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There will be no edition of The Indian Panorama on August 9 in view of the Indian Independence Day special edition on August 13, 2019.

Melinda Katz Wins Recount in Queens DA Primary



Melinda Katz called upon all to join her "in beginning the hard work of reforming the criminal justice system in Queens."

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): New York City's Board of Elections on Monday, July 29, declared Queens Borough President Melinda Katz the winner by 60 votes to become the Democratic Party's candidate for Queens DA. Her opponent Tiffany Cabán declared she would appeal the results in court. Cabán is contesting more than 100 invalidated ballots.

Melinda Katz, said: "While it is everyone's right to avail themselves of the judicial process, I urge all participants in this hard-fought election to come together and join me in beginning the hard work of reforming the criminal justice system in Queens."

A Democrat, Katz is the current Queens Borough President. She served as New York City Councilwoman from 2002 to 2009.

The Indian Panorama was one of the first to endorse Melinda Katz.

President Trump Announces New Tariffs on \$300 billion in Chinese Goods

Stocks and oil prices plunge

WASHINGTON (TIP): Escalating the trade war with China, President Donald Trump said in a series of tweets on Thursday, August 1 that, starting Sept. 1, the U.S. will impose a 10% tariff on \$300 billion in Chinese goods.

The immediate impact of the announcement was that the financial markets, which had jumped in morning trade, fell into negative terrain immediately after Mr. Trump's tweets. The Dow went from a gain of 270 points Thursday to a loss of 180 points moments after Mr. Trump tweeted his threat - a swing of more than 450 points. It closed the day down 280 points, or 1%, to 26,583. The broader S&P 500 stock index and tech-heavy Nasdaq composite also slid on the tweet.

Oil markets plunged almost 8% -- the steepest one-day drop in more than four years, Bloomberg News reported -- on



President Trump has accused China of renegeing on its commitments.

worries that a trade war would slow the global economy and drag down demand for energy.

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Work with you in facilitating greater trade & investment ties, Indian Envoy tells US Investors



India's Ambassador to the US Harsh V Shringla addressing the heads of trade & investment offices of all 50 states of USA at the State International Development Organization Forum in Denver, Colorado. Picture / Courtesy Indian Embassy

WASHINGTON (TIP): India is very happy that US investors have taken an interest in India, and India would take necessary steps in facilitating greater trade and investment ties, India's Ambassador to the US Harsh Vardhan Shringla has said.

During Ambassador's visit to Colorado, July 29-30, 2019, he was the

keynote speaker at 2019 State International Development Organization (SIDO) Conference on US-India Trade and Investment: Opportunities and Best Practices. Highlighting how States both in the U.S. and India play a very important role in promoting business partnership and tie-ups,

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USA to Allow Import of some Prescription Drugs from Canada

H.S. PANASER

NEW YORK (TIP) National Public Radio placed this information that Trump administration is outlining two possible ways certain drugs that were intended for foreign markets could be imported to the U.S. - a move that would clear the way to import some prescription drugs from Canada. "Today's announcement outlines the pathways the Administration intends to

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AAPI's Historic 13th Annual Global Healthcare Summit in Hyderabad Concludes with a Commitment to Give Back to India

New York based Dr. Ajay Lodha, past President of AAPI, coordinated and led the seminar on AYUSH, Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, & Homeopathy.



AAPI leaders with Shri Venkaiah Naidu during the inaugural ceremony

HYDERABAD, INDIA / NEW YORK (TIP): The 13th edition of the annual Global Healthcare Summit organized by the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) USA, was inaugurated by Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India, with the lighting of the traditional lamp and delivering the keynote address at the famous Taj Krishna Hotel in Hyderabad on July 21st.

"I am glad to learn that AAPI serves as an umbrella organization with a Network of over 160 chapters across USA," Mr. Naidu told AAPI delegates. "We are indeed proud of our doctors and healthcare practitioners who are rendering invaluable healthcare services in countries across the globe."

In his welcome address, Dr. Suresh Reddy, President of AAPI, said, "This GHS held in Hyderabad from July 21st to 23rd, 2019 has promised to be one with the greatest impact and significant contributions towards harnessing the power of international Indian diaspora to bring the most innovative, efficient, cost effective healthcare solutions to India."

The groundbreaking Global Healthcare Summit (GHS) organized by AAPI in collaboration with the Government of India, BAPIO & GAPIO, as well as Host Alumni Chapters, including OGTKMA,

ATMGUSA, KAMCOSA, and GMCGA, had participation from some of the world's most well-known physicians, and industry leaders.

GHS 2019 was attended by over 100 opinion leaders and expert speakers from many countries across the globe to present cutting edge scientific findings as these relate to clinical practice, representing major Centers of Excellence, Institutions, and Professional Associations are represented by the invited chairs and speakers. In addition, the GHS 2019 was attended by more than 1,000 local physicians.

"Let us develop a structural relationship between AAPI and the government of India," Honorable Shri Harsh Vardhan, India's Minister for Health, told the hundreds of international delegates. "It is your love for your motherland that has brought you here today." He proposed that each AAPI member return to one's place of birth and identify the local needs of the place and invest one's time and resources and talents and skills there in order to make a positive impact on the health of your native place. "If AAPI has a project in its efforts to enhance the healthcare system in India, the Ministry of Health will collaborate and provide all possible support to it," the Minister promised the

AAPI delegates.

Offering trainings to First Responders, a CEO Forum by a galaxy of CEOs from around the world, CMEs, first ever Med Quiz, cultural events, interactive roundtables, clinical practice workshops, and meet-the-expert sessions, Women's Forum by internally acclaimed successful women from India, were only some of the major highlights of the Healthcare Summit, Dr. Reddy, who assumed office as the President of AAPI barely two weeks ago, said.

In his address, Dr. Prathap C Reddy, Founder-Chairman of Apollo Hospitals, praised AAPI's efforts to help India through its Healthcare Summits in making policies in healthcare delivery more effective.

Earlier on July 21st, the GHS began in the early hours of the day as AAPI delegates, students and faculties from several schools and colleges joined the

"Obesity Revolution" Walkathon for creating awareness about Obesity. The walkathon had a record breaking as many as 2,000 participants.

Dr. Seema Arora, the Chairman-Elect of AAPI, BOT, said, "We flew away from India decades ago. However, our hearts are still in India." Summarizing some of the achievements of AAPI, she pointed to AAPI's 16 free healthcare clinics, AAPI's legislative initiatives in the US, and the ongoing collaboration with the government of India and the state governments and several NGOs, to help making healthcare more cost effective.

Dr. Sreeni Ganagasani, Chairman of GHS Convention said, "The GHS 2019 features some of the biggest names in the healthcare industry, especially at the 6th annual CEO leadership forum with leaders from across the globe."

A major theme and focus of the 13th annual Global Healthcare Summit is on Women's Health. A team of physicians, consisting of women leaders of AAPI, including Drs. Uma Jonnalagadda; Soumya Neravelta; Stella Gandhi; Swati Yalamnchi; Pooja Kinkhabawala led the sessions on Women's Healthcare Needs. In addition, a day-long session on Rural Health Education was held at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Hyderabad on July 22nd.

According to Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda, President-Elect of AAPI, the scientific program of GHS 2019 was developed by leading experts with the contributions of a stellar Scientific Advisory Board and International Scientific Committee, while the event featuring plenary sessions, interactive roundtables, clinical practice workshops, and meet the expert sessions.

Read full story on
www.theindianpanorama.news



Dr. Harsh Vardhan, India's Minister for Health, addressing the delegates at the GHS 2019



Women's Forum where Bollywood Star Jaya Prada became AAPI's Ambassador for Women's Empowerment



AAPI delegates, students and faculties from several schools and colleges at the "Obesity Revolution" Walkathon for creating awareness about Obesity

Seventh Edition of India Day Parade in Hicksville on August 4 to be a Memorable One, says IDP USA President Jasbir Jay Singh

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): The India Day Parade in Hicksville is a historic event on Long Island bringing together more than 100 organizations to celebrate the Independence of India. The Indian American community of Long Island, secular in spirit, brings together cultural, religious, and nonprofit organizations under one umbrella to host the 7th India Day Parade this year which will be on Sunday 4th August.

The parade will be starting from Patel Brothers at 12:00 noon Hicksville and will end at E Barclay Street Parking Lot opposite Asamai Temple. Grand Marshal Raj Kummar Rao, Bollywood celebrity along with Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty and Iraada Foundations' Chintu Patel are Grand Marshals. Gujarati Screen star Aarti Patel will be the Guest of Honor, with some other dignitaries also participating in the grand celebrations.

There will be all day cultural programs by local talents and by professional DJs and Live bands. Deepak Kumar of Satellite Garba & Dandia King and Miss Pooja, melodious queen of Punjab will be performing live to entertain all.

There will be special attraction as this year's raffle has BMW SUV as Grand Prize, and Ticket to India along with other 33 prizes will entice people to buy tickets and also engage them to enjoy and be part of celebrations towards the end. Ticket price is \$20. There will be booths for shopping, soliciting and food to enjoy. Mini Carnival is there for kids as they can enjoy free rides. 11 floats and 40 groups will be marching the Golden Indian Mile. The neighborhood will be flanked with the tricolors.

IDP also marks the 550th birthday of Shri Guru Nanak Dev ji and 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi ji this year. IDP is a proud Contributor to 'CRY' and 'Akshaya Patra.'



IDP USA President Jasbir Jay Singh (9th from left) with his team

IDP USA Organizing Committee President Jasbir Jay Singh, a humble gentleman with affable manners, always believes in team spirit and taking all along. A very successful entrepreneur, starting and establishing businesses through out his life with always keeping the welfare and well-being of the community, Jay has enthused and galvanized the Indian American community of Hicksville, and with his connections with political leaders and officials, succeeded in ensuring the attendance of many of them. His hard work and the cooperation he has got from his team will make the parade on August 4 a memorable one with unprecedented participation.

His love and hobby is to write for his own publication, Hum Hindustani, the only Hindi weekly magazine in North America, and Asli Punjabi, one of the many Punjabi language informative websites, where his main agenda and

goal is to serve the community.

Jay is associated with many organizations in the tri-state area. He migrated to United States in 1985 and is very actively involved in South Asian Community since 1989. He helped and assisted a big number of newly migrated immigrants of South Asian community to pursue their dreams and procure jobs in the land of Opportunity between 1989 and 1994. He kept up with the good work by helping people with achieving their financial goals and protecting their loved ones with financial security through Metlife, between 1994 to 1998. He served as Community Outreach Director for South Asians and Special Assistant to New York City Public Advocate Mr. Bill de Blasio for 2012 and 2013.

Jasbir Jay Singh is currently:

- Board Member: Asian American Advisory Board of Nassau County
- Deputy Director: Nassau County

Anti-Bias Crime Task Force.

- Chairman: Long Island Diversity Council
- Elected Member, Executive, India Association of Long Island (IALI),
- President for India Day Parade of Long Island (IDP)
- Active Member of South Asian American Political Action Committee (SAPAC),
- Vice President, International Hindi Association, NYS Chapter.
- Director, South Asians for Empowerment (SAFE)
- Director, South Asians for Strong America (SASA)

A veteran community activist and leader Indu Jaiswal, Advisor to the IDP USA 2019, in her message said:

"Celebrations of India, as the India Day Parade in Hicksville, are a conduit to pass on to our next generations the glorious history and culture of a Vishwa Guru Bharat. Also, such celebrations add to the richness of multicultural fabric of America, the country we adopted and are proud of.

This parade conforms to the long traditions of hundreds of immigrant communities. It has a tremendous symbolic significance to the New generation of Indian Americans born and raised in this land.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the organizers of the Parade for celebrating the 550th birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji and the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

President Jasbir Jay Singh and his dedicated team deserve all appreciation for the superb planning and implementation of this historic celebration. Mr Singh has remarkably displayed his managerial skills and experience for another successful Parade in Hicksville this year". All eyes are now set on Sunday, August 4.

India is now one of the most important relationships of the US: Rep Engel

Bilateral Trade to reach 500 billion dollars under Modi 2.0 - Jagdish Sewhani



Jagdish Sewhani addressing the event with Congressman Eliot Engel

LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP): India is now one of the most important relationships for the US, a powerful Democratic Congressman has said adding that a strong and vibrant Indian American community has played a key



Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty, Kamal Gupta, Sanjiv Chand, Congressman Eliot Engel, Jagdish Sewhani

role in strengthening the relationship between the two largest democratic countries of the world.

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Dr. Dattatreyudu Nori appointed International Director of Apollo Hospitals

NEW DELHI (TIP): New York based world-renowned Radiation Oncologist, Dr. Dattatreyudu Nori has been appointed as the International Director of Apollo Cancer Centres, Apollo Hospitals Group. Beginning August, Dr. Nori will be available for consultations 10 times at Apollo Hospitals in India for 4 months in a year. A Padma Shri Awardee, Dr. Nori has been honored with many prestigious awards for immigrants for medicine and cancer care,



Dr. Dattatreyudu Nori, New York based celebrated Oncologist (second from left), has been appointed International Director of Apollo Hospitals

including the highest civilian honor in the US in 2014, the "Ellis Island Medal of Honor" for his exemplary and outstanding qualities in both his personal and professional life. In 2017, the Indian Cancer Congress honored him with its highest recognition - "Living Legend in Cancer Care." Dr. Nori, with over four decades of experience, is recognized as a global thought leader in cancer research with many pathbreaking and innovative developments related to cancer treatment attributed to him. Dr. Nori is also a consultant to the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency, advising on formulation of guidelines for cancer treatment in developing countries. (Based on a press release)

Indian Sand Artist Sudarshan Pattnaik Wins People's Choice award at Boston International Sand Art Championship



The championship was themed plastic pollution, and Sudarshan created a sculpture titled, 'Stop Plastic Pollution, Save Our Ocean'

Picture / courtesy Twitter

BOSTON (TIP): Padma Shri award winner sand artist Sudarshan Pattnaik won the People's Choice Prize at Boston International Sand Art Championship, 2019. As many as 15 top sand artists from across the world participated in the three-day competition that started on July 26 and concluded on July 28. The championship was themed plastic pollution, and Sudarshan created a sculpture titled, 'Stop Plastic Pollution, Save Our Ocean'.

"I have won the People's Choice Prize at USA for My SandArt on Plastic Pollution with message, "Save our Ocean " in #Boston International SandArt Championship/ Festival 2019", he tweeted.

The Guinness World Records holder has participated in more than 60 international sand sculpture championships across the world and won many awards for the country.

The annual Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival in its 16th year drew more than 1 million visitors in 2018.

Indian National Sentenced to more than 20 years for Filming Sexual Abuse of 11 year old



Divesh Valanju was sentenced to 21 years and 10 months in federal prison for producing child pornography.

Fox Screen shot

FORT MYERS, FL (TIP): U.S. District Judge Sheri Polster Chappell has sentenced Divesh Valanju (30, India) to 21 years and 10 months in federal prison for producing child pornography. Valanju had pleaded guilty on April 11, 2019.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Debasish Dutta Takes over as UM-Flint Chancellor

MICHIGAN (TIP): Debasish Dutta, a distinguished professor of engineering and the former chancellor at Rutgers University-New Brunswick, became the new chancellor of the University of Michigan-Flint, August 1, 2019.

Dutta succeeds Susan E. Borrego, who stepped down as UM-Flint's leader at the end of July. As UM-Flint chancellor, he will serve as the chief executive officer of the Flint campus and also an executive officer of U-M.

"Dr. Dutta brings a lifetime of academic leadership experience and accomplishment to his new position at the University of Michigan-Flint," says President Mark Schlissel. "I welcome him back to Michigan and look forward to working with him and the entire UM-Flint community to advance the university's legacy of educational access, academic strength, and service to the region."

He began his career at U-M as an assistant professor of mechanical engineering in 1989 and moved through the ranks to professor in 2000. While at Michigan, he was the director of the College of Engineering's Program in



Debasish Dutta with his wife, Fataneh Taghaboni-Dutta Photo / Courtesy UM-Flint

Manufacturing and the founding director of its Interdisciplinary Professional Programs.

"I am thrilled to return to the University of Michigan to lead UM-Flint, a campus with exciting possibilities and a special place," said

Dutta. "The university has a lot to offer Flint and the region, and vice versa. I look forward to working with faculty, staff, students and the community to improve access, enhance excellence and serve the citizens of the state of Michigan."

As chancellor of Rutgers' flagship, land-grant campus, Dutta led a public research university with \$1.6 billion annual budget. His administration brought focus and accountability in key areas, increased research funding, and worked effectively with legislators, business leaders and alumni to create institutional momentum around academic excellence, student success and affordability.

From 2014-17, he served as the provost and executive vice president for academic affairs and diversity at Purdue University. Prior to that, Dutta served as associate provost and dean of the graduate college at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from 2009 to 2014, where he was also the Edward William and Jane Marr Gutgsell Professor and interim vice-chancellor for research.

Indian American Professor Wins Prestigious NSF Early Career Award



Deshpande earned her master's and Ph.D. degrees from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg

Photo / Courtesy Embry-Riddle

VIRGINIA (TIP): Indian American Professor Dr. Kshitija Deshpande of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, received a highly competitive, five-year National Science Foundation (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) award of nearly \$500,000.

Deshpande, an assistant professor of Engineering Physics, plans continuing investigations of atmospheric events that can disrupt a wide range of communications, affecting satellites, air traffic control, and even radio dispatches on Earth. Her NSF funding will also support a variety of new educational opportunities for Embry-Riddle students.

Deshpande earned her master's and Ph.D. degrees from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia. She then served as a postdoctoral research associate at Virginia Tech before joining Embry-Riddle in 2016.

Indian American Lawyer Promoted to Key Post at National Security Council



Patel formerly worked for the National Security Division of the Justice Department, as a counter-terrorism prosecutor

WASHINGTON (TIP): An Indian American lawyer has been promoted as senior director of counterterrorism of the White House-based National Security Council (NSC), according to media reports. Kashyap "Kash" Patel who is a fierce loyalist of US President Donald Trump, is reportedly the author of the controversial Republican memo of 2018, critical of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and some Justice Department officials.

Patel formerly worked for the National Security Division of the Justice Department, as a counter-terrorism prosecutor. He joined the committee as a senior counter-terrorism counsel in April 2017.

Patel, 38, grew up in New York and graduated from the University of Richmond in 2002. He earned a certificate in international law from the University College London Faculty of Laws, and graduated from Pace University's law school in 2005.

Indian origin student killed in Alabama gas station robbery

Neil Purush Kumar was working part-time in a gas station while pursuing his master's degree in computer science at Troy University



BRUNDIDGE (TIP): A former Sharjah Indian School student Neil Purush Kumar, age 30, a resident of Troy, died Wednesday, July 24, 2019 when a gunman robbed the J&S Buy Rite Convenience Store. July 24 morning.

The Brundidge Police Department got a call about a man who entered through a fence near the gas station, robbed and shot the store clerk in the gas station behind and then made his way out around the corner, over the train tracks, all without being seen.

Police have arrested and charged a man - Leon Flowers, 23, in connection with the shooting.

Kumar was a computer science graduate student at Troy University and was working part-time in a gas station. Kumar was the youngest child and only son of father Purush Kumar and mother Seema, who are both based in Sharjah. He is also survived by two older sisters Neema and Nastasha, who both live in the US. Funeral Service was held on Sunday, July 28, at the Chapel of Dillard Funeral Home in Troy.



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Bangladeshi Man from Bronx Arrested for Attempting to Provide Material Support to Taliban

NEW YORK (TIP): A Bangladeshi American Delowar Mohammed Hossain was Arrested at John F. Kennedy International Airport July 26 while allegedly attempting to travel overseas to join the Taliban in order to kill Americans. He was charged in a criminal Complaint with attempting to provide material support for acts of terrorism, specifically in support of killing U.S. nationals located overseas.

U.S. Attorney Geoffrey S. Berman said: "As alleged, Delowar Hossain plotted to travel to Afghanistan to join the Taliban, specifically so he could commit acts of terrorism. Hossain allegedly wanted to kill

Americans, and particularly wanted to target members of our armed forces serving our nation overseas. The excellent work of the FBI and NYPD stopped Hossain's alleged deadly plan to join the Taliban before he took flight, and he now faces federal terrorism charges."

Assistant Attorney General John C. Demers said: "As alleged, Hossain planned to travel overseas and join the Taliban in order to kill American soldiers. The threat of terrorism at home and abroad remains, and the National Security Division is committed to preventing individuals from carrying out deadly plans such as this. I want to thank the agents, analysts, and

prosecutors who are responsible for this case."

FBI Assistant Director of Counterterrorism Michael McGarrity said: "The criminal complaint in this case reveals Delowar Hossain had a despicable goal. He wanted to make his way to Afghanistan, join up with Taliban forces, and kill Americans. But he failed because members of the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force interrupted his plans. The FBI is committed to working with our law enforcement partners to stop those who want to commit acts of terrorism here in the U.S. or overseas."

FBI Assistant Director-in-Charge

William F. Sweeney Jr. said: "The lure of radical ideologies comes from many sources, and just because the Taliban may seem like an old and out of vogue extremist group, it shouldn't be underestimated. The FBI New York Joint Terrorism Task Force stopped Mr. Hossain from traveling overseas to allegedly support a deadly organization and kept him from his alleged plan to kill innocent people."

NYPD Commissioner James P. O'Neill said: "As we continue to see time and again, attempting to support terrorist attacks will lead to arrest. I commend the dedication of the NYPD detectives and FBI agents who, through the Joint Terrorism Task Force, remain relentless in their focus to keep New York City and our nation safe."

Hossain, 33, of the Bronx, New York, is charged with one count of attempting to provide material support for terrorism, which carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.

India is now one of the most important relationships of the US: Rep Engel

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"That India is now one of the United States' most important relationships -- whether working together to address climate change, trade and economic growth, security or space exploration -- speaks volumes about the exponential growth and potential of our bilateral ties," said Rep Eliot Engel.

Chairman of the powerful House Foreign Affairs Committee, Engel, was speaking at an event organized by the American India Public Affairs Committee in Long Island last week to felicitate him in recognition of his contribution towards India US relationship.

"At the heart of this friendship are people-to-people ties-especially the strong and vibrant Indian American community that has brought such incredible energy to this relationship... driving stronger engagement and helping keep things on track during challenging times," Engel said.

Looking forward to working with

Indian Americans to ensure that this bilateral relationship continues to grow, Engel said as a founding member of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans almost 25 years ago, he has been a longtime supporter of strengthening the US-India relationship.

"When we first established the caucus, the relationship was more about the things we could not do together, than the areas where we were cooperating. Thanks to the hard work of dedicated leaders from both our countries, we're now standing shoulder-to-shoulder in ways that no one would have imagined a generation ago," said Engel, addressing a small group of eminent Indian Americans.

Welcoming Engel, Jagdish Sewhani president of American India Public Affairs Committee said that relationship between India and the United States are not only natural but in coming years they will grow at rapid speed.

In his address, Sewhani called for increasing the trade between the two

countries. Noting that the trade between the two countries was just USD20 billion in 2000, he said at the turn of this century, which jumped to USD100 billion 2014 and USD150. By 2025, according to a recent report by US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF) is projected to increase to USD250 billion.

But at a time when India is poised to become a five trillion economy in next five years and aspires to become a 10 trillion economy in the next eight years thereafter, Sewhani said it is time to set the goal of making this bilateral trade to half a trillion dollars in less than a decade or in 2027 when India celebrates the 80th anniversary of its independence. He also urged the Congressman to ensure that there is no dilution or diversion in the zero-tolerance policy of the United States when it comes to fight against terrorism.

Noting that it was the late Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee who had coined the term that India and the US are Natural Partners, the eminent community leader said that it is time that "We The People" and Representatives of "The People" take a lead in giving legislative framework to this.

Rep Engel can play a leading role in effort in a historic year when we are celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, he said.

This "natural partnership" is driven by people to people relationship, the thousands of businesses between the two countries, lakhs of Indian students in the US and when they go back they take along with them the dream they work culture which they try implement back home, Mr Sewhani said.

This natural relationship comes from the hundreds and thousands of jobs that the US companies have created in India; and Indian companies have created in USA hundreds and thousands of Indian entrepreneurs and IT professionals who make American companies globally competitive and the large number of Indian Diaspora, he said.

Praising the "great work" being done by Rep Engel in strengthening India US relationship, Mr Sewhani urged the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee to take the lead and give this natural relationship an institutional and legislative framework.

Mr Sewhani suggested that there should be Annual Summit meeting between Lok Sabha Speaker and Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Summit meeting will include representatives from all the Party. He also suggested the creation of US caucus in Indian Parliament on the lines of India Caucus in US. Congress.

Discussing about the relationship between India and US, Mr Sewhani said this natural relationship cannot be compared by America's other partners and allies be it NATO allies, or some of the strategic partnership that India has with other countries. All those relationships are driven by their respective governments.

"In the case of India and the US, we need to come out with a framework in which this bilateral relationship is driven by people and business. As of now, I don't know the specifics of such a move -- but our end goal should be a framework in which there is a much better and freedom of movement of people, businesses, and collaborations in the field of research and development," Mr Sewhani said. "As "We the People" representing the two largest democracies of the world, it's our responsibility and duty to ensure that the values that we endure is spreads to other parts of the world as well," he said.

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Consulate General of India Extends Emergency Visa Services on Holidays/Weekends

NEW YORK (TIP): The Consulate General of India, New York, will issue Emergency Visa on Weekends and closed holidays in order to further improve the overall quality and delivery of services at the consulate. The Emergency Service will be rendered only in emergencies arising due to death/serious illness of immediate family member of US Passport holders during the weekends/holidays.

For availing the Emergency Service:

- The applicant may call Consulate's Emergency Number +1 917-815-7066 (only in the case of death or serious sickness of immediate family member).
- The designated Consulate official would ascertain the genuineness of the Emergency and direct the applicant to visit CKGS website to fill visa form and pay fee online.
- CKGS shall liaison with the applicant directly and upon receipt of duly filled in application form CKGS would proceed with registering the same and will send the completed data to Consulate for grant of visa.
- Upon receipt of the data, Consulate will issue appropriate visa to the applicant.

Following documents are mandatory for grant of visa on emergency basis:

- Submission of visa online application at CKGS website and hard copy thereof.
- Photograph and signature in .JPG format
- Document (s) to establish the emergency
- Proof of local address such as utility bills etc.
- Certificate of renunciation of Indian citizenship or application for renunciation, wherever applicable.
- Printed confirmed air ticket for India
- US passport valid for at least six months.

In case of any issue, please contact Consulate's Emergency No. +1 917-815-7066 or CKGS weekend services could be contacted at phone: (213)-213 5019 and email: emergencyvisa.holidays@ckgs.com

Celebrating the Mahatma in the Gandhian Spirit and Way by Planting Trees

NEW YORK (TIP): In connection with the year-long commemorative celebration of 150 birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Consulate General of India in New York and the State University of New York, Old Westbury (SUNY-OW), Shanti Fund, have entered into an agreement to plant 150 trees in the Old Westbury Campus.

150 years of the Mahatma is being celebrated worldwide. In the US, several organizations around the country have undertaken many activities and events to remember Gandhiji - his life and works.

Mahatma Gandhi is in several ways also one of the first environmental leaders the world has seen. His word 'the world has enough for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed' has continued relevance even today. As the world is facing environmental challenges, it is felt that a befitting way to remember the Mahatma is to plant trees in his name.

The garden in the Old Westbury Campus, dedicated in the memory of Gandhiji is to be called "Gandhi Peace Garden". A variety of trees from flowering to evergreen trees will be



A variety of trees from flowering to evergreen trees will be planted in September 2019 at a befitting peaceful open site within the 600 acres campus of the SUNY-OW

planted in September 2019 at a befitting peaceful open site within the 600 acres campus of the SUNY-OW. A very high level dignitary from India is likely to inaugurate the 'Gandhi Peace Garden' in September 2019.

In the Gandhian spirit and way, the Consulate proposed to establish the Garden with total people's participation by adoption of the trees by people in the

memory of their loved ones or as a symbol of love and affection. A suitable tag indicating adopter's name will be placed on or near the tree. Contributions can be made online at www.shantifund.org (Contact Mr. Arvind Vora, President, Shanti Fund: avora@optonline.net; Cell: 917 406 6065 for any clarifications). The last date for adopting the trees is August 15, 2019.


Indian American IT Consultant in New Jersey Convicted of Multimillion-Dollar Kickback Scheme

NEW YORK (TIP): Geoffrey S. Berman, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced July 29 that a federal jury found Shivanand Maharaj guilty of honest services wire fraud, paying kickbacks in connection with an employee benefit plan, and conspiracy, following a two-week trial before U.S. District Judge John G. Koeltl. MAHARAJ's co-conspirator, ENRICO



RUBANO, a/k/a "Rick Rubano," who was a director of information technology at a

large union pension and health benefit fund (the "Funds"), pled guilty in connection with the same crimes shortly before trial. Manhattan U.S. Attorney Geoffrey S. Berman said: "For years, Shivanand Maharaj bribed an insider at a pension and health fund to approve hundreds of invoices for information technology work that was never done at all. (Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)"



सत्यमेव जयते


**Consulate General of India,
New York**
cordially invites you for

Akhand Paath Sahib
in commemoration of

**550th Birth Anniversary
of
Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji**

Date: August 2 - August 4, 2019
Time: 10:30 AM onwards

**Venue: Gurdwara Nanak Darbar, 11 South Broadway,
Hicksville, Long Island, NY 11801**



GUEST COMMENT

Tough road to talaq; If true to its word, govt should control khaps now

Parliament has finally passed the Bill on triple talaq, making it a criminal offence and penalizing husbands who give instant divorce to their wives with a three-year jail term. Divorce in general and triple talaq in particular have always been a contentious issue. Differences, when they are irrevocable, often lead one to the brink. But society and courts also advise restraint and to rethink the decision before reaching a breaking point to make sure that the ground for it is not frivolous and that reconciliation remains an option. Divorce impacts a

family socially, economically and psychologically. The present instance was triggered by the case of Shayara Bano, whose husband gave her talaq-e-biddat on telegram. Backed by an orthodox clergy, the chances of misuse of the provisions in Muslim personal law are always there, the rigor of it portrayed so well in the 1982 film Nikaah. More than three decades earlier had come up the case of Shah Bano, whose husband refused to give her maintenance. Even as the court gave its verdict in her favor, the then government at the Centre buckled under pressure and diluted the

provisions, providing for maintenance only during the period of separation or iddat. Arif Mohammed Khan, a Union minister, had resigned in protest.

The government has maintained that the Bill should be seen as a step towards women's empowerment and modernization of laws governing such matters. It can, however, be argued that even the provisions of dowry laws are open to misuse when couples or families nurse a grouse. Moreover, despite the social sanctions, marriage needs legal validation, especially for a sojourn abroad.

Why shouldn't divorce too then have legal sanctity instead of being a knee-jerk reaction? Even countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Pakistan have done away with it. The Bill should have been a step against orthodoxy and not an attempt to politicize the medieval practice of a community that has been at the receiving end in lynching incidents. The BJP government's commitment to social reform should not stop with triple talaq but now should encompass khap panchayats.

(Tribune, India)

AS I SEE IT

Padding up for the next UNSC innings



By Krishnan Srinivasan

Despite the fact that India has served as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) more often than any country other than Japan from the Asia-Pacific Group, it is a matter of satisfaction and a tribute to Indian diplomacy that the Group unanimously decided this year to support India for an eighth second-year term. The elections are to take place in June next year. This means that India's election is assured, and its term will run in the calendar years 2021 and 2022.

Fast-changing dynamics

To anticipate what issues will arise during India's tenure two and three years down the road, in the highest decision-making organ concerned with peace and conflict in the global organization, is clearly problematic. The dynamics of international politics are fast moving.

The Washington consensus of the post-Soviet era, if it ever truly existed, has unraveled in the wake of three factors: tensions between major powers; proxy wars in West Asia, and widespread and scattershot use of threat and economic sanctions by the United States which pursues a militarized foreign policy with a military and intelligence presence in 150 countries, and 800 bases in 70 nations.

The rise of China and the bogey of Russian aggression are resisted through military and economic measures by Washington, which urges its usually reluctant European allies and others to follow suit. The race is on for supremacy in artificial intelligence, high technology and 5G which will have strategic significance in future decades. In this variable world of incessant jockeying for greater influence among big and medium powers, and where the center ground for concepts such as strategic autonomy and equidistance has shrunk with rising polarization between the major powers, there are nevertheless some constants.

India can use its term as a non-permanent member to enhance its credentials as a constructive and responsible member of international society, but an upgrading of its status will have to wait until an indeterminate future date.

Whether or not the U.S. President Donald Trump is re-elected, the 'America First' doctrine will endure in some form since it has the support of a sizeable constituency in that country. This makes U.S. foreign policy more transactional, which in turn will generate less traction to the reform process within the UN and the expansion of permanent membership of the UNSC to which India aspires.

India can use its term as a non-permanent member to enhance its credentials as a constructive and responsible member of international society, but an upgrading of its status will have to wait until an indeterminate future date. It may be noted in passing that the inclusion of India, Japan, Germany and Brazil in the UNSC, to which package India is formally committed, will create an even greater imbalance in favor of the West versus the Rest in world affairs.

India is one of the world's biggest economies, which even the pessimists cannot deny. Accordingly, its voice resonates and is capable of making a significant contribution during its tenure by emphasizing and strengthening multilateralism as a means of making the world safer.

Multipolar focus

India needs to uphold the objective of a multipolar world and counter existing trends towards unilateralism, ethnocentrism, protectionism and racial intolerance. It should seek to protect the World Trade Organization from American attempts to undermine it, since the WTO's dispute mechanism is a resource for developing countries, as is the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the UN Human Rights Council and other UN bodies despite the U.S. and a few other countries

withdrawing support to them. India should attempt to make progress on the non-discriminatory elimination of weapons of mass destruction, protection of the environment against global warming, safeguarding outer space from weaponization, and enhancing respect for diversity and plurality in world politics. India should underline the validity of Article 2 of the UN Charter that provides for state sovereignty and safeguards countries against outside interference in the domestic affairs of other states. In upholding respect for a rules-based order in international society, India should underline the sanctity of treaties such as the multilateral accord with Iran endorsed by the Security Council and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Among country-specific topics that are likely to re-appear before the UNSC are the 'frozen' disputes of Cyprus, Palestine, Ukraine and North Korea. On each of these, India has taken a balanced position that needs little reset. Kashmir remains on the UN agenda and if the situation in the Kashmir Valley deteriorates, the issue may be revived in the UNSC by Pakistan, although third parties have no enthusiasm for involving themselves in India-Pakistan disputes. If reports are true that Mr. Modi is seeking to normalize relations with China during this term in office, it will greatly strengthen India's position.

Pakistan and the terror angle

It bears repetition that the growth of India's economy and its democratic system are our best insurance policy; witness what China has been able to get away with in respect of the Uighurs. New Delhi's preoccupation with Pakistan finds its articulation in the subject of international and cross-border terrorism. Although the context is normally couched in general terms, no



Security Council
United Nations

India must give exceptional weightage to how all Security Council issues have an impact on the subcontinent

one is in doubt that the Indian reference is to Pakistan. The question of an international convention against terrorism has been under discussion in UN committees for many years, and the UNSC will not be the forum for headway on this. India could use its presence on the UNSC's sanctions subcommittee to proscribe Pakistan-based militant groups and individuals. But experience shows that this is frankly of dubious benefit when weighed against the effort expended.

New Delhi will feel in the next few years that its time has come for a major role on the world stage, but big player status will be difficult without India being pivotal in the South Asian region. In this respect, India's regional status is insufficiently credible. Accordingly, on all issues before the UNSC, India must give exceptional weightage as to how they will have an impact on the Indian subcontinent.

Demosthenes in Fourth Century BC Athens stated that diplomats had "no battleships at their disposal... their weapons are words and opportunities". India's presence on the UNSC will present opportunities to enhance the country's reputation. American policies in India's near neighborhood towards West Asia, Russia and China present challenges that can be met only with great skill and delicate balance. India should aim to end its eighth term on the Council with its merit- and legality-based judgments intact and widely respected.

(The author is a former Foreign Secretary of India)

In hate crime fight, a voice still feeble

Taking the cue from the U.S., the Indian Parliament needs to recognize hate killings as an act of terror



By Harsh Mander

The Supreme Court of India recently asked the Union government and all the major States to explain what action has been taken to prevent these growing incidents of lynching, including passing a special law to instill a sense of fear for law amongst vigilantes and mobsters

At a time when India is reeling under hate lynching, it is sobering to remember that it took the United States Senate 100 years to approve a bill to make lynching a federal crime. Over 200 anti-lynching bills were introduced in the U.S. Congress since 1918, but all were voted down until the Justice for Victims of Lynching Act of 2018 introduced by three Senators of African American descent including Kamala Harris was approved unanimously in the winter of 2018.

The U.S. bill describes lynching as "the ultimate expression of racism in the United States". Senator Cory Booker said the bill recognized lynching for what it is: "a bias-motivated act of terror". When will Parliament here recognize, similarly, that lynching is "a bias-motivated act of terror" and "the ultimate expression of communal hatred in India"?

Tool of fear

Some may dispute this description, citing the relatively small numbers of such mob crimes. They miss the point that hate lynching is designed as an act to terrorize an entire community. The number of lynch murders in the U.S. mentioned in the bill averages around 55 annually, but despite these small numbers, these performative acts of violence succeeded in instilling intense fear among all African Americans for decades.

The same purpose is being served by lynching in India; again performative

acts of hate violence, but now using modern technology, video-graphing of mob lynching, widely circulating these images through social media, and celebrating these as acts of nationalist valor. These have similarly instilled a pervasive sense of everyday normalized fear in the hearts of every Indian from the targeted minority community. It is this which indeed makes lynching an ultimate act of terror.

The Supreme Court of India recently asked the Union government and all the major States to explain what action has been taken to prevent these growing incidents of lynching, including passing a special law to instill a sense of fear for law amongst vigilantes and mobsters. Kunwar Danish Ali, a first term Bahujan Samaj Party MP from Amroha, raised the same question in Parliament, describing mob lynching as "an assault on democracy". His inquiry was met with noisy disruptions, but he got no answer.

Significant statutes

The Uttar Pradesh Law Commission (UPLC) earlier last month took the initiative, unprompted by the Uttar Pradesh government, to recommend a draft anti-lynching law. It commends a law which closely follows in almost every major detail the first law against lynching passed in this country, a remarkable ordinance introduced by the Manipur government late last year, indeed the most significant statute against religious hate crimes in the country.

A noteworthy observation in the text of the United States bill is that it records that at least 4,742 people were lynched in the U.S. between 1882 and 1968, but 99% of all perpetrators remain unpunished. It is significant to remember that the first anti-lynching legislation proposed as far back as in 1918 in the U.S. targeted state officials for failing to provide equal protection under the laws to anyone victimized by a mob. Impunity characterizes lynching in India as well. Addressing this squarely, both the Manipur statute and the UPLC draft create a new crime of dereliction of duty by police officials, holding a police officer guilty of this crime if he or she "omits to exercise lawful authority vested in them under law, without reasonable cause, and thereby fails to prevent lynching". Dereliction also includes the failure to provide protection to a victim of lynching; failure to act upon apprehended lynching; and refusing to record any information relating to the commission of lynching. This crime carries the penalty of one to three years and a fine. The UPLC goes further to include also a new crime of dereliction of duty by District Magistrates.

The creation of this new crime was also the key recommendation of the Prevention of Communal & Targeted Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill, proposed by the National Advisory Council of the erstwhile United Progressive Alliance government (full disclosure: Farah Naqvi



and I were co-conveners of the working group which drafted this proposed bill, which however was never even introduced in Parliament). We were convinced that it is only the creation of such a crime that will compel public officials to perform their duty with fairness, in conformity with their constitutional and legal duties, to ensure equal protection to all persons, regardless of their faith and caste.

Some recommendations

Both the Manipur law and UPLC recommendations also lay down elaborate duties of police officials in the event of lynching. These include taking all reasonable steps to prevent any act of lynching including its incitement and commission; to that end making all possible efforts to identify instances of dissemination of offensive material or any other means employed in order to incite or promote lynching of a particular person or group of persons; and making all possible efforts to prevent the creation of a hostile environment against a person or group of persons.

Both sensitively and expansively lay down official duties to protect victims and witnesses. They state that a victim shall have the right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any court proceeding and shall be entitled to be heard at any proceeding in respect of bail, discharge, release, parole, conviction or sentence of an accused, and to file written submissions on conviction, acquittal or sentencing. They also explicitly require the Superintendent of Police to inform the victim in writing of the progress in the investigation. The victim shall have the right to receive a copy of any statement of the witness recorded during investigation or inquiry and a copy of all statements and documents.

Where the UPLC goes further than the Manipur statute is in laying down the right to compensation. It places the duty squarely on the Chief Secretary to provide compensation to victims of lynching within 30 days of the incident. It states that while computing compensation, the State government must give due regard to bodily, psychological and material injuries and loss of earnings, including loss of opportunity of employment and

education, expenses incurred on account of legal and medical assistance. It also lays down a floor of ₹25 lakh in case lynching causes death.

The Congress government of Madhya Pradesh has announced its resolve to pass legal provisions against lynching. It chooses curiously to not do this by an anti-lynching law, but instead by amendments to the Madhya Pradesh Cow Progeny Slaughter Prevention Act 2004 (which would effectively limit its scope only to cow-related lynching, and not lynching triggered by other charges).

Its proposed amendments do not include any provisions to punish dereliction of duty, protect victim rights or secure compensation. All that it proposes is punishment for any act by a mob which indulges in violence in the name of cow vigilantism from six months to three years of imprisonment and a fine. It is unclear what deterrence such amendments would instill, since existing laws contain much greater punishments for murder and aggravated attacks. In its present form, it appears a weak, half-hearted and poorly thought-out measure. The Ashok Gehlot-led government in Rajasthan has also tabled an anti-lynching bill. This prescribes higher punishments, investigation by senior police officers, and mandatory compensation but not the critical elements of dereliction of duty or victim rights. Without these, they will make little difference on the ground.

Home Minister Amit Shah now heads a committee to propose action against lynching. The question remains: do we expect Mr. Shah, or indeed Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to propose a law against lynching which punishes public officials who fail in their duties, protects victims and witnesses, and ensures comprehensive reparation, as proposed by the UPLC and provided in the Manipur statute?

"Someone is finally recognizing our pain," said the great-granddaughter of Anthony Crawford, an African American, who was lynched in 1916. I wonder how long survivors of lynching who lost their loved ones to merciless mob hate in India will have to wait for a government which will recognize their pain.

(The author is a human rights worker, writer and teacher)

Hungarian doctors separate Bangladeshi twins joined at head

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladeshi twins who were joined at the head were recovering on August 2 after Hungarian surgeons performed a marathon 30-hour operation to separate their skulls and brains in the capital Dhaka.

The twins, named Rabeya and Rukaya, turned three last month and suffered from a rare embryological disorder affecting an estimated one in every five million to six million births.

They were “stable after the final separation”, said Andras Csokay, a neurosurgeon with the Action for Defenceless People Foundation (ADPF) medical aid charity that performed the operation.

“But we have to be very careful during the postoperative period,” Csokay, who headed the 35-strong Hungarian team, told AFP.

After the separation of their skulls and brains at Dhaka’s Combined Military Hospital, Csokay’s team began to cover the wound area with soft tissues generated by a tissue expansion process carried out in Hungary.

Prior to the surgery doctors had said there was only a 50 per cent chance of both of the twins surviving.

According to ADPF, only a handful of operations to separate twins joined at the head have ever been successful.

The Hungarian charity was set up in 2002 by Csokay and plastic surgeon Gergely Pataki to provide free surgery to poor people in Hungary and abroad.

The parents of the twins, who are from Pabna, 120 kilometres (75 miles) west of Dhaka, approached the group for help in 2017. In the first surgery phase in Bangladesh last year, the shared blood vessels of the twins’ brains were separated in a 14-hour operation. Then in a second six-month-long phase beginning last January, Rabeya and Rukaya moved to Budapest where doctors inserted a Hungarian-designed implant system to expand the scalp and soft tissue in their heads.

During the period over 40 plastic surgery interventions took place to fill the expanders, change the bandages and to perform laser and regenerative wound treatment. ADPF neurosurgeons and plastic surgeons supported by anaesthesiologists, radiologists and pediatricians also used innovative virtual 3D animation software to map the two brains. “This was one of the biggest most challenging malformations that I have ever seen,” Pataki told AFP in Budapest last month.

The twins and Hungarian medics then returned to Bangladesh late July ahead of the final separation phase. ADPF has performed around 500 reconstructive surgery operations in Asia and Africa, including for Rohingya Muslim refugees in Bangladesh. AFP

Bombs rattle Bangkok during ASEAN summit, wounding 2

BANGKOK (TIP): At least two small bombs exploded in Bangkok on August 2, rattling the Thai capital as it hosted a regional summit attended by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and leaving two people wounded.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha was told of “the bombing incidents and has ordered an immediate investigation”, Thai government spokeswoman Narumon Pinyosinwat said, adding “security measures have been tightened. The public is urged not to panic”.

Two women were wounded in one explosion just outside the city centre, the Erawan Emergency Centre told AFP.

A second explosion shattered glass near a well-known downtown skyscraper, emergency police added.

Bomb disposal experts were deployed around the Mahanakorn Tower-owned by the King Power group that counts Leicester City football club among its assets.

There were unconfirmed reports of several other devices being found across the city.

The bombings took place just before a keynote speech by Pompeo, who has joined the Southeast Asian Foreign Ministers meeting.

The government urged the media to avoid speculation on the motive for the



bombings.

The blasts come weeks after former junta leader Prayut was inaugurated as a civilian prime minister, sparking outcry among many pro-democracy supporters in the deeply politically divided kingdom.

The incidents raise the uncomfortable memory of Thailand’s last hosting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2009.

Then, protesters from the pro-

democracy “red shirt” faction smashed their way into the summit venue in the resort city of Pattaya demanding elections.

Pandemonium ensued, with a number of leaders having to be rescued from a hotel roof by Thai army helicopters while others fled by boat.

Thailand has a long history of political violence linked to mass protests, coups and short-lived governments. AFP

Malaysian Senator drops proposed anti-seduction law after backlash

KUALA LUMPUR (TIP): A Malaysian Senator on August 1 apologised after proposing a sexual harassment law to protect men from being “seduced” by women into committing sexual crimes.

Mohamad Imran Abdul Hamid’s proposed law sparked an outcry from politicians and women’s rights groups, who said it was unacceptable for men to blame women victims of sexual crimes.

Mohamad Imran, a member of the ruling coalition’s People’s Justice Party, told the senate on Wednesday such a law was needed to “ensure men are safe and the country is peaceful”.

“I would like to suggest to the minister, if we could create a Sexual Harassment Act for men to deal with the acts, speech or dressing of women that could seduce men into committing incest, rape, molest and pornography, among other things,” he said, according to a video posted on the website of the New Straits Times newspaper, viewed by Reuters.

“We also need to be protected, because due to what women wear, we are seduced and end up breaking the country’s laws and face prosecution.”

Mohamad Imran on Thursday apologised for his comments.

“While my intentions were sincere, I did not expect it to be seen as a huge

mistake that has offended many women and no less men who considered it insulting,” he said.

Anwar Ibrahim, the leader of People’s Justice Party and touted as the next prime minister, had called on Mohamad Imran to retract his words, saying they were an insult to women.

“The proposal gives the impression that men were immoral and easily seduced into committing vile acts,” he said in a statement.

Women’s rights group Sisters in Islam said men must be held accountable if they commit sexual harassment and rape, regardless of what women wear.

“Men should police their own thoughts, words and actions and not take crimes committed by men against women lightly,” the group’s executive director Rozana Isa said in a statement.

Mohamad Imran’s comments coincided with the release on Wednesday of a study into Malaysian men’s attitudes towards sex, sex education, and consent.

According to the report by the Centre for Governance and Political Studies, just 35% of 2,000 men interviewed for the study correctly identified consent as a verbal “yes” agreement from their sexual partner. Reuters

Pak Taliban warns people from playing loud music, administer polio drops to children

PESHAWAR (TIP): The Pakistani Taliban has warned people in the tribal district of North Waziristan not to play loud music and administer polio vaccination to their children, according to a media report on August 1.

The one-page message on a pamphlet in Urdu issued by banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan in Miramshah, the headquarters of Pakistan’s North Waziristan district, on Wednesday also directed women not to venture out without male company, the Dawn newspaper reported.

“We remind you [residents] that similar statements issued by Taliban several times in the past had fallen on deaf ears, but this time we are going to take to task those who violate the Taliban order,” it stated.

“There will be no use of DJs, neither inside the house nor in open fields and those ignoring the warning will be responsible for the consequences,” the message further said.

The pamphlet prohibited the people from playing loud music on computer and other shops with a warning that any place from where songs were heard could be blown up any time, the report said. Polio workers have been asked to do finger-marking of children during the vaccination campaign but told not to administer polio drops to children. PTI

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Indian Asylum Seekers on Hunger Strike in Texas ICE Jail forced to hydrate

EL PASO, TX (TIP): Three Indian asylum seekers in El Paso, Texas, who launched a hunger strike from inside an ICE immigration jail earlier in July, demanding they be released while they appeal their deportation orders, have been forced to receive IV drips.

According to media reports, the three individuals have been locked up for months. One of the men told the Texas Monthly, "If I go back to India, I will be tortured and killed. I can die here." It's the second time this year that Indian men have led hunger strikes at the El Paso Processing Center.

ICE confirmed that there were detainee hunger strikes at its facilities in El Paso and Otero, New Mexico. "All ten ICE detainees have missed at least nine consecutive meals, triggering ICE hunger-strike protocols," agency spokesman Timothy Oberle said in a statement. "The ICE Health Services Corps (IHSC) is medically monitoring the detainees' health and regularly updating ICE of their medical status. Efforts are being taken to protect the detainees' health and privacy."

Indian American Congressman Krishnamoorthi leads 28 colleagues on Bill To Establish Commission To Investigate Hate Crimes



"Our nation has experienced a devastating rise in hate crimes over the past years, and the situation does not seem to be getting better" said Congressman Krishnamoorthi.

File photo

WASHINGTON (TIP): Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi from Illinois on July 30, introduced the Hate Crimes Commission Act which will create a bipartisan commission to investigate and expand reporting on hate crimes throughout the United States. This commission would be comprised of a group of 12 members appointed by House and Senate leadership who would have one year to prepare a report on the rise in hate crimes, potential causes of increase, and how to combat it.

"Our nation has experienced a devastating rise in hate crimes over the past years, and the situation does not seem to be getting better" said Congressman Krishnamoorthi. "People in communities all over the country have been targeted based on race, religion, sexual orientation, and gender. These hate crimes are a serious threat to the health and safety of our communities, and I am determined to see them end. This commission will bring together experts from both the law enforcement community and the civil rights community to determine the best path forward in effectively combating this issue."

Pentagon stalls \$10 bn cloud contract eyed by Amazon

The move to stall the contract process came a week after Mark Esper was confirmed as the new US secretary of defense.

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Pentagon has put off awarding a \$10 billion cloud computing contract sought by Amazon, saying on Thursday that the process would be reviewed by the newly appointed defense secretary.

Amazon was considered a strong contender to provide technology for the Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure (JEDI) program--a contract that is also being pursued by Microsoft-- but critics argued that the bidding process favored the Seattle-based technology titan.

The move to stall the contract process came a week after Mark Esper was confirmed as the new US secretary of defense.

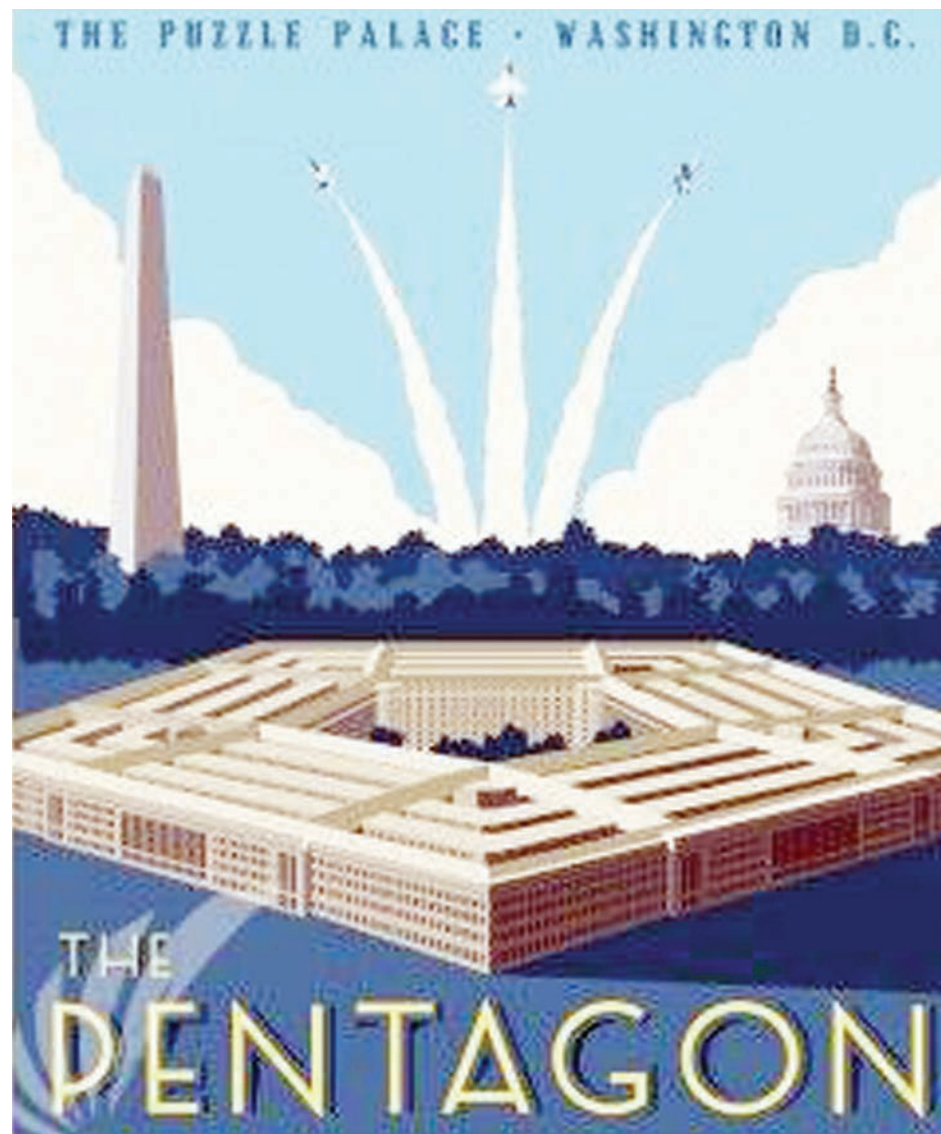
Esper was selected by US President Donald Trump, who has lashed out at Amazon and company founder Jeff Bezos, who owns The Washington Post.

"Secretary Esper is looking at the Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure (JEDI) program," defense department spokeswoman Elissa Smith told AFP.

"No decision will be made on the program until he has completed his examination."

The contract has caused controversy over whether internet giants claiming to be trying to make the world better should be involved in the defense industry.

Amazon chief Bezos has defended the company's bid for the contract, saying it was important to support US defense efforts, even if it is unpopular.



"This is a great country and it does need to be defended," Bezos said last year at a conference in San Francisco. (Source:AFP)

USCIS Releases U Visa Law Enforcement Resource Guide to Better Support Certifying Agencies to Protect Victims of Crimes

WASHINGTON (TIP): U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has published the U Visa Law Enforcement Resource Guide (PDF, 1.58 MB) to provide law enforcement and other certifying agencies with helpful information and best practices for the U visa certification process. This guide will assist law enforcement and other certifying agencies, who play a critical role in the U visa adjudication process and will ensure they have the resources they need to provide a properly completed certification for immigrant victims of crime.

"This guide will assist law enforcement in submitting the appropriate certification required for U visas and will support efforts to bring criminals to justice and protect victims of crime," said Acting USCIS Director Ken Cuccinelli. "By ensuring that law enforcement

submits the appropriate certification, we will reduce fraud and abuse in the U visa program and more effectively adjudicate petitions for victims."

Law enforcement authorities and other certifying agencies provide certifications for U non-immigrant status (U visa) petitioners. Individuals seeking a U visa because they have been a victim of a serious crime resulting in substantial mental or physical abuse must establish their eligibility.

USCIS Form I-918, Supplement B, U Non-immigrant Status Certification, is a required certification to establish eligibility for U non-immigrant status. The Form I-918, Supplement B, must be signed by an authorized official of the certifying agency (PDF, 1.58 MB) and the official must confirm the petitioner was helpful, is currently being helpful, or will likely be helpful in the detection, investigation or prosecution of a case.

The guide includes an overview of:

- The U visa certification process;
- Best practices for certifying agencies and officials;
- Answers to frequently asked questions from judges, prosecutors, law enforcement agencies and other officials;
- DHS contact information for certifying agencies on U visa issues; and
- Training resources and opportunities.

Historically, this guide has addressed certifying procedures for both the T and U visa programs. This publication is focused solely on U visa certification practices. This change was made to assist certifying agencies who work with victims of qualifying crimes requesting certification. When the new T Visa Law Enforcement Resource Guide is released, it will address information specific to the T visa requirements.

Indian Ambassador Hosts Reception for Distinguished Indian American Community Leaders



Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla with Consul Generals and officers at the Embassy. Seen from L to R: CG New York Sandeep Chakravorty, Dr. Swati Vijay Kulkarni, CG Atlanta, Amit Kumar, Deputy Chief of Mission, Ambassador Harsh V Shringla, Sudhakar Dalela, CG Chicago, Dr Anupam Ray, CG Houston, Minister, Commerce Manoj Mohapatra and Minister, Community Affairs Anurag Kumar. Photo / Gunjesh Desai



A view of the gathering

Photo / Gunjesh Desai

I.S. SALUJA / BIDISHA ROY

WASHINGTON (TIP): India's Ambassador to the US Harsh Vardhan Shringla hosted prominent members of the Indian American community on 26 July 2019 at India House, Washington DC. Eminent members of the Indian community from across USA attended the event. All five Indian Consul Generals - Sandeep Chakravorty (New York), Sudhakar Dalela (Chicago), Dr Anupam Ray (Houston), Sanjay Panda (San Francisco) and Dr. Swati Vijay Kulkarni (Atlanta) graced the event.

In his address, Ambassador thanked the 'Friends' for their support in strengthening India-US relations and sought their support for the progress and development of India. "When I say friends, I mean it. You are the best friends that we have, the

closest friends that we have in United States. You are our partners, stakeholders. We are ensuring that the relation between India and United States is as close, strong and significant as ever", he said amidst thundering applause.

The Ambassador invited the community leaders to support initiatives to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji. He also apprised them about the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to USA in September and the community reception being organized by Texas India Forum on 22 September in Houston.

Ambassador Shringla with performing artists of the evening Photo / Gunjesh Desai



Up to PM Modi to accept mediation offer on Kashmir: Trump

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald Trump on Thursday, August 1. said it was up to India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir dispute, but he was ready to assist if the two South Asian neighbors wanted him to help in resolving the decades-old issue.

Trump was referring to his last week's meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, wherein he offered to help resolve the Kashmir issue.

India has rejected the offer, while Pakistan has welcomed his statement.

"It's really up to Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi (to accept the offer of mediation)," Trump told reporters responding to a question on India not accepting his offer of mediation on Kashmir.

"Have they accepted the offer or not?", Trump sought a clarification when asked about India's rejection of his mediation offer. "I think they are fantastic people - Khan and Modi -- I mean. I would imagine they could get along very well, but if they wanted somebody to intervene, to help



them.... and I spoke with Pakistan about that and I spoke frankly in (sic) India about it," Trump said.

He rued that the issue of Kashmir had been going on for a long time.

When asked how would he "want to resolve the Kashmir issue", Trump said, "If I can, if they wanted me to, I would

certainly intervene."

Last week, in his joint media appearance with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in his Oval Office, Trump stunned India by saying that Prime Minister Modi sought his mediation/arbitration on the Kashmir issue.

"It's really up to Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi (to accept the offer of mediation)," Trump told reporters responding to a question on India not accepting his offer of mediation on Kashmir.

Trump said the Indian Prime Minister asked for this during their bilateral meeting in Japan in June on the sideline of the G-20 Summit.

India quickly denied it and said the Kashmir issue was never discussed between Modi and Trump.

Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar refuted that Modi ever made that request.

"We heard remarks by President Donald Trump in a meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan of Pakistan, to the press that he is ready to mediate, if requested by India and Pakistan, on Kashmir issue," he said in a statement to the Indian Parliament. (Source: PTI)

EX-PM MANMOHAN SINGH MAY HEAD BACK TO RAJYA SABHA, THIS TIME FROM RAJASTHAN

NEW DELHI (TIP): Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has emerged as the consensus choice for the Rajya Sabha seat from Rajasthan and could be back in the House later this month, said a senior Congress functionary familiar with the development.

“There is consensus in the party that he should be fielded for the only Rajya Sabha seat that the party would win,” the functionary said after the Election Commission announced by-elections on two Rajya Sabha seats on August 26.

One seat from Rajasthan fell vacant due to the death of BJP’s Madan Lal Saini in June. The election on the second seat from Uttar Pradesh was necessitated due to Samajwadi Party lawmaker Neeraj Shekhar’s switch. He quit his Rajya Sabha seat in mid-July before dumping the SP for the BJP.

A BJP leader said Neeraj Shekhar’s crossing over was conditioned on his new party promising that he would be the BJP candidate to fill the vacancy created due to his exit ahead of his term. He will be elected for the remainder of the seat’s term that ends in November 2020.

Manmohan Singh would have a longer tenure. Madan Lal Saini’s term was to end only in April 2024.

‘No agreement’ on Ayodhya, mediation report submitted

NEW DELHI (TIP): The three-member mediation panel looking into the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute has been unable to get the various parties involved in it to come to an agreement, one of the persons aware of the development said on condition of anonymity.

The panel submitted its report to the Supreme Court in a sealed envelope on Thursday, drawing the curtain on almost four-and-a-half month-long negotiations between Hindu and Muslim litigants to explore the possibility of an out-of-court settlement to the decades-long Ayodhya land dispute.

A five-judge constitution bench, comprising Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, and justices SA Bobde, DY Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer, will on Friday go through the panel’s report and decide on the future course of action in the contentious case.

If the panel’s report admits that mediation has failed, the court will start hearing the case.



GURU NANAK’S 550TH BIRTH ANNIV CELEBRATIONS

First time after Partition, nagar kirtan arrives from Pak to India

Red carpet rolled out on way of the procession from Nankana Sahib, devotees throng the Amritsar-Attari route to welcome Guru Granth Sahib saroop



ATTARI (TIP): In a first after Partition, a nagar kirtan (Sikh religious procession) being carried out as part of the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, reached India via the Attari-Wagah border from Nankana Sahib in Pakistan on Thursday, August 1.

The procession crossed the zero line to enter the Indian side around 3.30pm with the holy saroop of Guru Granth Sahib carried by Golden Temple head granthi Giani Jagtar Singh on his head. The additional granthi of the Golden Temple received the holy saroop on the zero line for continuing the procession that will visit 17 Indian states before culminating at Sultanpur Lodhi, the historic town in Kapurthala district, where Guru Nanak spent his 14 years.

A rousing welcome was given to

the holy saroop from Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of the first Sikh master. A red carpet was rolled out on the way of the nagar kirtan and petals were showered on it with newly released shabad ‘Kal Taran Gur Nanak Aya’ sung by Bollywood playback singer Sukhwinder Singh being played in the spectators’ gallery. Among those present on the occasion were Punjab cabinet ministers, Akali Dal leaders from Majha and office-bearers of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) that organised the nagar kirtan.

“Not only Nankana Sahib, followers of Guru Nanak from Sindh, Peshawar, Lahore and other parts of Pakistan became part of the procession,” said SGPC president Gobind Singh Longowal, who along with Akal Takht acting jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh

came with the nagar kirtan from Pakistan.

Ministers OP Soni and Charanjit Singh Channi were accompanied by Amritsar MP Gurjit Singh Auja and Congress MLAs Sunil Dutt, Santokh Singh Bhalaipur, Sukhwinder Singh Danny and Tarsem Singh DC.

SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal and Union minister of food processing industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal were among those who presented ‘rumala’ to the holy saroop. They were accompanied by party leaders Bikram Singh Majithia, Tota Singh, Jagir Kaur, Virsa Singh Valtoha and Nirmal Singh Kahlon. Heads of the Sikh seminaries such as Damdami Taksal were also present.

Both the Akali and Congress leaders welcomed the procession jointly.

Cong likely to name interim chief after Parliament session

NEW DELHI (TIP): The long-awaited meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) is expected to be held after the Parliament session at the convenience of outgoing party president Rahul Gandhi.

Speaking after a meeting of party general secretaries and state in-charges today, Congress Chhattisgarh in-charge PL Punia said it was decided that the CWC could be called after the conclusion of the Parliament session with the consent of Rahul Gandhi.

There is a likelihood of the CWC naming an interim president at its next meet, whenever it is scheduled. Although Rahul has insisted on a non-Gandhi president as his successor, there is clamour in the party to being Priyanka

Gandhi Vadra in his place. Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh recently backed Priyanka, saying the CWC had the final power to decide on the next party president.

Talking about today’s meet, Punia said, “AICC general secretary in-charge of organisation KC Venugopal made the proposal at the meeting that the CWC could be convened after the Parliament session at the convenience of (outgoing) party chief Rahul Gandhi and everyone agreed.”

Also present at the meeting was AICC general secretary East Uttar Pradesh and Rahul’s sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. The meeting was called by Venugopal to discuss plans for celebrations of the 75th birth anniversary of late Prime Minister

Rajiv Gandhi on August 20 this year.

The party has decided to mark the day in a big way with Congress media head Randeep Singh Surjewala saying, “A celebration will be held at every state headquarters on August 20.”

The CWC meeting, meanwhile, has long been awaited ever since Rahul Gandhi resigned as Congress chief on May 25. The resignation was followed by a public statement in which Rahul explained why he had resigned. The outgoing Congress chief even wondered why the CWC had not yet moved forward with the

task of finding a new chief and said he had authorised the CWC fully. Party leaders are hoping they will have a new president soon.



SC transfers all cases related to Unnao rape to Delhi from UP

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the transfer of all five cases in connection with the Unnao rape incident to a court in Delhi from a court in Uttar Pradesh. A three-judge bench led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi also said that the Delhi court would hear the matter on a daily basis and finish it in 45 days.



An interim compensation of Rs 25 lakh will also be given by the Uttar Pradesh government to the rape victim, the three-judge bench said. Furthermore, the girl, her mother, and other members of the family will also be provided security by the Central Reserve Police Force, CJI Gogoi said.

The probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the fifth case related to the accident case in which the rape survivor and the lawyer were injured and two of the

girl's aunts were killed has to be completed within seven days, the top court said. An extension of only seven days will be given to CBI, the top court said, and "that too in exceptional circumstances".

CBI, which has taken over the investigation into Sunday's road accident, booked 10 people for murder, including BJP legislator Kuldeep Singh Sengar, who is already in jail, charged with the rape of the Unnao woman when she was a minor in 2017.

The order by the top court came during a suo-motto hearing after it came to light that the rape survivor had written to CJI Gogoi expressing fears that she and her family could be harmed by the BJP legislator's men. CJI Gogoi had earlier said the letter, written on July 12, had not reached him until much later. On July 31, CJI Gogoi sought a report as to why the letter written by the girl had not reached him until July 30.

A transfer petition moved by the mother of the girl, seeking to transfer the case from Uttar Pradesh to Delhi, had also not moved forward even after the initial notices sent by the top court. Both these events prompted the CJI to question Supreme Court secretary general Sanjeev S Kalgoankar. A committee led by a sitting judge of the top court will now examine if there were any lapses on part of the SC administration, CJI Gogoi said.

Unnao rape: A timeline

June 4, 2017: 17-year-old girl allegedly raped by BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, a four-time legislator who represents Bangermau in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly.

April 3, 2018: The victim's father was beaten up by some persons allegedly at the behest of Sengar and arrested along with them under Arms Act.

April 8: The victim tries to immolate herself outside CM Yogi Adityanath's residence, alleging police inaction, after which the incident comes to light.

April 9: The victim's father dies in custody allegedly owing to police torture after he was arrested.

April 13: BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar arrested.

December: FIR lodged against the victim and her family for allegedly submitting forged age proof to show her as minor at the time of incident.

July 4, 2019: The victim's uncle convicted in a 19-year-old case and sentenced to 10 years jail term on a case filed by Sengar's brother, Atul Singh.

July 17: The victim and her family write a letter to the Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi expressing threat and danger to their lives allegedly by Sengar and his men.

July 28: An over-speeding truck rams into the car in which the victim, her

family and their lawyer were travelling, killing her two aunts, leaving the victim and the advocate critically injured.

July 29: FIR registered at Gurubuxganj police station in Raebareilly, against Sengar and 9 others in connection with the road accident.

July 30: The victim's letter to CJI comes into light.

July 31: SC takes cognisance of the letter, seeks report from its secretary general on delay in placing it before bench.

August 1: SC directs transfer of all five cases registered in connection with the incident from a court in Uttar Pradesh to a court in Delhi.

Strange, but true: Docs find 526 teeth in boy's mouth in India

NEW DELHI (TIP): CNN has reported that a 7-year-old boy complaining of jaw pain was found to have 526 teeth inside his mouth, according to the hospital in India where he was treated.

The boy was admitted last month in the southern city of Chennai because of swelling and pain near his molars in his lower right jaw.

When doctors scanned and x-rayed his mouth, they found a sac embedded in his lower jaw filled with "abnormal teeth," Dr. Prathiba Ramani, the head of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology at Saveetha Dental College and Hospital, told CNN.

While the surgery to remove the teeth took place last month, doctors needed time to individually examine each tooth before they could confirm their findings.

After discovering the sac, two surgeons removed it from the boy's mouth. Then Ramani's team took four to five hours to empty the sac to confirm its contents and discovered the hundreds of teeth.

"There were a total of 526 teeth ranging from 0.1 millimeters (.004 inches) to 15 millimeters (0.6 inches).



An X-ray of the boy's mouth

Even the smallest piece had a crown, root and enamel coat indicating it was a tooth," she said.

The boy was released three days after the surgery and is expected to make a full recovery, Ramani said.

Ramani said the boy was suffering from a very rare condition called compound composite odontoma. She said what caused the condition is unclear, but it could be genetic, or it could be due to environmental factors like radiation.

The boy actually may have had the extra teeth for some time. His parents told doctors that they had noticed swelling in his jaw when he was as young as 3, but they couldn't do much about it because he would not stay still or allow doctors to examine him.

Modi to address UN General Assembly on Sept 28

NEW DELHI (TIP): PM Narendra Modi will address the annual UN General Assembly (UNGA) session on September 28, according to a provisional list released by the UN of the world leaders scheduled to speak at the 74th session of the United Nations.

Modi is also expected to attend multiple high-level summits on the margins of the General Assembly session as well as hold bilateral and multilateral engagements during his visit to New York.

As prime minister, Modi had given his maiden address at the UNGA in 2014. His address to the world leaders at the UN in September will be his first after winning a second term as prime minister in a resounding electoral victory in May. According to the first provisional list of speakers, Modi will address the summit on September 28.

'Kashmir discussion will happen only bilaterally': India to US after Donald Trump's offer

NEW DELHI (TIP): India on Friday once again underlined the bilateral nature of Kashmir issue with Pakistan and told the US in "clear terms" that any discussion on the subject will happen only with Islamabad.

New Delhi's comment comes just hours after US president Donald Trump once again stressed that he would "certainly intervene" if "they" asked. It was, however, not clear if "they" was used for India or Pakistan, or both.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is in Bangkok attending the ASEAN summit, tweeted that he had conveyed New Delhi's intent to his US counterpart Mike Pompeo.

"Have conveyed to American counterpart @SecPompeo this morning in clear terms that any discussion on Kashmir, if at all warranted, will only be with Pakistan and only bilaterally," Jaishankar wrote.

Lok Sabha clears Bill for death in child sex assault cases

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Lok Sabha passed a Bill providing stringent punishment, including death penalty, for aggravated sexual assault on children.

The Bill was earlier passed by the Rajya Sabha and will now go for a formal nod to the President before it becomes an Act. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019, was passed with near unanimity in the Lower House. It also provides for fines and imprisonment to curb child pornography.

WCD Minister Smriti Irani, replying to queries by members, said she would make a provision for including the word "morphing" the images of children for use in pornography. Irani said it was decided that no clause for "consent" be allowed for children less than 18 years of age. "It is a matter of concern that the number of child sex offenders is increasing and conviction rate declining."

India summons US envoy on military aid to Pak

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Ministry of External Affairs had called the US Ambassador to India Kenneth Juster to lodge its "grave concern" over US military assistance to Pakistan. India had also lodged its misgivings about resumption of US military aid to Pakistan in Washington as well.



Kenneth Juster

"We have taken up the matter with the US Ambassador in Delhi, as well as with the US Government in Washington through our Ambassador. We have expressed grave concern over US military assistance to Pakistan. The US side has told us that the proposed sale does not indicate any change in the US policy of maintaining a freeze in military assistance to Pakistan," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Ravish Kumar told newsmen here today.

The Pentagon had said last month that the State Department had approved a \$125 million deal for "24/7 end-use monitoring" of F-16 fighter jets it had earlier supplied to Pakistan. The US had reasoned that its military aid, a nominal amount in military transactions which run into billions of dollars, is meant to continue technical and logistics support services for monitoring Pakistan's operations of F-16 aircraft.

The announcement came after a meeting between Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and US President Donald Trump but India feels this should not be the thin edge of the wedge before America begins full-fledged military aid in order to coax Islamabad into fully backing its plans for a wind-down in Afghanistan.

Guru Nanak's Religious Pluralism



By Dr. Harbans Lal

Guru Nanak anticipated that the Earth would continue to usher in a new ecological age, spiritually, in which diverse cultures, faiths, and religions, once isolated from one another, would live as good neighbors forming a worldwide community, a close-knit global village. In that village, new ideas and insights from science and technology, he expected, would enrich and enlighten the interaction among people of diverse faiths and cultures. During his life the Guru visited many major religious centers of the world and promoted interfaith dialogues, thereby making a foundation for a diverse spiritual global village.

The world is celebrating this year the 550th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the First Master of the Sikhs. Sikhism is the youngest and the fifth largest religion in the world, with a following of close to 30 million worldwide.



Guru Nanak Dev Ji with Mardana playing Rabab (left) and Bala (right)

Guru Nanak's Vision of Spiritual Pluralism

Guru Nanak anticipated that the Earth would continue to usher in a new ecological age, spiritually, in which diverse cultures, faiths, and religions, once isolated from one another, would live as good neighbors forming a worldwide community, a close-knit global village. In that village, new ideas and insights from science and technology, he expected, would enrich and enlighten the interaction among people of diverse faiths and cultures.

During his life the Guru visited many major religious centers of the world and promoted interfaith dialogues, thereby making a foundation for a diverse spiritual global village.

Guru Arjan followed Guru Nanak's path. He compiled the first world scripture, the Adi Granth or Guru Granth, in which he included authors from diverse backgrounds and diverse time periods. He employed a language allowing for diversity, which enjoyed wide currency in South Asia and, to some extent, in the Middle East. He favored the use of metaphors that would encourage new interpretations among new world cultures. The Guru Granth created a philosophical system comprising diverse approaches to divine energy. Based on "unity in diversity", the system celebrated the merits of each particular approach to divine energy and welded all approaches cohesively into one composite approach.

From the Guru Granth, we learn that each faith is inspired by a unique vision of the Divine and that in the course of time the various faiths have developed distinct ethnic identities. As a result, each faith perceives the Divine as the source of its unity. The multiple coauthors of the Granth promote appreciation of spiritual diversity and enunciate the "One Spirit One World" spiritual philosophy, in which each individual longs for the divine attributes celebrated in the Sacred Scripture.

The Granth gives the highest allegiance

Just as our physical world is diverse, so are our religions, our cultures, social systems, orbits, and traditions. They all gather strength from diversity, serving as invaluable components within the Creator's order. The Guru Granth celebrates the Creator's power to enable people to assume diverse identities and to devise diverse identities of the Divine.

came into being for one purpose: to answer the call of people on this earth. The call originated from the creation itself, and it originated mainly as an expression of innate human tendencies.

The first human tendency is to conform to a worldly discipline; religion is one such discipline that people have been conforming to since the beginning of history. Religion is a human construct by which people have related to the Divine, and continue to do so, through the medium of cultural practices, which vary from nation to nation, land to land. Discovered by a founder and promoted by followers, religion often gets encrusted over time with diverse rituals and rules; periodically, it needs to be "cleaned up," and the cleaning-up often leads to the birth of a new religion or a "reformed" variety of the same religion. This is an evolutionary process that all major religions - Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism - have gone through. Initially, all religions promoted spirituality, meaning a practical understanding and practice of a relationship between a human being and the Supreme Being. Then in the course of time, they evolved into more complex forms in response to the needs and desires of the followers. The followers lived in different geographical locations, belonged to diverse socio-cultural backgrounds, and encountered challenges not experienced hitherto by earlier followers. Eventually, differences in cultures and climes gave rise to diversity in religious practices. Perhaps the global need of religion experienced by the followers of Sikhism is not different from that experienced by people of other religions.

Sri Guru Granth Sahib brings under focus the universal belief in spirituality in the sense that human beings and the Creative Soul, Karta Purakh, are inextricably connected by the creation-Creator bond. Human beings need to learn and experience this relationship. Thus, the Sikh Scripture concentrates on the human need to seek a religious education to learn the relationship between the human soul and the Creator, and the Sacred Scripture gratifies that need and nurtures the human soul.

(Excerpts from Dr. Harbans Lal's book 'Guru Nanak's Religious Pluralism and Shri Guru Granth Sahib. Dr Lal Ph.D.; D.Litt. (Hons) is Emeritus Professor and Chairman, Dept of Pharmacology & Neuroscience, and an authority on Sikhism. Visit for his writings: <https://seekingwisdomblog.wordpress.com>)

Before Guru Nanak embarked on his Divine Mission, he told his parents, "There is a call from Heaven; I must go whither He directs me to go."

He was divinely inspired to ameliorate the world. He saw human suffering and oppression all around him. So, to accomplish his mission, Guru Nanak commenced his travels, with two of his followers, one of Hindu and the other of Muslim background, and held interfaith dialogues at numerous places in South Asia, East Asia, and the Middle East.

As a result, he had the opportunity to meet with people of other religions, to teach them and learn from them, and thereby to build bridges with them. In addition, he shared his poetic meditations with other people, which took the form of reciting and singing sacred verses called shabads (shabads) and collectively his bani. This was an innovative approach to helping people appreciate interfaith dialogues and encounters and to elevate human kind in a 15th century world of xenophobia, where people had grown up fearing the cruelty and injustice of the alien ruler and his representatives.

He employed his novel approach to stemming the ongoing degeneration of medieval society. Essentially, he regenerated it and set the course for his nine successors to build up a new way of life with a scripture of its own. Thus, his poetic meditations became the foundation for the Sikh scripture, Sri Guru Granth Sahib. Guru Nanak saw all religions as different ways of worshiping the same Supreme Being. The Mool Mantar he composed orients a Sikh and a non-Sikh alike to the same Transcendental Reality that is worshiped by Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Jews, and others. In short, the founding Guru was a genuine religious pluralist. His spirituality was universal. And the nine Gurus after him and his disciples - Sikhs and Mureeds - followed in his footsteps with respect to their beliefs in God and humanity.

to the power and grace of the Truth and its creative energy that operates through humanity in all ages. The Guru Granth challenges the religious people of the world to realize spirituality in their own faiths and work constructively with members of other faith traditions toward the realization of the Truth. The Scripture teaches us that a vision of the healing light of spirituality will overcome the social and ideological issues underlying much of the conflict among religions and the exploitation of the masses by illusory materialism.

The law of diversity is universal. It works in nature; it works in the world. We may call it a law of nature and a law of life. Plants and animals diversify to evolve and flourish; they perish if they don't. Diversity manifests in the evolution of stars and lands and their structures, which vary millions of times in size, just as it does in the evolution of cells and biological particles in the human body. The law of diversity applies to religions, too. Pluralistic religions originate out of human ecology of diversity. They are best suited to survive when they keep pace with human evolution and human ecology.

The Creator has not shaped all his creatures the same. He has given a distinct composition to all entities of the cosmos, from the tiniest quantum particle to the mightiest galaxy, assigning each its own orbit, its own energy, and its own lifecycle. The Creator's vision of diversity, thus, materializes in the distinctiveness of all individuals, including children, even identical twins, born to the same parents.

Just as our physical world is diverse, so are our religions, our cultures, social systems, orbits, and traditions. They all gather strength from diversity, serving as invaluable components within the Creator's order. The Guru Granth celebrates the Creator's power to enable people to assume diverse identities and to devise diverse identities of the Divine.

The history of the pluralistic world lies in the history of religion itself. Religions

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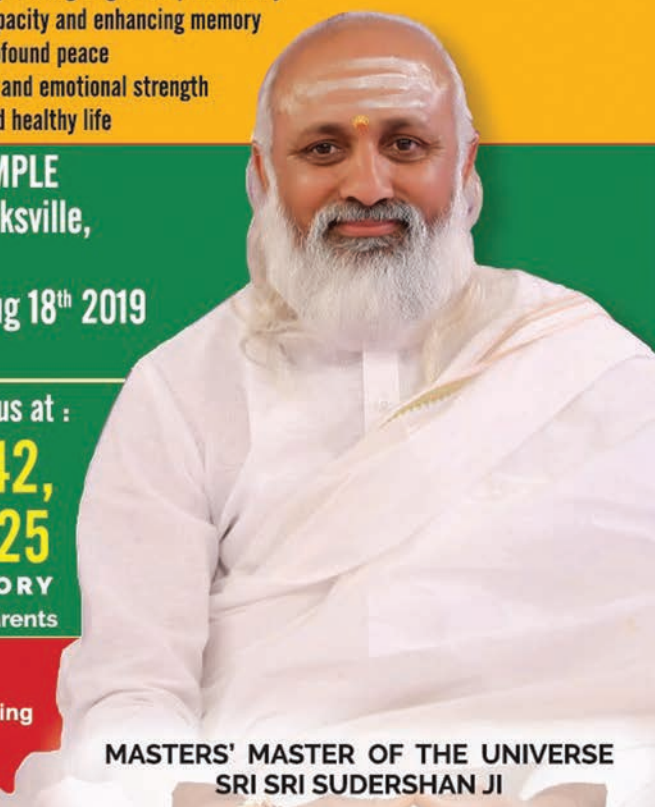
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YAMI GAUTAM LOOKS STUNNING IN HER BRIDAL AVATAR

Yami Gautam is now on a spree to do fun and interesting roles for all her forthcoming films. Her 2019 film Uri sashed play a tough undercover agent dolling out tough dialogues with much ease earning her immense appreciation from the fans.

Now her next, title Ginny Weds Sunny is set to be a fun romantic comedy for which she's being paired with Vikrant Massey.

The film's shoot is expected to go on floors soon and now an interesting image which is being believed to be her first look from the film has just surfaced. As the title suggests the film plot has a strong connection to a wedding and Yami dresses in this ethereal emerald green attire looks stunning as a bride to be.

While not much of the plot is revealed, this image of Yami all smiles behind the scenes is unimaginably stunning of her bridal avatar.

KANGANA THANKS FANS, MEDIA AFTER JUDGEMENTALL HAI KYA'S SUCCESS

Actor Kangana Ranaut has thanked fans and friends for showering their love on her latest film, Judgementall Hai Kya in a fresh video that was shared online by her team. Directed by Prakash Kovelamudi and starring Rajkumar Rao and Amyra Dastur alongside Kangana, the film is being appreciated for its sensitive portrayal of the subject and is also having an impressive run at the box office.

In the video, Kangana is seen enjoying the weather in her scenic home town, Manali. Clad in a pink dress with her hair left open, Kangana says, "I would like to thank everyone for showering JHK with positive responses. Bobby is a unique girl who is specially-abled with a broken destiny. For someone like her to get so much, love, affection and acceptance, gives me great hope about our upcoming generation to achieve equal human rights."

Made on an estimated budget of only Rs 30 crore, trade experts believe the film is already a hit. Current box office trends also suggest Judgementall Hai Kya may break even by the end of the week. Apart from the box office collection, reports suggest producers have already made Rs 40 crore after selling the music and satellite rights of the film.

It earned an estimated Rs 19.25 crore over the first weekend. Trade analyst Taran Adarsh tweeted about the film's performance and wrote, "#BoxofficeSummary - #Sunday:#JudgementallHaiKya: Goes from strength to strength on Day 3. National multiplexes are super-strong. Overall, solid growth over the weekend. #TheLionKing: Continues to roar. Scores big numbers on Sat and now, Sun. Eyes Rs 150 cr *lifetime biz*."

Judgementall Hai Kya is a 'psychological comedy' about Bobby (Kangana) and Keshav (Rajkumar), two murder suspects who share an unusual chemistry. Critics have been showering praise on the film, especially Kangana's act as the eccentric Bobby, calling it her career best.



ANUSHKA LOOKS MESMERISING IN HER MAGAZINE PHOTOSHOOT



Anushka Sharma might be away from the silver screen but the diva is surely entertaining her fans on social media. The 'Sanju' actress was recently in Brussels for some professional commitment and now we get to see a glimpse of it.

In the first picture shared by Filmfare, Anushka can be seen donning a black dress with smokey eye makeup with open tresses. While in the second look she can be seen sporting a mesmerising backless shimmery green dress with detailed makeup.

Well, that wasn't all as in the third look, the 31-year-old diva can be seen wearing a starry dress which she teamed up with white sneakers making it a more comfortable look. Not only that but the talented actress also sported two more looks which have grabbed everyone's attention.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Anushka was last seen in Aanand L Rai's 'Zero' alongside Shah Rukh Khan and Katrina Kaif and she hasn't announced her next project yet.





Stephanie Cayo joins 'Force of Nature' cast

Actor Stephanie Cayo has boarded the cast of Mel Gibson and Kate Bosworth-starrer 'Force of Nature'.

Emile Hirsch has also joined the Michael Polish-directed action movie, reported.

Emmett/Furla/Oasis Films CEOs Randall Emmett and George Furla with Luillo Ruiz are producing the film.

Cory Miller has penned the script, which revolves around a retired detective who must protect residents of a building that's the subject of a hurricane evacuation while criminals attempt to pull off a robbery there.

Production is currently underway in Puerto Rico.

LEONARDO DICAPRIO'S GIRLFRIEND CAMILA MORRONE DEFENDS 22-YEAR AGE GAP



Camila Morrone, who has been linked to actor Leonardo DiCaprio for over a year now, has hit back at trolls for pointing out the 22 years age gap between them. This comes after the 22-year-old actor posted photos of Lauren Bacall and Humphrey Bogart on her Instagram last week, reported E! News.

"A love like this," Morrone wrote alongside the pictures. Bacall and Bogart-like Morrone, 22, and DiCaprio, 44, had over a 20-year age gap between them. Defying their critics, Bacall and Bogart tied the knot in 1945.

After Morrone's post, many social media users left hateful comments on her Instagram. "I can't believe what a dork she is posting something like this," one user commented. "It's obviously a comparison to herself and Leo. Girl, where are your friends?? Somebody stop her."

"Leo only cares about your body," the second user wrote while another declared that the model's relationship with DiCaprio will be "over when you're 25."

After seeing the comments, Morrone took to her Instagram story to sound off on her haters. "Good morning people and happy Friday," Morrone said in the video. "I just read some of the comments on my Instagram and...my God, people are so mean and full of anger with people that they know nothing about." Concluding the video, she tells her followers, "I guess I just hope on this Friday that people learn to live with a little less hatred and place their time and interests elsewhere because living without hatred feels pretty good."

A few days ago, Morrone supported DiCaprio at the premiere of his new film, *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*. She shared a photo of herself from the red carpet event in Los Angeles, and captioned it, "tonight."

Anne Hathaway announces pregnancy as she shows off baby bump



Hollywood actor Anne Hathaway can't wait to welcome her baby No. 2 with husband Adam Shulman. Flaunting her baby bump, the Academy-award winner posted a picture on Instagram saying it was not for a movie.

The actor also expressed her love to all those who have been struggling with conception related issues. "It's not for a movie.. #2. All kidding aside, for everyone going through infertility and conception hell, please know it was not a straight line to either of my pregnancies. Sending you extra love," Hathaway wrote on Instagram. The *Ocean's 8* actor looks all cheery and blissful as she posted a self clicked mirror portrait.

Anne and Adam, who tied the knot in September 2012, are already parents to a three-year-old son.

On the work front, the actress resumed shooting for the spin-off of her film 'The Witches' last month, where she will be seen playing the Grand High witch. The movie is the remake of 'The Witch' based on late Roald Dahl's 1983 children's book of the same name. The film slated to release on October 16 next year also has Chris Rock and Octavia Spencer in the star cast. Apart from it, she is all set to star in Warner Bros's upcoming feature *Sesame Street* which will hit theatres next year on June 4, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*.



EMMA STONE WANTS 'ZOMBIELAND' FILM MADE EVERY 10 YEARS

Zombieland: Double Tap, the sequel to 2009 comedy 'Zombieland' is just a few months away from release and if actor Emma Stone had her way, the film will be made every ten years, revealed its director.

"Emma thought it would be fun if we did one of these every ten years. Knowing that Woody's just the healthiest guy there is, he's going to outlive all of us, and so we can just keep doing them every ten years til the end of time," an American entertainment magazine quoted Ruben Fleischer, the film's director as saying.

The sequel to the 2009 film sees the cast reuniting after ten years and explaining what took it so long for the team to come back. Fleischer who directed the first

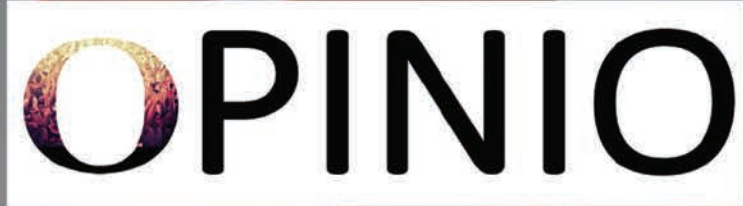
film too, said, "I think we all wanted to stretch our legs a little bit and try different things."

He continued, "I think we were all excited to do other stuff. But, the other thing is, we just couldn't figure out the right story to tell. It took a minute to get a story that we all felt was worthy, to come back to 'Zombieland' for."

He added that the first part was so good that they held themselves to create a sequel that it would be at least as good if not better than the original. The director added, "And that ultimately all comes down to the script. So, we were all demanding and discerning to make sure the story was one that was worth getting the gang back together. Sometimes it does take time to get that right."

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Indian-Origin UK Police Officer sentenced to prison for planning crash for cash

LONDON (TIP): Hardeep Dehal, an Indian origin serving Scotland Yard officer who was found guilty of planning to fraudulently declare £18,415 after a staged highway crash and declare compensation later, has been sentenced to 30 months' rapid custody.

The Crown Prosecution Service mentioned the motive force of a supply van, Raiyaan Anwar, additionally admitted the offence, which happened in March 2016, when he crashed the van into the automobile in East London with 5 individuals in it, together with Dehal.

According to media reports, in line with a pre-planned association, Anwar crashed into the automobile and reported the crash to his employers, retail main Tesco, as a real accident attributable to him. Dehal alleged that he had suffered accidents and made claims for compensation.

Tesco's insurance coverage firm admitted legal responsibility, on the understanding that one among its supply drivers had been at fault in a real collision with members of the general public. The quantity of compensation as a consequence of every of the boys was nonetheless left to be decided. Dehal submitted medical studies claiming situations comparable to extreme ache, stiffness and discomfort, and nervousness.

Saudi Arabia allows women to travel without male 'guardian' approval

RIYADH (TIP): Saudi Arabia will allow women to travel abroad without approval from a male "guardian", the government said on August 1, ending a restriction that drew international censure and prompted extreme attempts to flee the kingdom.

The landmark reform erodes the longstanding guardianship system that renders women permanently as legal minors and allows their "guardians"—husband, father and other male relatives—to exercise arbitrary authority over them.

The decision, following years of campaigning by activists, comes after high-profile attempts by women to escape their guardians despite a string of reforms, including a historic decree last year that overturned the world's only ban on female motorists.

"A passport will be granted to any Saudi national who submits an application," said a government ruling published in the official gazette Umm Al Qura. The regulation effectively allows women over the age of 21 to obtain passports and leave the country without their guardian's permission, the pro-government Okaz newspaper and other local media reported, citing senior authorities. (AFP)

North Korea launched projectiles into sea: South Korea

SEOUL (TIP): South Korea's military said North Korea fired unidentified projectiles twice on August 2 into the sea off its eastern coast in its third weapons tests in just over a week.

The North's increased testing activity is seen as brinkmanship aimed at increasing pressure on Seoul and Washington over the slow pace of nuclear negotiations.

Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the launches were conducted at 2.59 am and 3.23 am from an eastern coastal area but did not immediately confirm how many projectiles were fired or how far they flew.

The North fired short-range ballistic missiles on July 25 and conducted what it described as a test firing of a new multiple rocket launcher system on Wednesday.

Experts say the North is demonstrating its frustration over planned US-South Korea military exercises and stalled nuclear negotiations with the United States, and its weapons tests could intensify if negotiations do not proceed rapidly over the next few months.

By firing weapons that directly threaten South Korea but not the US mainland or its Pacific territories, North Korea also appears to be dialing



up pressure on Seoul and testing how far Washington will tolerate its bellicosity without actually causing the nuclear negotiations to collapse, analysts say.

North Korea's state media has said leader Kim Jong Un on Wednesday supervised the first test firing of a new multiple rocket launcher system, he said, would soon serve a "main role" in

his military's land combat operations and create an "inescapable distress to the forces becoming a fat target of the weapon".

The report by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency differed from the assessment by South Korea's military, which had concluded that Wednesday's launches were of two short-range ballistic missiles. AP

London is world's best student city; Bengaluru ranks 81st

LONDON (TIP): UK's capital London has been named as the world's best city for students for the second consecutive year, beating international cities like Tokyo and Melbourne that came second and third, respectively, on the new worldwide rankings released on August 1.

The 'QS Best Student Cities Ranking', compiled by global education consultancy QS Quacquarelli Symonds, highlights each city's performance across six categories – the number of top-ranked universities; the proportion of a city's population made up of students; quality of life on offer; job opportunities available after graduation; affordability; and the feedback of the students themselves. According to the rankings, India's best student city is Bengaluru (81st), followed by Mumbai (85th), Delhi at 113 and Chennai at 115 out of a total of 120 cities ranked on the list.

"The fact that London has again been ranked the best city in the world in which to be a student is fantastic news – and is no surprise given that London is home to world-leading higher education institutions and a vibrant cultural life," said London's Pakistani-origin Mayor Sadiq Khan, who has been an outspoken campaigner for better student visa offers for students from around the world.

"This is further evidence that London is open to students and talent from around the world," he said.

London beat international cities such as

Tokyo in Japan (2nd) and Melbourne in Australia (3rd) to grab the first place for the second consecutive year.

Student numbers from India coming to study in London registered a hike of 20 per cent in 2017-18, marking an increase from 4,545 in 2016-17 to 5,455 in 2017-18.

However, the numbers are still below the mark than could be achieved from a large student market like India due to a less than attractive visa regime which puts some off from applying to the UK.

"We look forward to welcoming even more international bright minds to the capital to soak up the city's culture and to take advantage of the many opportunities it offers," said Lalage Clay, Director of Education and Talent at London & Partners, the Mayor of London's official promotional agency and home of Study London.

"These are truly fantastic results for London, confirming its outstanding reputation as the best student city in the world for the second consecutive year. We are extremely proud of London's many world-class universities, our talented and diverse student body and of the incredible experiences students have in our city," Clay said. London's high number of top universities, excellent employment opportunities and diversity of its student body emerged as the standout factors for the UK capital to cement its number one position, as well as positive feedback provided by London's students. PTI

Houthi attack kills 36 at Yemen army parade

ADEN (TIP): Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi movement launched missile and drone attacks on August 1 on a military parade in Aden, the seat of government and a stronghold of the Saudi-led military coalition, killing 36 persons, according to the interior ministry.

An explosion hit a military camp belonging to the Yemeni Security Belt forces backed by the UAE, which is a member of the Western-backed coalition battling the Houthis, a witness said.

Yemen's Prime Minister Maen Abdulmalik Saeed and Saudi Arabia's envoy to Yemen, in separate tweets, accused Iran of being behind both the parade attack and a separate blast at a police station in the port city, involving an explosives-laden car in which 13 policemen were killed. — Reuters

China's military video warns HK protesters

HONG KONG (TIP): China's military has released a slick propaganda video showing a drill of armed troops quelling a protest in Hong Kong, in a thinly veiled warning to the city's pro-democracy movement.

The video, posted to social media by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) garrison in Hong Kong, has a caption in which the military declares it has the "confidence" and "capabilities" to maintain security in the semi-autonomous Chinese city. AFP

China orders 'halal' eateries to take down Arabic, Muslim symbols

BEIJING (TIP): Authorities in the Chinese capital have ordered halal restaurants and food stalls to remove Arabic script and symbols associated with Islam from their signs, part of an expanding national effort to "Sinicize" its Muslim population.

Employees at 11 restaurants and shops in Beijing selling halal products and visited by Reuters in recent days said officials had told them to remove images associated with Islam, such as the crescent moon and the word "halal" written in Arabic, from signs.

Government workers from various offices told one manager of a Beijing noodle shop to cover up the "halal" in Arabic on his shop's sign, and then watched him do it.

"They said this is foreign culture and you should use more Chinese culture," said the manager, who, like all restaurant owners and employees who spoke to Reuters, declined to give his name due to the sensitivity of the issue.

The campaign against Arabic script and Islamic images marks a new phase of a drive that has gained momentum since 2016, aimed at ensuring religions conform with mainstream Chinese culture.

The campaign has included the removal of Middle Eastern-style domes on many mosques around the country in favour of Chinese-style pagodas.

China, home to 20 million Muslims, officially guarantees freedom of religion, but the government has campaigned to bring the faithful into line with Communist Party ideology.

It's not just Muslims who have come under scrutiny.

Authorities have shut down many underground Christian churches, and torn down crosses of some churches deemed illegal by the government.

But Muslims have come in for particular attention since a riot in 2009 between mostly Muslim Uighur people and majority Han Chinese in the far western region of Xinjiang, home to the Uighur minority.



Spasms of ethnic violence followed, and some Uighurs, chafing at government controls, carried out knife and crude bomb attacks in public areas and against the police and other authorities.

In response, China launched what it described as a crackdown on terrorism in Xinjiang.

Now, it is facing intense criticism from Western nations and rights groups over its policies, in particular mass detentions and surveillance of Uighurs and other Muslims there.

The government says its actions in Xinjiang are necessary to stamp out religious extremism. Officials have warned about creeping Islamisation, and have extended tighter controls over other Muslim minorities.

'New normal'

Analysts say the ruling Communist Party is concerned that foreign influences can make religious groups difficult to control.

"Arabic is seen as a foreign language and knowledge of it is now seen as something outside of the control of the

state," said Darren Byler, an anthropologist at the University of Washington who studies Xinjiang.

"It is also seen as connected to international forms of piety, or in the eyes of state authorities, religious extremism.

They want Islam in China to operate primarily through Chinese language," he said.

Kelly Hammond, an assistant professor at the University of Arkansas who studies Muslims of the Hui minority in China, said the measures were part of a "drive to create a new normal".

Beijing is home to at least 1,000 halal shops and restaurants, according to the Meituan Dianping food delivery app, spread across the city's historic Muslim quarter as well as in other neighbourhoods.

It was not clear if every such restaurant in Beijing has been told to cover Arabic script and Muslim symbols. One manager at a restaurant still displaying Arabic said he'd been ordered to remove it but was waiting for his new signs. Reuters

Four Indians in Georgia Charged with Racketeering

MACON, GA(TIP): The Macon Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office filed a civil forfeiture action earlier last month stemming from an investigation into a multi-jurisdictional racketeering enterprise that profited from tax evasion, money laundering, public corruption and illegal gambling. Several individuals, including four Indians, also were charged with racketeering, including a Bibb County Sheriff's deputy.

Racketeering charges were filed against McCarley; Manoj J. Patel, 47, of Rincon; Nital Kumar Raval, 39, of Statesboro; Bhunica Ambu, 31, of Savannah; and Zankhana Patel, 31, of Rincon.

It's alleged that the defendants willingly failed to pay taxes on the more than \$39 million in profit they derived from the illegal operation of video gambling machines in 2017 and 2018. Customers gambled more than \$121 million on these machines during the same time period and received \$82 million in cash and prizes.

An investigation has shown that stakeholders at these companies and the owners of convenience stores laundered gambling profits by improperly funneling millions of dollars through the trusts without paying required taxes.

The license holders also set up "straw men" store locations as mere storefronts established for illegally operating the machines. By doing so, the license holders were able to keep all the gambling proceeds instead of sharing them with store owners as mandated by state law - What should have been the store locations' share of the proceeds was not reported by the license holders for tax purposes.

In addition to the stores making illegal cash payouts and failing to pay more than \$4.4 million in sales and use taxes on players' winnings, the stores also accepted monetary inducements. These inducements were paid by license holders to entice store locations to place their machines in the stores. The stores didn't report the inducements as income.

This investigation also uncovered evidence of bribery and public corruption. **(Source: DOJ)**

In Greece's Aegean Sea, divers find 'gulf of plastic corals'

ANDROS (TIP): Like colourful corals, they swayed in the underwater current. Only these were not gorgeous natural reefs built up over centuries but plastic bags, stuck to the golden Aegean seabed since a landfill crumbled into the water eight years ago.

Thousands of plastic bags were pulled from the sea off Greece's Andros island this month by a team of divers and environmentalists who described what they found as a "gulf full of plastic corals." Seas polluted with plastic have become one of the most shocking symbols worldwide of mankind's damage to the planet.

"It was a very scary thing to see," said

Arabella Ross, a volunteer diver with Aegean Rebreath, a group founded in 2017 to carry out underwater and coastal clean-ups.

The Mediterranean is among the seas with the highest levels of plastic pollution in the world, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) said in a report in June. Greece produces about 700,000 tonnes of plastic waste a year, it said. About 11,500 tonnes end up in its seas every year, and almost 70% of that returns to its coastline, one of the longest in the world.

The sea pollution off Andros is thought to date back to 2011, when heavy rain caused an informal waste disposal

site to collapse, with most of the materials tumbling into the sea.

Aegean Rebreath divers plucked blue, black and yellow plastic bags tangled between reefs, swaying among fish. It was "like the paradise of the Caribbean Sea, where you find coral reefs everywhere of every colour. It was the exact same thing, but instead of corals it was bags," Ross said.

The team only managed to clean up a fraction of the plastic waste they found, she said. They also pulled 300 kg of discarded fishing nets, known as "ghost nets", from Andros and in a separate operation off Salamina, a small island near Athens. — Reuters

SKIN FACTS YOU SHOULD BE AWARE ABOUT

Improve your skin complexion and texture with simple tips.

Consider Your Water

Soft water doesn't remove soap well, so it can leave a residue on your skin. If your water is soft, use face and body cleansers sparingly (no more than a nickel- or quarter-size amount, respectively). Hard water, on the other hand, doesn't allow washes to lather easily, prompting you to use even more cleanser, which can cause dryness. Gentle, nonsoap formulas, which aren't meant to lather, can minimize this.

Drink Green Tea

If your complexion is red or blotchy, this tea's anti-inflammatory properties can be soothing. Iced is best because hot beverages can worsen redness and other symptoms of rosacea. Another benefit: The epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG) in green tea may help prevent the collagen destruction that leads to wrinkles as well as sun-induced DNA damage in the skin (think lines and discoloration), according to some experts. Consider subbing tea for your morning mug of coffee.

Keep Stress in Check

It takes a toll on nearly every part of your body, including your skin. In a study conducted at Stanford University, researchers found that during exam time, students who felt stressed had more severe acne breakouts than did those under less pressure. That's because stress increases the body's production of hormones such as cortisol, which can make skin oilier and decrease its ability to fight off acne-causing bacteria. To keep that frazzled feeling under control, regularly practice stress-management techniques, like yoga, deep



breathing, and meditation. This "can help conditions such as acne, psoriasis, rosacea, and seborrhea.

Improve Your Air Quality

Avoiding smoky environments is smart since just being around smoke can lead to the release of free radicals that damage skin and hasten aging. Other indoor pollutants can adversely affect skin, too. Change the air filter in your furnace regularly and, if you cook with oil, use the fan over your range. Also keep in mind that dry indoor air can dehydrate skin and make fine lines more noticeable.

Switch to Plain Toothpaste

Those with tartar-control ingredients or added flavors, like cinnamon, may contribute to a common skin condition called perioral dermatitis. It looks like pimples, redness, and scaling around the mouth.

Watch Sun Exposure

UV rays (in particular UVA rays) can penetrate the windows in your home and office and cause wrinkling and brown spots. The same goes for car windows: Studies have found higher rates of skin

cancers on the left side of the face and upper body than on the right, since that side is more exposed when you're driving. Cancers aside, "many people have more wrinkles and sun damage on the left side of their faces, too.

Monitor Your Dairy Intake

Research from the Harvard School of Public Health found that teenage girls who consume a lot of milk are almost 30 percent more likely to have acne than those who drink less, and experts believe the same holds true for adult women prone to serious breakouts. Surprisingly, skim milk seems to be a worse offender than whole milk. Scientists don't understand exactly why milk products can lead to acne, but some surmise that the natural hormones present in dairy may be to blame, says Leslie Baumann, a dermatologist in Miami Beach, Florida, who notes that even organic milk can cause breakouts. Cottage cheese, instant breakfast drinks, and sherbet are also linked to acne. While cutting back on dairy won't solve a pimple problem single-handedly, it may make a difference for those who suffer severe breakouts, say experts.

FOOD CORNER

RAVA LADOO

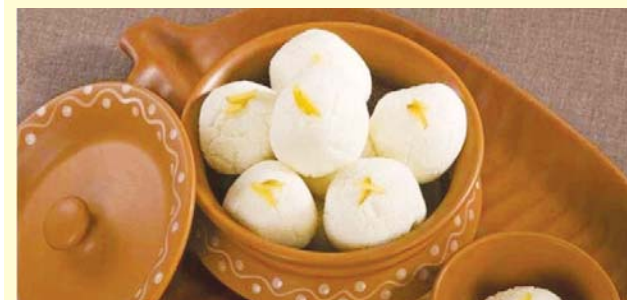
Ingredients

Rava (Sooji) - 1 cup, Dry Coconut (Koppara Thenga) - 1, grated, Sugar - 1 cup, Ghee - 4 tsp, Hot Water - 2 tblsp
Cardamom Powder - 1/4 tsp, Fried Cashewnuts - 10
Fried Raisins - 30,

Method

- Heat ghee in a pan over medium flame.
- Add the rava, fried cashewnuts and raisins.
- Mix well till the rava is lightly roasted.
- Add the grated coconut and reduce flame to low.
- Continue to fry till golden.
- Transfer to a shallow bowl and add the sugar.
- Mix well.
- Add cardamom powder and add the hot water.
- Make small balls of the mixture.
- Press them tightly so that they hold the shape and keep aside to cool.
- Store in an airtight container.

RASGULLA



Ingredients

Paneer - made from 500 ml milk, Water - 500 ml,
Sugar - 300 gms, Flour - 1/2 tsp, Rose Water - 1/2 tblsp

Method

- Place the paneer, flour and 1/2 tsp of sugar in a bowl. Knead well till smooth.
- Make small balls from this dough.
- Ensure the balls are smooth and crack-free.
- Make a thin syrup with the sugar and water.
- When it is slightly thick, drop the paneer balls and cover the pan. Boil for 5 to 8 minutes.
- As soon as the syrup starts thickening, add 1 tsp of hot water. Reduce flame and simmer.
- Add 1 tblsp hot water and continue to simmer.
- Once the rasgullas start to puff up (light and spongy) and rise to the top, transfer them to a bowl that has a little cold water.
- Once cool, refrigerate for a few hours.
- Add the rose water before serving and serve them in a sugar syrup.

The secret to happy marriage is a good night's sleep

If you wish to give your marriage a smooth ride, make sure both of you get sound sleep every night. A new study has found that a good night's sleep can buffer the effects of negative events on a couple's general satisfaction with their marriages.

When husbands and wives get more sleep than on an average night, they are more satisfied with their marriages, at least the following day, the findings showed.

"The universality of our findings is important," said one of the researchers, Heather Maranges from Florida State University in the US.

"That is, we know all people need sleep. Regardless of the stage at which a couple is in their relationship or the cultural context in which they're embedded, each member of the couple can be adversely affected by not getting enough sleep," Maranges said. The researchers



conducted their research with 68 newlywed couples. Over a seven-day period, couples recorded the number of hours they slept and then responded to two sets of questions on a scale of one to seven. The first set measured overall relationship satisfaction, asking

husbands and wives to respond to questions such as, "How satisfied were you with your marriage today?"

The other set focused on relationship experiences in nine areas including chores, the amount of time spent together and conflict resolution. Husbands

especially were less negatively affected by bad experiences in those nine areas when they got more sleep, showed the findings published in the Journal of Family Psychology.

That is, sleep buffered the effects of specific negative events and evaluations on their broader, more general satisfaction with their marriages, the study said. The findings highlight the significance of sleep as it relates to self-regulation or self-control, which influences how married couples feel and think about their partner.

Self-control requires energy that can be replenished when our bodies are in the resting period known as sleep. In other words, sleep offers self-regulatory benefits to relationships.

"Up to one-third of married or cohabiting adults report that sleep problems burden their relationship," the researchers wrote in the paper.

RED WINE CAN TREAT DEPRESSION, ANXIETY

In a good news for wine lovers, researchers have found a compound present in red wine which can treat depression and anxiety.

The plant compound resveratrol displays anti-stress effects by blocking the expression of an enzyme which controls stress in the brain.

"Resveratrol may be an effective alternative to drugs for treating patients suffering from depression and anxiety disorders," said Ying Xu, Associate Professor, University at Buffalo in the US.

The findings, published in the journal *Neuropharmacology*, shed light onto how neurological processes are impacted by resveratrol—a compound having numerous health benefits and found in the skin and seeds of grapes and berries.

While research has identified resveratrol to have antidepressant effects, the compound's relationship to phosphodiesterase 4 (PDE4), an enzyme influenced by the stress hormone corticosterone, was unknown.

Corticosterone regulates the body's response to stress. Too much stress, however, can lead to excessive amounts of the hormone circulating in the brain and, ultimately, to depression or other mental disorders.

The research also reveals that PDE4, induced by excessive amounts of corticosterone, causes depression- and anxiety-like behaviour.

The enzyme lowers cyclic



adenosine monophosphate—a messenger molecule that signals physiological changes such as cell division, change, migration and death—in the body, leading to physical alterations in the brain.

Resveratrol displayed neuroprotective effects against corticosterone by inhibiting the

expression of PDE4. The research lays the groundwork for the use of the compound in novel antidepressants.

According to the researchers, although red wine contains resveratrol, consumption of alcohol has various health risks, including addiction.

Source: IANS

EGGSHELLS CAN HELP GROW, HEAL BONES

Eggshells can enhance the growth of new, strong bones needed in medical procedures, a team of UMass Lowell researchers has discovered.

The technique developed by UMass Lowell could one day be applied to repair bones in patients with injuries due to aging, accidents, cancer and other diseases or in military combat, according to Assistant Prof. Gulden Camci-Unal, who is leading the study.

Through the innovative process, crushed eggshells are inserted into a hydrogel mixture that forms a miniature frame to grow bone in the laboratory to be used for bone grafts. To do so, bone cells would be taken from the patient's body, introduced into this substance and then cultivated in an incubator before the resulting new bone is implanted into the patient.

The research demonstrates that when eggshell particles -- which are primarily made of calcium carbonate -- are incorporated into the hydrogel mixture, they increase bone cells' ability to grow and harden, which could potentially result in faster healing. And, because the bone would be generated from cells taken from the patient, the possibility the individual's immune system would reject the new material is greatly reduced, according to Camci-Unal.

The process could also be used to help grow cartilage, teeth and tendons, she said.

"This is the first study that uses eggshell particles in a hydrogel matrix for bone repair. We have already filed a patent for it and are very excited about our results. We anticipate the process can be adapted for use in many significant ways," said Camci-Unal, adding that one day, eggshell particles could also serve as a vehicle to deliver proteins, peptides, growth factors, genes and medications to the body.



UMass Lowell students participating in the research include biomedical engineering and biotechnology Ph.D. candidates Sanika Suvarnapathaki and Xinchun Wu of Lowell, along with Darlin Lantigua of Lawrence. Wu was the lead author of the team's research findings, which have been published in the academic journal *Biomaterials Science* and will be featured on the cover of the publication's print edition this month.

Using eggshells to support bone growth provides a sustainable way to reuse them while advancing the technology behind these procedures, according to the researchers.

FLUORESCENCE IMAGING TO IDENTIFY CANCER-AFFECTED BREAST TISSUES INTRODUCED IN AIIMS

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a first, a state-of-the-art fluorescence imaging technology for easy identification of cancer-affected tissues in breast has recently been introduced at the AIIMS here.

According to Dr SVS Deo, Head of the Department of Surgical Oncology at AIIMS, the technology will be a "game changer" in breast cancer surgery space as it precisely helps identify relevant tissue intra-operatively.

During breast cancer surgery, surgeons inject a safe and affordable indocyanine green (ICG) dye in patients. Using Fluorescence Imaging technology, surgeons can view blood flow in vessels, micro-vessels, tissue perfusion and critical anatomical structures intra-operatively.

"The relevant tissues light up in fluorescent green colour. The reliability and multiple applications of the imaging are a significant differentiation compared to currently used technologies like blue dye," he said.

"Due to lack of this critical information, earlier all lymph nodes including healthy ones would be removed completely causing significant collateral damage to patient. With Fluorescence Imaging technology we can now save healthy tissue and improve patient safety and outcomes," Dr Deo said.

High blood sugar may increase the risk of pancreatic cancer

High blood sugar may increase the risk of pancreatic cancer, a new study has found. The disease stops the work of healthy cells in the pancreas and aids their out-of-control growth.

The findings of the Korea-based study were published in the 'Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism'.

The five-year survival rate for people with pancreatic cancer is only nine percent because the disease is so difficult to diagnose and is often not found until later stages when the cancer has spread from the pancreas to other parts of the body, the research suggests.

"Diabetes is one of the major risk factors for pancreatic cancer," said the study's corresponding author, Cheol-Young Park of Kangbuk Samsung Hospital in Seoul.

"When we evaluated the pancreatic cancer incidence according to fasting glucose levels using a national cohort database, we found the number of pancreatic cancer cases rose as fasting glucose levels increased. This was true in people who had diabetes as well as those who did not," said Park.

In this study, researchers evaluated pancreatic cancer incidence in Korea according to blood sugar levels using a national cohort database of more than 25 million patients. They found that as blood sugar level rises, the rate of pancreatic cancer significantly increases not only in diabetic population but also in those with prediabetes or normal range of blood sugar levels.

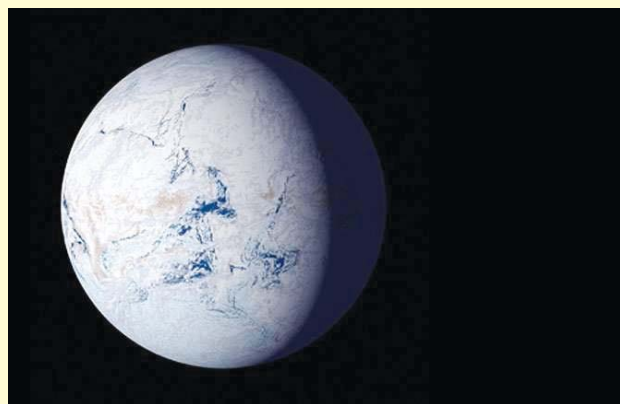
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FROZEN EARTH-LIKE PLANETS COULD SUPPORT LIFE: STUDY

Icy planets once thought too cold to support life may have livable land areas, according to a study that challenges the typical assumption of what kinds of planets might be habitable.

Scientists have long thought snowball planets—Earth-like planets with oceans frozen to the equator—were hostile to life because of the extreme cold.

The study, published in the *Journal of Geophysical Research: Planets*, found some snowball planets might have areas of land near their equators that reach livable temperatures.

"You have these planets that traditionally you might consider not habitable and this suggests that maybe they can be," said Adiv Paradise, an astronomer and physicist at the University of Toronto in Canada.

The habitable zone is a range of distances from a star where a planet could theoretically have liquid water and temperatures warm enough to support life.

Planets in the habitable zone can be warm and temperate like Earth, or entirely frozen, like snowball planets. Geologists suspect Earth has gone through anywhere from one to three snowball phases in the past and that marine microorganisms likely survived through at least one of those periods.

"We know that Earth was habitable through its own snowball episodes, because life emerged before our snowball episodes and life remained long past it," said Paradise, lead author of the study.



GOOGLE RESEARCHERS FIND 6 iOS SECURITY FLAWS

Google security researchers team have found six critical flaws in Apple iMessage that can compromise the user's phone without even interacting with them. These security vulnerabilities fall into the 'interactionless' category.

Two members of 'Project Zero', Google's elite bug-hunting team, have published details and demo proof-of-concept code for five of six 'interactionless' security bugs that impact the iOS operating system and can be exploited via the iMessage client, the ZDNet reported on Tuesday.

Details about one of the 'interactionless' vulnerabilities have been kept private because Apple's iOS 12.4 patch did not completely resolve the bug, according to Natalie Silvanovich, one of the two Google Project Zero researchers who found and reported the loophole.

The four security flaws are CVE-2019-8641 (details kept private), CVE-2019-8647, CVE-2019-8660 and CVE-2019-8662.

The fifth and sixth bugs CVE-2019-8624 and CVE-2019-8646 can allow an attacker to leak data from a device's memory and read files off a remote device, also with no user interaction, the report added.

FLIGHT BY LIGHT: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED FOR LIGHTSAIL 2

WASHINGTON (TIP): Mission accomplished: the Planetary Society announced on Wednesday that its LightSail 2 spacecraft, which was launched last month, had successfully raised its orbit using only the power of photons from the Sun.

The team behind the USD 7 million crowd-funded venture said they had demonstrated a proof of concept for a new form of propulsion that could one day transform deep space exploration by doing away with the need for expensive rockets and fuel.

"In the past four days the spacecraft has raised its apogee, or orbital high point, by about 1.7 kilometers (one mile) attributable to solar sailing," said Bruce Betts, LightSail 2 program manager.

That makes it the first spacecraft to use solar sailing for propulsion in Earth orbit, and the second-ever solar sail spacecraft to successfully fly, following Japan's IKAROS, which launched in 2010.

"This technology enables us to take things to extraordinary destinations in the solar system, and maybe even beyond, in a way that's never been possible because you don't need fuel and you don't need all the systems to control fuel," said Bill Nye, the chief executive of the Planetary Society.

He added he would like to see the technology applied to missions searching for life on Mars, Jupiter's moon Europa, and Saturn's moon Titan, and "solar sails could enable you to lower the cost of these missions."

Another application could be in maintaining a probe at a stationary point in space, such as a telescope that looks out for asteroids in the



This photo provided on July 25, 2019, by the Planetary Society shows a portion of the LightSail 2 spacecraft, top, and part of Earth, centered on Baja California, Mexico. It was one of the photos transmitted from The Planetary Society's LightSail 2 spacecraft, confirming the successful deployment of its solar sail. Source: AP/PTI

vicinity of Earth, or a satellite that needs to be fixed in a stationary orbit above the North Pole.

The idea of solar sailing was first theorized in the 1600s by Johannes Kepler, who wrote that sails and ships "could be adapted to heavenly breezes."

LightSail 2 puts that into practice via a sail made from Mylar that unfurls to a size of 32 square meters (yards).

As packets of light energy known as photons bounce off the sail, they transfer their momentum in the opposite direction, pushing the vessel along with a thrust that is tiny but unlimited.

With no friction in the near-vacuum of space, the vessel will eventually achieve incredibly high

speeds.

The parallels to ocean sailing don't stop there: as it flies to the Sun, the sail orients itself edge-on, effectively turning off its thrust. When flying away from the Sun, the sail turns broadside to the photons, getting a slight push.

LightSail 2, which is controlled autonomously via software, does not have the precision to maintain a circular orbit.

Therefore as its apogee rises, its perigee, or orbital low point, decreases, exposing it to atmospheric drag that will overcome the thrust from solar sailing. LightSail 2 will continue to orbit for about a year before falling back into Earth's atmosphere.

Source: AFP

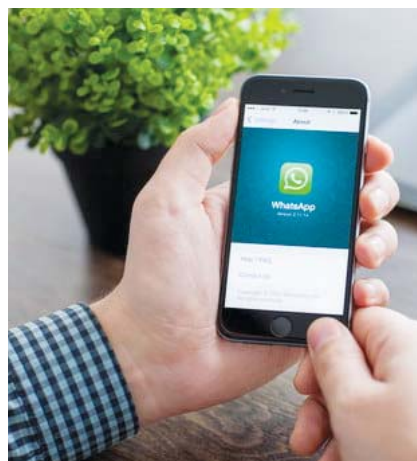
WhatsApp building desktop version that works without phone

Facebook-owned WhatsApp is reportedly working on a desktop version of the app that would allow users to use the messaging app on a PC without having to connect their phone to the Internet.

In 2015, WhatsApp released a web version that mirrored the conversation from the mobile app, but to use it, one needed to have their phone connected to the Internet.

Reliable WhatsApp leaker account WABetaInfo tweeted on Friday that the company might be developing a Universal Windows Platform (UWP) app along with a new multi-platform system that would work even when your phone is off.

In addition, WhatsApp is also reportedly working on a multi-platform system that would allow users to access their chats and



profiles on more than one device with the same account.

The multi-platform system would also work in synchronisation with WhatsApp's UWP, which is also in the works, to offer the standard chat interface on different devices with the same account. Source: IANS

GET OLD TWITTER INTERFACE WITH FEW CLICKS

A Twitter user and software developer, Zusor, has shared a useful 'do-it-yourself' guide to bring back the old Twitter interface with just a few clicks, and has named it 'GoodTwitter'.

To get the old interface, just open Twitter and follow this sequence of commands: Click on "(...) More" in the left-hand menu. Go to "Settings and privacy" > "About Twitter" > "Directory". A new Twitter tab will open, click on "Home" and you will find the old user interface, The Next Web has reported. So far, GoodTwitter has been downloaded by nearly 35,000 Chrome and Firefox users, attracting rave reviews on Reddit.

Twitter recently redesigned the interface for its website version, saying the new look is faster and easier to navigate.

Despite a solid economy, Fed cuts its key rate by quarter point

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Federal Reserve gave the U.S. economy a rare immunization shot Wednesday as it sought to extend a record 10-year-old expansion that faces mounting risks.

Despite a generally healthy economy, the Fed cut its key short-term interest rate for the first time in more than a decade in a bid to head off a possible recession spurred by global troubles and trade tensions.

As expected, the Fed lowered its federal funds rate by a quarter-percentage point to a range of 2% to 2.25%. The move is likely to ripple through the economy and financial system, nudging down rates for credit cards, home equity lines and auto loans and theoretically sparking more economic activity. While the rate cut should aid borrowers, it will frustrate savers who were just starting to benefit from higher bank account yields.

et it reverses just a fraction of the nine rate hikes the Fed enacted from late 2015 to late 2018 to prevent an eventual inflation run-up and bring borrowing costs back to normal – years after the Great



Recession of 2007-09.

“In light of the implications of global developments for the economic outlook as well as muted inflation pressures, the (Fed’s policymaking committee) decided to lower” its key rate to a range of 2% to 2.25%,” the Fed said in a statement after a two-day meeting.

Fed Chairman Jerome Powell told

reporters he didn’t see Wednesday’s move as the start of a lengthy rate-cut cycle. “That’s not what we’re seeing now,” he said.

But he didn’t rule out further decreases, saying it would depend on global growth, trade tensions and low inflation. “We see (these risks) as threats to the favorable outlook,” he said.



ESSEL GROUP SELLS 11% STAKE IN ZEE TO US FUND FOR RS 4,224 CRORE

MUMBAI (TIP): US-based fund Invesco Oppenheimer today agreed to pick up an additional 11% in the fund-starved Zee Group flagship Zee Entertainment Enterprises (Zee) for Rs 4,224 crore.

The equity will be picked up by the Atlanta-based global fund house’s Developing Markets Fund, which already owns 7.74% in the company, a company statement said. Invesco Oppenheimer has been a financial investor in Zee since 2002.

“Invesco Oppenheimer Developing Markets Fund has agreed to make an additional investment in Zee. It has agreed to buy up to an 11% stake more in Zee from the promoters, for Rs 4,224 crore,” it said.

The promoters, who have been since last November trying to pare their stake by even half, own 35.79% in Zee as of June 2019, of which 63.98% has been pledged with mutual funds and other financial institutions. Following this deal, promoter stake will come down to around 23%.

As per media reports, the promoters’ stake is estimated to be around Rs 13,000 crore at current market price with market capitalisation of Rs 34,717.3 crore at a closing price of Rs 361.45 on Wednesday.

CORE SECTORS’ GROWTH SLIPS TO 0.2% IN JUNE

NEW DELHI (TIP): Growth of eight core industries dropped to 0.2% in June mainly due to a contraction in oil-related sectors as well as in cement production, according to official data. The eight core sector industries — coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity — had expanded by 7.8% in June last year.

According to the data released by the government, crude oil output contracted by 6.8% while the refinery segment de-grew by 9.3%. The cement output declined by 1.5%.

Snapping its two-month declining trend, the production of fertilisers grew by 1.5%. Steel and electricity production, however, increased by 6.9% and 7.3%, respectively, during the month under review.

During April-June, the eight sectors grew by 3.5% compared to 5.5% in the same period last year.

Source: PTI

HDFC LOWERS LENDING RATES BY 10 BPS

MUMBAI (TIP): Mortgage major HDFC Wednesday announced reduction in retail loan pricing by 10 basis points across tenors and buckets of loans, both for new as well as existing borrowers, effective Thursday.

For home loans up to Rs 30 lakh, the financier is offering 8.60 percent now. For women borrowers, the new rate is 8.55 percent, the largest mortgage lender said in a statement, adding the rate reduction will be applicable to existing borrowers as well.

For loans above Rs 30 lakh and up to Rs 75 lakh, the new rates will 8.85 percent and 8.80 percent for women borrowers and for those above Rs 75 lakh, the prices will come down to 8.90 and 8.85 percent respectively, it said.

Apple bounces back in India, clocks double-digit growth

NEW DELHI (TIP): India is back on Apple’s global map, with CEO Tim Cook announcing that the growth in the country bounced back in the company’s fiscal 2019 third quarter that saw record results.

In an earnings call with analysts late Tuesday, Cook said that tactically, the emerging markets had a bit of a rebound in the third quarter that saw Apple Services vertical grow further.

“In fact, on a constant currency basis, we actually grew slightly in emerging markets. We still declined on a reported basis. India bounced back. During the quarter, we returned to growth there. We are very happy with that. We grew in Brazil as well,” said Apple CEO.

The return of Apple in India — including 19 per cent iPhone shipments growth (YoY) in Q3 — comes at a time when the company is reportedly set to manufacture top-end iPhone XS and iPhone XR courtesy its supplier Foxconn in the country.

“Price cuts and aggressive marketing has helped Apple to drive revenues in India,” Tarun Pathak, Associate Director at Counterpoint Research, told IANS.

Giving an impetus to its India manufacturing plans, Apple in April started the assembling of iPhone 7 at its supplier Wistron’s facility in Bengaluru.

According to Luca Maestri, Apple’s CFO, the company set June quarter revenue records in several major developed markets.



Coffee Day Board appoints SV Ranganath as interim chairman



MUMBAI (TIP): The board of Coffee Day Enterprises on Wednesday appointed SV Ranganath as its interim chairman, after the police in Mangaluru earlier recovered the body of its founding Chairman VG Siddhartha almost 36 hours after he went missing.

The board in its meeting, which commenced at 10.30 am and went on till 1 pm, also decided to appoint Nitin Bagmane as the interim Chief Operating Officer (COO), a company statement said. “Constitution of an Executive Committee comprising SV Ranganath (Non-Executive Independent Director), Nitin Bagmane (COO) and R Ram Mohan (CFO) to exercise the powers previously vested with the Chief Executive Officer of the Company and the Administrative Committee constituted by the Board in 2015,” it said.

The board will, in due course, prepare a detailed charter of authorities vested in the executive committee and approve the same, the statement said, adding that the executive committee would, inter alia, explore opportunities to deleverage the Coffee Day Group. After Cafe Coffee Day owner went missing late on Monday, his body was fished out of the Netravathi river in Karnataka by a group of fishermen, some distance away from the bridge where the coffee baron was last seen.

The company said the board took cognizance of statements in the purported letter from Siddhartha relating to financial transactions outside the knowledge of the senior management, auditors and the board.



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 and on phone **011-91-8141234275** 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 - August 5 - August 11, 2019

ARIES: Ganesha says this can be a restless period and you keep moving from one project to another. At least, this phase suggests this trend. If you had been cheated of monies last period, this period could be lucky as far as recoveries are concerned. The focus will be on money and making your life as secure as possible. You need to do it now as you may consider settling down and starting a family.

TAURUS: Ganesha says those in business may do exceptionally well as there will be many international happy moments with the family too. There will be recognition of your worth along with all the benefits and additions that increased prestige brings. It may not be as easy as it seems. There will be a walk over coals.

GEMINI: You will have to resolve personal matters, align fresh priorities, and reassess your own values. You will also have to work hard at maintaining domestic harmony. Financial issues will pan out well and you will be happily buying whatever you fancy. There is a strong possibility of wish-fulfilment. There will be happy times too and so go enjoy, says Ganesha.

CANCER: There are many moments spent with the family and you will feel blessed. You are generally restless and are forever on the lookout for action. Those in the media will do exceptionally well. Your creative outbursts will meet with monetary success. Of course, money doesn't stay long with you as friends will ask for treats and you find it very difficult to refuse earnest entreaties for money.

LEO: You have also lost a lot of money in the past by lending to friends and this may happen again; money always manages to slip out of your fingers. There will be travel and you meet up with old flames; what an exciting start to the period. You will start implementing new plans right from this period. Journeys, travels and mental growth take precedence.

VIRGO: You have realised the value and relevance of genuine bonding and are keen to make the most of it. This impacts your relationships and siblings. Relatives and people really close to you will come to mean much more in this phase. You will also be drawn to intellectual activities, education and higher studies, even research and information technology. Ganesha blesses you.

LIBRA: There is new love in your life. You will be lot in the throes of passion. There will also be many expenses as you indulge in hectic shopping and travel. \ You will be splurging on the latest brands as though a scarcity loomed large. But you will also feel restless and indecisive. You may look for an escape in the usual indulgences. Ganesha asks you to slow down and take care.

SCORPIO: You may look at spirituality with new eyes and may go guru shopping. You are looking for solace and comfort. You are looking for answers to free you from the demons lurking in your subconscious. You feel as though your soul is torn and you want to steady it.

SAGITTARIUS: Your mind continues to play games. You have to get a grip on it before it overpowers you. As we all know, the mind is a monkey on a stick. Imagine what happens if hundred monkeys danced on the stick! You are in that frame of mind. But there are many professional and personal obligations that need your attention now and you slog away and make your dreams a reality.

CAPRICORN: There is a mixed bag to deal with. There are many things on your plate - from passion and sex to finance and religion. There may be ceremonies and prayers for the living and the dead. There is also a slight risk of ill - health and accidents. Take the necessary precautions. Ganesha blesses you.

AQUARIUS: There is some stability now and you make sustained progress. This is also a great time to be with loved ones. There may be a new relationship and you will be spending steamy times with your beloved. You will display the fun - loving, generous and passionate side of your personality. There will be improved ties at home and family life will give you great joy and harmony.

PISCES: You will also show interest in community activities and even volunteer to help. There could be international collaborations, promotions and hike in your perks. You rise in reputation and prestige. You earn applause, win rewards and awards and are the toast of all. Ganesha is with you. You make many flamboyant career moves. You take risks without caring too much for the consequences.

Birthday Horoscope August 5 - August 11, 2019

August 5: Ganesha says if there have been erratic or confusing trends, you can look for stability and reason today. Good decisions or plans about money or credit can be made that look good for a secure future.

August 6: You may be happily planning a trip or already travelling, ready to start the adventure. Allow intuition to inform your thinking and it adds to emotional intelligence.

August 7: The Moon gives you a chance for

a fresh start where joint finances, credit, or a budget is concerned, but more erratic forces compel sudden moves; do they liberate or destabilize?

August 8: There may be mysterious goings-on today that intrigue you to find out more about, but take care in sensitive relationships. If you're counting on your famous intuition, look to early evening.

August 9: Look for incoming emotions as

clues as to which way to go or how to be guided. Spiritual feelings or cultural connections warm you up on inner levels, furthering your desire to seek what's hidden.

August 10: Your best qualities of intuition, compassion, artistry, and emotional knowledge inform your thinking today. Watch for discord tonight, however.

August 11: Communication and conversations go very well today. By evening, you'll feel comfortable with the brood or ready to have a caring chat.

Hariyali Teej is one of the three prominent teej festivals that are observed by Hindu women (the others are Kajari Teej and Hartalika Teej). Hariyali Teej is observed on the Tertiya (3rd day) of the shukla paksha (bright fortnight of the moon) of Shravan month (Sawan month) as per the Hindu calendar. Married women observe the Hariyali Teej fast for the longevity and welfare of their husbands.

2019 Hariyali teej date is August 3, Saturday, three days after Hariyali amavasya which falls on August 01 and two days before nag panchami on August 05. Hartalika teej is celebrated on shukla paksha tritiya of bhadrapad on Sunday, September 1.

The festival falls during monsoon season when the surroundings are covered with green color, hence the name Hariyali Teej (Green Teej). Hariyali Teej is also known as Sawan Teej (or Sawan ki teej), Choti Teej and Madhusrava Teej. The festival of Hariyali Teej holds the same significance as Karwa Chauth observed by the married Hindu women.

The festival of Hariyali Teej is dedicated to Goddess Parvati and Her unison with Lord Shiva. It was on this auspicious day that Lord Shiva accepted Goddess Parvati as his wife. For this reason Goddess Parvati is also referred as 'Teej Mata'.

Hariyali Teej is observed with great pomp and show in the north Indian states. In Punjab it is known as Teeyan and in the state of Rajasthan it is called as Shingara Teej. The celebrations of Hariyali Teej may vary slightly from region to region, but the spirit and enthusiasm is same everywhere.

Importance and Significance

Teej is usually celebrated during the monsoon time in India. This festival holds great significance in itself. It is believed to be a celebration of the union of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. According to ancient Hindu mythology, it is said that, Goddess Parvati observed fasts and prayed to Lord Shiva for hundred years to make him happy so that he could marry her. She took 108 births to come to a form in which Lord Shiva would accept her. Happy from her dedication, Lord Shiva decided to fulfill her wish and to become her husband.

Hence, it is believed that celebrating and worshiping Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati on this day will bless a woman with marital bliss, good health of husband and children, and harmony in married life. This auspicious day is to celebrate Goddess Parvati and her true dedication towards Lord Shiva.

The word "Teej" literally means "third" and is usually the third day after full moon or new moon night. Therefore, it is celebrated on the advent of monsoons on the third day after the full moon or new moon night.

Important Teej Rituals

While Hindu married women celebrate this festival with all their heart for the well being of their husbands, unmarried pray to get a good husband when they get married. On this day, houses are decorated extensively with flowers and lights; women apply henna on their hands and wear new clothes and jewellery. They then worship the Vat, banyan, or bargad tree. Decorated swings are hung on the tree and the women take turns to swing on them while singing Teej songs.

They also visit the temple, and offer flowers, fruits, coins, and a special prayer is narrated to the women also known as "Teej Vrat Katha". Without

HARIYALI TEEJ



which this festival is incomplete. At the end of the day, they sing praise to Goddess Parvati and wait for their husbands to come and take them. During the puja, a lamp is light throughout as a symbol to their devotion and dedication to the Gods. A special sweet known as "Ghewar" is also prepared during this time.

Customs, Traditions

The Indian festival of Teej is marked by the women who pray to Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, they observe fasts for three days and seek their blessings for marital bliss and harmony in relationships.

Teej rituals and customs make this festival more interesting as it is very full of colors. Women who fast for their husbands ensure that no carelessness is done while the rituals are taking place. This festival calls for all rituals to be performed very seriously if one wants to be blessed with marital happiness.

Shrinjhara

Teej is celebrated with some serious rituals. It is customary for married women to go to their parents house on the day of the festival. All married women get presents from their in-laws as per Teej customs. A traditional gift package known as the 'Shrinjhara' is gifted to the daughter-in-laws. The name originated from Hindi word "shringaar" which means adornment. The Shrinjhara package includes of Ghewar (traditional Teej sweet), traditional dress (usually tie and dye), mehendi or henna and bangles. Women use these items to get ready for the festival. First Teej is a

day of absolute devotion and love for newlywed brides.

Baya

Baya is another traditional package given by the mothers of newly married women who observe fast on Teej. It generally includes savoury fried snacks (mathri), dry fruits, clothes, bangles and jewellery. It is given to the women on the Teej Festival day.

Teej Fast

This is the most important ritual of this festival. Women fast, praying for the long and healthy life of their husbands. The Teej fast lasts 24 long hours. It is the most difficult fast, where a woman neither eats nor drinks.

Tradition of Lighting a Lamp

As per the Teej festival ritual, an oil lamp should be kept lit all night by the women. If the oil lamp dies, it is a bad omen.

Worshipping Goddess Parvati

The most important ritual of Teej is to decorate an idol of Goddess Parvati. This idol of Goddess Parvati is decorated with jewellery and new colourful clothes. The day of Teej is very important as women pray to Goddess Parvati for marital harmony and a prosperous happy life.

Teej Swings

Swings are a common sight when Teej is close. They are beautifully decorated and are hung from the trees in the garden. Women then swing on them and sing traditional Teej songs. Teej is a day of merry making for women.

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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."

Prabhjot Singh's Lima Diary*Indians in Lima***By Prabhjot Singh****The author, a senior sports commentator, is attending PAN AM Games 2019 in Lima, Peru**

Author (right) with Lima based photojournalist Umesh Singh of Indian origin at the PAN AM Games 2019 in Lima, Peru

LIMA, PERU: True to the saying that potatoes, Punjabis and PTC are everywhere in the world, Peru in South America is an example in corroboration. Yesterday, while waiting for transport to go to Main Press Centre, there was a chance meeting with Mr Umesh Singh and his wife. Mr Singh, though from UP, has been watching PTC News for some years now, His son is studying in Toronto. Before moving to Peru some years ago, Mr Singh lived in Chandigarh and Ambala as a representative of a leading Pharmaceutical company. "Lima is Peru and Peru is Lima," says Mr Umesh Singh maintaining that Peruvians have special affinity for India and Indians. India's rich cultural heritage and its history interests them a lot. This is one reason, he says, that of many Hindu temples, only one is run by Indians. Rest all are by Peruvians, especially those who follow Rama Krishna mission. The only temple run by Hindus, mostly Sindhis, is Geeta Temple. It is basically a multi faith spiritual center. It has Prakash of Guru Granth Sahib in Sindhi Lipi. There are only a couple of Sikh families in Lima. One of these families is of Mr Pargat Singh, who retired from Railways and moved to Peru to join his son and his family here a few years ago. Mr Pargat Singh originally comes from Hoshiarpur district but spent most of his life in Pune. Then there is young Taj Preet Singh, an IT specialist, who is here as a representative of Mohindra Tech. He came in September last year. He belongs to Mohali. His wife Shaleen Kaur is from Ludhiana. The young couple has started liking Peru. Then there is Mr Partap Singh who has settled in Peru, got Peruvian citizenship, married a Peruvian and has two children. He claims himself to be the oldest Sikh in Peru. There is a chain of Indian restaurants in Lima called Mantra. Mr Jay Patel owns both the outlets. Yesterday I came across a photojournalist from Chile who would definitely score over many Sikhs in a competition of beards.

BJP Leader Jolly accorded warm welcome in Fiji

Famous Fiji Football Captain of Indian Origin Roy Krishna to Play Super Soccer League in India: Jolly

NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP): BJP Leader Vijay Jolly recently visited Australia, Fiji & Malaysia. Jolly was warmly received in the office of Fiji Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama by Permanent Secretary to PM Yogesh J. Karan since the Hon'ble PM was indisposed. Jolly's Fiji visit was successful.

BJP leader Vijay Jolly addressed a program organized by International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace & UPF, Fiji where Jolly stated "Indo-Fijian community are the architects for peace, progress & development in Fiji for more than 100 years".

The program was attended by Fiji Minister for Lands & Mineral Resources Ashneel Sudhakar, Minister for Youth & Sports Alvick Maharaj, Minister for Local Taukei Affairs Selai Adimaitoga, Fiji Reserve Bank Governor Faizul Ariff Ali, Ratu Fillomoni - President UPF, Indian High Commissioner Smt. Padmaja, Ex Nepal Minister & UPF Chair Pacific Ek Nath Dhakal, Overseas UPF Director Japan Yutaka Yamada, Santosh Neupane, Director UPF Fiji, Saraswati College Principal Wasu Deo along with Consul Generals of Kiribas & Pakistan.

Mr. Jolly in his Fiji address profusely praised Indian PM Modi, BJP President Amit Shah and Working President Jagat Prakash Nadda for progressive policies of Govt. of India and to empower the poor & downtrodden. Prominent academicians, civil society leaders, lawyers, authors, journalists attended in large numbers & the program was widely covered by the media.

Latter Mr. Jolly met Indian High Commissioner in Fiji H.E. Smt. Padmaja. She specially hosted a luncheon in honor of Mr. Jolly at India House located at



BJP Leader Vijay Jolly & UPF leaders warmly welcomed in Fiji PMO

Princess Street, Suva. The lunch was attended by prominent Indo-Fijian Business leaders.

Famous Fiji Footballer Roy Krishna & his wife Mrs. Naziah Ali Krishna, Youth President (Fiji First - Ruling Party in Fiji) greeted BJP leader Jolly. He presented them BJP saffron lotus scarf along with a book titled "MODI@SUCCESS INDIA". Roy Krishna is currently Captain of Fiji National Soccer team. He is of Indian Origin and hails from Labasa. He was the top goal scorer in Australian Football League. Roy Krishna has now been signed to play in Indian Super Soccer League from August -2019 from ATK Club, Kolkata.

Latter Mr. Jolly was hosted by Mr. Hari Punja - Chairman, Hari Punja & Sons, the largest business house in Fiji. Hari Punja group of companies are engaged in manufacturing of flour, biscuits,

soaps, toiletries, cosmetics, oil, bakery products, chips & also in the business of domestic gas supplies, hotels & shipping. It may be recalled that Hari Punja served as the Mayor of Lautoka City Council for record ten years from year 1969 to 1978 since Fiji attained independence in 1970.

Jolly met several prominent Fiji businessmen led by Bachu Bhai Patel - Chairman Vinod Patel & Co., Rajendra Prasad - Chairman Rajendra Prasad Super Markets, Morris Hedstrom Fiji Director S. Kuna, Bank of Baroda CEO Sudhansu Sekhar, New India Assurance Co. Chief Subhash Mehta, Rup Big Bears (largest retailer) Director Sheren Kumar, Former Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry, Member of Parliament Prof. Biman Prasad, President Sodelpa (Opposition Party) Ratu Filipe Tuisawau and media journalist & promising young political leader Ms. Riddhi Damodar.

A Sikh to protect the British PM

LONDON (TIP): A Sikh in the picture is from the New Scotland Yard and has been handpicked to protect the British Prime Minister. He had worked with Northern Ireland Secretary of State and is a great marksman. He will be traveling with the PM all over the world and protecting him.

The Sikh on extreme right in the back has been picked to protect the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson



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Facebook fact-checker says company must share more data to fight misinformation

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): One of Facebook's third-party fact-checking partners on Tuesday said the company needed to share more data with fact-checkers to better curb misinformation.

UK-based charity Full Fact, which joined the programme in January, issued a report urging Facebook to provide more data on how flagged content is shared over time, to see how quickly false information is spreading and assess how fact-checks are containing the spread.

The charity, which said it had earned \$1,71,800 from fact-checking Facebook

content between January and June, also raised concerns about the effectiveness of Facebook's machine-learning approaches for identifying potentially false content.

Facebook launched the programme in December 2016 and now has 54 fact-checking partners working in 42 languages.

Under the system, fact-checking partners rate content with labels and Facebook then downgrades the distribution of certain items. Facebook also adds fact-checkers' articles to a story's "Related Articles" and notifies

users if they try to share or have previously shared a false story.

Julia Bain of Facebook's integrity partnerships team said the social media network was evolving its rating scale to account for different types of misinformation and working on improving the impact of fact-checks by identifying similar or identical content.

"We are encouraged that many of the recommendations in the report are being actively pursued by our teams," Bain said in a statement to Reuters.

Although Full Fact said it still thought the programme was worthwhile, it

echoed statements from other partners that Facebook was not sharing enough data that they could use to evaluate their fact-checks. Eugene Kiely, director of FactCheck.org, recently told Reuters that he "couldn't make heads or tails" of a report the organisation received last December.

"We haven't really received anything from Facebook that would provide evidence one way or the other to the effectiveness," he added.

A Facebook spokeswoman told Reuters that fact-checking partners receive quarterly reports. Reuters

contd from page 1

President Trump Announces New Tariffs on \$300 billion in Chinese Goods

"We thought we had a deal with China three months ago, but sadly, China decided to re-negotiate the deal prior to signing," the president tweeted to the world just before 2 p.m. Eastern Time, while describing this week's trade talks with Beijing as "constructive."

Mr. Trump also said China had reneged on a previous commitment to buy more agricultural products from the U.S. and to halt exports of Chinese-made fentanyl, a potentially lethal opioid, saying that "many Americans continue to die." He also expressed hopes for a "comprehensive" trade agreement with China.

U.S. and China trade officials ended their most recent negotiations on Wednesday with few signs of progress, while agreeing to reconvene in September. The Trump administration previously imposed a 25% tariff on \$250 billion in Chinese imports. But the duties set to take effect Sept. 1 would apply to a broad swath of consumer goods, including clothes, shoes, electronics and other common items.

In June, Mr. Trump suspended new levies on Chinese imports at the G20 conference in Osaka, Japan, temporarily easing fears of a full-blown trade war between the world's two biggest economies. The sides agreed at the time to continue talks in search of a trade deal.

In justifying the White House's protectionist stance, American trade negotiators say China forces U.S. companies to reveal trade secrets, steals intellectual

property and unfairly subsidizes Chinese technology companies. But a range of key U.S. industries, including tech, retail and transportation companies, warn that a prolonged trade fight with China will push up prices for consumers and dampen domestic economic growth.

"The president's decision to proceed with adding these additional costs for hard-working American families is truly shocking," said Rick Helfenbein, CEO of the American Apparel & Footwear Association, which has lobbied against the tariffs, in a statement. "This decision will increase the tariff bill on all clothes, shoes and home textiles, like blankets and sheets - products that already account for the vast majority of the duties collected by the U.S. government."

"Given that these imports are more consumer-oriented, we expect a larger impact on U.S. growth and inflation, compared to previous tariff hikes," TD Securities analysts said in a research note.

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell on Wednesday cited concerns about the impact of trade disputes on U.S. growth, especially business confidence, as one reason why the central bank had decided to cut interest rates for the first time since the 2008 financial crisis. (Source: Agencies)

Work with you in facilitating greater trade & investment ties, Indian Envoy tells US Investors

he noted that India-U.S. economic engagement at the state level is an intrinsic part of our bilateral trade relationship.

"It is heartening to note that several States in the U.S. have taken significant steps to improve their ties with India. I have learnt that 14 American States and Counties have set up their offices in India, and there are proposals for the establishment of three more offices from the Great Lake states, partnership of eight states located in the Great Lake region, as well as the states of Mississippi, and Fulton County in Georgia. I call upon all the states represented here to open channels of cooperation in trade and investment by setting up offices in India or sending delegations to scout the enormous potential for your state's economy in India."

Ambassador Shringla assured US investors that 'whatever opportunities and interests they present to us, our Embassy and Consulates will work hard to bring India to you.'

"Two-way investments between India and the US reached about \$60 billion. The US with \$45 billion cumulative investment is the 6th source of foreign investment in India. The Government of India is taking steps to ensure that US investments into India is taken to new levels by ensuring profitability as well as protection of Intellectual Property", he assured.

USA to Allow Import of some Prescription Drugs from Canada

explore to allow safe importation of certain prescription drugs to lower prices and reduce out of pocket costs for American patients," Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said in a statement about the plan. "This is the next important step in the Administration's work to end foreign freeloading and put American patients first."

The Department of Health and Human Services outlined two "pathways" for importing the drugs to the U.S. In one initiative, the Food and Drug Administration and HHS will rely on their rule making authority to use existing federal law to set up pilot projects from states or wholesalers "outlining how they would import certain drugs from Canada that are versions of FDA-approved drugs that are manufactured consistent with the FDA approval."

This in fact makes room for Indian Pharmaceutical Industry to bring the products intended to be imported from Canada in USA at the prices competitive to the Canadian manufacturers. Hope, we remember what Dr. Yusuf Hamid of Cipla Ltd did in Africa Cipla, an India-based producer of low-cost antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) is one of the biggest success stories in the pharma industry. Most of its sales are in the developing world (including 40% in Africa) - where it sells its HIV drugs for about \$350 per year per patient, we understand the cost of this product is approximately \$50,000 a year per patient in USA- yet it is as profitable as the pharma giants of Europe, North America, and Japan. It has doubled its market cap in the five years and sales reached almost \$1.5 billion in the year ended March 2012, up close to ten times since 2000. (Ref hbr.org/2012/08/into-africa-big-pharmas-growth.)

Also, Cipla sold Q-TIB, a combination drug indicated to help prevent tuberculosis infection in people living with HIVs at prices which no other could even come close. India now can take a lead to meet the challenge.

NOTICE NAME CHANGE

I, SATYANAM SINGH, son of DEVENDER SINGH, holder of Indian Passport No. G6362842 issued at LUCKNOW on Dec 05, 2007, permanent resident of India, and currently residing at 8843, 162ND ST FL 2, JAMAICA 11432, USA, do hereby change my name from SATYANAM SINGH to SATYANAM SINGH, with immediate effect.

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HAMPI: A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Hampi is a village and temple town recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, listed as the Group of Monuments at Hampi, in northern Karnataka, India. It was one of the richest and largest cities in the world during its prime. It is located within the ruins of the city of Vijayanagara, the former capital of the Vijayanagara Empire.

Hampi is a place like no other and so are the activities that you can indulge in when here. Test yourself at bouldering over the hills, ride a bicycle all across the village, row a coracle in the calm waters of River Tungabhadra, spot some Indian sloth bears or get blessed by an elephant—Hampi has a lot to keep you busy. Watching a sundowner across its famous temple ruins is, of course, a delight.

BOULDERING

Hampi is a boulderers' heaven. With its endless trails of boulder hills and right terrain, it has emerged as the country's hotspot for anyone with a love for the sport. While the more experienced ones can get bouldering and rock climbing equipment from one of the many stores and travel operators in the village, newbies can learn sport tactics with experts who often camp by the boulders. A closely-guarded secret, bouldering in Hampi came into spotlight with Pilgrimage, the much acclaimed climbing movie by Chris Sharma, Katie Brown and Nate Gold; climbers from all over the world made Hampi a favourite soon after its release. You would know the lure of those flat, looming boulders once you set eyes on them. A must-do in Hampi.

BEAR WATCHING

Wildlife lovers can head off the Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary for jungle safaris. The sanctuary is some 20 km away from Hampi and doubles up as a conservation centre for the Indian sloth bear. Perfect to escape to from the more touristy lanes of Hampi, it is quite offbeat and houses more than 100 sloth bears, 90 bird species and an impressive variety of butterflies as well. You can either drive across the sanctuary or sit in the watch tower with a pair of binoculars and picnic lunch. Great place for kids.

GET BLESSED BY AN ELEPHANT

This one would never lose its charm! Lakshmi, the temple elephant at Virupaksha Temple, blesses visitors early in the morning with a gentle touch of her trunk. Anyone looking for a greater adrenalin rush should get into the river when she is in for a bath; a gentle shower from her awaits everyone who is eager enough to go near. Those not in a mood to get drenched can stay at the banks and watch the ritual-like bathing ceremony when Lakshmi splashes in the water, eagerly listening to her mahout's calls.

BICYCLE TOURS

If there is one thing that you must do in Hampi, it is to get a bicycle and roam around the ruins and this sleepy village at a pace that keeps you discovering its beauty. Hampi is not a place to strike off from your wishlist in a rush; so let it work its magic on you—slowly. A number of bicycle rental points are in the lane that houses Virupaksha Temple; you can get one for around INR 500 as security deposit and INR 50 as bicycle rent for a day. You would be required to provide an ID card as well. Take ample pit stops in the artsy cafes and restaurants, in the temple ruins and street markets, say



hello to locals, wave at fisherman—enjoy Hampi in a way that it deserves.

CORACLE HOPPING

A walk by riverside is passe when you can go right in the middle of one in coracles, the coolest designed boats ever. Crossing River Tungabhadra to reach Anegundi, the hippie side of Hampi and back, becomes all the more inviting when you wade across it in a coracle. Watch a brilliant sunset, visit the drum circle and other live music sessions on the other side, photograph the Hampi ruins that look all the more fascinating from across the river or just enjoy some calm, away from the touristy clamour of the village in one.

VIRUPAKSHA TEMPLE

Dedicated to Lord Virupaksha, the main deity of the Vijayanagara rulers, the temple is an important pilgrimage centre and one of the main attractions of Hampi. Also known as Pampapati Temple, it has a 50-metre high tower at the entrance and displays beautiful architecture throughout. The miniature paintings on the ceilings make your visit worthwhile. Built in the beginning of the 7th century, it is one of the oldest functioning temples in India. The temple received a major overhaul and renovation at the beginning of the 19th century.

VITTALA TEMPLE

Dedicated to Lord Vittala, a form of Lord Vishnu, the temple was built in the 15th century. It is an exemplary symbol of the Vijayanagara style of art and architecture and one of the top attractions of Hampi. No words can describe the magnificence of the hundred pillared pavilion or mandapa that lies in the south-west part of the temple. The sculptures that adorn the



eastern and northern gateways are also splendid. The composite pillars of the 'sabha mandapa' are massive and when tapped gently produce musical notes. The temple complex houses a number of important monuments including the famous stone chariot.

STONE CHARIOT

Considered as the most popular attraction of Hampi, this architectural marvel is located within the Vittala Temple complex. It is actually a shrine built in the form of a chariot and rests on a platform that is about a feet high. The shrine is dedicated to Garuda who is the carrier of Lord Vishnu. This stunning piece of architecture is among the three famous stone chariots in India, others being Konark (Odisha) and Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu). The carvings and sheer beauty of this structure make it a 'must-visit' attraction of Hampi.

UGRA NARASIMHA SWAMY STATUE

This is the largest statue in Hampi and depicts Lord Narasimha in a terrifying

or angry form. Narasimha which means half-man and half-lion is one of the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu. This monolithic structure, which is 6.7 m in height, has the lord sitting cross-legged position on the coil of a giant seven-headed snake Adishesha. Originally the statue also had Goddess Lakshmi sitting on lord's lap, but according to history it was vandalised and damaged in the year 1565. The statue of Goddess Lakshmi can now be seen in Kamalapuram Museum.

SASIVEKALU GANESHA

Yet another magnificent monolithic sculpture, this statue of Lord Ganesha is around 8 feet tall and is kept in an open pavilion. It is said that the stomach of the deity resembles the shape of a mustard seed and hence the name as 'sasivekalu' means mustard seed in Kannada. The lower left hand and the trunk of the statue are broken, and the stomach of the statue of the deity is tied with a snake. Legend has it that Lord Ganesha ate too much and hence tied a snake around His belly to prevent it from bursting! The statue is located in the southern part of Hemakuta Hill, not too far from Kadalekalu Ganesha Temple.

Steve Smith turns tide for Australia in first Test against England



BIRMINGHAM (TIP): Steve Smith marked his first Test since completing a 12-month ban for his role in a ball-tampering scandal with a superb century to rescue Australia on the opening day of the Ashes series on Thursday. Australia were in dire straits against England in Birmingham at 122-8 but their last two wickets more than doubled the score and Smith was last man out for 144 in a total of 284.

Rory Burns and Jason Roy then survived two overs as the hosts ended the day on 10-0.

Former captain Smith, who returned to international cricket during the recent World Cup that England won, was subjected to repeated jeers by a partisan crowd.

But he answered the boos in style with his 24th Test century and ninth against England.

"It hasn't really sunk in yet," Smith told BBC Radio. "Obviously been a while since I've been able to put on the whites and the baggy green (cap). 'I'm really proud of the way I was able to stand up today. We were in a bit of trouble there and we had to dig deep on a wicket that wasn't easy.'"



Australia had slumped to 17-2 when Smith came in to bat after current skipper Tim Paine had won the toss.

Wickets fell steadily but Smith found the ally he needed in Peter Siddle, with the recalled number 10 making a valuable 44 -- the second-best score of the innings -- in a ninth-wicket partnership of 88.

Up until that point it seemed England would not suffer from the absence of James Anderson, England's all-time leading Test wicket-taker, who had only bowled four overs before suffering a right calf injury.

Longtime new-ball partner Stuart

Broad took 5-86 in 22.4 overs and fellow paceman Chris Woakes chipped in with 3-58 on his Warwickshire home ground.

But Australia's total may yet be enough to embarrass an England side who collapsed to 85 all out before beating Ireland at Lord's last week.

The fans booed the visitors when they walked out for the pre-match anthem ceremony with Australia's XI containing Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft -- the three players banned following the ball-tampering incident that took place during a Test against South Africa in Cape Town in March 2018.



India vs West Indies: India's predicted XI for first T20I against West Indies

New Delhi (TIP): After the heartbreak endured in the World Cup, the Indian team will be back on the field. They will take on the formidable West Indies in a bilateral series and against the defending champions, Virat Kohli and team will have to be at their absolute best. There is also the World T20 which is slated to be held next year and the selectors have drafted in new faces in the squad. This is the opportunity for the young players to step and be counted. Here we take a look at India's predicted XI for the first T20I clash in Florida.

Rohit Sharma

India's best batsman at the World Cup, the image of a gutted Rohit Sharma when his team was ousted in the semi-final epitomised the grief in the Indian camp.

Shikhar Dhawan

The injury to Shikhar Dhawan came as a massive blow to the Indian camp. His presence at the top of the order was missed by the batting order, but now he is back as Rohit's opening partner in T20Is.

KL Rahul

He might not be a regular in the Test and ODI sides, but KL Rahul has been a superb T20 player and his numbers in the IPL have been phenomenal.

Virat Kohli

The skipper said that he had learnt a lot from setbacks and failures and this series presents him with a great opportunity to kickstart a new phase.

Manish Pandey

After meandering around in Sunrisers Hyderabad's middle-order, Manish Pandey was bumped up the order to number 3 and was an instant success.

Rishabh Pant

There is no MS Dhoni in the side and Rishabh Pant has been picked as the primary wicket-keeper.

Krunal Pandya

There is no Hardik in the T20 squad and this opens the doors for Krunal. He was impressive in Australia and New Zealand and now has the opportunity to seal this all-rounder's spot.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar

Jasprit Bumrah has been rested in the series and Bhuvneshwar Kumar becomes the senior bowler in the side and has to get the job done both with the new ball and then towards the death.

Rahul Chahar

The selectors have roped in Rahul Chahar as the only wrist-spinner in the T20 squad and this is the chance for the young man to show his mettle. He was impressive for Mumbai Indians in the IPL this season.

Khaleel Ahmed

He was in India's scheme of things before injury and bad form ruled him out of contention. However, after a strong performance in the IPL, and then for the India 'A' side, he is back in reckoning and with the left-arm variation, he can be a good asset for Kohli.

47-yr-old Bhavana Tokekar wins 4 golds in powerlifting in Russia

A 47-year-old mom of two teenagers, Bhavana Tokekar, has left people in utter admiration, as she won 4 gold medals in the powerlifting category at the Open Asian Championships in Russia. Shattering many stereotypes all at once, including that of women becoming "manly" after lifting heavy weights, and motherhood coming in the way of a woman's career goals, she has paved the way for many more who have a fire in their belly, just like herself.

On 14 July, Bhavana, who is based in Maharashtra, scored big at the Open Asian Powerlifting Championships organised by the World Powerlifting Congress (WPC), in Chelyabinsk, Russia. She took part in the "Under 67.5 Masters 2" category (45-50 age group), and this was the first-ever competition she participated in. Making India and herself proud, this middle-aged woman has knocked it out of the park!

In a personal blog she maintains online, Bhavana claims that her fitness journey began back in 2011, when she began to workout only to combat the side effects of some medicine she was prescribed. First, she began cycling, and slowly moved to a gym setup by 2012. Bhavana is married to a pilot from the Indian Air Force, and mentions that it was IAF bodybuilders who



motivated her to try weightlifting. Owing to stereotypes, at first she was sceptical, thinking it would make her muscular looking, but after much research, she was convinced that this isn't necessarily true. She wrote: "I am now convinced that weight training has a multitude of benefits and does give you a fit body, healthy mind, a positive attitude, and, most importantly, it helps in confidence building."

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