral trade is likely to grow from \$143 billion to \$238 billion by 2025. This growth will occur if trade grows by 7.5% each year, as has been the trend for the last 7 years.

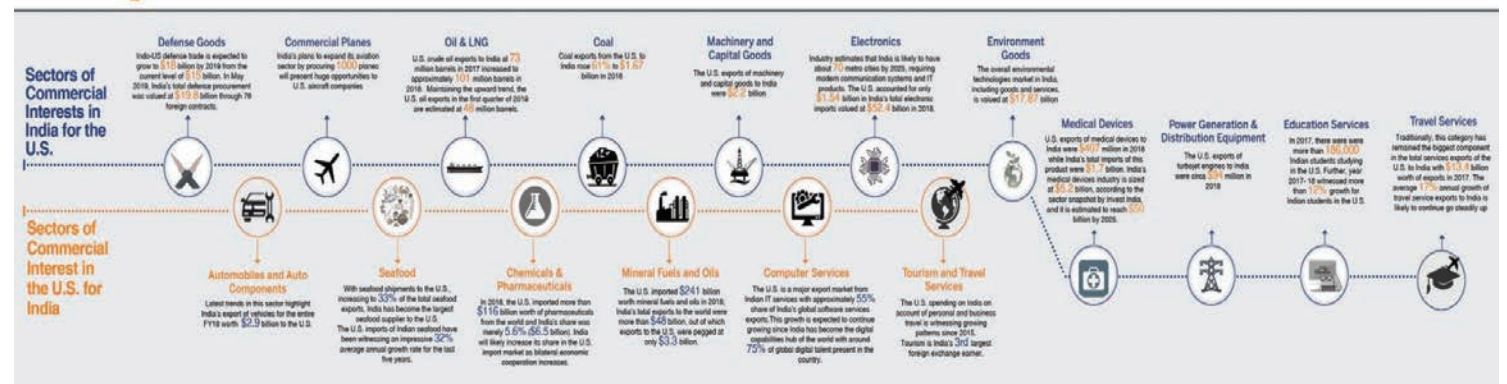
The estimate also projects that, by 2025, bilateral trade could range between \$283 billion to \$327 billion, at an annual average growth rate of 10%-12.5% (as witnessed in 2017 and 2018). The assessment underscores pathways for growth and economic opportunity in our bilateral ties by highlighting current trends. Sectors such as defense trade, commercial aircrafts, oil and LNG, coal, machinery and electronics are areas of potential growth in U.S. investments and commerce into India. Similarly, Indian industry has an opportunity to promote the automotive, pharmaceuticals, seafood, IT and travel services to the U.S. market.

The assessment was launched at USISPF's second annual leadership summit, amid overwhelming bipartisan support for U.S.-India ties. U.S. Cabinet officials in attendance included: Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; Rick Perry, United States Secretary of Energy; Wilbur Ross, U.S. Commerce Secretary; Jeffrey Gerrish, Deputy United States Trade Representative for Asia, Europe, the



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Middle East, and Industrial Competitiveness; U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK); and India's Ambassador to the United States, Harsh Shringla. During the summit, speakers highlighted areas of bilateral cooperation, including: trade and investment; strategic energy ties; manufacturing, and the U.S.-India innovation partnership.

Speaking at the summit, USISPF Chair, John Chambers said, "Prime Minister Modi's re-election is the start of a new era for India and US-India relations. It is my honor to be in Washington, D.C. today to

commemorate the second annual USISPF leadership summit, where conversations with political and business leaders from both countries focused on India's projected growth in the coming months and years. While India's ambition to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2025 is certainly welcome for businesses, government, and individual citizens in the U.S. and India, it is essential that we level the playing field and stay away from protectionism. I am confident that we can achieve \$327 billion in bilateral trade by 2025 if we grow at 13% every year. I challenge the government and

industry to work together to advance this objective."

USISPF President and CEO Mukesh Aghi said, "In collaboration with government and industry leaders, we are making tremendous strides in moving the needle on our commercial priorities. Next week, the Atlantic Council and the Forum will release a report with recommendations to both governments on how to advance the bilateral trade relationship. We will also release recommendations on growing US-India cooperation in high-technology manufacturing sectors, such as aerospace and medical devices."



## TAX DEPT SEIZE RS 400 CR NOIDA PLOT BELONGING TO MAYAWATI'S BROTHER

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Income Tax Department said on Thursday it has attached a benami plot in Noida worth Rs 400 crore belonging to BSP chief Mayawati's brother Anand Kumar and his wife ahead of by-elections in Uttar Pradesh.

A senior IT official told IANS that the wealth of Anand Kumar and his wife rose steeply between 2007 to 2012, coinciding with the years Mayawati was the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister.

The official said that Anand Kumar, a businessman who maintains a low profile in the party, had been on the radar of the Income Tax Department even before the 2017 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections that brought the BJP to power.

The total properties apparently belonging to Anand Kumar and his wife are estimated at ₹1,300 crore.

The official revealed that Anand Kumar was the proprietor of over 12 companies and had amassed a wealth of over Rs 440 crore in cash and properties worth Rs 870 crore.

According to BSP leaders, Anand Kumar is currently the BSP Vice President while his son Akash Anand is National Coordinator.

## Finance Bill passed in LS, cess on petrol, diesel stays

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Lok Sabha today passed the Finance Bill 2019 to give effect to the tax proposals for 2019-2020 with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman saying the proposals would boost "Make in India", less-cash economy and ease the pain of the common person.

Sitharaman, while replying to the debate on the Bill, did not relax tax proposals – a demand most Opposition MPs made. She disagreed with the Opposition suggestion of removing the cess on petrol and diesel and reconsidering 2 per cent TDS on withdrawals of more than Rs 1 crore annually.

The minister was silent on raised customs duty on newsprint to 10 per cent. This hike was opposed by several Opposition MPs.

On the issue of proposed raise in tax liability on people earning more than Rs 2 crore a year, she said the proposal won't impact Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) if they organised themselves as a company.

"There is an option for FPIs to register as a company. When that's done, you don't have a problem of tax which some members have raised," she said, describing a trust as a taxable entity.

## Ayodhya: SC seeks report on mediation by August 1



**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Supreme Court today allowed the mediation process to continue in the politically sensitive Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case and sought a report on its outcome by August 1.

A five-judge Constitution Bench, headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, said after perusing the report filed by the mediation panel, it will take a call on August 2 on whether hearing is required in the case. The Bench, which perused a report about the progress of mediation process till July 18, said its contents would remain confidential as per its earlier order.

"However, taking into account what has been brought to our notice by the said report, we now fix hearing of the case, if required, on and from August 2," the Bench, also comprising justices SA Bobde, DY Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and SA Nazeer, said.

# India submits dossier to Pak on pro-Khalistan activities on its soil

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** India has conveyed to Pakistan that Sikh pilgrims visiting that country are regularly subjected to anti-India propaganda and Khalistan agenda and elements based there burn the tricolour to hurt their sentiments. In a dossier given to Pakistan, New Delhi also said a federal minister of Pakistan even eulogised slain Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Burhan Wani and told the Sikh pilgrims in an address that Sikhs and Kashmiris are treated like "slaves" by the Indian government.

The four annual Indian Sikh 'Jathas' that visit important gurdwaras in Pakistan every year under the bilateral Protocol to visit Religious Shrines, 1974, have been regularly subjected to anti-India propaganda during their visit against the spirit of the visit and in complete subversion of the objectives of the bilateral arrangement, the 23-page dossier, accompanied by pictures, said. The dossier, presented to Pakistan during the recently-concluded bilateral meeting on the Kartarpur Sahib corridor held in Wagah, has in its cover a picture of former general secretary of Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee Gopal Singh Chawla burning the Indian flag.

"Unfortunately, a large part of this propaganda is perpetuated during the religious functions organised by Evacuee Trust Property Board, Pakistan and the forum has been exploited to promote the agenda of Khalistan instead of focusing on the religious discourse," it said. Some blatant instances of such anti-India propaganda during the visits of Indian Jathas in the recent years were also narrated in the dossier, accessed by PTI.

The dossier gives details of several pro-Khalistan groups, including Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), operating freely in Pakistan. The SFJ was recently banned by India. The dossier also contains picture of



Chawla's meeting with Lashkar-e-Taiba founder and Mumbai terror attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed. In 2016, during the Guru Nanak anniversary, Sardar Mohammad Yousuf, Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Harmony, in his address at the main function in Gurdwara Nankana Sahib, eulogised Burhan Wani and alleged that the Sikhs and Kashmiris are treated like "slaves" by the Indian government, the dossier said. In the same meeting where the Pakistan federal minister spoke, Chawla raised the demand of Khalistan and even advocated violent means to achieve it.

Chawla asked the Indian Sikh pilgrims to revolt against the Supreme Court's decision in inter-state water agreement involving Punjab and raised anti-India slogans from the dias. During the 'Nagar Kirtan' on November 14, 2016, a pro-Khalistan group carried banners depicting photographs of Sikh militants Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and Subheg Singh and pro-Khalistan literature was openly distributed.

Pro-Khalistan radical Sikhs had set up the usual Khalistan stage at Gurdwara Nankana Sahib on November 14, 2016 and several speakers, including Chawla criticised Indian government and raised the demand for creation of Khalistan.

A seminar was organised on November 18 at Lahore on

contentious 'Nanakshahi' calendar where speakers accused India of not protecting the interests of Sikhs and Muslims and extended their full support to militancy in Kashmir. "Attempts were made to instigate the Sikh pilgrims against Indian government over the issues like demonetisation, denial of permission for unauthorised 'Sarbat Khalsa', inter-state dispute involving Punjab and creation of Khalistan," the dossier said. During the pilgrimage in November 2016, one Jagroop Singh alias Rupa instigated youths to carry out terror attacks in India.

In April 2017, during 'Baisakhi jathas', UK-based pro-Khalistan element Manmohan Singh Bajaj was allowed to address the pilgrims in Gurdwara Panja Sahib where he raised pro-Khalistan slogans and unequivocally stated that he was fighting for the cause of Khalistan. During the main function, many posters of secessionist campaign 'Referendum 2020', 'Get Ready For Referendum 2020' were permitted to be prominently displayed at the premises of Panja Sahib gurdwara and Bhindranwale's posters with slogans like 'Be Khalsa, Get Khalistan' were displayed.

During the birth anniversary celebration of Guru Nanak Dev in November 2017, pro-Khalistan posters and banners were openly and prominently displayed at various gurdwaras wherever the pilgrims visited.

## 'UNCLE NELSON' FIRST TOLD ME TO JOIN POLITICS, SAYS PRIYANKA ON MANDELA'S 101ST BIRTH ANNIV

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Calling Nelson Mandela her inspiration and guide, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday said the anti-apartheid icon told her that she ought to be in politics long before anyone else did.

Remembering the former South African president on his 101st birth anniversary, she said the world misses men like Mandela more than ever today. His life was a testament to truth, love and freedom, Priyanka Gandhi added.

"To me, he was Uncle Nelson (who told me I ought to be in politics long before anyone else did!). He will always be my inspiration and my guide," she tweeted.

Priyanka Gandhi also posted her photograph with Mandela, captioning it, "Laughing heartily at my son's fancy topi in 2001".

Ending years of speculation, Priyanka Gandhi formally entered politics in January with the Congress appointing her general secretary for Uttar Pradesh East.



As the Congress faces uncertainty after Rahul Gandhi's resignation as party chief, voices within the party are growing in favour of Priyanka Gandhi leading the party in critical times.



# Dosas, floor beds in BJP's Karnataka assembly sleepover



As many of them didn't have pillows and bedsheets, some rebels bought them from nearby shops to sleep on the floor on bedsheets and rest their heads on soft pillows for a sound sleep.

**BENGALURU (TIP):** Upping the ante, about 100 Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislators are sleeping in the Karnataka Assembly from Thursday night to protest against the delay in taking the floor test by Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on the confidence motion he moved on Thursday to prove that his Congress-JD-S coalition government has majority.

"About 100 of our MLAs are on an overnight stay in the Assembly precincts after Speaker KR Ramesh Kumar abruptly adjourned the House without the trust vote despite Governor Vajubhai Vala directing the latter to hold it by the end of the day7," party's state unit spokesman G Madhusudan told IANS.

The legislators had 'masala dosa' and curd rice for supper in the assembly lounges. Many went to

sleep early after a long day in the House due to heated exchanges and acrimonious scenes in the House, as the ruling combine was reportedly delayed in going through the crucial vote.

Though most of the party lawmakers have been staying at a resort on the city's northwest suburb since July 12 when the 10-day monsoon session began, they are overnight staying to ensure the floor test is conducted on Friday by 1.30 p.m. as Vala directed the Chief Minister.

As many of them didn't have pillows and bedsheets, some rebels bought them from nearby shops to sleep on the floor on bedsheets and rest their heads on soft pillows for a sound sleep.

"We will not budge from the Assembly till the confidence motion

is put to vote for the floor test to prove the ruling allies have the majority of the House," a BJP lawmaker told IANS on the condition of anonymity.

Some of the legislators watched a movie on TV sets in the lobby where they were shown before going to sleep, others were in serious discussions over the strategy to be adopted for the Friday trust vote.

The legislators have decided to go back to resort or their rooms in the adjacent Legislature Home on early Friday and return to the Assembly for the session from 11 am. to resume the inconclusive debate on the motion.

With the Governor writing to the Chief Minister to prove majority in the House by 1.30 p.m. on Friday, uncertainty continues to dog the legislators.



India on Thursday called on Pakistan to immediately release Kulbhushan Jadhav.

## AFTER ICJ VERDICT, INDIA CALLS FOR JADHAV RELEASE

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** India on Thursday called on Pakistan to immediately release Kulbhushan Jadhav, on death row following his conviction on charges of espionage, in view of the International Court of Justice's ruling, asking for a review of the former naval officer's sentence.

The Hague-based top court of the United Nations declared on Wednesday that Pakistan had violated Jadhav's rights under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, and called for an effective review and reconsideration of the death sentence given to him by a military court.

In a statement made in both houses of Parliament, external affairs minister S Jaishankar said Jadhav was innocent of the charges levelled against him and a forced confession without legal representation and due process wouldn't change this fact.

"We, once again call upon Pakistan to release and repatriate him forthwith... I can assure that the government will vigorously continue its efforts to ensure Shri Jadhav's safety and well-being as well as his early return to India," he said.

Jadhav, 49, was sentenced to death about a year after he was arrested in Balochistan in March 2016 on charges of involvement in spying and subversive activities. After India petitioned the ICJ in May 2017, the court directed Pakistan to stay Jadhav's execution.

In its ruling on Wednesday, the ICJ said the continued stay of Jadhav's execution was an "indispensable condition" for the review of his conviction at a forum of Pakistan's choice.

Pakistani officials have said they will proceed according to the country's laws. Prime Minister Imran Khan tweeted on Thursday: "Appreciate ICJ's decision not to acquit, release & return Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav to India. He is guilty of crimes against the people of Pakistan. Pakistan shall proceed further as per law."

Jaishankar said Jadhav continued to be in Pakistan's "illegal custody" after being sentenced to death sentence on "fabricated charges". The ICJ's judgment is a vindication for India, Jadhav and all who believe in rule of law, he added.

Noting that the ICJ had made it clear its judgment is "final, binding and without appeal", external affairs ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar told a news briefing: "We expect Pakistan to implement the directive immediately without any further delay."

The verdict went in India's favour on eight points cited by the ICJ, either through a unanimous decision or majority decisions by the 16-judge bench, he said. These points include the jurisdiction of the ICJ, the admissibility of India's petition and the violation of Jadhav's rights under the Vienna Convention.

Kumar said Pakistan must now grant consular access to Jadhav and conduct an effective review of his case.

Asked about claims in Pakistan that the verdict had gone in Islamabad's favour, he said, "It seems to me they are reading from a completely different verdict. Each and every point was ruled in favour of India and there is no confusion. I think they have their own compulsions as to why they have to lie to their own people." *Source: HT*

## ARMY MONITORING CHINESE ACTIVITIES ON DOKLAM PLATEAU: DEFENCE MINISTRY REPORT

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** India and China have reduced their presence on the Doklam plateau post the disengagement in 2017, but the India Army is monitoring Chinese activities in the area and is adequately prepared to respond to any contingency, the Defence Ministry said in a report.

In its annual report 2018-19, the ministry also said that Pakistan should take "credible and irreversible" steps to stop supporting terrorists and terror groups operating from territories under its control and dismantle infrastructure operated by them.

It said India will continue to take "robust and decisive" steps to ensure its national security.

Following the disengagement on August 28, 2017, after a 72-day standoff at Doklam, Indian and Chinese troops were redeployed away from their respective positions. This year, the number of Chinese transgressions have considerably reduced, so has the faceoffs, aggressive interactions during such instances.

"(But) the Indian Army is continuously monitoring Chinese activities in the area and is adequately prepared to respond to any contingency," the defence ministry report said. It noted that the situation along the India-China border has remained peaceful.

There are a few areas along the border where there are differing

perceptions of the Line of Actual Control. Both sides patrol up to their respective perceptions of LAC, it added. The standoff at Charding-Ninglung Nallah (CNN) junction in eastern Ladakh due to construction of a benign track and the constant rasing of construction of a temporary operating base in Arunachal Pradesh by India were the only two instances where there was a major difference of opinion between the two sides.

"Post Wuhan Summit, there has been an increase in the number of flag meetings. This may be attributed to intent of resolving outstanding issues through discussions at various levels," the report said.



# McNally's 'Frankie and Johnny' McNally Honored

## LGBTQ Community, Stonewall-50 Commemorated

By Mabel Pais

*Get swept off your feet at Terrence McNally's "Frankie and Johnny In The Clair De Lune." It's one evening of theater you'll never forget!*

AUDRA MCDONALD, Tony (six-time), Grammy (two-time), and Emmy Award Winner and MICHAEL SHANNON Academy (two-time) Award Nominee star in the new Broadway production of Four-Time Tony Award Winner TERRENCE McNALLY's "FRANKIE AND JOHNNY IN THE CLAIR DE LUNE." The Play is directed by Obie Award winner ARIN ARBUS making her Broadway debut.

This new Broadway production of the play celebrates the artistic achievements of playwright Terrence McNally, recipient of the 2019 Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre, whose career spans six decades, director Arin Arbus in her Broadway debut, and stars Audra McDonald and Michael Shannon in their first collaboration. The play is produced by Tom Kirdahy, Debbie Bisno and Hunter Arnold. It is playing at the Broadhurst Theatre, 235 West 44th Street, on Broadway.

"Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune" runs until Sunday, July 28, 2019.

Originally produced more than 30 years ago Off-Broadway, "Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune" is one of McNally's most acclaimed plays and has now appeared on Broadway as the playwright celebrated his 80th birthday. The play was a runaway hit from 1987 to 1989, returned to Broadway in a highly praised production in 2002 and was also turned into a feature film.

Audra McDonald and Michael Shannon two of the most acclaimed actors of their generation, bring new life to the bruised dreamers of Terrence McNally's timely and timeless romance. Director Arin Arbus directs this portrait of two lonely souls: a waitress and a short order cook who meet for a one-night-stand-but discover a connection deeper than they ever expected. Over a night filled with intimate thoughts and outlandish coincidences, meatloaf sandwiches and moonlit dreams, piano suites and the sweetest talk, they realize that making love is easy-falling in love is hard.

Aside from Claude Debussy's "Clair de Lune" music, we are treated to excerpts from Bach, Scriabin, Shostakovich and Wagner. The creative team includes Riccardo Hernandez(Sets), Emily Rebholz (Costumes), Natasha Katz(Lighting), Nevin Steinberg (Sound), J. Jared Janas (Hair, Wig and Makeup), Laurie Goldfeder (Production Stage Manager) and 101 Productions, Ltd. (General Manager).

Category: Broadway, Comedy/Drama, Play

Performance Time: 2 hrs. 15 min.

Closing Date: July 28, 2019

Venue: Broadhurst Theater, 235 W 44th St.

For more information visit [FrankieAndJohnnyBroadway.com](http://FrankieAndJohnnyBroadway.com)

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### About Terrence McNally

**"(Terrence [McNally] is able to get to the core of the human condition.)**

**I defy you to name another playwright who can do that" - Audra McDonald**

Terrence McNally, born November 3, 1938 at St. Petersburg, Florida, U.S.A, is an American playwright, librettist (writer of books for musicals), and screenwriter. He grew up in Corpus Christi, Texas. His career spans six decades. His works explore human relationships-frequently those of gay men-and are typically characterized by dark humor. His parents, both from New York, liked Broadway shows and took him with them on occasional trips to New York, where Terrence saw his first musicals at age eight. McNally knew from childhood that he was gay, started college at Columbia University before turning seventeen, and began his literary career early. He wrote and copy-edited for his high school newspaper. It was a high school English teacher who encouraged him to



Audra McDonald and Michael Shannon

Photo / Deen van Meer



Arin Arbus (director) with Terrence McNally (playwright)

Photo / Jenny Anderson



Left to right: Arin Arbus, Michael Shannon, Terrence McNally, Audra McDonald

Photo / Courtesy, Polk & Co

become a writer, and he never forgot her.

After graduation from Columbia in 1960, McNally worked as a newspaper reporter, became a tutor for the teenage sons of the American novelist John Steinbeck while the family traveled the world during the last days of ocean liners, and worked as a stage manager at The Actors Studio. In 1965, he had his first Broadway play produced (and his first flop), "And Things That Go Bump in the Night," which featured an openly gay character. Undaunted, he proceeded to write a string of progressively more successful plays and musicals in an amazingly prolific career that's well into its sixth decade.

His three dozen plays included "Bad Habits" (produced 1971), "The Ritz" (originally produced as "The Tubs," 1973; film 1976), and "Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune" (produced 1987; film 1991) "The Lisbon Traviata" (1989). In 1995 McNally won a Tony Award for best play, for "Love!

**"Two of the best performances on Broadway. Audra McDonald and Michael Shannon's chemistry burns up the stage"**

**The Daily Beast**

**"Superb! As hilarious as it is touching" -**

**The Hollywood Reporter**

Valour! Compassion!" (film 1997), and "Master Class" (1995) one of several works he wrote about opera. Among his later plays were Deuce, which opened on Broadway in 2007, and "Golden Age," which followed in 2012.

In his play "Mothers and Sons" (2014), McNally examined a mother coming to terms with her late son's homosexuality and with society's evolving understanding of what constitutes a family. "Fire and Air" (2018) is about the "Ballets Russes" and founder Serge Diaghilev's relationship with "Vaslav Nijinsky."

The dozen musicals for which McNally wrote the libretto include "Kiss of the Spider Woman" (1992) and "Ragtime" (1996). His corpus of work also includes several opera librettos and movie screenplays. McNally's librettos for "Kiss of the Spider Woman" and "Ragtime" won him Tony Awards in 1993 and 1998, respectively. Additional credits as a librettist included "The Full Monty" (produced 2000), "Catch Me if You Can" (produced 2011), and "The Visit" (produced 2001). He earned an additional Tony nomination for a 2015 revival of the latter musical. In 2019, he received a Tony for lifetime achievement.

### Doc on McNally's Life, LGBTQ Activism

As part of the many events in New York City to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, Pride and Resistance of the LGBTQ Community, PBS aired the new documentary: American Masters - "Terrence McNally: Every Act of Life." The series premiered nationwide on June 14 on PBS, [pbs.org/americanmasters](http://pbs.org/americanmasters) and the PBS Video app in honor of LGBT Pride Month. "Every Act of Life" lifts the curtain on the life, career and inspirations of the complicated and brilliant Emmy-and-four-time Tony Award-winning McNally, explores past productions of Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune and features original interviews with Terrence McNally and Audra McDonald.

In the documentary, McNally speaks plainly about his relationships with his lovers, beginning with Edward Albee, who was writing "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" when they met, and moving on to a serious romantic affair with the late playwright Wendy Wasserstein. He is married to theater producer Tom Kirdahy.

Having survived grueling treatment for lung cancer, McNally is currently working on three plays. How fortunate for him, and for us, that he disregarded Steinbeck's heartfelt suggestion: "Don't become a playwright. It'll break your heart."

McNally's brother Peter is interviewed in depth in the film and offers thoughtful words about their childhood. The many show biz talking heads, including Audra McDonald, F. Murray Abraham, Christine Baranski, Tyne Daly, Nathan Lane, and Billy Porter, all have fascinating stories to tell. "Every Act of Life" is available as a DVD.

The Actors Studio where McNally worked as a stage manager, is the prestigious professional actors' workshop in New York City whose members have been among the most influential performers in American theatre and film since World War II. It was founded in New York City in 1947 by directors Cheryl Crawford, Elia Kazan, and Robert Lewis. It is one of the leading centers for the Stanislavsky method of dramatic training. For more information on The Actors Studio, visit [theactorsstudio.org](http://theactorsstudio.org).

*(Mabel Pais writes on the Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Spirituality, and Health & Wellness.*

*She can be reached at [mabelep1406@gmail.com](mailto:mabelep1406@gmail.com))*



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## SUNNY LEONE LAUNCHES ECO-FRIENDLY COSMO-TECH LINE

Bollywood actress Sunny Leone is expanding her base as an entrepreneur. After launching perfume, cosmetic and lingerie lines in the past, she will now sell eco-friendly cosmo-tech products.

"Not only am I foraying into a new industry altogether, but this project is going to be environment-friendly as well. I think it's high time we realize our responsibility towards mother earth and I am more than happy to contribute in any way possible," said Sunny about the brand called Xcentric.

The products will be under the actress's beauty and cosmetic brand, Star Struck. Sunny hopes her new venture "will strike a chord with women all around the world".

Sunny's new brand will create eco-friendly cosmo-tech products including hair-dryers, curlers, epilators, wrinkle reducers and blackhead removers.

This is not the first time that Sunny is exploring a business opportunity. Apart from Star Struck, Sunny has also launched a perfume brand named Lust in the past, and a lingerie brand called Infamous.

She also started a play school for toddlers named D'Art Fusion, along with husband Daniel Weber.

Currently, the actress is busy with the 11th season of the TV show, MTV Splitsville.

In Bollywood, she has special item dances coming up in "Arjun Patiala" and "Jhoota Kahin Ka". She will also be seen in south Indian films such as "Veeramadevi" and "Helen".

**She recently launched her lingerie brand too. Another recent venture is a one-of-its-kind playschool for toddlers, which she has opened along with her husband Daniel Weber**

# POOJA BATRA MARRIES NAWAB SHAH IN HUSH-HUSH CEREMONY, SHARES PHOTOS

Days after Pooja Batra and Nawab Shah tied the knot in a secret wedding, the photos from the low-key but classy ceremony are out. The couple married on July 4 in a private ceremony in Delhi, which was attended only by family members.

The photos from the wedding are out on social media now. Pooja is seen dressed in a green saree with blush pink dupatta covering her head while Nawab is in a beige kurta-pyjama with a turban on his head. In another photo shared by Pooja, they can be seen in traditional outfits again – perhaps for a reception. Both are twinning in grey – while it is a lehenga for Pooja, Nawab is wearing a matching sherwani.

Speaking to Bombay Times, the Tiger Zinda Hai actor said he wanted to marry Pooja as soon as he met her. "One has to be ready to experience something like this, and I guess, Pooja and I were in that space. It was as if we were destined to be together. We didn't want to think about it too much and delay it (marriage) any further. Both of us have gone through various phases in life and have matured over the years. When I reconnected with her, a relationship wasn't on my mind. However, at this stage in life, you feel the void of not having a companion. Pooja entered my life like sunshine and I was sure that I wanted to spend the rest of my life with her. In fact, I wanted to marry her right after our first meeting," he said in the interview.

Pooja had earlier told the daily,



"Nawab and I exchanged vows in Delhi, with only our families in attendance. Our loved ones kept asking us why we were delaying it (the marriage). I was simply going with the flow, but then I realised that he is

the man I want to spend the rest of my life with, and there is no point in delaying it any further. So, here we are. We had an Arya Samaj wedding, and we will register our marriage this week."

## KATRINA KAIF SHARES BIRTHDAY PIC IN SWIMSUIT FROM MEXICO



Actor Katrina Kaif is celebrating her birthday in Mexico with her friends and family. The actor, who turns 36 on Tuesday, shared yet another sun-kissed picture from the beach destination.

Katrina's birthday click shows her posing in front of the deep blue sea in a white bikini and sarong with tassels. The sunlight falls lightly on her face as she strikes a sultry expression. She captioned the picture with a cake emoji, the Mexican national flag and a yellow heart emoji.

Her many colleagues from Bollywood wished her on her birthday in the comments but it was Arjun Kapoor's comments that stood out. "U've basically gone for a photoshoot," he commented on the picture. However, he quickly realised that maybe he should be kinder to Katrina on her birthday. "Ok on ur birthday I shall be nice Katrina. Have a super birthday ur a mad kind goofy soul and I love u because of ur nonsense not despite it," he wrote in another comment.

Shweta Bachchan wrote, "Happy days always gorgeous". Fashion designer Manish Malhotra wrote, "Gorgeous and super hot .. happy birthday." Rapper Badshah and singer Guru Randhawa also wished Katrina. Actor Alia Bhatt shared a picture of the two on her Instagram Stories to wish her. "Happiest birthday dearest Katy! May you laugh and dance all day...shine and smile all year and give us body goals your whole life," she wrote with the picture.

Katrina is on a four-day vacation in Mexico. She had earlier shared two more pictures from her holiday on Instagram. One picture showed her posing next to a pillar in a swimsuit. Arjun commented, "Watch where you going girl! Hope you didn't walk into the pillar while posing. "I'll be careful," Katrina replied.





## Emma Stone in talks to join 'La La Land' director Damien Chazelle's next

**D**amien Chazelle, the American-French director who helmed 'La La Land', is ready with another feature film, titled 'Babylon', and actor Emma Stone is in talks to hop onboard.

While the director has not yet shared the plot details of the film, according to an American entertainment magazine, the story will take place during the transition from silent films to talkies. Much like 'Once upon a time in Hollywood', the film will feature a blend of real-life and fictional characters.

Meanwhile, Emma Stone will be next seen in Disney's 'Cruella'. Set in the early 1980s, Stone will play the role of infamous fashionista villain Cruella De Vil, who hates dogs and covets the furs of 101 Dalmatian pups to design a perfect coat for herself.

# SCARLETT JOHANSSON CLARIFIES HER COMMENTS ON POLITICALLY CORRECT CASTING

**O**ne year after actor Scarlett Johansson decided to exit upcoming film *Rub and Tug* following the backlash she received for being cast as a transgender man, the star made headlines for a new interview in which she spoke about politically correct casting and stated that she should "be allowed to play any person."

The 34-year-old actor clarified her comments made in the interview in a statement to *Entertainment Weekly* on Sunday, via her representative, claiming "An interview that was recently published has been edited for clickbait and is widely taken out of context."

"The question I was answering in my conversation with the contemporary artist, David Salle, was about the confrontation between political correctness and art," Johansson said of her interview with *As If Magazine* that was published earlier this month.

"I personally feel that, in an ideal world, any actor should be able to play anybody and art, in all forms, should be immune to political correctness. That is the point I was making, albeit didn't come across that way," she added.

"I recognize that in reality, there is a wide-spread discrepancy amongst my industry that favours Caucasian, cisgendered actors and that not every actor has been given the same opportunities that I have been privileged to. I continue to support, and always have, diversity in every industry and will continue to fight for projects where everyone is included," she continued.



## Ryan Reynolds teams up with Gal Gadot, Dwayne Johnson for Netflix's heist thriller



**R**yan Reynolds has joined Gal Gadot and Dwayne Johnson in action heist thriller *Red Notice*. The film, which was earlier set at Universal Pictures, is now moving forward at Netflix, reported *Deadline*.

A major coup for the streaming service, the Rawson Marshall Thurber-directed movie will start production in 2020. Gadot and Johnson were attached with the project when Universal acquired the project as a pitch early following a bidding battle last year, one where Netflix came in second.

But Universal announced Monday that it will now release an untitled film in place of the previously announced

November 13, 2020 debut of *Red Notice*. According to *Deadline*, after Thurber drafted his pitch into a screenplay with a budget, the filmmakers sensed hesitation from Universal in a meeting late last month.

When Thurber's finished script was shown to Netflix 10 days ago, the streaming platform committed to everything the filmmakers delivered and a complex deal was brokered during the holiday break.

Thurber has earlier directed Johnson in *Central Intelligence* and *Skyscraper* and Gadot will re-team with her *Fast and Furious* co-star Johnson on the project.



## Beyonce meets Meghan Markle at The Lion King premiere

**T**he Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle and pop singer Beyonce attended the London premiere of *The Lion King* and immediately bonded with each other.

Beyonce sported a custom off-the-shoulder gold pleated gown with a thigh-high slit by Cong Tri, paired with fancy coloured diamond Lorraine Schwartz earrings and diamond rings, as she walked the film's red carpet at Leicester Square Gardens with her husband Jay-Z, reported *People*.

The singer voices Nala in the upcoming remake of the beloved 1994 Disney film. While, Meghan has walked plenty of red carpets as an actor earlier, this marked her first film premiere as a

royal. The Duchess of Sussex wore a semi-sheer Jason Wu black dress, paired with Aquazzura slingback heels and a black Gucci clutch. She was accompanied by her husband Prince Harry, who rocked a classic tuxedo for the event.

They were spotted talking to Beyonce and her husband. The ladies seemed happy around each other and hugged it out immediately. This marked the first time they have been captured together and is believed to be the first time that they have met, reported *E! News*.

Harry kissed Beyonce on both cheeks in greeting and Jay-Z told Meghan and Harry, congrats for welcoming their son Archie Harrison, who was born two months ago.



# Harbinger of Hope and Peace Acharya Shri Chandana Ji

First-ever Jain Sadhvi to receive the title of "Acharya"



Acharya Shri Chandana Ji answers questions from Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, editor of The Indian Panorama

BY I.S. SALUJA / BIDISHA ROY

I could not have been more blessed than when I got a call from my friend Prem Bhandari, President of Jaipur Foot USA, the organization which is known worldwide for providing artificial foot across the globe, to interview Acharya Shri Chandana Ji, popularly known as Tai Maharaj at another friend, Kanak Golia's house in Manhasset, Long Island, New York. I have known Kanak and his lovely wife Prabha as deeply spiritual and philanthropic who have always welcomed spiritual masters and lent their support to organizations and individuals working for the betterment of humanity.

An hour spent in conversation with Acharya ji revealed a person who is a harbinger of hope and peace. Her tremendous work in spiritual and social spheres sets her apart from many traditional spiritual gurus. One cannot but marvel her courage in undertaking to educate children in Naxalite areas of Bihar, at a grave threat and risk to her life. She simply transformed the thinking of Naxals and provided their children the education which brought them respectability and happiness.

**Here are some excerpts from the interview.**

**Q. At the age of 83 plus you are still so active - so busy with your social work and you travel a lot. How do you get the strength?**

Ans. The people for whom I work - their love, best wishes and happiness are my strength. If you go to the seaside when it's raining - and you hold your palms properly, water will pour in. If you do the opposite - it won't. I kept my palms that way to get the water. I am doing this since my childhood. I always loved to do good things in life. I even didn't hesitate to steal food from my home for the poor kids around me. I got scolded for that, but I remained the same. If any underprivileged needs something I'll do it for the person. For someone's good, telling lie is not a sin for me. If you are doing wrong to harm someone, then it's a sin but if it is for good cause then it's a virtue. If your thoughts are right, then you can't get wrong. Is it a sin if you are plucking fruits from a tree to feed a hungry? Are you doing injustice to the tree? No.

**Q. You do various kinds of social work for poor, disadvantaged people for changing their lives for good and are successful in doing so. You have done a lot for their education. What is your experience in the education sector?**

Ans. If you look at the world today - there is an ocean of jobs to be done. In my country I chose Rajgir in Bihar. I started with primary school, then high school and then college. Right now, there are 10,000 students are studying in my schools in various parts of India. I tried to go places where getting education was really tough. It was not an easy job. Gaining trust of people was very difficult. I worked in the Naxalite area. It's been twenty years, but I am doing social work for last forty years. We have schools in Gujarat and Rajasthan and Nepal as well. In total we are working in 25 places. My mission was to do quality job. From infrastructure to education - I wanted to ensure best quality for my students. They should not feel that they are being deprived or not getting proper treatment just because they are poor. Now our students are coming at top 10 at CBSE exams.

**F**or several worldwide, Acharya Chandana ji is so much more than a religious leader because she strongly believes that religion is not about finding Moksha but about striving to resolve the everyday challenges of people and bring peace to their lives. Most importantly, she vehemently focuses on serving people rather than preaching about compassion.

Regarded as one of the rarest, most precious souls in the history of Jain spirituality, Acharya Shri Chandanaji, known to the world as Tai Maharaj, is the vision of peace who believes "Religion accepts life in its entirety. To work towards getting rid of any physical or mental suffering is true religion. Service is no different from spirituality, service is spirituality."

She embraced diksha (renunciation of the material world) at the tender age of 14. As a Sadhvi, she also took a vow of silence, one that lasted 12 years. When the seed for a cause such as Veerayatan was sowed in her heart and mind, she first questioned why Sadhus and Sadhvis could not physically contribute in making a difference

to society.

A clairvoyant and thinking leader, Tai Maharaj then decided to add onto the traditional Jain school of thought. She began her journey to tangibly uplift and impact those facing everyday challenges of survival.

Simply clad in a white sari, always accompanied by a smile on her face, Tai Maharaj unrestrictedly showers her blessings and kindness. She is a ray of sunshine in the sorrow-struck lives of millions. You may spot her on the dusty ground of Bihar, surrounded by the poor and sick, and you'll see how she warms the cockles of their hearts. Or you may see her walking confidently on the delicate rubble of earthquake-shattered Kutch, her arm around an orphan, pain in her eyes, as she swiftly facilitates shelter for those who lost their families and hope to Mother Nature.

In 1973, she founded Veerayatan that stands on the three pillars of Seva (service to humanity), Shiksha (education for all), and Sadhana (self-development) to inspire and empower lives.

But as all beginnings go, the inception of Veerayatan was riddled with challenges for its founder. Acharya Shriji had to alter mindsets, and gain the confidence, trust, and belief of people to justify her hands-on work for the greater good. For her, the unconditional teachings of love by Tirthankar Mahavir and Gurudev were not just ritualistic. They had to be spread, shared, and sown; Veerayatan was born.

Veerayatan was founded with the mission to directly work towards the care of humanity through health, education, and spirituality without distinction. Veerayatan is actively enabling meaningful projects across the globe. Acharya Shriji envisions the organization's efforts to grow in leaps and bounds in the future.

**Veerayatan comprises:**

Seva Mandirs, which include medical camps, eye surgeries, and post-surgery care for the most underserved populace.

Schools, colleges, hostels, and vocational training that aim to empower masses with an earning ability and skill.



Acharya ji giving her blessings to Kanak and Prabha Golia at their residence. Also seen is Sanghamitra Ji

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Rehabilitation and emergency relief programs in the wake of natural calamities.

Brahmi Kala Mandir: An art gallery comprising inventive media to better understand life, culture, and religion.

Guest houses and libraries.

Prayer halls, spiritual retreats, and inspirational programs for all age groups.

Veerayatan has many international chapters as well including a USA chapter. Veerayatan International USA was founded in 1996 with inspiration from Acharyashri Chandanaji and through the dedication of Dr. Nayan Shah from Hughesville, Maryland.

Under Acharya Ji's visionary leadership, along with Sadhviji's dedication and through the support of hundreds of volunteers and patrons, Veerayatan International USA has been able to serve thousands of people across the globe. Veerayatan International works with organizations such as JAINA (Federation of Jain Associations in North America) to support its Mission.

The USA chapter Board of Trustees: Dr. Nayan Shah (Chair), Mr. Amar Shah, Dr. Kiran Patel, Dr. Kiran Mehta, Mr. Mukesh Turakhia, Mr. Jainesh Mehta, Dr. Vinod Shah

**Executive Committee:**

President: Chair Mr. Mukesh Turakhia  
Vice President: Chair Mrs. Punita Shah  
Secretary: Chair Mr. Yogesh Bapna .  
Treasurer: Chair Mr. Satish Shah .  
Public Relations Chair: Mr. Mukesh Gandhi  
Seva, Shiksha, Sadhna Chair: Mrs. Prabha Golia  
Youth Committee Chair: Ms. Nidhi Turakhia

Key Supporters include Mr. Kanak Golia, Mr. Bhupendra Mukim, Mr. Ashok Sancheti, Mr. Prem Bhandari, Ms. Sampurna, Ms. Mangla, Mr. Chintu Patel, Mr. Nilesh & Preeti Mehta, Mr. Ambrish - Rupa Shah and many more.

**The primary activities of the US committee include**

- Creating awareness of the Veerayatan Mission (Seva - Service to Humanity, Siksha - Education and Sadhana - spiritual upliftment) in the North America community including at key events like Jaina, etc.
- Hosting large seminar gatherings in multiple US cities during the visit of Acharya Shri Chandana Ji and other Sadhvis
- Identifying, sponsoring and raising funds for Seva, Siksha and Sadhana projects including large capital expenditure projects like hospital, school, religious scholar training institution; and small projects like sponsoring to educate a child, conduct an eye operation, etc.
- Expanding and maintaining relationship with the Veerayatan community in North America, and coordinating activities with other global centers

Despite being 83 years old, Acharya Shriji visits USA at least once a year. She was the keynote speaker at the Jaina Conference held in July in Los Angeles. During this visit she held seminars in multiple cities including Seva, Siksha and Sadhana Seminar in Indian Consulate in New York that was



Prem Bhandari, Kanak Golia and Prabha Golia are among the group of devotees to seek Acharya Ji's blessings. Also seen is Acharya ji's constant companion Sanghamitra ji.



Mrs. & Mr. Chintu Patel seeking blessings of Acharya Ji

sponsored by Shri Kanak - Prabha Golia, Chair of Seva, Siksha and Sadhana and the event was attended by large number of people from the tri-state region.

Acharya ji is the inextinguishable force behind the revolution in Jain religious history by introducing the concept of compassion in action to the renounced community. Leading by example, she inspired these people to actively engage in social work for the betterment of humanity.

A receiver of many firsts such as the title of Acharya, she went on to establish this additional branch of Jainism for the first time in its history.

A true source of inspiration to humanity, she has been bestowed with many awards and honors for her undying focus on doing good. Here are a few of them:

- 18th August 2012: Vishva Vibhuti Award by Param Pujya Shri Jayanti Muniji Maharaj.



Acharya Shri Chandana Ji giving a gift to Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, editor of The Indian Panorama

- 20th October 2008: Nagari Abhinandan by Koshi Region People for the service of mankind in flood affected areas.
  - JAINA Convention 2007: JAINA Presidential Award for the exemplary work Veerayatan has done in spreading the work of Lord Mahavir to one and all through compassion, education, non-violence, etc.
  - 15th August 2004: Woman of the Year Award by Jnr. Chamber, Marine Line, Mumbai for the motherhood epitomized by Acharya Shriji.
  - 5th September 2002: Shri Devi Ahilya National Award - It was presented at Indore by Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Central Minister, for the services to the mankind in the field of health, education, population, pollution protection, natural calamities through Veerayatan.
  - 28-31 August 2000: Millennium World Peace Summit of religious and spiritual leaders held in UNO. Acharya Shriji represented the Jain delegation in the summit from different nations. Her valuable ideas for eradication of poverty on an international level became the subject of discussion among the more than 1200 strong delegation.
  - 8th November 1995: Mahaveer Foundation Award for excellence in propagating non-violence, truth, vegetarianism, education, medicine, community, and social service. It was presented by K R Narayanan, Vice-President of India with a gift of Rs 500,000.
  - 1987: The title of "Acharya" given by Pujya Rashtrasant Amar Muniji. She became the first-ever Jain Sadhvi to receive this prestigious accolade in the Jain community since the time of Lord Mahavir (2600 years). She accepted it as respect towards women and to establish the mindset that any capable individual, Sadhu or Sadhvi, could be a high priest.
  - 1987: Sant Balaji Award
  - 1987: Sangali Jan Seva Award
- Acharya Chandana Ji has surely made the world a better place to live in. Her tremendous contribution in transforming the social fabric in many parts of India will be better understood with the passage of time.



## Iran Guards seize foreign oil tanker

**TEHRAN (TIP):** Iran's Revolutionary Guards said on July 18 they had detained a "foreign tanker" and its crew for allegedly smuggling fuel in the Gulf.

The tanker was seized on Sunday "south of the (Iranian) island of Larak" in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the force's Sepahnews website said. The guards did not detail the name or provenance of the vessel.

"With a capacity of two million barrels and 12 foreign crew on board, the vessel was en route to deliver contraband fuel received from Iranian boats to foreign ships in farther regions when it was intercepted," the force said. The announcement comes two days after Iran said it had come to the aid of a foreign tanker after receiving a distress call -- making no mention of the vessel being seized.

"Iranian forces approached it and using a tugboat brought it into Iranian waters for necessary repairs," foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said. — AFP

## Manchester bomber's brother appears in UK court charged with murder

**LONDON (TIP):** The brother of the suicide bomber who blew himself up in a deadly 2017 attack in the northern city of Manchester appeared in a London court on July 18 after his extradition from Libya.

Hashem Abedi, 22, who returned to the UK on Wednesday, appeared at Westminster Magistrates' Court charged with the murder of the 22 people who died in the explosion, attempted murder and conspiracy to cause an explosion.

His lawyer said he would be denying the charges.

Wearing glasses and a grey tracksuit, Abedi stood to confirm his name, date of birth and to confirm he currently had no fixed address.

When asked for his nationality, he replied "British".

His older brother Salman Abedi blew himself up at the end of a show by US singer Ariana Grande at the Manchester Arena two years ago.

Zafar Ali, representing Abedi, said his client denied all the charges and had not opposed his extradition back to the UK because he wanted to clear his name. Abedi will next appear via video-link at Oxford Crown Court on July 22 for a bail hearing. A pre-trial hearing will take place at the Old Bailey court in London on July 30. — Reuters

# Arson attack on Japanese animation studio kills 33

**TOKYO (TIP):** A man shouted "die" as he doused an animation studio with fuel and set it ablaze in Japan on July 18, public broadcaster NHK said, killing at least 33 people in the nation's worst mass murder in nearly two decades.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called the attack in the city of Kyoto - the latest grisly killing in a nation widely known for its low crime rates - "too appalling for words" on Twitter and offered condolences.

Police detained a 41-year-old man who had shouted "die" as he poured what appeared to be petrol around the three-storey Kyoto Animation building shortly after 10 am, public broadcaster NHK reported.

Thirty-three people were confirmed dead, an official for the Kyoto City Fire Department said.

Fire engulfed the building as white and black smoke billowed from its charred windows. It was Japan's worst mass killing since a suspected arson attack on a Tokyo building in 2001. Shiro Misaki, a 47-year-old owner of a neighbourhood bar five minutes from the studio, said he was driving nearby when he saw the thick smoke. "Policemen were stopping traffic and it was really hazy with smoke," he said. "Even after I got back to my restaurant I could smell the smoke."

The Prime Minister said the cause was arson. "Today, many people were killed and wounded in an arson murder case in



Kyoto," Abe said in a post on Twitter. "It is too appalling for words."

Some of the victims were found in the studio, some on the third floor and others in a staircase leading up to the roof, the fire official said. Another 36 were injured, 10 of them seriously, the official said. The suspected arsonist was injured and was being treated in a hospital, so the police could not question him, NHK said. The Kyoto police declined to comment.

The studio produces popular series such as the "Sound! Euphonium". — Reuters

## Recent mass murders in the country

2001: Eight children were stabbed to death at their school in Osaka by a former janitor

2008: Seven people were killed when a man drove a truck into a crowd and began stabbing people in Tokyo's electronics and "anime" district of Akihabara

2008: 16 persons were killed in an arson attack on an Osaka video shop

2016: A knife-wielding man broke into a facility near Tokyo and killed 19 patients

## Boy finds 50-year-old message in a bottle on remote Australian beach

**SYDNEY (TIP):** An Australian boy who discovered a message in a bottle on a remote beach may have a new penpal after the Englishman who dropped it from an Australia-bound ship 50 years ago was tracked down.

But Jyah Elliott, aged nine, may have to wait some time as the message's now 63-year-old author is once again at sea—this time on a cruise in the Baltic, the ABC reported.

Jyah discovered the decades-old treasure in sand dunes on a South Australian beach on Tuesday and by the next day the writer had been located.

Paul Gilmore was just 13 when on November 17, 1969 he dropped the bottle into the Indian Ocean hoping to reach a new friend.

The letter, which gave the ship's location as "1,000 miles east of Fremantle, Western Australia, asked its recipient to "Please Reply".

Although Jyah initially thought the letter was a fake, he was quick to post a reply on July 17.



"He was so excited," his mother Carla Elliott told the ABC.

Gilmore's sister Annie Crossland told the ABC that her brother was currently cruising but would be sure to contact Jyah when he returns home.

"It's amazing, absolutely incredible," Crossland said. "He'll be chuffed to bits." She said the family had long ago moved on from the reply address on the letter.

Gilmore sent six bottles from the TSS Fairstar, a ship that transported so-called "10-pound Pom" migrants from Great Britain to Australia.

"The last time he was on a ship was probably going to Australia," she said. "Cruises aren't his thing." AFP

## Israeli education minister apologises for remarks on gays

**JERUSALEM (TIP):** Israel's education minister has apologised for controversial remarks about homosexual "conversion therapy" and intermarriage among Diaspora Jews that drew widespread criticism in Israel and the US.

Rafi Peretz, leader of a small religious nationalist party, wrote in a letter to the head of the Jewish Agency on Tuesday that his likening of marriage between Diaspora Jews and non-Jews to a "second Holocaust" was "misplaced".

Peretz's comment at a Cabinet meeting was leaked to the press last week.

In another letter to school administrators, Peretz said he "vehemently opposed" a controversial technique that seeks to convert gay men into heterosexuals after originally saying he supported it.

The minister's comments about conversion therapy drew widespread condemnation and hundreds protested in Tel Aviv.

Peretz, a former chief rabbi in Israel's military, assumed office in Israel's interim government last month. —AP



# ‘Make South America Great Again’: Brazil’s Bolsonaro borrows slogan from Trump

**SANTA FE (ARGENTINA) (TIP):** Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has urged his South American colleagues to borrow a slogan from Donald Trump and focus on making their own nations great rather than emphasising regional brotherhood.

“We don’t want a ‘Great homeland,’” the far-right Bolsonaro said on Wednesday at a meeting of the Mercosur trade bloc, using a frequent slogan of Venezuela’s late socialist leader Hugo Chavez to refer to the regional integration of South America.

“We want every country in South America to be autonomous, democratic, and that each country can be great. Just like Trump says that he wants to ‘Make America great again,’ I want to make Brazil great, Paraguay great, Bolivia great, Uruguay — all of our countries.”

The meeting of the Mercosur group — Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay — comes after the bloc’s June 28 signing of a trade deal with the European Union following two decades of negotiations.

Bolsonaro’s sought to strike a marked difference with the centre-left politics that dominated Mercosur until a rightward shift in politics left the region more polarised than it has been in decades. “We can’t allow what’s happening in Venezuela to happen to another country,” he said about the crisis-torn nation that was suspended from Mercosur in 2017 for failing to uphold democratic norms amid an intensifying crackdown on dissent.

“How can a country as rich as Venezuela reach this point? We all know that all of this was born out of populism and the irresponsibility of a power project on a country that knew no bounds ...,” Bolsonaro said.

The United Nations estimates that more than 4 million Venezuelans have fled their country’s economic and humanitarian crisis in recent years in what has become the largest exodus in modern Latin American history.

Dozens of nations say Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro won a new



presidential term in an illegitimate election last year.

Juan Guaidó, head of the opposition-dominated congress, has won recognition as the country’s rightful leader from more than 50 nations, including the United States, but he has been unable to wrest power from Maduro.

Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay also recognise Guaidó as Venezuela’s leader, but Mercosur has not done so, because the centre-left government of Uruguay opposes doing that.

Turning to trade, the Mercosur leaders agreed Wednesday to try to speed up the implementation of the free-trade agreement with the EU.

The deal, which came amid global trade tensions and rising protectionism, has been hailed as a way to integrate the blocs into a market of some 800 million people. But it must still be ratified by the legislatures of the countries involved and it has raised concerns about competition on both sides of the Atlantic.

The French government recently said it was not yet ready to ratify the pact, saying Brazil must “respect its commitments” to protecting its

rainforest.

Before the deal was finalised, French President Emmanuel Macron had said France would not sign if Brazil did not continue within the Paris climate agreement.

“We hope it benefits all of the citizens of our countries,” Uruguayan President Tabaré Vázquez said Wednesday.

The deal would integrate nearly a fourth of the world’s gross domestic product and more than USD 100 billion in bilateral trade of goods and services.

The European Commission has said it would also remove most tariffs on EU exports to Mercosur, cutting more than 4 billion euros (USD 4.5 billion) worth of duties each year.

The commission says the agreement is particularly important for industrial sectors like cars and car parts, machinery, chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

Mercosur hopes to benefit with more exports of its agricultural products, including beef, poultry and sugar.

“It’s a clear sign to the world that Mercosur must be an open and dynamic bloc,” Macri said. “It must have clear rules for businesses and investments.” — AP

## Donkeys painted to look like zebras for theme wedding causes outrage

**MADRID (TIP):** Two donkeys were painted black and white to resemble zebras for a safari-themed wedding reception in a Spanish beach town, triggering outrage online, where pictures of the painted donkeys were shared.

The incident took place in Cadiz where the painted donkeys were filmed grazing close to a bar in El Palmar town while celebrations were going on.

A concerned local filmed the animals and reported the incident to animal rights activists.

Angel Tomas Herrera Pelaez, who filmed the donkeys, termed the sight as “shameful” and shared the video and the images in a Facebook post which has now gone viral.

His post prompted other netizens to criticize the mistreatment of the animals.

One user wrote, “You had to paint them for the wedding? This type of activities makes me very embarrassed to think that I belong to the same species.” “I have not seen it with my own eyes, but come on, I will not see it either, because my face would fall out of shame. If someone is going to promote some action, please keep them informed,” wrote another.

The matter was brought to the attention of the Agrarian Regional Office of Medina Sidonia as well as the Nature Protection Service of Spain. An investigation into the incident was launched. — IANS

## 4-year-old Aussie boy claims to be reincarnation of Princess Diana

**LONDON (TIP):** A four-year-old Australian boy has bizarrely claimed to be the reincarnation of Britain’s Princess Diana.

The boy’s father, a noted Australian television presenter, has said that his son believes he is the reincarnated embodiment of Diana, a UK media report said. Billy Campbell, son of Australian TV personality David Campbell, was born 18 years after the Princess’s death in a car crash in 1997. The bemused father said: “Billy (aged two at this time) pointed and said, ‘Look! It’s me when I was a Princess,’” when he spotted Diana on a card. However, David goes on to say that the kid’s obsession with Diana didn’t stop there. Peculiarly, Billy could apparently recount details about Diana’s life as a toddler, he would refer to Princes William and Harry as his “sons” and have conversations with freaked-out family members in which he would casually mention his “boys”. Even more ludicrously, David alleges that his son would talk about Diana’s brother John, who sadly died as a baby just hours after his birth. — IANS

## Germany makes measles vaccination compulsory for children

**BERLIN (TIP):** Germany will make childhood measles vaccinations mandatory from March 2020, aiming to wipe out the resurgent and potentially deadly disease, Chancellor Angela Merkel’s cabinet decided on Wednesday.

Children will only be admitted to kindergarten or school if they have had the jabs, and vaccinations will also be compulsory for staff in day-care centres, educational institutions, medical facilities and refugee shelters.

“We want to protect as many children as possible from a measles infection,” said Health Minister Jens Spahn, who is aiming for at least 95 per cent coverage.

Violations will lead to fines of up to 2,500 euros (USD2,800) under the Bill that is expected to pass easily through the Bundestag lower house of parliament.

Germany’s paediatricians’ association has long demanded mandatory childhood vaccinations against measles and a range of other diseases.

The UN World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that global efforts to increase immunisation coverage against deadly diseases are stagnating. Last year, 350,000 cases of measles were reported worldwide, more than double the number for 2017. And they increased fourfold globally in the first quarter of 2019 compared to the same period last year, according to WHO.

Germany recorded 543 cases last year, and hundreds so far this year. The resurgence of the disease in some countries has been blamed on the so-called “anti-vax” movement, which is largely based on a 1998 publication linking the measles vaccine and autism that has since been debunked. — AFP



# HOME REMEDIES TO TREAT ACNE NATURALLY

Some of the most popular home remedies for acne involve the use of natural herbal extracts, many of which traditional medicine practitioners have used for hundreds of years.

Below, we discuss the best home remedies for acne, what the research says, and lifestyle changes that can help.

## Tea tree oil

Tea tree oil is a natural antibacterial and anti-inflammatory, which means that it might kill *P. acnes*, the bacteria that causes acne.

Tea tree oil's anti-inflammatory properties mean that it can also reduce the swelling and redness of pimples.

### How to use tea tree oil

People can apply tea tree extract to their acne in creams, gels, or essential oils. If people use essential oils, always dilute them in a carrier oil first.

## Jojoba oil

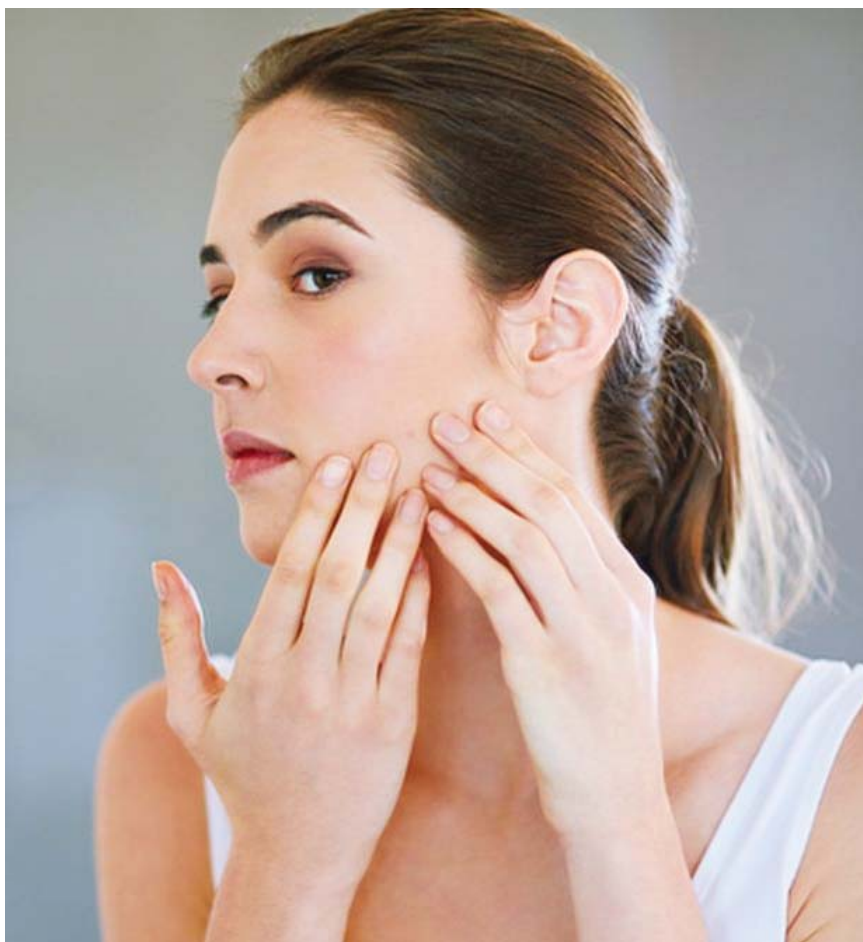
Jojoba oil is a natural, waxy substance extracted from the seeds of the jojoba shrub.

The waxy substances in jojoba oil may help to repair damaged skin, which means it may also help speed up wound healing, including acne lesions.

Some of the compounds in jojoba oil might help to reduce skin inflammation, which means it may reduce redness and swelling around pimples, whiteheads, and other inflamed lesions.

### How to use jojoba oil

Try mixing jojoba essential oil with a gel, cream, or clay face mask and applying it to acne. Otherwise, place a few drops of jojoba oil on a cotton pad and rub this gently over acne sores.



## Aloe vera

Aloe vera is a natural antibacterial and anti-inflammatory, meaning it may reduce the appearance of acne and prevent acne breakouts.

Aloe vera contains lots of water and is an excellent moisturizer, so it is especially suitable for people who get dry skin from other anti-acne products.

### How to use aloe vera gel

Try cleaning the acne sores and then applying a thin layer of cream or gel with at least 10 percent aloe vera content.

## Honey

Honey has been used to treat skin conditions, such as acne, for thousands of years. It contains many antioxidants that can help to clear waste and debris from clogged pores.

Doctors use honey in wound dressings because of its antibacterial and wound-healing properties.

### How to use honey

Using a clean finger or cotton pad, rub a little honey into pimples. Otherwise, add honey to a face or body mask.

# HOW TO HAVE A HEALTHY FIGHT?

## Simply and genuinely listen

Be present in the moment. Really listening means opening your heart and shutting off any inner dialogue, which attempts to defensively answer your partner before he is finished speaking. Never interrupt, make eye contact, and focus on your partner with interest.

## Open your heart and be flexible

Remember that you are a species in evolution and your life is ever in motion. Thus, people change... and situations change. Though we all fear the unfamiliar, by being flexible, you can be available to the change and growth of your partner and yourself.

## Be honest

Say what you really feel, not what you think your partner wants to hear. Value yourself and validate yourself. If you do, your partner will value you as well. Mutuality is essential in relationships. So, listen to your inner voice and be who you authentically are. That is the only way to be loved for yourself.



## Don't read your partner's mind

Don't tell your mate how he feels. Listen, and let your partner tell you what is on his mind. For example, if he tells you he loves you, believe him. Never project your feelings onto the other. That only leads to fights centered on your projected material, and time lost fighting battles that do not exist.

## Honor the process

Don't try to make anything happen, but rather see where your dialogue takes you and trust that because you love each other, you are capable of going there.

## FOOD CORNER



# Dhansak Mutton

## Ingredients

- ½ kg mutton
- 1 1/2 cup tur dal preferably wet ½ an hour before cooking
- 2 small brinjals cut into 4 pieces each
- Few mint leaves, coriander leaves and curry leaves
- 1 big tomato diced nicely
- ½ tsp haldi powder
- 1 tsp red chilli powder
- 1 1/2 tsp dhanajeera powder
- 1 1/2 tsp dhansak masala powder
- ½ tsp garam masala
- Salt to taste
- 1 or 2 green chillies slit into 2
- 1 tsp ginger garlic paste
- 1 tsp oil or ghee

## Method

wash the dal and mutton . take oil or ghee in the cooker put curry leaves , mint leaves and Ginger garlic paste and slit green chillies last add nicely diced tomatoes and fry over sim for Few moments then add mutton and cook till the mutton is nicely covered in the masalas and Then add all the dry masalas let the mutton roast for sometime now add the dal and 1 glass Full of water and put the cooker lid on. Cook for ½ an hour. Open and add finely chopped Coriander leaves.

# Brown rice



## Ingredients

- 2 cups rice
- 2 tbsp jaggery
- 2 onions nicely chopped into thin thin slices
- 2 pieces of cardamoms
- 2pcs cinnamon
- 1 bay leaf
- 3 or 4 whole peppers
- 2 pepper corns
- 1 piece star aniseed
- ¼ tsp jeera and salt to taste.
- Ghee for frying

## Method

Wash the rice and keep it aside. Fry onions in ghee till brown along with all the dry Masalas then put the jaggery and fry over low gas and put the washed rice add salt to taste and last add water. Cook till done.



# SCIENTISTS FIND A CELL THAT HELPS HEAL THE HEART

Researchers have discovered a previously unidentified cell population which could lead to new treatments for patients with injured hearts.

The cell, described in the journal *Immunity*, was discovered in the pericardial fluid found in the sac around the heart of a mouse with heart injury.

The researchers from the University of Calgary in Canada found that a specific cell, a Gata6+ pericardial cavity macrophage, helps heal an injured heart in mice.

The same cells were also found within the human pericardium of people with injured hearts, confirming that the repair cells offer the promise of a new therapy for patients with heart disease.

"Our discovery of a new cell that can help heal injured heart muscle will open the door to new therapies and hope for the millions of people who suffer from heart disease," said Paul Fedak, a professor at the University of Calgary.

"The possibilities for further discovery and innovative new therapies are exciting and important," said Fedak.

Heart doctors had never before explored the possibility that cells



just outside the heart could participate in healing and repair of hearts after injury, researchers said.

Unlike other organs, the heart has a very limited capacity to repair itself which is why heart disease is the number one cause of death in North America, they said.

"We always knew that the heart sits inside a sac filled with a strange fluid," said Fedak.

"Now we know that this pericardial fluid is rich with healing cells. These cells may hold the secret to repair and regeneration of new heart muscle," he said. *Source: PTI*



## MORE BREASTFEEDING COULD SAVE THE WORLD \$1 BILLION EVERY DAY

Not enough breastfeeding costs the global economy almost \$1 billion each day due to lost productivity and healthcare costs, researchers said on Friday, as health experts urged more support for nursing mothers.

A new website developed by researchers in Canada and Asia showed that the world could have saved \$341 billion each year if mothers breastfed their children for longer, helping prevent early deaths and various diseases.

Known as the "Cost of Not Breastfeeding", the online tool used data from a six-year study supported by the U.S.-based maternal and child nutrition initiative, Alive & Thrive.

"It is a human right, it saves lives and improves the prosperity of economies," Canada-based health economics expert Dylan Walters said about the importance of breastfeeding.

Walters, who led the study of more than 100 countries, said the website was the first of its kind and aimed to help policymakers to measure economic losses in individual countries when they do not support breastfeeding.

The United Nations' World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that babies be breastfed exclusively at least their first six months, then have a diet of breast milk and other food until they are two years old.

Breastfeeding can help prevent diarrhea and pneumonia, two major causes of infant death, and protect mothers against ovarian and breast cancer, according to the U.N. agency.

But only 40% of infants under the age of six months are exclusively breastfed globally, while 820,000 child deaths could be avoided each year if the recommendation is followed, it said.

Obstacles to breastfeeding range from a lack of facilities and break times at places of work, aggressive marketing of baby formula, and harassment or stigma if women nurse in public.

# FORGET SYNTHETIC MEAT, LAB GROWN DAIRY IS HERE

The search for sustainable, healthy alternatives to meat currently has two paths: the meat-mimicking veggie burger and lab-grown proteins. But in the land of dairy, there's only plant-based alternatives like cashew "butter" and almond milk.

Whether you're milking them or slaughtering them, industrial cattle husbandry is bad for the planet. Studies show it to be a key culprit in the climate crisis and a source of localized environmental damage. The refrigerator aisle has been full of plant-based dairy for some time, but now there are a few startups who, like the purveyors of cultured meat, want to take dairy one step further.

Already under siege by falling milk sales, Big Dairy lobbyists have been lashing out at makers of plant-based rivals as they grow market-share. But their next enemy may be coming from the laboratory, in the form of synthetic whey, and investors are already lining up.

While fewer people are drinking cow's milk, they're still eating yogurt and cheese, and a crucial protein that comes from making those products is whey. It's relatively flavorless and incorporates well into a range of food formulations for everyone from infants to adults. There's already a huge market for it, as demand for whey protein and whey-based products is on the



rise thanks to consumer demand for protein in everything, from bars to shakes.

The U.S. is the single largest exporter of whey products, with estimated sales of \$10 billion last year. BCC Research said the category will grow by 6% annually through 2023. But for all its popularity, all that whey still comes from cows, a fact increasingly seen as a liability for climate- and health-conscious dairy and protein lovers.

Ryan Pandya saw an opportunity in this consumer conundrum. He wants to be the first to market a non-animal whey protein through his San Francisco area-based company, Perfect Day. Like other

food startup founders, Pandya and partner Perumal Gandhi are both vegan. Rather than forego the taste of real cheese and dairy for poor vegan substitutes, the pair decided to invent their own version of the real thing. The startup focused on the well-worn food path of microbial fermentation—harnessing custom yeast and bacteria to grow the proteins that make milk taste like milk.

But first, the company and others like it face some big hurdles: consumer squeamishness and regulatory reviews that may end up focusing more on the genetically modified organisms [GMO] used to make lab-grown whey.

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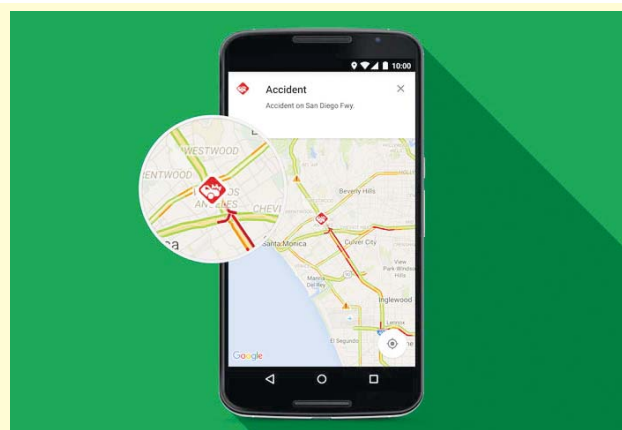
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## GOOGLE MAPS TO SHOW BIKE SHARING STATIONS ON APP

To make Maps more useful for users, Google is adding support for bike-sharing stations to let people be informed on docked bike sharing services near them.

The feature has been testing in New York City for the last year and is now expanding to 23 more cities including Barcelona, Berlin, Brussels, Budapest, Chicago, London and Los Angeles among others, The Verge reported on Tuesday.

The new integration is made possible from data provided by Ito World, which provides information on where to find a bike-sharing station, how many bikes are available there and whether or not there's a space waiting for you to dock your bike when you arrive at your destination.

The feature is being rolled out to Android, as well as iOS devices and even though the feature has not reached India as yet, Google plans to expand the feature to other countries shortly.

On a similar issue, on December 2018, Google Maps gained a feature to direct users towards shared Lime scooters and bikes, the report said.

Since the beginning of 2019, Google has been testing and introducing several new features on Maps.

After running tests in the US and elsewhere, earlier in May, Google rolled out speed limits and mobile radar locations in over 40 countries, including India.

In July 2019, Maps also added more than 45,000 community and public toilets as part of the Central government's "Loo Review" campaign that covers 1,700 cities in India.

Besides, the search engine giant has introduced features like Augmented Reality (AR) navigation feature and off-route alert feature on Maps as well.

## AI algorithm solves Rubik's Cube in less than a second

Researchers have developed an AI algorithm that can solve a Rubik's Cube in a fraction of a second, faster than most humans.

The work is a step toward making AI systems that can think, reason, plan and make decisions.

The study, published in the journal Nature Machine Intelligence, shows DeepCubeA—a deep reinforcement learning algorithm programmed by University of California computer scientists and mathematicians—can solve the Rubik's Cube in a fraction of a second, without any specific domain knowledge or in-game coaching from humans.

This is no simple task considering that the cube has completion paths numbering in the billions but only one goal state—each of six sides displaying a solid colour—which apparently cannot be found through random moves.

"Artificial Intelligence can defeat the world's best human chess and Go players, but some of the more difficult puzzles, such as the Rubik's Cube, had not been solved by computers, so we thought they were open for AI approaches," said study author Pierre Baldi, Professor at the University of California.

"The solution to the Rubik's Cube involves more symbolic, mathematical and abstract thinking, so a deep learning machine that can crack such a puzzle is getting closer to becoming a system that can think, reason, plan and make decisions," Baldi said.

For the study, the researchers demonstrated that DeepCubeA solved 100 percent of all test configurations, finding the shortest path to the goal state about 60 per cent of the time.

# WHATSAPP, TELEGRAM MEDIA FILES CAN BE MANIPULATED

If you thought instant messaging platforms like WhatsApp and Telegram that provide end-to-end encryption give you rock-solid security, think again. Researchers from cybersecurity firm Symantec on Monday revealed vulnerabilities that allowed hackers to manipulate the images and audio files you receive on these platforms.

The security flaw, dubbed "Media File Jacking", affected WhatsApp for Android by default, and Telegram for Android if certain features were enabled, Symantec researchers said in a blog post.

According to the researchers, WhatsApp saves files to external storage automatically, while Telegram does so when the "Save to Gallery" feature is enabled. However, neither apps have any system in place to protect users from a Media File Jacking attack, the researchers from Symantec's Modern OS Security team explained.

Attackers could exploit this vulnerability to scam victims in various ways.

"If the security flaw is exploited, a malicious attacker could misuse and manipulate sensitive information such as personal



photos and videos, corporate documents, invoices, and voice memos," wrote Software Engineer Alon Gat and Yair Amit, Vice-President and Chief Technology Officer, Modern OS Security, Symantec.

Giving example of image manipulation, the researchers said a seemingly innocent, but actually malicious, app downloaded by a user could manipulate personal photos in near-real time and without the victim knowing.

The app runs in the background and performs a "Media File Jacking attack" while the victim

uses WhatsApp. It monitors for photos received through the app, identifies faces in photos, and replaces them with something else, such as other faces or objects.

"A WhatsApp user may send a family photo to one of their contacts, but what the recipient sees is actually a modified photo. While this attack may seem trivial and just a nuisance, it shows the feasibility of manipulating images on the fly," said the blog post.

Using the same vulnerability, the attackers could make payment spoofing or spread fake news.

## ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE VIRAL AI PHOTO EDITING APP

Remember FaceApp? The Artificial Intelligence-based photo editing app is trending, once again. Since 2017, when the app went viral the last time, the AI photo editing app has become a lot better with better effects. It has also raced to top 4th grossing app on Google Play Store. If you're wondering why everyone's talking about it, here's what you need to know.

### What is FaceApp?

FaceApp uses Artificial Intelligence to predict how you would look when you get old or younger. You can also artificially add beard, mustache style or certain look on the app. You can also swap gender or replace background with a single tap. The AI can also find the best hairstyle and colours for you. Unlike other free apps on Play Store, FaceApp's AI prediction looks much more realistic.

### How to use

Download FaceApp from the Play Store. Launch the app and choose the photo you want to edit. The app also gives you the option to edit photos from Facebook or of celebrities. You can also use photos from the gallery on your phone. There's an in-app camera button to take photos and edit directly from the app.

Once you have selected the photo, you can apply filters appearing at the bottom of the screen. You can



choose between smiles, impression, age, beards, hair colour, hair styles, glasses and other effects.

### Not all filters are free

FaceApp is free to download on Google Play Store and Apple App Store. The app, however, comes, a lot of in-app purchases. The developers are offering a premium version of the app as well called "FaceApp Pro." The premium version gives full size filters, filter updates, mix and match styles, and ad-free experience. The monthly subscription costs Rs 299 whereas an annual package will cost Rs 1,599. For Rs 3,099, you get the premium version forever.

### Performance: Inconsistent

The AI photo editor does a good job at predicting how a person may look old or young. Like early days of

once-viral app Prisma, FaceApp is also slow at times and is unable to process the images in one-go. The performance, however, is much better than the early version of the app.

### Privacy questions

Even as FaceApp has gone viral, people have raised concerns over how the app handles users' data. Some reports alleged FaceApp uploaded full camera roll to its servers. Top security researchers Baptiste Robert and Will Strafach, however, have given clean chit to the app. "Using a network traffic analyzer, I tried to replicate the thing people are talking about with FaceApp allegedly uploading your full camera roll to remote servers, but I did not see the reported activity occur," Strafach said in a tweet.



# Trump says he could impose more China tariffs if he wants

**Trump and Xi called a tariff ceasefire and agreed to resume trade talks after meeting at the Group-of-20 summit in Japan in late-June, breaking a six-week stalemate**

President Donald Trump reiterated that he could impose additional tariffs on Chinese imports if he wants, after promising to hold off on more duties in a trade-war truce he reached with China's Xi Jinping last month.

"We have a long way to go as far as tariffs where China is concerned, if we want. We have another \$325 billion we can put a tariff on, if we want," Trump said. "So, we're talking to China about a deal, but I wish they didn't break the deal that we had."

China said Wednesday that further levies would complicate the negotiations.

"If the U.S. imposes new tariffs, this would create a new obstacle for U.S. and China trade negotiations, would make the road to coming to an agreement longer," Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters in Beijing. "China still hopes to resolve U.S.-China trade frictions through consultation and dialogue."

Trump and Xi called a tariff ceasefire and agreed to resume trade talks after meeting at the Group-of-20 summit in Japan in late-June, breaking a six-week stalemate. The U.S. president said he'd hold off on a threat to impose tariffs on an additional \$300 billion in Chinese imports, and that Xi had agreed to buy large amounts of U.S. farm goods in exchange.

No such deal to increase agricultural purchases was made,



Chinese officials familiar with the discussions said earlier. There hasn't been any large-scale buys since the meeting in late June.

Stocks fell from a record after Trump made the remarks at a cabinet meeting Tuesday at the White House. Treasury 10-year yields surged earlier in the day after solid economic data added to signs the U.S. expansion is holding up even as central bank officials indicated they're ready to cut rates.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer expect to have another call this week with top trade negotiators in China, and the two may travel to Beijing for meetings if the discussions by phone are

productive, Mnuchin said Monday.

Trump resumed pressure on China through tweets this week about the ongoing trade tensions. On Monday, the president indicated that the U.S. tariffs were having their intended impact by squeezing China's economy.

China released figures this week showing growth in the world's second-largest economy slowed to 6.2% in the second quarter, the weakest pace since at least 1992 when the country began collecting the data.

Meanwhile, Trump last week complained that China wasn't living up to its promise of increased purchases of American agricultural goods. "China is letting us down in that they have not been buying the agricultural products from our great Farmers that they said they would. Hopefully they will start soon!" Trump said on Twitter.

The U.S. expects China to announce significant purchases of from U.S. farmers, Trump's top economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, told reporters Monday, implying that the step is necessary for trade talks between two nations to advance.

The talks broke down in May after the U.S. accused China of reneging on commitments in a draft deal that Mnuchin said had been 90% completed. China has said there'll be no trade deal unless the U.S. removes all existing tariffs put in place during the year-long trade war.

Source: Bloomberg



## LABOUR MINISTRY REJECTS MOVE TO LOWER EPFO RATE OF INTEREST

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The labour ministry has rejected the finance ministry's request to reduce the 8.65% interest rate offered in 2018-19 by the Employee Provident Fund Organisation, the government owned pension fund manager, in a move that should bring cheer to 46 million subscribers whose funds are managed by EPFO.

Government officials familiar with the matter said the labour ministry is of the view that EPFO has sufficient surplus of over Rs 3,150 crore, mainly earned from investments in exchange traded funds (ETFs).

EPFO interest rate is determined by the organisation's Central Board of Trustees (CBT), which does so after assessing the annual returns on the investments. It is the duty of EPFO to pass on the rightful share of the subscribers, the government officials cited in the first instance added on condition of anonymity. EPFO does not take any money from the consolidated fund of the Government of India, and is not obliged to follow the finance ministry's suggestions, they added.

CBT is chaired by the labour minister and has representation of central and state government officials, trade unions and industry bodies.

"The finance ministry is worried that EPFO is offering significantly higher returns compared to similar funds managed by the central government. Instead of asking for the EPF interest rate to be slashed, it should make its fund management system more efficient," said one of the officials.

The finance ministry on Tuesday slashed interest rate on General Provident Fund (GPF) and other similar funds to 7.9% for the quarter ending September 30 as compared to 8% offered on pension funds of government employees the previous quarter.

Source: HT

## Facebook's Libra prospects dim, but cryptocurrencies roll on

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Facebook's planned global digital coin Libra has run into a wall of opposition in Washington that could prevent its launch as envisioned, but analysts say cryptocurrencies are likely to make gains around the world nonetheless.

The plan by Facebook and its partners has generated skepticism from US lawmakers and G7 finance ministers as well as from central banks and regulators globally.

Lawmakers have also raised concerns over Facebook's spotty record on privacy and data protection.

Facebook's scale—with some 2.7 billion users for all its applications—means the proposed Libra currency could roil the global financial system and make the job harder for the world's central banks.

"If people are using Libra as a stored value and holding a lot of money in it, you might have less effective monetary policy," said Martin Chorzempa, a research fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

The US Federal Reserve, for example, "can affect the dollar but it might not affect Libra in the same way."



Since the Libra would likely hold the dollar, euro and other major currencies as reserve assets, the impact could be significant in "emerging markets or developing countries where people want to get rid of those currencies," Chorzempa said.

"Imagine the demand for Libra in a place like Venezuela," where the currency has collapsed from hyperinflation.

Hoping to avoid the wild swings of other virtual currencies, Libra would be governed by a non-profit association backing up the coin with a basket of major global currencies.

## Amazon in deal with German watchdog

**FRANKFURT (TIP):** Amazon has reached a deal with Germany's anti-trust authority to overhaul its terms of service for third-party merchants, taking action to appease regulators as pressure on the e-commerce giant grows in Europe and the United States.

The Federal Cartel Office said on Wednesday it was dropping a seven-month investigation after Amazon agreed to amend its Business Services Agreement that applies to merchants using its platform.

Neighbouring Austria ended a similar probe into Amazon, yet a full-blown European Union antitrust probe still looms.

Lawmakers in the United States meanwhile grilled an Amazon boss on Tuesday over how the company treats merchants.

## Carlos Ghosn sues Mitsubishi, Nissan for breach of contract

**PARIS (TIP):** Former auto titan Carlos Ghosn, currently under house arrest in Tokyo, is suing Nissan and Mitsubishi in a Dutch court for "improper termination" of his contract, French newspaper Le Figaro reported on Wednesday.

Ghosn is accusing the Japanese manufacturers of breaching his contract as an employee of NMBV, their joint subsidiary based in the Netherlands, and seeking up to 15 million euros in damages, it said.

The former chief of Renault and Nissan is awaiting trial in Japan on charges of financial misconduct. He was kept behind bars for over 100 days before being granted bail and sacked from all his management roles.

Source: AFP







## 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)

The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope from the World's most trusted astrologer Bejan Daruwalla. Latest correct prediction: Modi's historic victory

## Weekly Horoscope - July 22 - July 28, 2019

**ARIES:** Ganesha says good people - skills are your forte, and you can encash them now, in several ways. You are a natural of communicating with others and also have a strong streak of creativity. What could also be easy, warns Ganesha, are the workings of your conscience. It could make you willing, even eager to turn a blind eye to unorthodox ways of earning, or access to money by some rather unconventional methods.

**TAURUS:** You make flamboyant career moves. You take risks without caring too much for the consequences. There is love, passion, new assignments and a lot of contacts and correspondence as the period advances. The end of the period you will see many emotional moments. You spend quality time with loved ones and make take a relationship to the next level.

**GEMINI:** You may have a problem keeping your word. You often shoot your mouth off and do not follow it up. Watch out for health issues this period. Ganesha suggests you take the necessary precautions. There may also be health problems for parents, elders, in-laws, and friends. But, despite it all, you have the confidence, vitality, even daring to enjoy life so grab it.

**CANCER:** Caution, restraint and moderation should be part of the fine time you're having. All your relationships will definitely improve. Ganesha promises adding glamour, glitter, a special glow to your family and personal life, emotional equations and interactions. There could be international travel and new interests. There are relationships, new projects and initiatives, renovations to home and office and several fiscal instruments to deal with.

**LEO:** There are many domestic issues including intense love and bonding. You relish the warmth in personal interactions and family bonding. You are able to give a lot and so it is no surprise that you are also able to receive a lot. There is comfort, intensity and security in your life and you enjoy yourself to the hilt. This will therefore be progressive, productive period that helps you to enjoy life to the hilt.

**VIRGO:** You are far more accepting and tolerant, and aware of the many truths that people often ignore in their quest for success. A wish fulfilment is also quite possible. Ganesha shows me the true picture and I interpret it, that's all. Take it or leave it. There is travel, romance, marriage, collaborations, financial gains, family reconciliations. Your plate is filled with opportunity. Glory, achievements and gains stare you in the face.

**LIBRA:** With some effort and risk-taking, some courage and daring, a few brilliant and inspired moves, you will strike gold. There is more stability and you are grounded. You have the energy and the focus and so there is a very good chance of success. All the P's - pets, projects, pastimes and protégés will keep you occupied. There is travel, more money and a new love.

**SCORPIO:** You display the caring side to your nature and attract a lot of love too. This period sees you also in a serene mode as you do a lot of self-evaluation. But this is also a period when you make rapid progress on all fronts. You may spend long periods in trying to understand yourself. Ganesha wishes you well of course. Visits to lonely places, hospitals and welfare centres are very probable - they give you solace, even as you make efforts to give it!

**SAGITTARIUS:** You are torn by many thoughts. But this is the beginning of a great period and the next period will be very lucky for you. Make the most of it. Ganesha points out that there will be business deals, hectic romance, rendezvous, slight secret activity, journeys and collaborations and enormous opportunities to earn money. You may get it through a million different sources like rentals, legacy, tax rebate, loans, funds, joint-finance.

**CAPRICORN:** Ganesha raises your levels of enthusiasm, energy, performance. You attack life with renewed zeal and confidence. You look for more success in all areas of your life. You want material progress and recognition. To make this happen, you will be reconciling different trends and squaring up to your responsibilities. There is hope and promise, optimism and joy, as you move along the path of greater glory.

**AQUARIUS:** You are in line for peace, plenty and prosperity. There is also time to relax, to laugh and to enjoy yourself with friends. There will be a happy mix of fun and work as the period ends. There could be happy moments like a marriage or engagement in the family. There will be domestic bliss. You seem to have a sudden awakening in terms of the joys of family life and you enjoy every moment of it.

**PISCES:** There is also a lot of going on for you in the sphere of finance. You take risks and make investments. Ganesha blesses you. There is a certain joy in life and a huge amount of confidence. Your mind and attitude are all open, expansive, and charismatic. There is a lot on your plate and you could have bitten off more than you can chew. Make space for new spiritual insights and look for rest, relaxation and inner peace.

### Birthday Horoscope July 22 - July 28, 2019

**JULY 22ND:** Ganesha says communicate your needs, plans, intentions relating to the work you do; get a dialogue going. Later, give and take seems out of whack.

**JULY 23RD:** With a little digging, you can acquire what you need. With a little persistence; you can get whomsoever you want. People and events are intense. Align with people who share your convictions. It's not a day to be lukewarm.

**JULY 24TH:** You may want to take a chance, but restlessness is a poor reason to act, especially considering

that the results can be so unpredictable. Focus and clarity are lacking.

**JULY 25TH:** Hidden resources are potentially available from which you can draw benefits. Review options for adding to your financial security. A relationship benefits from thinking about the future you can build together.

**JULY 26TH:** Promises, hopes, and dreams give you something to contemplate, but you probably won't be able to build on any of them just now. Recognise that necessary means and methods are in short supply now.

**JULY 27TH:** The Moon increases movement, travel, and communication, but also warns to be mindful of necessary safeguards concerning these areas and to respect them. Protect personal information.

**JULY 28TH:** To avoid getting into a conflict or having to say anything unpleasant or displeasing, some may not give the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Watch for where that can waste time or cost money.

**JULY 29TH:** Keep lines of communication open, especially if they turn awkward. Staying close to home versus travel can be one of the many issues that can have everyone dividing up into separate camps.



# SAWAN 2019: SIGNIFICANCE OF MONDAY, SAWAN PUJA

The holy month of Sawan or Shravan has begun. It is considered to be the most auspicious month of the Hindu calendar. Sawan, the fifth month of the Hindu calendar, falls during the month of July-August and is known for worshipping Lord Shiva, the Hindu deity also known as 'The Destroyer' among the Trimurti. Hariyali Teej and Naga Panchami is also celebrated in the month of Shravan.

Lakhs of people go on the Kanwar Pilgrimage every year to offer Lords Shiva the Holy water and ask for his blessings. People keep fasts and also worship Goddess Parvati seeking their protection and hoping to get their desires fulfilled.

The month of Sawan or Shravan is starting on 17 July 2019 and the month will conclude on 15 August with the celebration of Rakshabandhan.

Devotees spend the entire month worshipping Lord Shiva for his blessings. People go to the Jyotirlingas for pilgrimage and offer the Holy water of River Ganges to the Shivlinga.

## What is the significance of Monday in Sawan (Shravan Somwar)?

There will be four Mondays in the month of Sawan this year. Numerous men, women and unmarried girls worship the deity on this day and observe fasts dedicated to Lord Shiva. People perform special Rudra Abhishek Puja with desires of a child, a healthy life or a successful career. Shivratri will be celebrated on 30 July this year.

## What is the Significance of Sawan ?

As per a popular legend, Lord Shiva had consumed the Halahal (poison) that came out of the ocean during the Samudra Manthan (churning of the ocean). As Lord Shiva did that to save the world, his devotees perform Puja as rendition to the Lord who always protects his followers from all dangers & diseases and bestows good health and fortune.

It is believed that Lord Shiva held the venom in his throat, turning it blue, and thus, is also referred to as Neelkantha.

## How to do Puja in Sawan?

People go on Kanwar Yatra during the



Holy month of Sawan. They fetch water from the Holy rivers and carry Kanwars, on their shoulders to offer it to Shivlinga of their nearest temples.

Every year lakhs of devotees undertake this pilgrimage with utmost sincerity. Once the Kanwar is filled with the Holy water, it must not be kept on the floor or at any surface until it is offered to Lord Shiva. This is when the pilgrimage comes to an end. People also perform Shivarchan at their homes and pray to the Almighty for his blessings.

## The Legend Behind Shravan Month

As per the traditional story, the daughter of Daksh had sacrificed her life

and was reborn as Parvati in the home of Himalaya King. Parvati wanted to marry Lord Shiva. That is the reason why she performed penance during Shravan month. Lord Shiva was pleased with the devotion of Parvati and he fulfilled her wish. Lord Shiva likes the Shravan month very much as he got reunited with his wife during this period. Shravan month 2018 began on July 28. During the holy Shravan month, Shivaling is worshipped and people pray to Lord Shiva for the entire night. All this is done to win the special grace of Lord Shiva. Any act which violates the religious principles is strictly prohibited during Shravan month.

## Another Story Behind Shravan Month

The legend of Shravan Maas Shiva Puja is referred to the 'Samudra Manthan' which was performed during the month of Shravan. Out of the fourteen elements that came out of the ocean during the churning, the 'Halahal' poison was consumed by Lord Shiva to save the world.

He came to be known as Neelkantha as he held the poison in his throat that turned blue due to the deadly venom. The Shiva Puja during Shravan Maas is a rendition to the Lord who always protects his followers from all dangers & diseases and bestows good health and fortune.



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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 BEAUTY OF KOLLAM BACKWATERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## HOW TO REACH

### BY FLIGHT

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

Kollam: 51 km away

Thiruvananthapuram International Airport (TRV), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Kollam: 129 km away

Kochi Airport (COK), Ernakulam, Kerala

### BY TRAIN

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

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

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





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contd from page 1

## India's Focus now is Private Sector led Growth, says NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar

and status of a Cabinet Minister, on 1 September 2017. Highlighting the reform measures introduced in the recent budget, Dr Kumar said that there are more than a dozen provisions in the budget to encourage the private sector to lead India's growth and it's time to make space for them and give the private sector more incentive.

"The intention and the sharp focus of the Modi government is very clear and it is that private enterprise must be given the space, the incentives to play its role in the economy. The government has no intention at all to try and be the main driver of growth in the country because it is not possible," he said. "The next five years, India is going to be at the cusp of a major transformation and if we succeed, as this government is wanting to, you will see a decade plus more of sustained high growth which will be undertaken with inclusion but also with sustainability," he further added.

Dr Kumar acknowledged that there is still space for bolder reforms like changing the mindset. Noting that agriculture needs corporate investment, as there have hardly been any investments in that sector, but for that structural reforms are essential, he pointed out. Focus is also being given for major transformation in the mining, oil and natural gas sectors, electric mobility sectors, textile and leather, as well as 'sunshine' industry like tourism, he added.

During a Q&A session, answering a question by Prof Indrajit S Saluja, Chief Editor of The Indian Panorama about water scarcity in different states, Dr Kumar said the water index, introduced by NITI Aayog, has raised the alarm. He said the problem and its solution both are associated with agriculture. At the moment about 90 percent of the water is consumed by agriculture, he said. The agriculture has to be more water efficient and if there is a shift to horticulture, water could be freed up for other uses, he suggested.



Dr. Kumar answering questions from The Indian Panorama Editor Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja

Later, in a brief interview with The Indian Panorama, Dr Kumar answered a few questions from Chief Editor Prof Indrajit S Saluja.

Q. As in charge of policy planning in India, what would be your top priority? I am not talking about the government, what would be your top priority?

Ans. My top priority would be two - one is agricultural transformation and I stick by that. The other one is to eliminate mal nourishment. Our children and our women - 38% of our children are mal nourished - it's a shame. Fifteen percent of our women are anemic. If we can't change that, we are not going anywhere at all. And the third would be water. If I can solve these three, I would die as a satisfied person. I just headed a committee called the North East Water Management Authority. They did a very good job; we have to implement that. It would solve the Brahmaputra problem at least.

Q. When it comes to human beings, what kind of quality of life do you think you would be able to provide for people of India under your supervisory capacity as chief planner of India?

Ans. I am not a planner. I gave up planning. I am just a thinker. Our problem is much bigger than quality of life. You know if I can tackle, get people sufficient amount of potable good water and a clean environment, if I can get them quality education and health - that in the five years I am not promising. But the beginning is being made. Those are the areas we want to work on. For that (We need) domestic private investment. FDI contributes no more than 3 to 4 percent in our total investment. We have to depend on domestic investment and domestic investors.

## US House votes to condemn Trump over his 'racist' tweets

The resolution also got support of four Republicans and an Independent in the House where the Democratic Party has a majority. Though the result carries no legal repercussions for President Trump, it was an embarrassing one for him.

Reproaching a sitting President on the record is an extremely rare in the US House. "It's not who we are. It is playing with fire because the words that the president used are heard by people with disturbed minds who do terrible things, violent things, and a line needs to be drawn," Malinowski told the House. "So that's what we hope to do," he said.

"These comments from the White House are disgraceful and disgusting and these comments are racist," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said during the debate. Trump had been accused of racism and xenophobia for telling the members of congress to leave the country. The President has since tweeted: "I don't have a Racist bone in my body!"

Congresswoman Grace Meng said President Trump's comments are "racist" and his vile rants on Twitter are beyond the pale and show his callous disregard for the office he holds.

### Little political damage

- Trump has a history of what critics consider race-baiting. He led a movement that falsely claimed Barack Obama, America's first black President, was not born in the US
- A Reuters poll this week showed little immediate political damage from his latest tweetstorm. Support among Republicans increased slightly, while he lost support with Democrats and independents after the comments.

(Source: Agencies)

## Republic of Palau becomes 76th country to sign the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement

President Remengesau praised India as an important partner for South-South Cooperation and commended the positive role being played by the India-UN Development Fund in promoting sustainable development projects in partner countries. He appreciated that India made no distinction between the size of countries and treated small countries like Palau with respect and mutual understanding.

### Background:

The International Solar Alliance was jointly launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and then French President Francois Hollande at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris on 30 November 2015. It is a major global initiative for contributing to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement through rapid and massive deployment of solar energy. The ISA Framework Agreement was opened for signature during the 2016 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Morocco on 15 November 2016. The ISA became a treaty-based intergovernmental body on 6 December 2017. The Founding Conference of the ISA was jointly hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron in New Delhi on 11 March 2018. It was attended by leaders of 48 countries, including 25 Heads of State/Government. The First Assembly of the ISA was held in New Delhi on 3 October 2018. The Assembly was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the United Nations Secretary-General H.E. Mr. António Guterres.

## India is doing more to tackle climate change than any other country, says India's Railway Minister in London

and representatives of the Indian diaspora in Britain.

### The Minister in his own words:

- The norm across government is transparency and more transparency
- This government has proved that it is willing to take on black money head on
- India is doing more to tackle climate change than any other country despite not being responsible for the problem
- The per capita consumption of coal in India is what the US consumed 150 years ago
- At no point of time any more can there be any trade pact which will be at the cost of India's interests
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has laid out a truly remarkable roadmap in her Budget for India to move towards the goal of becoming a \$5-trillion economy by 2024
- I don't agree with the naysayers who say there hasn't been job creation because the nature of job creation has changed.

(Courtesy - India Inc.)

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# Selection meet postponed, focus on Dhoni's future, Kohli's availability

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The national selection panel's meeting to pick squads for the West Indies tour has been pushed to Sunday amid intense focus on skipper Virat Kohli's availability and MS Dhoni's future.

The meeting was scheduled for Friday but was postponed following Committee of Administrators' (CoA) directive that the chairman of the panel, instead of BCCI secretary, will convene it. "There are some legal modalities that need to be followed due to the rule change and it took some time. Also the BCCI's cricket operations team needs to apprise the chairman of the availability of the captain for the meeting. The fitness reports of the players will be available on Saturday evening," a BCCI official said.

The 38-year old Dhoni would be the centre of discussion amid speculation that the Jharkhand player is contemplating retirement even though he hasn't spoken about it till now. Dhoni's selection or omission would be an indicator of things to come in the future. India are set to play three T20s, as many ODIs and two Tests in a full-fledged tour to the Caribbean islands, starting August 3.

Considering next year's T20 World Cup to be held in Australia, the selectors might opt for Rishabh Pant, who is seen as the heir apparent to Dhoni.

Dhoni was dropped from the T20 series against West Indies and



Australia last October and there is a strong chance that he won't be included this time around too. Pant was recently called up as a replacement for an injured opener Shikhar Dhawan in the World Cup.

Another issue that would surely be debated is the availability of Kohli, who has been on the road for a while.

There is a school of thought that the skipper could be rested considering the long domestic season ahead, which begins in September, and in this scenario, Rohit Sharma could be handed captaincy for the shorter formats. However, with the two Tests being part of the ICC Test Championship, Kohli could be included in the Test squad. A similar approach could be taken for pacer Jasprit Bumrah. The MSK Prasad-led panel would

also work on restructuring the middle-order as it was one of the primary reasons for India's exit from the World Cup semifinal. Picking the middle-order could lead to a big debate as the panel has a few choices among Karnataka's Mayank Agarwal, Manish Pandey and Mumbai's Shreyas Iyer.

## Shubman in reckoning

The selectors may consider Punjab batsman Shubman Gill and Mumbai's Prithvi Shaw. But Shaw's hip injury could come in the way of him being considered. Gill has been among the runs in the West Indies tour for India A. It could also be end of the road for Dinesh Karthik and Kedar Jadhav, who failed to perform in the World Cup. If Dhawan is deemed fit, he would, in all probability, open with Rohit.



## Sachin Tendulkar, Allan Donald inducted in ICC Hall of Fame

**LONDON (TIP):** Indian batting icon Sachin Tendulkar has been inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame alongside South African pace legend Allan Donald. Joining Tendulkar and Donald in the Hall of Fame was two-time World Cup-winning Australian woman cricketer Cathryn Fitzpatrick.

"It's a huge honour for me," Tendulkar said at the induction ceremony held here on Sunday night.

The 46-year-old former right-hand batsman is regarded the greatest to have played the game along with Sir Donald Bradman and remains the top run-accumulator in both Tests and ODIs.

He has 34,357 runs across formats and is the only batsman to have 100 internationals hundreds under his belt. The 52-year-old Donald is one of the finest bowlers to have played the game and had 330 Test and 272 ODI wickets to his credit before calling it quits in 2003. Fitzpatrick is the second highest wicket-taker of all time in women's cricket with 180 ODI scalps and 60 in Tests. As a coach, she guided the Australian women's team to three World Cup titles.

## ICC suspends Zimbabwe over government interference

**LONDON (TIP):** Zimbabwe were suspended from the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Thursday, with the world governing body saying the country's cricket administration was not free from government interference. The ICC Board unanimously decided to freeze funding to national governing body Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) and ban the southern African country's teams from international events. Zimbabwe failed to qualify for the recent 50-overs World Cup, having struggled to schedule matches against the major teams in international cricket as their financial position worsened.

# Novak Djokovic, Ashleigh Barty on top in latest tennis rankings

**PARIS (TIP):** Novak Djokovic's successful defence of his Wimbledon crown ensured that the Serb remained at world number one in the latest ATP rankings released on Monday.

The 32-year-old collected his fifth Wimbledon title and 16th major Sunday with a thrilling five-set win over Roger Federer, a match that last three minutes short of five hours.

He is now 4,500 points clear of second-ranked Rafael Nadal who is just 485 points ahead of 37-year-old Federer.

The biggest climber is Roberto Bautista Agut whose ride to the semi-finals, where he lost in four sets to Djokovic, sees him rise nine places to 13, equalling his best ranking.

David Goffin, who lost to Djokovic in the quarters, returns to the Top 20, rising five places to 18th.

## Barty retains top spot



Ashleigh Barty hung on to top place in the WTA rankings on Monday despite crashing out of Wimbledon in the last 16.

The French Open champion, who was hoping to become the first Australian to win at the All

England Club since Evonne Goolagong Cawley in 1980, lost in three sets to the American Alison Riske.

The top three of Barty, Naomi Osaka and Karolina Pliskova remains unchanged although



none of them reached the quarter-finals.

Simona Halep, who demolished Serena Williams in under an hour in Saturday's final, moves up three places to number four.

Williams also moves up one place to nine.

Former world number one Angelique Kerber, who lost to Lauren Davis in the second round at Wimbledon, drops out of the top 10 to 13.



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**O'DONOHUE PARK**  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 @ 5:00 PM  
DR. K'S MOTOWN REVUE  
MOTOWN COVER BAND



Melinda Katz  
Queens Borough President



NYC Parks



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