

Canada Elections 2019: Record 50 candidates of Indian origin in the fray
Polls indicate Trudeau's Liberals and the opposition Conservatives are in a dead heat



Trudeau fights for survival as election is called amid scandal

PRABHJOT PAUL SINGH IN TORONTO

OTTAWA (TIP): Canada is all set to go for the Federal Elections 2019. On September 11, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau went to the Governor-General's office to recommend dissolution of the House of Commons. It marked the start of campaign for the 2019 Elections that are mandated by law to be held on October 21.

contd on Page 20

Rousing welcome awaits Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Houston

PM to address annual UN General Assembly session on September 27
Modi-Trump meeting, a possibility

NEW YORK (TIP): Nine days before the arrival of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Houston, the city seems to be witnessing an unprecedented activity, probably never ever witnessed before. It is all to give a rousing reception to Prime Minister of India who will be addressing a mammoth gathering of 50,000, a number which has already registered for the event named 'Howdy, Modi', on September 22.

The historic event in Houston is intended to showcase the influence of Indian American community. This will be PM Modi's 3rd major address to the Indian American community after he became prime minister in 2014, and the first after his re-election in May this year. Modi is likely to leave New Delhi for the US on September 21 and will first



travel to Houston and then to New York from September 23 to 28.

contd on Page 20

NJ Governor Phil Murphy begins Economic Mission Trip to India September 13



Governor Murphy will be the First Governor in New Jersey History to visit India on official business

SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ (TIP): With great expectations, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy leads a seven-day, six-city economic mission trip to India beginning September 13.

The delegation will visit six cities, including Delhi, Agra, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Gandhinagar. The focus of the mission is to strengthen economic ties with one of New Jersey's largest trade and investment partners, cultivate international

investment opportunities in the Garden State, and deepen cultural and educational ties between New Jersey and India. "As India's role as one of our key partners continues to expand, we want to make sure we maximize the potential of our economic relationship," said Governor Murphy.

contd on Page 20



USCIS Proposes more Effective and Efficient Processing of Work Authorization Requests for Asylum Applicants

WASHINGTON (TIP): U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced a proposed regulation to improve the process for granting or denying an initial application for employment authorization documents (EADs) by reforming the current 30-day timeline pertaining to pending asylum applicants.

contd on Page 20

Google agrees to 945-mn-euro tax settlement with France

NEW YORK (TIP): US internet giant Google has agreed to a settlement totaling 945 million euros (USD 1.0 billion) to settle a tax dispute in France under an agreement announced in court on Thursday, September 12.



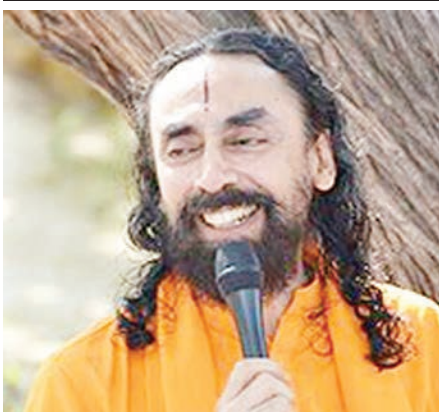
The company will pay a 500-million-euro fine for tax evasion, as well as a further 465 million euros to settle claims with French tax authorities.

In a statement, Google confirmed the settlement and hailed the fact it had put an end to fiscal differences that it had had with France for numerous years.

French Justice Minister Nicole Belloubet and Budget Minister Gerald Darmanin welcomed the "definitive settling" of all the contentious issues, adding in a statement that the outcome was the result of two years of intense work by the French authorities. "This outcome is good news for the public finances and fiscal fairness in France," their statement said.

Belloubet said the settlement showed that the French authorities have the tools to ensure an equitable tax system.

contd on Page 20



Swami Mukundananda

Swami Mukundananda Inspires Next Generation of Leaders

Swami Mukundananda, founder of JKYog, world-renowned yogi, spiritual teacher, and mind management authority, takes his teachings to the cutting edge of the future - the next generation. Among the many innovative youth initiatives garnering attention around the world, his Youth Leadership Conference in Dallas, TX, USA, highlights his innovative holistic and service-oriented approach to youth development.

Joining hands with leading business, technology, and community leaders, Swami Mukundananda opens a clear pathway to the personal growth and self-development necessary for leadership training. Youth receive close and personal access to a wide array of expertise in entrepreneurship, the field of technology, finance, and more in addition to Mukundananda himself.

"While youth today are born into a

world overflowing with information and technology, they still need to have a navigational system and operating manual pointing them in the right direction. JKYog's Youth Leadership Conference points each young person into a direction that teaches the skills to maximize their full potential", explains Swami Mukundananda.

contd on Page 2

Swami Mukundananda Inspires Next Generation of Leaders

CONTD FROM APGE 1

Swami Mukundananda works closely with all the youth throughout the program. He begins by explaining that "leadership is an opportunity to serve the people. The primary task is to take people to the higher level." Swamiji points to Jim Whittaker, one of the first people to climb Mount Everest. "When Whittaker describes his biggest achievement in life, Whittaker doesn't mention his achievement of reaching the Everest's peak, but instead describes his service in taking others to the top. The opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others gave him the most satisfaction."

The Youth Leadership Conference faculty brings a great diversity of experience, perspective, and expertise to the table. "Hearing the nuts and bolts of what it takes to stand out and be successful in their fields this program is a real eye opener for me. I realize now I have to work on myself a lot but I feel really inspired that this work remains within my reach", shared Nisha, one of college students.

"We misleadingly believe developing leadership skills simply means good grades in school and extracurricular activities", notes Prem Kishnani, a high school student. "Before JKYog's Youth programs, I considered myself a good leader and had been accepted into multiple leadership positions in the extra-curricular activities I participated in. It is with great



Swami Mukundananda with young devotees

satisfaction I can say that I was wrong."

Learning what makes a leader is the first step to that awakening. Swami Mukundananda highlights nine qualities that define true leaders. Among the nine is passion to help others, vision, desire to be a catalyst for change and courage. He warns that "the urge to conform is so strong in the youth, but it must be overcome," for only then by standing up for one's values, can anyone begin to take the steps to becoming a leader.

Swamiji particularly emphasizes the importance of courage. He cites, "Winston Churchill became leader

when Germany was overrunning the allies and Churchill had the courage and stood like a rock and change the situation".

JKYog provides youth with invaluable exposure to diverse expertise and real world leaders, from young entrepreneur startup founder, renowned motivational speaker, author and business coach, PayalNanjiani, to institutional, financial, and tech trail blazers.

The diverse faculty shares their personal roadmap for success. JKYog organizers connect youth with a great variety of leaders from various backgrounds to holistically address all aspects of leadership based on Swami Mukundananda's guidance and vision. "No doubt, the best way to learn the art of leading comes from an up close and personal look into the lives of great leaders. Connecting great leaders of this generation with youth fosters greatness in our future", he explained.

One of the Leadership Conference faculty, Dr. Gopal Gupta, entrepreneur and HOD of Computer Science at UTD Dallas, inspires students through the review of the progress of technologies and electronic devices, "The biggest advances are made when someone is able to break new ground rather than follow the existing path." Another faculty member, Ewa Musial, Ph.D., Director of Mentoring for Dallas Fort Worth Alliance of Technology and Women shared how critical networking is to effective leadership.

Venture capitalist, DayakarPuskoor, managing director of Naya Ventures, and charter member of The Indus Entrepreneur, teaches youth about entrepreneurship. He walks the youth through the steps of how to take a concept and present it to venture capitalists. Puskoor also conducts a judged competition which requires students to analyze outstanding leaders and demonstrate how they contributed to society. He continually advises students to "do something you know and have passion for rather than go for the easy stuff and just go for the money if you really want to be successful. Don't just become a manager, become a leader. Becoming an entrepreneur and starting a company is a great way to

come a leader."

Puskoor shares glimpses into the ups and downs of the world of the venture capitalist. He shows, "it's not easy and there's a lot of hardship as a VC. Nine out of ten startups in technology fail. It takes 5 to 8 years for many startups to reach a stable and profitable stage."

Youth have so much technology at their fingertips, yet the technology of understanding the self and achieving one's full potential is something many youth may be missing. Mukundananda believes the arduous road to success requires more than just technical know-how. He points out that "the technology of character development and spirituality growth are key to optimum leadership development. Our communities thrive and flourish only when we invest in holistically preparing the future generation." Puskoor adds, "working with capital funds can grow the ego. Ego becomes an impediment to success. Also avoid being greedy, that's where we can make huge mistakes".

Besides leadership workshops, JKYog runs numerous ongoing youth programs in the USA and around the globe. Little Hands Big Hearts initiative, SPARK, and the JKYog Youth Club have gained recognition for implementing programs engaging youth in community service. These youth programs inspire youth to help others, whether it is collection drives for food banks or for agencies serving the homeless, or for distribution of laptops to underprivileged youth through the KAKE initiative (Kids Assisting Kids in Education). The Bal-Mukund character development program for ages 5 to 15 instills values, Vedic wisdom, an appreciation for spirituality and Hindu culture. JKYog has established youth public speaking programs in affiliation with Toastmasters International, an important steppingstone for leadership.

Swami Mukundananda indeed prioritizes youth in his growing organization. He keeps focus on his aspirations explaining "we must work together to provide youth with the most essential technology of character development to empower them to reach their full potential".

Get
to the
Point




The **INDIAN**  **PANORAMA**

EVER TRUTHFUL

A DELIGHTFUL READING EVERY WEEK

Widest Coverage

Your Trusted Partner in Business

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419, Tel: 646-247-9458
Dallas Edition - P.O. Box 121695, Arlington, TX 76012

www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian American Sree Sreenivasan named Inaugural Marshall R. Loeb Visiting Professor at SBU J-School

NEW YORK (TIP): Digital journalism expert Sree Sreenivasan has been appointed as the first Marshall R. Loeb Visiting Professor of Digital Innovation and Audience Engagement, Laura Lindenfeld, interim dean of the Stony Brook University School of Journalism, has announced.

At the SBU School of Journalism, Sreenivasan, a former Columbia Journalism School professor for 20 years, will engage students and faculty in the practice and power of journalism by harnessing digital innovations and research to enhance news content, delivery and audience engagement. He joined the Journalism School on September 1.

"On behalf of the Journalism faculty and staff, I could not be more delighted to have such a consummate professional join us as we reshape the School's curriculum to



Digital journalism expert Sree Sreenivasan joined the Journalism School on September 1

match a more demanding time for journalism and the students who will be part of its future, said Lindenfeld. Sree's experience, creative approach and dedication to integrating high-quality journalism to the digital space is vital in today's news ecosystem. He will honor the legacy of Marshall R. Loeb in the way that his son and daughter intended upon funding this professorship.

"I'm honored to be a visiting professor at the Stony Brook School of Journalism and work with the students, faculty and staff," said Sree Sreenivasan. "The fact that the professorship is named for the legendary Marshall Loeb, whom I admired and had the opportunity to work with, is a special honor. I am grateful to Michael and Margaret Loeb for honoring their father's legacy in this way."

Indian Doctoral Student at Stony Brook wins Chateaubriand Fellowship Award



Rajat will be working during the spring 2020 semester at Philippe Ciuciu at NeuroSpin, a neuroimaging research centre located near Paris

Photo / courtesy Stony Brook

NEW YORK (TIP): Rajat Kumar, a PhD student in Biomedical Engineering at Stony Brook University has been recently named a Chateaubriand Fellow. The Chateaubriand Fellowship is a grant offered by the Embassy of France in the United States. It supports outstanding Ph.D. students from American universities who wish to conduct research in France.

Chateaubriand Fellowship has made possible collaboration with Philippe Ciuciu at NeuroSpin, a neuroimaging research centre located near Paris, where Rajat will be working during the spring 2020 semester.

Shortly into his first job after graduating from Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, working as an engineer at an oil and gas company, Rajat came to the US from India in 2015, choosing to work with Stony Brook professor Lilianne Mujica-Parodi, who is now his Ph.D. advisor.

Indian American Attorney licensed in New Jersey and New York charged with marijuana offenses

NEW YORK (TIP): Manish Patel, 33, of Granite Bay, appeared last month in federal court on charges of conspiracy and possession with intent to distribute marijuana plants and tetrahydrocannabinols contained in hashish oil, U.S. Attorney McGregor W. Scott and Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent in Charge Chris Nielsen announced.

According to court documents, Patel is a licensed attorney in New Jersey (admitted in 2015) and New York (admitted in 2017). The complaint alleges that Patel conspired to transport marijuana and concentrated cannabis oil across the country using his private airplane, a Learjet. In May and June 2019, law enforcement in California executed search warrants that resulted in the seizure of approximately 1,400 pounds of marijuana contraband and \$400,000 in cash. (Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Professor Anshul Gandhi Honored with Rising Star Research Award



Gandhi's research aims to leverage mathematical tools to address challenges in computer systems

NEW YORK (TIP): SBU Computer Science Professor Anshul Gandhi has been recently honoured with 2019 Rising Star Research Award by the Association for Computing Machinery's (ACM) SIGMETRICS. The award recognizes Gandhi's fundamental contributions to the

analysis, modeling, design, and implementation of energy-efficient systems in data centers and cloud computing.

Anshul Gandhi, who is also an NSF CAREER awardee, earned his PhD in computer science at Carnegie Mellon University. His 2013 thesis, Dynamic Server Provisioning for Data Center Power Management, won the 2013 SPEC Distinguished Dissertation Award. After graduating, he spent a year as a post-doctoral researcher at the IBM T. J. Watson Research Center. Gandhi's research aims to leverage mathematical tools to address challenges in computer systems. Within Stony Brook's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and Department of Computer Science, Gandhi leads the PACE Lab and currently advises six PhD students and 14 MS students.

Indian American Nominated by Trump as Florida Judge



In 2017, Singhal was one of the ten finalists considered for a federal judgeship in Southern Florida

WASHINGTON (TIP): An Indian American has been nominated as a federal judge in Florida by US President Donald Trump.

Anuraag Singhal is among 17 judiciary nominations sent by the White House to the Senate on Sept 9. If confirmed by the Senate, Singhal would replace James I. Cohn as the United States district judge for the southern district of Florida. On Aug 14, 2019 Trump announced his intent to nominate Singhal to serve as a United States District Judge of the southern district of Florida.

Singhal is a judge on the Seventeenth Circuit Court in Florida. Singhal was appointed by Governor Rick Scott on August 31, 2011, to succeed Victor Tobin. Singhal was re-elected without opposition in 2014, winning a six-year term that expires on January 4, 2021. In 2017, Singhal was one of ten finalists considered for a federal judgeship in Southern Florida.

Indian origin Massachusetts Landlord faces Sexual Harassment suit

BOSTON (TIP): The Department of Justice Sept 9 filed a lawsuit in the District of Massachusetts alleging that female tenants of residential rental properties in Worcester were subjected to sexual harassment and retaliation, in violation of the federal Fair Housing Act. The lawsuit alleges that from at least 2009 through the present, Mohan Prashad sexually harassed female tenants of rental properties owned by Prashad, Savton LLC, and Lanaton LLC. Prashad is the sole agent for Savton LLC and Lanaton LLC. The complaint further alleges that David Besaw also

harassed and assaulted female tenants. Besaw, a Level 3 registered sex offender in Massachusetts, has been employed by Prashad since at least 2014 to assist with the management and maintenance of his rental properties.

The complaint alleges that Prashad engaged in harassment that included making unwelcome sexual advances and comments; engaging in unwanted sexual touching; offering to grant tangible benefits - such as reducing rent amounts - in exchange for engaging in sexual acts.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

CEOs of 145 of America's biggest companies send letter to senators urging gun legislation

The letter, signed by the chief executives of Uber, Levi Strauss & Co., Twitter and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., among other companies, calls firearm violence "a public health crisis that demands urgent action."

WASHINGTON (TIP): A group of 145 CEOs from some of the largest companies in America have sent a letter to senators demanding they pass stronger gun control laws, calling firearm violence "a public health crisis that demands urgent action."

The letter, signed by the chief executives of Uber, Levi Strauss & Co., Twitter and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., among other companies, urges Congress to expand background checks and "red flag" laws, legislation that would enable law enforcement to temporarily take guns away from people deemed a danger to themselves or others. "We are writing to you because we have a responsibility and obligation to stand up for the safety of our employees, customers and all Americans in the communities we serve across the country. Doing nothing about America's gun violence crisis is simply unacceptable and it is time to stand with the American public on gun safety," the letter,

dated Thursday and first reported by The New York Times, said.

"Gun violence in America is not inevitable; it's preventable. There are steps Congress can, and must, take to prevent and reduce gun violence. We need our lawmakers to support commonsense gun laws that could prevent tragedies like these," it continued. The letter comes a day after Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., advocated for stricter background checks during a phone call with President Donald Trump and his staffers. Senators on Wednesday's call with Trump said they were encouraged by the conversation.

"I want to be clear, the president did not make a commitment to support any particular bill or any



particular thing, but he did strongly convey an interest in doing something meaningful, and something that we would be able to embrace and that could pass," Toomey told reporters on Wednesday. The letter follows a spate of recent mass shootings across the country, including massacres in El Paso and west Texas, and Dayton, Ohio. The CEOs called on the Republican-controlled Senate to follow the House of Representatives' lead in passing a measure updating the background check system that Congress established 25 years ago. The bill, passed in the Democratic-controlled House in February, would require federal background checks for all firearms sales and transfers. (Read [full story on www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

New Exhibition 'Comic Art: 120 Years of Panels and Pages' Explores Comics from Early Newspapers to Famous Characters

Yearlong Exhibition Features 45 Original Drawings, Comic Books and Printed Pages

WASHINGTON (TIP): A new exhibition at the Library of Congress explores the fascinating evolution of visual storytelling styles in comic art - from panels in early newspapers to contemporary images of some of the most famous and funny characters in print. "Comic Art: 120 Years of Panels and Pages" opens Sept. 12 and will be on view for a year in the Graphic Arts Galleries of the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building.

The exhibition draws from the Library's extensive collection of comic art, which includes some of the earliest comics, including the first successful newspaper comic strip featuring Richard Outcault's "The Yellow Kid," early drawings of "Peanuts," superheroes including Batman, Superman and the Incredible Hulk in modern comic books, and much more.

"The Yellow Kid," first published in a panel in the New York World newspaper in 1895, is credited with sparking the rise of comics as a new American art form. By the middle of the 20th century, a growing number of diverse comic artists were examining their own life stories and commenting on culture and politics while expanding into graphic novels, fanzines and web comics. Comic art characters and narratives have also spread across film, television, books and marketing to reach even more people.

Highlights of the exhibition's first rotation include:

The first major recurring comic character in a newspaper, "The Yellow Kid,"

An early drawing of Charles Schulz' beloved comic strip "Peanuts" from 1952 with Charlie Brown, Lucy, Peppermint Patty and Snoopy;

A drawing of "Brenda Starr, Reporter" by Dale Messick, whose strip represents a milestone for female characters in comics by female cartoonists;

An original Batman comic book illustration from 1967;

A cover drawing of the Incredible Hulk by artist Marie Severin, one of the few women to advance to drawing major superhero titles for Marvel comics;

Self-published minicomics that helped launch the career of Raina Telgemeier;

An extremely rare first edition of "All-Negro Comics" created by black cartoonists in 1947.

"Comic Art" will feature 45 items in the first rotation and a second rotation in spring 2020. The exhibition is on view in the Graphic Arts Galleries of the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building, 10 First St. S.E., Washington, D.C. The exhibition is free and open to the public Monday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Two opening programs will feature

contemporary cartoonists:

Conversation with Jaime Hernandez
Thursday, Sept. 12, at 4 p.m.

Room 119, First Floor, Thomas Jefferson Building

A conversation with comic artist Jaime Hernandez, co-creator of the alternative comic "Love and Rockets." Hernandez was the winner of the 2014 Los Angeles Times Book Prize for best graphic novel/comic and the 2014 Will Eisner Comic Industry Award for Best Writer/Artist. He will be interviewed by Gary Groth, founder and president of Fantagraphics, about his work and creative process, representing Latinx experiences in comic art and changes in the field over the course of his career. A small display of materials from the Library's collections will accompany this talk.

Cartoonist Lynn Johnston Presents, in Words and Pictures

Friday, Sept. 13, at noon

Room 119, First Floor, Thomas Jefferson Building

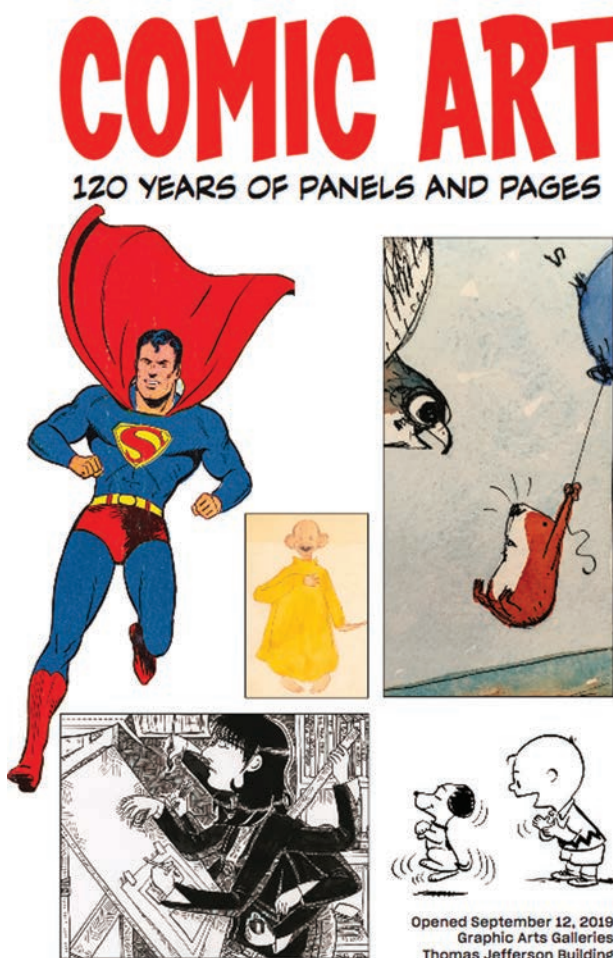
Cartoonist Lynn Johnston, creator of the long-running syndicated comic strip "For Better or Worse," will discuss her career and artistic process, while illustrating the presentation in real time. Tickets are available at johnston-lc.eventbrite.com.

"Comic Art" is part of a yearlong initiative inviting visitors to Explore America's Changemakers through a series of exhibitions, events and programs.

The exhibition is made possible through the generous support of the Swann Foundation for Caricature and Cartoon and gifts in kind from the Small Press Expo.

An online exhibition is available at loc.gov/exhibits. Follow the exhibition on social media with the hashtag #ComicArt. The Library of Congress is the world's largest library, offering access to the creative record of the United States - and extensive materials from around the world - both on site and online. It is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office. Explore collections, reference services and other programs and plan a visit at loc.gov, access the official site for U.S. federal legislative information at congress.gov and register creative works of authorship at copyright.gov.

(Based on a press release)



The new exhibition "Comic Art: 120 Years of Panels and Pages" explores the visual styles of comics from the first newspaper comic strips to some of the most famous characters.

Eleventh Annual Independence Day Mushaira-Kavi Sammelen in Washington



Book Release. (L to R): Dr. Moazzam Siddiqi, Dr. Satyapal Anand, Dr. Vishakha Thaker, Mr. Gulshan Madhur, Mr. Rakesh Khandelwal, Dr. Zafar Iqbal, Dr. Ashok Narayan, Dr. A. Abdullah, and Dr. Mike Ghouse
Photo / Afzal Usmani

ARLINGTON (TIP): The Aligarh Alumni Association-Metro DC (AAA-DC) in association with the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin-Metro DC (GOPIO-DC) hosted a successful Yom-e-Azadi Mushaira/Kavi Sammelen, celebrating 72nd Independence Day of the Subcontinent at the Central Library Auditorium, Arlington on Sunday, 25th August 2019. This year, four cultural community organizations-Association of Indian Muslims (AIM), National Council of Asian-Indian Associations, Inc (NCAIA, Inc.), Hyderabad Association of Washington Metro Area (HAWMA), and Center for Pluralism (CFP)-also co-sponsored the program. More than 150 literary enthusiasts flocked into the Auditorium to be part of this unique event.

Greeting authors, poets, and audience, the Program Coordinator Dr. Zafar Iqbal said, "The goal of this annual program is to provide a forum where diverse people-transcending political, religious, regional, and geographical boundaries-could assemble under the same umbrella and appreciate the Ganga Jamuni culture of the Subcontinent. In addition to sharing poetry, this event also

recognizes local poets and authors by releasing their recently published books. In the recent past, more than two dozen poets and authors have released their books through this program." Dr. Razi Raziuddin, President AAA-DC and Dr. Renuka Misra of GOPIO-DC welcomed and thanked the participants and audience on behalf of their associations. They also applauded the increasing popularity of the program

Dr. Moazzam Siddiqui, who retired as Chief of South-Asian and Far East Languages at Voice of America, gave an eloquent speech tracing the centuries-old tradition of Sanjhi Virasat (shared heritage) in the Subcontinent. He explained the genesis of Urdu through the mixing of Persian, Sanskrit, and other regional languages and emphasized its unmatched role in the freedom movement. He emphasized that writers and poets from Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, and Christian communities all contributed to this cause, using Urdu as their medium of communication. He lamented the current decline in the secular and tolerance ethos in India-the oldest melting pot. "This situation is hopefully temporary and the ethos of Sanjhi Virasat shall come back," he



A view of the audience

Photo / Afzal Usmani

opined.

Dr. Mike Ghouse expanded on the theme of Sanjhi Virasat by reciting a nazm (poem) evoking early memories of celebrations of festivals of all communities in his neighborhood. He described his enjoyments of playing Holi and having sweets in Diwali, whereas his non-Muslim neighbors participated in Eid and other Muslim events.

Language binds people, while poetry heals the hearts. Mushaira and Kavi Sammelen are Subcontinent's tradition where the poets share their poetry with active participating listeners. Urdu/Hindi together is the third most spoken language in the world after Mandarin and English. Urdu and Hindi languages are twin sisters, they use 75% similar words and are marching forward side by side in India and all over the world. Invited poets from the Metro-Washington area recited their poetry, making people enjoy and reflect on the current social and community issues. The event brought the diaspora with multiple ethnic backgrounds together under the same umbrella. In addition, a

special treat was the participation of Dr. Ashok Narayan, who has published a collection of his poetry *Kasaye Dil and Shararey*. He retired from the Indian Administrative Service and came from India. Participating poets (in alphabetical order) included: Dr. A. Abdullah, Dr. Ashok Narayan, Dr. Qaisar Abbas, Dr. Razi Raziuddin, Dr. Satyapal Anand, Dr. Vishakha Thaker, Mr. A Rahman Siddiqui, Mr. Gulshan Madhur, Mr. Qamar Kazmi, Mr. Rakesh Khandelwal, Mr. Sadiq Bajwa, Mr. Yusuf Rahat, Ms. Kiran Nath, Ms. Sukesh Chopra, Ms. Vandana Singh, and Ms. Vinita Tewari. The Metropolitan Washington area is very fertile in producing high caliber literary personalities and it is always a challenge to find adequate time for each poet to enable him/her to recite even a representative quantum literary work. Well-known author and poet, Abdur Rehman Siddiqi chaired and analyzed poems recited by the poets and congratulated the organizers for the successful program. Afzal Usmani compered the poetry recitation session with remarkable literary skill.

In keeping with the tradition of honoring authors and poets of Metro-Washington area, books of two poets-Rakesh Khandelwal and Gulshan Madhur-were released by Dr. Satya Pal Anand and Dr. Ashok Narayan, respectively. Chairing this session, veteran poet, author, and critic, Dr. Anand commended the efforts of the authors and expressed his wish that similar programs to bringing people of different languages and culture under one roof will be continued.

The AAA-DC started this Independence Day annual Mushaira-Kavi Sammelen tradition more than a decade ago and GOPIO-DC joined the efforts soon after. It is very gratifying to see that four other community organizations (AIM, NCAIA, Inc., HAWMA, and CFP) also co-sponsored the program this year. It was announced that the organizers were planning to have a cultural festival of South-Asian languages next year with the help of Montgomery and Fairfax Counties offices.

(Based on a press release issued by Dr. Zafar Iqbal with Dr. Mike Ghouse)



Gulshan Madhur, Rakesh Khandelwal, Dr. Ashok Narayan, Dr. Moazzam Siddiqi, Dr. Satyapal Anand, and Dr. Vishakha Thaker



Another view of audience

Photo / Afzal Usmani

INDIA-CHINA STANDOFF AT LADAKH LAC ENDS

NEW DELHI (TIP): A day after a standoff between India and Chinese troops near Pangong Tso lake in eastern Ladakh, New Delhi is hopeful of early talks on boundary between the two countries.

A meeting between brigadier-level officials of India and China led to lowering of tempers after troops of either side were engaged in a face-off on Wednesday morning near Pangong Tso lake in eastern Ladakh. The Line of Actual Control (LAC), de facto boundary, is not demarcated on ground.

In New Delhi, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs Raveesh Kumar said India was hopeful of boundary talks at the special representative-level before the informal Modi-Xi summit, dates and venue for which are yet to be finalised.

On the face-off in Ladakh, he said due attention must be given to the fact that it was quickly resolved.

The incident occurred when Chinese troops objected to patrol by Indian soldiers near Pangong Tso.

TROOPS READY, GOVT TO DECIDE ON POK: ARMY CHIEF

NEW DELHI (TIP): Indian Army chief General Bipin Rawat on Thursday said that the Army troops are ready to retrieve Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) and make it a part of India. He also said that while the Army troops are ready to take action on a cue, it is the government which takes decisions in such matters.



Speaking to news agency ANI, General Bipin Rawat said that the next agenda of India is to retrieve PoK from the clutches of Pakistan and the decision in this regard has to be taken by the government.

"The next agenda is retrieving PoK and making it a part of India. The government takes actions in such matters. The institutions of the country will work as per the orders of the government. The Army is always ready," he said.

Earlier, Union Minister Jitendra Singh had said that next agenda of the government is to "retrieve" parts of Jammu and Kashmir (PoK) and make it a territory of India. "Now, the next agenda is retrieving PoK and making it a part of India. It's not only me or my party's commitment, but it's a part of a resolution unanimously passed by Parliament in 1994 during Congress government headed by PV Narasimha Rao," Jitendra Singh told reporters in Jammu.

'Einstein discovered gravity': Piyush Goyal clarifies

NEW DELHI (TIP): Union minister Piyush Goyal's defence of the economy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government led to an inadvertent error on the "discovery" of gravity today, setting Twitter buzzing. Jokes and memes flooded the social media platform as some users pointed to Union minister Nirmala Sitharaman's comment on millennials -- while explaining the auto sector slowdown -- days before. Mr Goyal later said his remarks were taken out of context.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with the Board of Trade in Delhi, Mr Goyal advised people not to go by calculations seen on television.

"If you're looking at a five trillion dollar economy, the country will have to grow at 12%. Today it's growing at 6%," he said. "Don't get into those maths. Those maths have never helped Einstein discover gravity... If you'd only gone by structured formulae and what was past knowledge, I don't think there would have been any innovation in this world," he added.

Twitter promptly pointed out that it was Newton and not Einstein who discovered gravity and the names of both scientists shot up in the trending lists.

100 days of govt just a trailer, full movie yet to come: Modi

RANCHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said that the 100 days of his government's work was just a trailer and the entire film is yet to come.

"The 100 days work of the government is just a trailer and the movie is yet to come. Those who were thinking that they are above the law are seeking bail now. I am working on what I had promised. I had promised a kamdaar (working) and damdaar (effective) government," said Modi while launching three national-level schemes here on Thursday.

He said, "In 100 days, Muslim women have been given their right and triple talaq law has been implemented. The anti-terror law has been made more stringent, the work for development of Jammu and Kashmir has been initiated. Those who were plundering people have been sent to the right place (Jail). And what we had promised to farmers is being delivered."

Modi on Thursday launched a pension scheme for farmers, small traders and 462 Eklavya Model residential schools for tribal students. He inaugurated the riverine multi-modal terminal in Sahebganj district and the Assembly building at Ranchi. He also laid the foundation stone of the secretariat.

Modi termed the recently concluded monsoon session of Parliament as historic for which he thanked the MPs and political parties. He said that important Bills were passed during the session.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launching 'Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana' for small and marginal farmers at a function in Ranchi, Jharkhand, on September 12.

"Jharkhand has become the launching pad for national-level schemes. In September last year, the world's biggest health scheme Ayushman Bharat was launched from the same Prabhat Tara ground. Today, three national-level schemes have been launched. This will give a new identity to the state," the PM said.

"The Sahebganj multi-modal terminal will give new opportunities to Jharkhand. It will play an important role in transportation of domestic coal

from the local mines in Rajmahal area to various thermal power plants. This is part of the Haldia-Varanasi waterway project. It will also provide a market for the products of Jharkhand in other parts of the country."

He also appealed to the people of Jharkhand to actively participate in ending the menace of single-use plastic. "Collect single-use plastic at one place and make the country free from this menace on the 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi," said Modi.

\$5-trn economy a pipe dream, says Manmohan; Cong plans nationwide stir from Oct 15

NEW DELHI (TIP): Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today said the economy was facing a dangerously protracted slowdown and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise of expanding it to \$5 trillion by 2024 was a "pipe dream."

"The country is in the midst of a dangerously protracted slowdown and the economy is going from bad to worse. The dangerous thing is the government is complacent enough to not realise the current situation," he said hoping for an urgent financial stimulus to promote demand and investment to arrest the economic decline.

"The PM has been talking of \$5 trillion economy by 2024... This looks like a pipe dream. In 2018-2019, the economy was of the size of \$2.7 trillion and if we have to reach \$5 trillion by 2024, we need a growth rate of 12 per cent per annum in nominal term and 9 per cent in real term. And if the economy goes down quarter after quarter, there is no hope that the PM's promise of a \$5 trillion economy will become a reality. Our responsibility is to take this message to the country and point out how the BJP has misled the people," Singh warned as the Congress announced an agitation plan on the economic slowdown.

The agitations will be held across the country between October 15 and 25. Singh provided fodder for the agitations, saying "There is an atmosphere of gloom and doom all around." He predicted job loss nearing a million if current trends of dipping auto sales continued and urged Congress colleagues to tell people how the BJP had "misled" the country.



The country is in the midst of a dangerously protracted slowdown and the economy is going from bad to worse. The dangerous thing is the government is complacent enough to not realise the current situation.

—Manmohan Singh, Former PM

"What was promised is not being delivered and there is no sign that the government is thinking of a real plan of action to incentivise the economy," the former PM said at the meeting chaired by Congress president Sonia Gandhi to discuss plans for marking the end of yearlong celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.

Source: The Tribune

Justin Welby prostrates himself in apology for Jallianwala

AMRITSAR (TIP): Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby on Tuesday visited Jallianwala Bagh memorial and said that he was both "ashamed and sorry" for the crime which was committed at that site in 1919.

Welby lied on the floor of the memorial after reading out a prayer to God to seek forgiveness.

While paying homage at the Jallianwala Bagh memorial, Welby said, "I cannot speak for the British Government. I am not the official of the government but can speak in the name of Christ. It is a place for sin and redemption. You have remembered what they have done and their memory will live."

"I am ashamed and sorry for the impact of the crime committed. As a religious leader, I mourn the tragedy", Welby said.

"Here I come only seeking in sorrow and repentance before the people who have suffered in the hands of British bullets. Again I cannot speak for the government but I speak with repentance," he added.

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place on April 13, 1919, when troops of the British Indian Army under the command of Colonel



Justin Portal Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, prostrates as he pays tribute at the Jallianwala Bagh martyrs' memorial in Amritsar.

Reginald Dyer fired machine guns into a crowd of unarmed protesters and pilgrims who had gathered in Jallianwala Bagh in Punjab's Amritsar on the occasion of Baisakhi.

The crowd had assembled peacefully at the venue to condemn the arrest of two national leaders - Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew -- when they were fired at indiscriminately by

General Dyer and his men.

Hundred years on, the United Kingdom is yet to give a full apology for the gruesome attack on unarmed protesters in Amritsar in 1919.

Earlier this year, former British Prime Minister Theresa May had said that the United Kingdom "deeply regrets" the 1919 massacre and called it a "shameful scar" on the British-Indian history.

INDIA BUILDING ITS OWN SUPERCOMPUTERS: GOVT

NEW DELHI (TIP): India is building supercomputers instead of procuring them from foreign countries, Department of Science and Technology Secretary Ashutosh Sharma said on Thursday.

Two computers are already functional at IIT-BHU and IIT-Kharagpur (1.6 petaflops), while the third will be assembled at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune by the end of the week.

In an interaction with reporters in Delhi, Mr Sharma said the project is worth Rs. 4,500 crore and it is being implemented in three phases.

Under phase one, the initial plan was to buy three computers and build three. However the purchase was delayed, leading to an escalation in cost which prompted the DST to go for the "build" model with greater integration and focus on indigenisation, a senior scientist said.

Accordingly, the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) floated Request for Proposal and a company procured material for six supercomputers.

C-DAC is also credited with building the first supercomputer, Param, in India.

"The original plan was to import supercomputers but the last three years give us the confidence that we can start building them ourselves. So the new direction is six supercomputers are being built in India," he said.

Sharma said under the phase one, integration and assembly is being done at the motherboard level.

The second phase would kickstart next year and most of the parts would be assembled and integrated within the country, except the chips, Sharma said.

"Under phase three, we will be pretty much making your own supercomputer, except the chips," Mr Sharma said.

With every step the level of indigenisation will increase.

Elaborating on the import of the chips, he said it would be designed within the country.

Three JeM militants arrested in Kathua

Six assault rifles, magazines and 180 rounds seized from truck

SRINAGAR (TIP): Three alleged Jaish-e-Muhammed (JeM) militants were arrested by the police in Jammu & Kashmir's frontier district of Kathua on Thursday. They have been charged with smuggling weapons and ammunition into the Valley illegally for carrying out terror activities.

Inspector general of police (Jammu range) Makesh Singh said that during routine checking, a truck, loaded with cardboard material, was intercepted by the police at 8 am on the Jammu-Pathankot Highway.

Three persons on board were caught with arms and ammunition, he added.

Confirming the arrests, senior superintendent of police, Kathua, Sridhar Patil said that the police intercepted the truck having registration number JK 13E-2000, based on specific inputs, at Lakhanpur.

He said that the arms and ammunition recovered from the truck included four AK-56 rifles, two AK-47 rifles, six magazines and 180 rounds of ammunition, besides cash worth `11,000.

He claimed that all the alleged militants are residents of Kashmir Valley and that the truck is owned by one Suhil Ahmed Latoo of Gulshanabad in Pulwama district and was being driven by one Javaid Ahmed Dar.

The Punjab Police have launched a probe on whether the three nabbed terrorists had travelled through Punjab even as BSF officials said they did not discount the possibility of the consignment having made its way from Pakistan via Punjab border.

Significantly, the terrorists were travelling in a truck believed to have "originated" from Amritsar though it carried a JK number plate. DGP Dinkar Gupta said officials of the State Special Operation Cell had joined the investigation at Kathua to ascertain the route taken by the terrorists.

BUSY ON PHONE, WOMAN SITS ON MATING SNAKES, DIES AFTER BITE

GORAKHPUR (TIP): A 30-year-old woman died of snake bite when she, while talking to her husband on mobile phone, sat on a pair of snakes that were mating on her bed, at her residence in Reyan village, under Gola police station area of Gorakhpur district.

According to a family member of the deceased, the incident occurred on Saturday when Gita Yadav was busy talking on the phone with her husband Jai Singh, who is employed in Thailand. Gita, whose 7-year-old daughter was sleeping with her grandmother in the next room, failed to spot the mating snakes due to the bed sheet having a 'thick dark-lined pattern' and the dim light in the room, her kin said.

On being bit, the woman screamed but immediately fainted on the floor as froth started coming out of her mouth, the relative said.

She was rushed to a private doctor, who referred her to the district hospital in Mau, where she died during treatment.

Dr Santosh Singh, who attended to her in the village, said: "She was brought to my hospital with a snake bite. As her condition worsened, I referred her to the district hospital for treatment. The intensity of the venom suggested that the snakes might be cobras."

Truck owner, driver fined Rs 2 lakh for nine offences

NEW DELHI (TIP): A driver and an owner of a truck, were slapped a total fine of over Rs 2 lakh for at least nine offences under the amended Motor Vehicles Act which came into effect from September 1. The penalties, which transport officials said is the highest in Delhi so far, were imposed for violations including overloading and driving without a proper license.

The truck, registered in Haryana, was fined by the enforcement team of the transport department on the GT Karnal Road on Wednesday evening, an official said. Earlier, a truck from Rajasthan had been handed out a fine of Rs 1.41 lakh for overloading and other offences.

"Our enforcement team imposed a fine of Rs 2,00,500 on the trucker for a number of offences including not having a DL, pollution under control (PUC) certificate, registration certificate, fitness test and insurance. It was also operating in violation of the requisite permit condition. Besides, the driver was not wearing a seat belt," said a transport official.

Official added that this penalty is perhaps the highest so far in the country as well.

The truck was slapped a penalty of Rs 20,000 for overloading with an additional fine of

Rs 36,000 for being overloaded with 18 tonnes above the permissible limit.

Each extra tonne of overloading carries a fine of Rs 2,000 under the amended Act, he added.

The total amount of penalty included Rs 1,31,000 for violations of traffic norms and Rs 69,500 on the truck owner. The penalty was paid at Rohini court on Thursday, the official said.

No consular access to Jadhav

NEW DELHI (TIP): Hours after Pakistan said that a second consular access to death-row convict Kulbhushan Jadhav would not be granted, India today said it would keep trying for "full" implementation of the verdict by the International Court of Justice that had gone in its favour.

"The (International Court of Justice) judgment was in our favour. We have been telling Pakistan consistently that it should be implemented fully. We will still try for its full implementation," MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said at a media briefing here.

Charge d' Affaires at the Indian High Commission in Islamabad Gaurav Ahluwalia had met Jadhav for the first time on September 2 following the ICJ verdict directing Pakistan to grant consular access to Jadhav.

AS I SEE IT



By Asoke Kumar Mukerji

"India is expected to be a key partner for the new President of the UNGA in achieving progress on his priorities. As a country increasingly dependent on international cooperation for her growth (with her international trade contributing as much as 40% to her GDP), India's national interests today are aligned with multilateralism. Her foreign policy is active on a multi-polar level, balancing the demands of India's accelerated national development with the over-riding requirement for peace and security", says the author.

Reaffirming the UN's collective 'faith to multilateralism'

(UNGA). During his absence from the High-Level Segment of the UNGA debate between 2016-2018, the international situation has become more polarized. One of the biggest challenges to the principle of international cooperation which drives multilateralism in the United Nations is from growing unilateralism, especially among the major powers.

In response to this challenge, the 193 member-states of the UNGA adopted on 14 June 2019 a unanimous resolution reaffirming their collective "faith to multilateralism" as the theme of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations next year. The newly elected President of the 74th Session of UNGA, Professor Tijjane Muhammad-Bande of Nigeria, was given the mandate to appoint two co-facilitators to "lead and conclude inter-governmental negotiations on the declaration" to be adopted by the 75th anniversary UN Summit scheduled for 21 September 2020.

Professor Tijjane Muhammad-Bande visited India in the first week of September this year. He called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, had discussions with External Affairs Minister Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, and interacted with Indian policy makers in renewable energy, technology and sustainable development. He delivered a lecture at the prestigious Indian Council of World Affairs in New Delhi, during which he focused on the priorities ahead of him during his Presidency of the UNGA.

Reaffirming the relevance of the UN, and focusing on eradication of poverty, quality education, inclusion and partnerships to overcome global challenges, were among his top priorities. Each of these areas will play a critical role in reaffirming the mandate of the UNGA to respond to challenges to multilateralism today. At the heart of this activity will be the need for effective international cooperation.

India is expected to be a key partner for the new President of the UNGA in achieving progress on his priorities. As a



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting the President elect of 74th Session of UN General Assembly, Prof. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, in New Delhi on September 02, 2019

country increasingly dependent on international cooperation for her growth (with her international trade contributing as much as 40% to her GDP), India's national interests today are aligned with multilateralism. Her foreign policy is active on a multi-polar level, balancing the demands of India's accelerated national development with the over-riding requirement for peace and security.

To meet this requirement, India needs to catalyze an early conclusion to the decades-long inter-governmental negotiations in the UNGA on reforming the primary UN organ responsible for peace and security, which is the UN Security Council. The objective of the reform is to make the Security Council more equitable in decision-making, more transparent and more representative, so that it can respond more effectively to challenges to international peace and security.

India's decades-long experience of confronting threats to peace, security and sustainable development from cross-border terrorism drives her objective to work within the legal committee of the UNGA to make it obligatory under international law

for UN member-states to either prosecute, or extradite for prosecution, alleged terrorists. This is the heart of the proposed Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism or CCIT, which has been gridlocked in the legal negotiations of the UNGA for many years, despite India having provided a first draft of a possible CCIT in 1996. An early harvest of the CCIT also impacts on India's reported interest in hosting a global counter-terrorism conference during the coming months.

However, the heart of India's engagement with the United Nations remains the creation of a responsive multilateral framework for eradicating poverty and accelerating socio-economic development for the transformation of India. She is therefore expected to provide critical support for the UNGA to operationalize the commitments made during the negotiations of Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, adopted unanimously by world leaders during Prime Minister Modi's last visit to New York in September 2015. Foremost among these commitments is support for financial flows from multilateral financial institutions, and a functional technology facilitation mechanism.

The UN Secretary General's ambitious High-Level Report on Digital Cooperation, issued on 10 June 2019, will play an important role with respect to the use of technology for sustainable and inclusive development. With her own ambitious Digital India program for empowerment and development, India is well placed to bring the calls for increased multilateralism and international cooperation through multi-stakeholder partnerships contained in the Report into the UNGA's preparations for the 75th anniversary Summit of the UN in September 2020.

(The author is a former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, and Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation)

India's Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is expected to visit New York twice towards the end of September 2019. First, he is scheduled to participate in the special Climate Action Summit of the UN Secretary General on 23 September 2019. The Prime Minister initiated a visionary platform for Climate Action during the 2015 Paris Conference on Climate Change, which has resulted in the establishment of a 121-country International Solar Alliance in India. India's leadership in the use of renewable energy to mitigate the adverse effects of Climate Change will be underscored by the inauguration of a solar panel system for supply of energy to the UN Headquarters Building in New York during the Summit.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to return to the United Nations in New York on Friday 27 September 2019 for his address to the UN General Assembly



GUEST COMMENT

Jallianwala apology: A noble gesture by the Archbishop of Canterbury

When Archbishop of Canterbury Reverend Justin Welby prostrated himself like a penitent before the Jallianwala Bagh memorial on Tuesday, he unwittingly resembled the hapless Amritsar residents who were forced to crawl in Kucha Kaurianwala a century ago. It was in this narrow street that Marcella Sherwood, a British missionary, was attacked on April 10, 1919. The incident was a major trigger for the massacre that was perpetrated by Gen Reginald Dyer three days later. Almost a week after the bloodbath, Dyer enforced the dreaded crawling order. This was his

brutal way of sanctifying and sanitizing the lane where an Englishwoman, and that too a servant of the Church, had been assaulted. This disturbing episode, dwarfed in history by what happened on April 13, 1919, did not find a mention in the Archbishop's condolence message. It is anybody's guess whether he considers Dyer's warped sense of 'sacred' duty unchristian or not. However, Reverend Welby has emulated another missionary, CF Andrews, who was a friend of Mahatma Gandhi and is regarded as among the first Englishmen to apologize for the massacre.

In the Jallianwala centenary year, the Archbishop has done what the British monarchy and successive governments have stopped short of doing - saying sorry and seeking forgiveness. He has admitted that it was 'deeply humbling' and a matter of 'profound shame' for him 'as a British Christian to visit this place that witnessed such an atrocity.' His stance has rekindled the demand for an official apology from the British Government. Then Prime Ministers Theresa May and David Cameron had referred, respectively, to the 'shameful scar' on British-Indian history and a 'deeply shameful act'. Queen Elizabeth,

who had visited the memorial back in 1997, had called the incident a distressing example of 'our past history with India'.

The Church's response, as articulated by the Archbishop, has come rather late in the day, but it can't be dismissed as insignificant. The apology won't go in vain if it can help in bringing much-needed closure to the tragedy. Hopefully, Reverend Welby will extend the condemnation to all unpardonable crimes committed in the name of the Crown and the Cross.

(Tribune India)

A U.S.-Iran detente could be on the cards



By Mohammed Ayoob

"Israel and John Bolton have been the two major obstacles to a direct encounter between the two Presidents as a prelude to a possible rapprochement between the U.S. and Iran. Mr. Trump, despite his close relationship with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, seems to have concluded that the Israeli leader is too dependent on the U.S. and especially on Mr. Trump to attempt to block such a meeting if he decides to go ahead with it. Mr. Netanyahu seemed to confirm this understanding this week when he stated: "Obviously, I don't tell the U.S. President when to meet or with whom."

The exit of John Bolton, and Israel's diminished influence on Washington, signal a possible reduction in tensions.

If it is not Afghanistan, then it must be Iran. U.S. President Donald Trump desperately needs a dramatic foreign policy breakthrough before the 2020 elections to establish his reputation as a strategist who can shape afresh the contours of American foreign policy. His lovefest with Kim Jong-un has petered out without producing any noticeable reduction in North Korea's nuclear arsenal or any curbs on its ballistic missile program. His attempt to get the Taliban to accept a ceasefire so that he could begin withdrawing American troops from Afghanistan, and thus fulfil the promise he had made during the 2016 election campaign, has also stalled because of Kabul's opposition and the Taliban's unwillingness to stop military action before a settlement is announced.

This leaves Iran as the only arena where Mr. Trump can demonstrate his diplomatic dexterity even if it means returning to the status quo that had existed when President Barack Obama left office. However, Mr. Trump would like to add a dramatic flourish to turning the clock back.

Some of Mr. Trump's closest associates, especially the recently sacked National Security Advisor John Bolton, have been promoting a policy that amounted to advocating a regime change in Iran, even if by force. However, Mr. Trump is fundamentally averse to leading the U.S. into an open-ended war with Iran. This stance is prompted largely by his attachment to his campaign promise of bringing American soldiers home that garnered a significant number of votes for him in the last election. He, therefore, abhors the idea of sending more of them to the volatile West Asia.

Zarif's visit to Biarritz

These instincts were on display at the recently concluded G7 meeting in France following an unscheduled visit by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to Biarritz for talks with the French President Emmanuel Macron announced at the conclave that a Trump-Rouhani meeting was likely to take place in the "coming weeks".

Mr. Trump said that he had no intention of imposing regime change on Iran and declared that under the right circumstances, he would certainly agree to a meeting with Mr. Rouhani.

In a speech hours earlier, Mr. Rouhani had also signaled that he was willing to talk with Trump. He has since qualified his positive response by adding that he would meet Mr. Trump only after Washington lifted the sanctions re-imposed on Tehran after Mr. Trump pulled the U.S. out of



President Donald Trump desperately needs a dramatic foreign policy breakthrough before the 2020 elections. Iran may offer the opportunity.

the nuclear deal in 2018. But the signal that Iranian leaders are not averse to talking with their American counterparts has been sent by Tehran and received in Washington. In turn, Mr. Trump reciprocated by stating that he has no problem meeting with President Rouhani. "It could happen. It could happen. No problem with me," he said earlier this week.

Israel and John Bolton have been the two major obstacles to a direct encounter between the two Presidents as a prelude to a possible rapprochement between the U.S. and Iran. Mr. Trump, despite his close relationship with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, seems to have concluded that the Israeli leader is too dependent on the U.S. and especially on Mr. Trump to attempt to block such a meeting if he decides to go ahead with it. Mr. Netanyahu seemed to confirm this understanding this week when he stated: "Obviously, I don't tell the U.S. President when to meet or with whom."

Differences with Israel

Nonetheless, this relative softening of their respective stands by the U.S. and Iran have worried the Israeli establishment. This is why, of late, Mr. Netanyahu has once again been making shrill noises about Iran's nuclear weapons capability. He has even gone to the extent of identifying a nuclear facility near Isfahan that, according to him, the Iranians destroyed after he had made its existence public. In response Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif promptly tweeted: "The possessor of REAL nukes cries wolf - on an ALLEGED 'demolished' site in Iran." It is clear that there is a fundamental disjuncture between American and Israeli objectives regarding Iran and recent events have begun to bring the

fissures in American Israeli approaches to this issue into the open.

Mr. Bolton, an outspoken foreign policy hawk, has been the standard bearer of the hard line vis-à-vis Iran and is directly or indirectly responsible for many of the harshest measures adopted by the Trump administration in regard to Iran. He was also strongly opposed to the deal that Zalmay Khalilzad had worked out with the Taliban in order to begin an orderly withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan. Mr. Bolton's virulent opposition to any deal with Iran short of complete denuclearization and regime change, both objectives beyond the realm of possibility, had angered Mr. Trump, especially because it ran counter to his instinctive antipathy toward getting involved in overseas military conflicts.

However, the firing of John Bolton, when combined with the visible diminishing of Israeli influence on U.S. policy toward Iran, signals that Washington is interested in easing tensions with Tehran. This is confirmed by the Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's statement on September 10 that it was possible that a meeting between Mr. Trump and Mr. Rouhani could take place this month on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York. Such a meeting, even if it does not immediately resolve all the contentious bilateral issues, could form the beginning of a de-escalatory process that is likely to benefit both Washington and Tehran in the long run.

(The author is University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Relations, Michigan State University, and Senior Fellow, Center for Global Policy, Washington, DC)

Pakistan may face serious financing issues: Moody's

KARACHI (TIP): Moody's credit rating agency has placed Pakistan among countries that might face serious financing issues in the extreme scenario under the ongoing US-China trade tensions as Islamabad's reliance on foreign currency borrowing and thin reserve coverage of external debt payments have weakened its debt affordability.

While Moody's assume generally stable financing conditions with slowing global growth, the ongoing US-China tensions and global flashpoints of political risk, sovereigns in emerging markets (EM) and frontier markets (FM) face a material risk of a period of heightened financing stress, reported The Express Tribune.

"Greatest exposure is among B-rated sovereigns in Asia-Pacific (APAC), Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Latin America (LatAm), which see the sharpest deterioration in credit metrics when stressed due to weak debt affordability, reliance on foreign-currency borrowing and thin reserve coverage of external debt payments," Moody's Investors Service said in its sector in-depth report on 'Sovereigns--Global: B-rated sovereigns in APAC, LatAm and MENA most exposed to financing stress'.

The agency has said that Pakistan, along with a few other countries, was particularly exposed to an economic shock.

In terms of debt affordability, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Angola, and Ghana would see the most significant deterioration in their interest payments-to-revenue ratios compared to the baseline 2019-20 forecasts.

Pakistan's external financing gap has been alleviated by a \$6 billion, 39-month IMF agreement, along with other bilateral and multilateral borrowings providing an external buffer, "however, external vulnerability remains high following years of wide current account deficits and a lack of substantial non-debt-creating foreign exchange inflows".

Pakistan's fiscal profile has been weakened further by higher interest rates following the central bank's cumulative 750-basis-point hike over the last two years in response to external imbalances.

With the frequent rollover of short-term treasury bills, these higher domestic interest rates have rapidly increased the government's borrowing costs. IANS

Imran Khan to meet Donald Trump twice during US visit

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan will meet US President Donald Trump twice during his visit to Washington later this month where he would also address the UN General Assembly (UNGA), a media report said on September 13.

This would be Khan's second visit to the US. In July, he held a one-on-one meeting with Trump, reports The News International.

According to his schedule, Khan will arrive in New York on September 21 to attend the 74th session of the UNGA and will address the world community on September 27.

As per details, the Prime Minister will have his first meeting with the US President at a luncheon and another during a high tea.

He is also scheduled to hold talks with world leaders and apprise them of the Kashmir issue.

Ahead of his US visit, Khan is



expected to travel to Saudi Arabia where he is scheduled to meet the Kingdom's top leadership, according to informed sources.

During his last visit to Saudi Arabia, the Prime Minister represented Pakistan at the 14th Summit of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in Makkah. IANS

Taliban to fight on after Trump says talks dead

KABUL (TIP): The Taliban on Sept 10 vowed to continue fighting against US forces in Afghanistan after President Donald Trump said talks with insurgents were "dead", saying Washington would regret abandoning negotiations.

"We had two ways to end occupation in Afghanistan, one was jihad and fighting, the other was talks and negotiations," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said. "If Trump wants to stop talks, we will take the first way and they will soon regret it." The Taliban's statement came hours after Trump said the US was walking away from negotiations after nearly a year of talks that aimed to pave the way for an American withdrawal from Afghanistan following 18 years of war. "They are dead. As far as I am concerned, they are dead," Trump said at the White House. The announcement followed Trump's dramatic cancellation of a top-

"We had two ways to end occupation in Afghanistan, one was jihad and fighting, the other was talks and negotiations," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said. "If Trump wants to stop talks, we will take the first way and they will soon regret it."

secret plan to fly Taliban leaders in for direct talks at the Camp David presidential facility outside Washington.

Driving another nail into the coffin of what had appeared to be nearly finalised negotiations, Trump said a US military onslaught on the guerrillas was at its fiercest level in a decade. "Over the last four days, we have been hitting our Enemy harder than at any time in the last ten years!" he tweeted. — AFP

Thailand 1st in Asia to roll out plain cigarette packaging

BANGKOK (TIP): Thailand rolled out plain cigarette packaging on Sept 10, the first country in Asia to introduce what activists say is an effective way to reduce the appeal of smoking. In 2012, Australia became the first country to require tobacco products to be sold without colourful brand logos. Afp

Pak witnesses 13 per cent rise in HIV cases

KARACHI (TIP): Pakistan has recorded a 13 per cent jump in the new HIV infections, according to a UN report that recorded the fastest surge among the transgenders and sex workers, a media report said. The total number of HIV cases in Pakistan has increased to 1,60,000 this year, a significant increase from 67,000 in 2010, the Express Tribune reported, quoting a latest UN report on HIV cases. PTI

Bangladesh police officers force gang-rape survivor to divorce husband, marry suspect: Family

DHAKA (TIP): Two Bangladeshi policemen have been disciplined after a rape victim's family said she was forced to marry one of the accused rapists in a police station, officials said Sept 10.

The mother-of-three had accused five men of confining her to a room and sexually assaulting her multiple times between August 29 and August 31 in the northern district of Pabna.

But her brother told the national Daily Star newspaper this week that officers at the police station forced her to sign documents divorcing her husband and marrying the main suspect.

The marriage allegedly took place when she first tried to file the complaint last week. Police officials on Sept 12 said the marriage appeared to be part of an effort to prevent the suspects from being prosecuted.

"We have suspended sub-inspector Ekramul Haq for helping the marriage between the victim and one of her suspected rapists, who is also the chief accused," deputy police chief of Pabna, Mohammad ibne Mizan, told AFP.

"We have also withdrawn the officer-in-charge of Pabna Sadar police station from his duty after he allowed the

marriage to take place in the police station compound." Police did not say how long Haq was suspended for and where the other officer was to be transferred to. Four people linked to the assault, including three of the suspected rapists, have been arrested, he added.

One of the accused is a low-level official of the ruling Awami League party, the Daily Star said. Rights groups say gang-rapes have increased in the country in recent years. Many blame the country's weak criminal justice system, which sees very few convictions in rape cases. AFP

7 die, 10 hurt in southeast Turkey blast

DIYARBAKIR (TIP): Seven people were killed and 10 were wounded in southeast Turkey when an improvised explosive placed on a road went off as a vehicle carrying villagers was passing, a governor's office in the region said.

The explosives were believed to have been placed by Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants, the office said in a statement. The Sept 12 evening blast occurred in Kulp district of Diyarbakir province, the office said. Reuters

UK PM denies lying to Queen over Parliament suspension

LONDON (TIP): UK's embattled Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Thursday denied that he lied to Queen Elizabeth II when he sought the suspension of Parliament last month, even as Opposition parties intensified their demand for its recall.

The power to prorogue the UK Parliament lies with the British monarch, who conventionally acts on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Johnson was confronted by the question about misleading the Queen, a day after the Scottish HC ruled that his move to seek a prorogation of Parliament from the monarch was "unlawful". — PTI

French assembly chief and Macron ally probed over property deals

LILLE (FRANCE) (TIP): The president of the French National Assembly, who is a close ally of President Emmanuel Macron, has been charged over a property deal from which he is suspected of having illegally profited, prosecutors said on Sept 12. AFP

Rocket attacks make new war in Gaza inevitable: Israeli PM



JERUSALEM (TIP): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sept 12 that continued rocket fire from Gaza was making another war against militants in the coastal strip inevitable, his latest headline-grabbing announcement just days before he seeks re-election in a nationwide vote.

Netanyahu said advanced plans were in place to strike Gaza and that he would decide the optimal timing of the offensive, given the Gaza Hamas rulers' unwillingness to stop the daily barrages.

The Israeli military has responded to the attacks with limited strikes against Hamas installations that have caused no casualties and little damage, and has refrained from risking a larger conflagration on the eve of Israelis heading to the polls.

The Israeli leader has been criticised for failing to respond harshly to the

rockets, which have been frequently sending residents of southern Israel scurrying for cover. Netanyahu, who counts on the working class, Gaza border towns as part of his electoral base, was himself whisked away by bodyguards from a campaign event on Tuesday when Palestinian militants fired rockets toward the area where he was.

Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip in 2005 and Hamas militants overtook the territory by force two years later. Israel and Hamas have fought three wars and engaged in several other rounds of violence over the past decade.

"We will probably have no choice but to set out on a big campaign, a war against the terror forces in Gaza. I won't start it one minute before we are ready," he said before flying to Russia for a meeting with President Vladimir Putin. — AP

Oppn offices raided in Russia

MOSCOW (TIP): The Russian police on Sept 12 raided dozens of offices of the opposition group behind mass protests this summer and the homes of its supporters, activists said.

Leonid Volkov, a close aide to main opposition leader Alexei Navalny, said police searches were underway at more than 80 addresses in 29 cities.

"This is not only offices and apartments of coordinators but also the homes of employees and volunteers," Volkov said.

"These raids are an act of intimidation," Navalny's spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh said, accusing the authorities of trying to deal a "massive blow" to the organisation.

"The police's only goal is to confiscate our material and paralyse our work," she said.

The raids came after Russian investigators in August launched a money laundering probe against Navalny's Foundation for Fighting Corruption (FBK), which has worked to expose officials' questionable wealth.

They also follow local elections in Moscow on Sunday in which allies of President Vladimir Putin suffered major losses after a police crackdown on protests over the summer. — AFP

Russian police raid dozens of Opposition offices, homes

MOSCOW (TIP): Russian police on Sept 12 raided dozens of offices of the Opposition group behind mass protests this summer and the homes of its supporters, activists said.

Leonid Volkov, a close aide to main opposition leader Alexei Navalny, said police searches were underway at more than 80 addresses in 29 cities.

"This is not only offices and apartments of coordinators but also the homes of employees and volunteers," Volkov said on Twitter. AFP

China hails Trump's 'goodwill' act to postpone hike in tariff

BEIJING (TIP): China on Sept 12 welcomed US President Donald Trump's "goodwill" gesture to postpone a planned tariff hike on Chinese products, as the two countries warmed up to each other ahead of the next month's talks to end the bruising trade war.

President Trump said on Wednesday that he had delayed his proposed increased tariffs on \$250 billion worth of Chinese goods from October 1 to 15.

Earlier, China on Wednesday unveiled the first set of US goods to be excluded from the first round of additional tariffs on US products, which Trump described as a goodwill gesture. The exemption, which covers two lists with 16 categories of goods, will be valid from September 17, 2019 to September 16, 2020, the China's Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council said in a statement.

In his tweet, Trump said, "At the request of Vice Premier of China Liu He and due to the fact that the People's Republic of China

Ahead of trade talks, US President delays move by 15 days



will be celebrating their 70th anniversary on October 1, we have agreed, as a gesture of

goodwill, to move the increased tariffs on \$250 billion worth of goods from October 1

to 15."

Welcoming Trump's announcement, Gao Feng, China's Ministry of Commerce spokesman told the media in Beijing on Thursday that Chinese buyers have already started to make enquiries about the prices of US farm products, including soybeans and pork, although he did not elaborate on the timing or size of any intended purchases.

Top Chinese officials are scheduled to arrive in the US for talks early October.

Since last year, the two countries are working on a comprehensive trade deal, which not only addresses the issue of balance of trade, but also ends theft of intellectual property and coercion of American companies in China.

Gao did not confirm the specific date of the talks, although they are widely expected to take place before October 15, leaving room for a further postponement or even cancelling of some of the tariffs, Hong-Kong based South China Morning Post reported. — PTI



'NO REGRETS ABOUT SAINA NEHWAL BIOPIC'

Shraddha Kapoor is on a roll, as her latest film *Chhichhore* is receiving critical acclaim. The actress was also the first choice to play Saina Nehwal for the sportsperson's biopic, and things didn't work out despite starting the prep work for the film.

"I had to opt-out of it because *Street Dancer* came my way and it all boiled down to allotting dates, which was not possible. Remo sir had given me *ABCD2*, so there is no way I would say no to him. I loved the *Street Dancer* script and he has been my guru, so he plays a big part," she explains.

To be directed by Amol Gupte, the Saina Nehwal biopic will soon go on floors with Parineeti Chopra in the lead role. Nevertheless, Shraddha has no regrets about missing out on this project. "I have no regrets. It would have been unfair for me to ask Amol to wait. I didn't even ask. I got dengue and it got pushed already, so it was a choice to make and the choice was mine," she adds.

NORA FATEHI SAYS SHE USED TO BE BULLIED FOR HER DANCE SKILLS IN SCHOOL

When it comes to dance songs, it seems Bollywood filmmakers can't think of anyone but Nora Fatehi. And going by her moves, one naturally assumes that she has always been a fabulous dancer. However, Nora has a different story to tell.

"If you asked me 10-15 years ago if I'd ever be the go-to girl for dance songs and have audiences go crazy for my dance moves, I'd have probably laughed. There was a time when I used to be bullied for my dance at school. People used to laugh at me and say that I didn't know how to dance," shares the 27-year-old, who recently starred in a music video, *Pachtaoge*, opposite Vicky Kaushal.

Nora, who was born and raised in Canada, adds, "I used to always try to get into the cool group, the girls in the school who were fabulous dancers. I used to copy them and tried to get accepted but they always rejected me. I was told I wasn't on their level of dancing."

The actor has surely come a long way. From being mocked for her dance skills to having songs such as *Rock the Party* (*Rocky Handsome*; 2016), *Kamariya* (*Stree*; 2018), *Dilbar* (*Satyamev Jayate*; 2018) to the latest *O Saki Saki* from *Batla House* to her credit.

"It's an honour and gives me a lot of confidence to be considered as a good dancer. Filmmakers trust me as a newcomer, and also someone who is not from the industry, to carry a song on her shoulder alone. That's a huge accomplishment. I never imagined that I'd be given this kind of responsibility and deliver," she says.

Source: HT



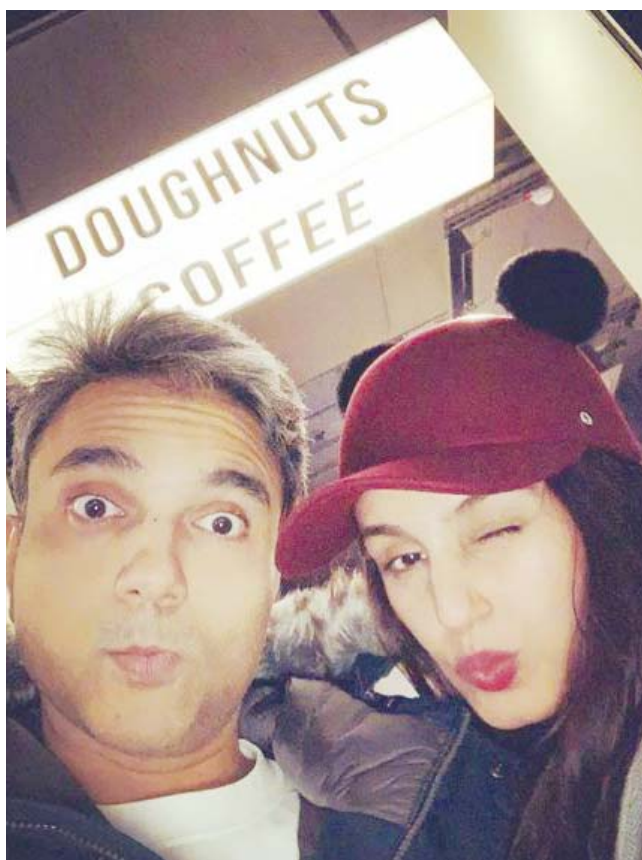
HUMA QURESHI CONFIRMS DATING MUDASSAR AZIZ

After much speculation, Huma Qureshi confirmed her relationship with *Pati Patni Aur Woh* director Mudassar Aziz. On his birthday (September 5), Huma took to Instagram and penned an emotional message for him.

She wrote, "The Many Moods of Mudassar... It sure has been a hell of a ride ... I'm so proud of everything you do and the man you are ! I pray from the bottom of my heart that all your dreams come true ... Happy Birthday baba @mudassar_as_is Sending love from saat samundar paar... Stay smiling always ... Onwards #love #happybirthday #joy #virgobaby #Septemberchild Love you more than you know ...(sic)."

Mudassar replied, "Phew it's hard to reply to this... A soul as gorgeous as you are @iamhumaq finds appreciation even in somebody as flawed or fractured as I am... Clearly then, I'm the lucky one! I won't thank you because I actually can't do that enough... I'd rather just sit back & gape in awe at how much, how wonderfully, how warmly you love. Stay true! Stay you! Love you loads (sic)." According to reports, the two have been dating for over a year.

On July 28, which is Huma's birthday, Mudassar had shared a photo with Huma and captioned it, "All things GORGEOUS down to the soul is what you are @iamhumaq !!! A birthday wish is NOTHING close to what will sum up how joyous, fulfilling & inspired you make every moment for me! Heart full of duas and all the love in the world for you. Have a smashhhhhhhin #American birthday!(sic)."



Tiger Shroff's sis Krishna on her Boyfriend Eban Hyams

Actor Tiger Shroff's sister Krishna Shroff in a candid chat reveals what's been brewing. In her latest interview with *Mumbai Mirror*, Krishna accepted that she has been dating a man named Eban Hyams for the last four months and they are head over heels in love with each other.

The stunning daughter of Jackie and Ayesha Shroff also commented on the post that led to the rumours of her secret wedding recently when Eban addressed her as 'wifey' in his Instagram stories. She laughed off the incident and said even her mom freaked out and asked her about what all was being discussed in the media. Krishna was quoted saying, "It's hilarious, just a term. And it's crazy how there are so many articles saying we were secretly married. Even my mum asked me what was going on."

The 26-year-old fitness enthusiast went on to reveal that she met Eban through a common friend whom she was meeting after a really long time.



Ruby Rose as Batwoman

Actress Ruby Rose makes history as the titular heroine of Batwoman, television's first superhero series led by an openly gay character.

"Everyone wants to play a superhero," Rose told an American entertainment magazine. "Batwoman, in particular, means so much to me because she's so comfortable within her sexuality. It's a character that I wish I could have seen on television growing up. It's time. It's time to have a gay superhero."

"I packed up everything and came to the States with, like, two suitcases," she recalled. "And I didn't get anything for two years. Couldn't get a manager, couldn't get an agent, could not get a audition," Rose said.

To Indian movie buffs, Rose is best known as Deepika Padukone and Vin Diesel's co-star in 'xXx: Return Of Xander Cage'.

HAYLEY ATWELL TO STAR WITH TOM CRUISE IN NEXT 'MISSION IMPOSSIBLE' FILM

The news of her joining the cast of the film was shared by filmmaker Christopher McQuarrie through her Instagram account.

"Should you choose to accept..." McQuarrie referred to recurring 'Mission: Impossible' quote while captioning a picture of Atwell.

Meanwhile, the film will see Cruise reprising his role as the seemingly indestructible secret agent Ethan Hunt.

The seventh film in the franchise will hit big screens on July 23, 2021, while the eight instalment will open a year later on August 5, 2022.

Both the instalments will be helmed by McQuarrie. The director's previous film credits include 2015's 'Rogue Nation' and 2018's 'Fallout'.

On the work front, Atwell has earned prominence for her role as Peggy Carter in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, starting with 'Captain America: The First Avenger' and including the 'Agent Carter' series, 'Ant-Man', 'Avengers: Age of Ultron' and the recently released 'Avengers: Endgame'.

The 37-year old has also appeared in 'Cinderella', 'Christopher Robin' and 'Blinded by the Light'.



SCARLETT JOHANSSON SAYS SHE BELIEVES WOODY ALLEN IS INNOCENT



Scarlett Johansson says she's standing by Woody Allen because, "I believe him."

Much of Hollywood has distanced itself from the filmmaker since the MeToo movement prompted a re-examination of child sexual abuse allegations from his now-grown daughter, Dylan. Michael Caine, Timothee Chalamet and Greta Gerwig are among the actors who have publicly expressed regret over working with him.

"I love Woody," Johansson told The Hollywood Reporter in an interview released on Wednesday. "I believe him, and I would work with him anytime."

Allen helped boost Johansson to the A-list. He directed her in Match Point, Scoop and Vicky Cristina Barcelona. She said she has spoken to Allen about the accusations and he maintains his

innocence. He has never been criminally charged.

Johansson is active in women's issues and was among early supporters of Time's Up.

"It's hard because it's a time where people are very fired up, and understandably," she said. "Things needed to be stirred up, and so people have a lot of passion and a lot of strong feelings and are angry, and rightfully so. It's an intense time."

Johansson said she has had numerous conversations with Allen about his past. "I have been very direct with him, and he's very direct with me," she said.

Allen has yet to find a U.S. distributor for his films since Amazon pulled his deal last year. Allen has filed a \$68 million lawsuit against Amazon.



'VICTORIA' STAR JENNA COLEMAN JOINS NETFLIX/BBC CRIME DRAMA

Jenna Coleman (Victoria, Doctor Who), Billy Howle (MotherFatherSon, Dunkirk) and Ellie Bamber (Les Misérables, Nocturnal Animals) have been cast in lead roles in the upcoming Netflix/BBC crime drama The Serpent.

Filming has begun on the Mammoth Screen-produced series, which will see Tahar Rahim play Charles Sobhraj, one of the most elusive criminals of the 20th century.

Coleman will play Marie-Andrée Leclerc, Sobhraj's partner and frequent accomplice, with Howle and Bamber cast as Herman and Angela Knippenberg.

Charles Sobhraj (Rahim) was the chief

suspect in the unsolved murders of up to 20 young Western travelers across India, Thailand and Nepal's "Hippie Trail" in 1975 and 1976. Psychopath, con man, thief and master of disguise, having slipped repeatedly from the grasp of authorities worldwide, by 1976 serial killer Sobhraj was Interpol's most wanted man and had arrest warrants on three different continents.

When Herman Knippenberg (Howle), a junior diplomat at the Dutch Embassy in Bangkok, unwittingly walks into Sobhraj's intricate web of crime, he sets off an extraordinary chain of events that will see Knippenberg seek to bring Sobhraj to justice for his terrible crimes.

House Passes Harris Legislation Promoting Diversity and Inclusion at Federal Reserve



"Building an economy that works for every American requires ensuring that everybody has a seat at the table to make decisions about the direction of our economic policy", said Kamala Harris

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian American Senator Kamala D. Harris (D-CA) on Sept 10 praised the House of Representatives' passage of the Ensuring Diverse Leadership Act, which Harris first introduced in the Senate in May 2018. The legislation, which is led in the House by Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-OH-03), would ensure that at least one minority and one female candidate are interviewed for each vacancy for the presidency of a reserve bank at each of the twelve reserve banks in the Federal Reserve System.

"When our country's leadership reflects the people they serve, all Americans benefit," said Sen. Harris. "Building an economy that works for every American requires ensuring that everybody has a seat at the table to make decisions about the direction of our economic policy. I'm particularly grateful for Congresswoman Beatty's long-time commitment to diversity and inclusion at the Federal Reserve and throughout the federal government."

"Numerous studies show that diversity and inclusion are good for our economy. So, it is imperative that the people who help protect and grow our economy reflect the voice of every American," Rep. Beatty said. "Greater diversity at the Federal Reserve will help our nation create better jobs, more affordable housing options, and build stronger communities that can benefit all of our constituents." Rep. Beatty concluded, "I thank my colleagues for their support and look forward to continue working with Senator Harris to get this all-too important bill signed into law."

Of the more than 130 individuals who have served as presidents of the twelve reserve banks, only 3 have been non-white. In 2017, Raphael Bostic became the first African American reserve bank president when he became president of the Atlanta Fed. Additionally, there have been only seven women to ever serve as a reserve bank president.

Around 20 states reject settlement with OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma

Purdue has reached a tentative multi-billion-dollar settlement with at least 27 states and territories. But 20 states do not accept the deal

WASHINGTON (TIP): Top legal officials in 27 states and territories and lawyers for more than 2,000 cities and counties announced Wednesday they had agreed to a tentative multi-billion-dollar settlement with Purdue Pharma, the maker of the opioid OxyContin, for its role in the opioid crisis.

At least 20 other state attorneys general who are suing the drug company, however, told NBC News they have not agreed to the deal with Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family, which owns the firm.

Under terms of a plan first reported by NBC News in August, the Sackler family would give up control of Purdue, which would then declare bankruptcy and be converted into a for-profit trust. The proceeds from the sale of drugs would go to the plaintiffs, who include more than 45 states and territories and nearly 2,300 cities and counties. The whole deal, which includes additional money from the Sacklers, is valued at \$10 billion to \$12 billion.

In a statement Wednesday, the Tennessee Attorney General's Office said that it was part of a bipartisan group of 27 attorneys general that "agreed to a framework to resolve claims against Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family."

Earlier, the Arizona AG's office released a similar statement that said it had agreed to a tentative settlement along with "at least 25 other bi-partisan states and territories."

The group of lawyers representing the



Headquarters of Purdue Pharma in Connecticut

cities and counties suing Purdue issued its own statement saying it had agreed to recommend approval of the deal to its clients.

NBC News attempted to contact every state and territory involved in the suit and got answers from 38. The attorney general's offices in 18 states and territories said they favor the deal, while 20 states said they oppose it.

The opinions split largely on party lines. All but two of the attorneys general who told NBC News they are against the deal are Democrats, while all but three of the attorneys general in favor are Republicans.

On Wednesday, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison said, "Minnesota is not part of the apparent settlement that was leaked despite the federal gag order. ... [I]t may be worth far less than media reports say and seems to be not yet good enough for the magnitude of the death and destruction Purdue and the Sacklers caused."

The attorney general of North Carolina, who opposes the deal, issued a statement saying that a "large number of states" think the Sackler family needs to guarantee more money.

"We believe they created a mess and must help to clear it up," said Attorney General Josh Stein. "I am now preparing filings to sue the Sackler family."

"Different states have different views, as is to be expected. But every Attorney General agrees that Purdue, the Sacklers, and other drug companies need to pay to treat those struggling with addiction."

On Thursday, the attorney general of Pennsylvania, who opposes the deal, filed a new, separate suit against the Sacklers.

The Sackler family said Wednesday it "supports working toward a global resolution that directs resources to the patients, families and communities across the country who are suffering and need assistance. This is the most effective way to address the urgency of the current public health crisis, and to fund real solutions, not endless litigation."

(Source: Agencies)

IRS Expanding the Compliance Assurance Process for 2020, Accepting New Corporate Applicants

WASHINGTON(TIP): The Internal Revenue Service announced today the opening of the application period for the 2020 Compliance Assurance Process program. For the first time since 2015, new corporate applicants who meet eligibility requirements can apply for CAP. The application period runs Sept. 16 to Oct. 31, 2019. The IRS will let applicants know if they're accepted into the program around Jan. 31, 2020.

Launched in 2005, CAP employs real-time issue resolution, through transparent and cooperative interaction between taxpayers and the IRS, to improve federal tax compliance by resolving issues prior to the filing of a tax return.

To be eligible to apply for CAP, new applicants must:

- Have assets of \$10 million or more,
- Be a U.S. publicly traded



corporation with a legal requirement to prepare and submit SEC Forms 10-K, 10-Q, and 8-K, and

- Not be under investigation by, or in litigation with, any government agency that would limit the IRS's access to current tax records.

To be eligible to participate in CAP, corporations must adhere to CAP program limits on the number of open years. For 2020, the IRS expanded the list of open-year exceptions and developed a process for new applicants who are currently under examination.

Program details are available on the CAP webpage.

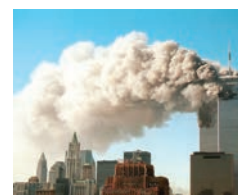
Justice Department to Release New Information in Dispute Over Saudi Role in 9/11 Attacks

The decision, which follows pressure from victims' families, comes amid strained U.S. relations with Riyadh

WASHINGTON

(TIP): The Trump administration has agreed to provide a key piece of new information about alleged official Saudi involvement in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks after an intense lobbying effort by victims' families.

Victims' families have for months urged the government to make information public, telling President Trump in a letter recently that it would help them "finally learn the full truth and obtain justice from Saudi Arabia."



SPITI — AN UNEXPLORED HIMALAYAN JEWEL

Road journey to Spiti, a desert mountain valley located in the Himalayas in northeast Himachal Pradesh, is the most beautiful drive I've done so far. One needs to be an adventure lover to enjoy this challenging journey. It will include driving on dangerous rocky terrain with no petrol pump for hundreds of kilometres as well as coping with low oxygen levels due to the high altitude. But it surely is worth all the effort. While driving towards Spiti, you'll be amazed to see how the scenery changes drastically from green pines to rocky mountains, and how the smooth drive gets difficult and thereafter dangerous on rocky terrains. The rugged landscape, small villages and old monastic complexes will all be a part of this unforgettable journey. Spiti is accessible only by road and there are two ways to reach here, either via Shimla or via Manali. The route via Shimla is open throughout the year and the one via Manali opens with the opening of Rohtang and Kunzum passes around July. The best time to explore Spiti—the Himalayan wonder—is between the months of July and September. Following are some of the places you must visit in this beautiful destination.

NAKO

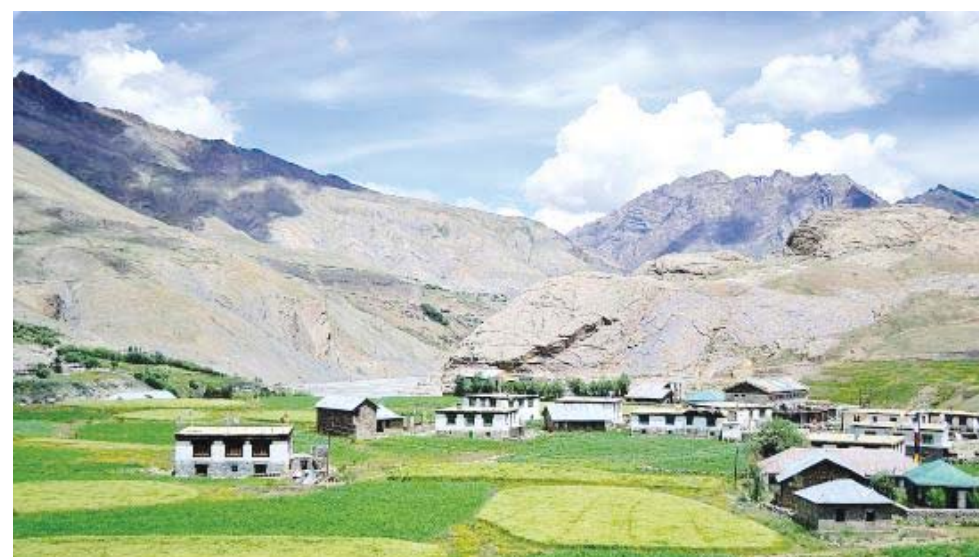
If you are going to Spiti via Shimla, Nako is a beautiful stopover. Being a part of the sensitive restricted zone along the border, it can be explored only if you have an Inner Line Permit. A walk around the quaint village while absorbing the traditional atmosphere will definitely transport you back to ancient times. Mani walls and richly carved timber verandas characterize the overall appearance of the village. Nako is surrounded by majestic peaks covered with snow that look stunning and simply out of the world during sunset. There is also a lake here that adds to its beauty and is quite popular. From behind the lake, climb uphill towards chortens to get an amazing view of this tiny village.

RIBBA

Between Karchham and Puh, a road branches off to Ribba—a small village that you will hardly find in any travel guide. Kasuraj Ji Temple where both Hindu gods and Buddhist deities are worshiped is worth a visit. It would be good to get local's help to look around the village. You might want to request him to show you how they produce the local brew 'Angoori' made from locally grown grapes called rokh dakhani. They stock it for around 6 months when the whole village is covered in snow and remains isolated from the rest of the world.

TABO

Tabo is a small village situated at an altitude of 3280 m on the banks of the Spiti River. There is an old monastic complex that is believed to be the holiest of all monasteries. Many old paintings and frescos dating back to the 11th century have been preserved here. No artificial light or photography is allowed inside the gompa. On the cliff, opposite the road, are some old caves that are said



to be the dwellings of monks. If you plan to halt in Tabo to experience the quietude and serenity of the place then you can stay in the monastery guest house. There are some other guest houses too in the village where you can book rooms in case you do not get accommodation at the guest house of the monastery.

KAZA

Located at an altitude of 4000 m on the left bank of the Spiti River, Kaza is the largest township and commercial centre of the valley. Being centrally located, it is a good base to explore the rest of Spiti. Day trips can be made from here to Tabo, Dhankar, Langza, Hikkim, Komic, Key

and Kibber. There are many companies that can arrange for treks in this beautiful valley. Also, things of daily need are easily available here unlike rest of Spiti, and many new hotels have come up recently that provide good accommodation, making Kaza an ideal base. The place is also popular for its colourful festivals and ancient Sakya Tanguyud Monastery, located around 4 km away from the town. If possible, you must plan your trip around August when Kaza hosts the popular Ladarcha Fair.

PIN VALLEY

Originating in a beautiful valley in the Himalayas, the Pin River joins the Spiti River southeast of Kaza. Around 15 km

away from Kaza, the Tabo road branches off towards Pin Valley, which was bestowed upon the status of a national park in 1987. It spans an area of around 9700 sq km, with its elevation ranging from 3500 m to over 6000 m. The park is inhabited by various animals, including endangered ones like snow leopard, woolly hare, Tibetan gazelle and Siberian ibex. At Kungri, 3 km above Gulling, there is the 680-years-old Ugyen Sangnak Choling Gompa and three medieval shrines. The best place to stay in the region is Mud. It has a couple of homestays.

DHANKAR

Dhankar, the old capital of Spiti, was originally known as Dhakkhar (dhak meaning cliff and khar meaning fort). If you are coming from Tabo, a road branches off from the main Kaza Road at a point around 30 km away. Dhankar is around 8 km from there. Places of interest in Dhankar are its monastery and lake. The monastery is located at an elevation of 3894 m on a cliff overlooking the confluence of the Spiti and Pin Rivers. A steep trail of around 3.5 km will take you to the lake that is hidden on the other side of the mountain. Be there before the sunset so that you don't miss the spectacular view of the setting sun behind the Himalayas.

KEY MONASTERY

Kye monastery (Copy) Key Monastery is the biggest monastery and a prominent religious training centre for lamas in Spiti Valley. Around 11 km drive from Kaza takes you to the gompa that is located on top of a hill at an altitude of 4166 m (13,668 ft). After you are done with your prayers you will be escorted by a young lama. Climbing mud stairs through a dark alley you will keep wondering where are you headed till you reach a wooden and mud kitchen lit by the sunlight coming through a hole on the roof. You will be offered a hot cup of tea that seems like the elixir in the cold weather. I loved spending moments of quietude standing on the rooftop of the monastery, admiring the serene nature all around. You too can experience the same, feel the cold breeze on your face, watch the valley below and be a part of the mighty Himalayas. That's what divinity means to me—being one with the majestic nature.

LANGZA

Situated at an altitude of 4400 m, Langza is one of the most beautiful villages in Spiti Valley. Driving through winding uphill road for around 13 km you will find yourself in a different world altogether. Rich pasture and green fields greet you if you are travelling in July/August. Besides you will be spellbound to see Chau Chau Kang Nilda, the tallest peak in the region covered completely with snow. First you come across Langza Yongma, the lower section of the village with just a few mud houses. Drive a kilometre further to reach Langza Gongma, the upper section.

Source: Happytrips

MAKE YOUR LIPS LOOK BIGGER NATURALLY

Bigger, fuller lips are one of the most wanted beauty features. Celebs like Kylie Jenner, Kat Von D and Ashley Tisdale have even created cosmetic lines to enhance your face. Lucky for you, there are easy and natural ways to plump up your lips without paying a huge price. Here are some pointers

EXFOLIATE

Because flaky lips reflect less light, a dry pucker could be making your lips look smaller. To get rid of flakes, brush them lightly with a toothbrush. This also boosts circulation, giving you a rosy tint sans makeup.

If you want to get professional with your exfoliating game, get yourself a sugar lip scrub that really smooths.

Use concealer to fake a larger canvas
Pat concealer onto your lips, spreading it a little over your lip line. This will make your lipstick go on closer to the color in the tube, and make your lips look larger.

HIGHLIGHT WITH GLOSS

Using clear lip gloss or a shade close to your lipstick color, apply a dab of gloss onto the middle of both of your lips. The shimmery product picks up light, making your pout look fuller.

OVERDRAW YOUR LIP LINE

Before Kylie Jenner surgically enhanced her lips, she used to use this trick to make them appear bigger. To try it yourself, apply concealer to your lips, then trace slightly outside your natural lip line using a lip liner. Fill your lips in with the matching lipstick or just use the liner for your whole pout.

DOUBLE UP ON NUDE LIP COLORS

Apply one shade all over your mouth, and the lighter color (or even a white lip crayon) in the middle of your lips. If you have a full top lip but a smaller bottom lip (or vice versa), only apply the lighter shade to the opposite lip. It will even your lips out, and make them both look fuller.



LINE WITH CONCEALER AFTER LIPSTICK

Use a skinny brush and some cover-up to line the outside of your lips. You won't believe how much your lipstick will pop.

FILL 'EM UP!

While makeup is a good way to enhance the pout, not all women like to spend hours before the mirror every morning. In such cases, lip fillers are a good idea. "The most commonly used

product in lip fillers is hyaluronic acid (HA), a substance that is naturally found in the skin. When injected into the desired area with precision, it gives the lips a fuller appearance. The entire process takes about half an hour and its effects last between nine months to a year, after which your lips return to their original shape. The good thing is, these fillers are non-permanent and can also be removed within a few minutes if you're not happy with your new look,"

says Dr Ashutosh Misra, plastic surgeon. While dermal fillers are temporary, fat grafting is a more permanent surgical method that involves extracting fat from one area of the body and injecting or surgically placing it into the lips. The damage for both procedures could range between Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000 depending on the measure of lip augmentation. Lasers, lip lifts and lip plants are other ways to flaunt a luscious pout.

COLOUR CODE

The lighter the colour of your lips, the bigger they'll look. It's as simple as that. "Always go light. A light natural shade like a nude rose or a warm peach will reflect light and create the illusion of a highlighted lip," insists Sachdev. Before applying lip colour, create a base by filling the pout with a nude lip liner or a foundation. "While baby pink goes well for a fair skin tone, corals do wonders for a wheatish complexion. Women with a dusky skin tone can take a pick from maroon, aubergine or even bright orange," says Bammboat.

GO NATURAL

Want to make a DIY lip plumper at home? Get your hands on essential oils like cinnamon and pepper mint. Both cinnamon and peppermint are known to stimulate lip capillaries and make them swell slightly. Add a drop of cinnamon or peppermint essential oil to your regular lip balm or petroleum jelly and apply the blend for a fuller pout. The flavours might cause a temporary tingling or burning sensation but it won't last very long. Exercises like whistling, puckering and grinning not only help to tone up facial muscles, but they also tone the pout in a natural manner. Keep smiling.

Women prefer men with beards for long relationships

Women find men who wear full beards more suitable for long-term relationships, suggests new research.

Women tend to find beardedness attractive when judging long-term relationships, perhaps as a signal of formidability among males and the potential to provide direct benefits, such as enhanced fertility and survival, to females, the study said.

"Results showed a significant interaction between beardedness and masculinity on attractiveness ratings," the study said.

For the study, Barnaby Dixson from University of Queensland in Australia and his colleagues used computer graphic manipulation to morph male faces varying in facial hair from clean-shaven, light stubble, heavy stubble, and full beards, with additional differences in brow ridge, cheekbones, jawline, and other features so that the same man appeared more or less



masculine. Stubble was judged as most attractive overall and received higher ratings for short-term relationships than full beards, which were more attractive for long-term relationships.

Extremely masculine and extremely feminine-looking males

were least attractive, irrespective of relationship context, the study, published in the Journal of Evolutionary Biology, showed.

"Sexual selection via female choice has shaped the evolution of male ornamentation in many species," the authors wrote.

FOOD CORNER

SEVIYAN KHEER

Ingredients

70 gms vermicelli, 25 gms pure ghee, 400 ml milk, 50 gms grain sugar, 5 gms green cardamom, 2 gms cloves, 20 gms whole almonds, 10 gms sultanas / kishmish, for garnishing fresh rose petals

Method

Roughly crush the vermicelli. Cut the almonds into thick slices. Soak the sultana/kismis in hot water and set aside.

Heat the ghee and fry the almonds. Drain and keep aside. Lightly fry the cloves and the cardamom and add the vermicelli. Allow to brown lightly.

5. Add the milk and bring to a boil. Simmer on a slow fire till the milk thickens. Add sugar and sultanas. Remove from the fire. Allow to cool completely.

Adjust the consistency to a kheer. Transfer a portion to a serving bowl and garnish with the fried almonds.



EARLY ANTIBIOTIC USE MAY PROMOTE GUT 'SUPERBUG' GROWTH

Antibiotic use early in life may increase the risk of certain diseases by reducing the gut microbe diversity, and promoting harmful multidrug-resistant bacteria to take over, according to a study.

The study, published in the journal *Nature Microbiology*, found that premature infants who are hospitalised and receive antibiotics for more than 20 months have an increased risk of developing 'superbugs' in their guts.

Researchers from Washington University in St Louis School in the US studied the stool samples from 32 prematurely born infants who received antibiotic treatment for 21 months.

The study included nine infants born preterm who received antibiotics for less than a week, and 17 healthy term and late preterm infants who were not treated with antibiotics.

The researchers observed that the infants who received prolonged antibiotic treatment had less diversity of gut bacteria compared to the other infants. These bacteria, the study noted, contained more antibiotic resistance genes.

The groups that underwent heavy antibiotic treatment had bacteria



with genes for resistance to antimicrobials which are not given to newborns, such as ciprofloxacin and chloramphenicol.

The researchers reasoned that these genes might originate in multidrug-resistant bacteria.

They cautioned that using a certain antibiotic may trigger resistance to other such drugs, even to those that are not used.

The long-term effects of these genome changes, which the researchers call "microbiota scars",

are not known.

The researchers mentioned earlier studies on how antibiotic treatment in infancy may lead to allergies, psoriasis, obesity, diabetes and inflammatory bowel disease later in life.

The findings, the researchers said, add more evidence that antibiotic use early in life may lead to these diseases by reducing the diversity of gut microbial communities, and promoting harmful superbugs to take over.



DRINKING COFFEE LINKED TO LOWER RISK OF GALLSTONES

Dinking coffee may be associated with a reduced risk of developing gallstones, a study claims.

Among 1,04,493 individuals, those who drank more than six cups of coffee per day had a 23 per cent lower risk of developing symptomatic gallstones compared with people who did not drink coffee, according to the study published in the *Journal of Internal Medicine*.

Drinking one extra cup of coffee per day was associated with three per cent lower risk, said researchers from the University of Copenhagen in Denmark.

Individuals with certain genetic variants that have been linked to increased coffee consumption had a lower risk of gallstones, they said.

Although the study only uncovered correlations, the researchers highlighted several mechanisms by which coffee consumption might help prevent gallstones from forming.

EATING A BANANA FOR BREAKFAST IS A BAD IDEA

If you frequently find yourself short of time in the morning, then breakfast is often the first thing to suffer.

So instead of that wholesome bowl of porridge, you're grabbing whatever you can get.

When time is not on your side, a banana seems like a good idea. It's fruit, it's relative stodge and it's healthy right?

Sadly that banana breakfast, so filled with potassium and vitamin B6 and free of cholesterol and sodium, ISN'T that good as your first meal of the day after all.

Nutritional expert, Dr. Daryl Gioffre, has imparted some bad news about bananas for breakfast.

"Bananas seem like the perfect option to grab and go in the morning, but with a closer look, you'll find that bananas eaten alone aren't the best option because they're 25% sugar and moderately acidic," she told Byrdie.

"They'll give you a quick boost, but you'll soon be tired and feeling hungry".

If you are going to eat a banana, Dr Gioffre recommends not eating them after a meal and, when snacking on one, being sure to pair it with something else either fatty (healthy fats) or with spices. She adds: "Because bananas are acidic, you'll have to neutralise the acid to get the benefits of potassium, fibre, and magnesium without the sugar rush".

This is why people gain weight as they get older

Researchers have found that lipid turnover in the fat tissue decreases during ageing and makes it easier to gain weight, even if we don't eat more or exercise less than before.

"The results indicate for the first time that processes in our fat tissue regulate changes in body weight during ageing in a way that is independent of other factors," said study author Peter Arner, Professor at Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

For the study published in the journal *Nature Medicine*, the research team examined the fat cells in 54 men and women over an average period of 13 years.

In that time, all subjects, regardless of whether they gained or lost weight, showed decrease in lipid turnover in the fat tissue, that is the rate at which lipid in the fat cells is removed and stored.

Those who didn't compensate for the decrease by eating less calories gained weight by an average of 20 per cent, according to the study.

The researchers also examined lipid turnover in 41 women who



underwent bariatric surgery and how the lipid turnover rate affected their ability to keep the weight off four to seven years after surgery.

The result showed that only those who had a low rate before the surgery managed to increase their

lipid turnover and maintain their weight loss.

The researchers believe these people may have had more room to increase their lipid turnover than those who already had a high-level pre-surgery.

PAGE SPONSORED BY

DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



DR. SATISH ANAND
Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, AAPI National
E-Mail: sanandmd@gmail.com

GITANJLI ANAND
Former President, India Association of Long Island (IALI)
E-mail: gitanjlianand@gmail.com



HERE'S WHY PRIVATE INSTAGRAM POSTS ARE NOT PRIVATE

A security flaw makes it extremely easy for anybody to view posts of private accounts on Facebook-owned Instagram.

A series of mouse clicks on any web browser can expose the persistent URL of private posts and stories cached on Facebook servers, thus making the private posts of users visible.

The hack -- which works on Instagram stories as well -- requires only a rudimentary understanding of HTML and a browser. It can be done in a handful of clicks.

A user simply inspects the images and videos that are being loaded on the page and then pulls out the source URL. This public URL can then be shared with people who are not logged in to Instagram or do not follow that private user, BuzzFeed News reported.

This is reportedly also applicable to a private Instagram story, which are meant to last for only 24 hours, expires or is deleted.

Quartz had discovered a similar loophole for private Instagram content in 2015 wherein tests it conducted showed that a photograph posted to Instagram when a user's account was set to public remained publicly viewable on the web, even if the user's account was later made private.



GOOGLE CONFIRMS LAUNCH OF ITS APPLE ARCADE COMPETITOR 'PLAY PASS'

Internet giant Google has finally confirmed that it is working on a service called Google Play Pass similar to Apple Arcade in a tweet and said it would launch it soon.

"It's almost time," the company tweeted on Tuesday. "Google Play Pass is coming soon."

Earlier, a leaked screenshot regarding the service was first reported on by Android Police in July, suggested that it may cost \$4.99 per month, the same price as Apple Arcade.

The screenshots also revealed that the service might come with some known games like Monument Valley, Stardew Valley and Threes, along with some non-gaming apps such as "premium music apps" and fitness trackers. In addition, Apple at its latest iPhone event revealed that Apple Arcade will be launching in more than 150 countries on September 19, for a monthly fee of \$4.99 with support for Apple's Family Sharing feature. In India, Apple Arcade is priced at Rs 99 per month.

PERIOD TRACKING APPS FOUND SHARING SENSITIVE USER DATA WITH FACEBOOK

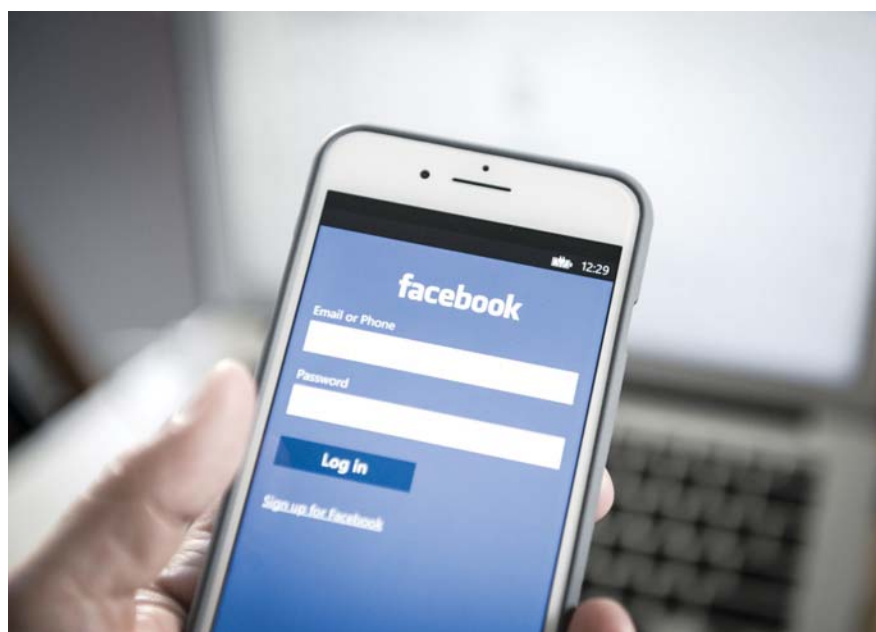
From personal information to contraception use, period tracking apps such as MIA Fem and Maya have been found sharing sensitive data with Facebook, according to a new research from UK-based advocacy group named Privacy International.

The advocacy group reportedly examined apps that were downloaded by over millions of users.

UK-based advocacy group Privacy International, discovered period-tracking apps including MIA Fem and Maya sent women's use of contraception, the timings of their monthly periods, symptoms like swelling and cramps, and more, directly to Facebook, BuzzFeed News reported on Monday.

The group found that Maya by Plackal Tech and MIA by Mobapp Development Limited, were sharing extensive amounts of sensitive user information with the social media giant and other third parties.

Facebook responded to the report and said it had gotten in touch with the apps Privacy International



identified to discuss possible violations of its terms of service, including sending prohibited types of sensitive information, the report added.

The social networking giant's policies say it can gather

information from third-party apps that use its software development kit (SDKs) and application programming interface (APIs).

The SDK integrates with apps to provide features like analytics or letting users log in with Facebook.

NEW IPHONES WOO USERS TO APPLE TELEVISION AND GAMES

Apple on Tuesday played to its strengths with powerful new iPhone and iPad models able to serve as stages for its new game and television services.

The Silicon Valley titan added into the mix a new generation Apple Watch that can tell when a place it getting too noisy or help point wearers in the right direction.

Here is what Apple will be releasing as the company strives to offset slumping iPhone sales:

Cameras and chips

Apple introduced three new iPhone models. An iPhone 11 boasted upgrades including a dual-camera system; longer battery life, a muscular computer chip and better water resistance. The iPhone 11 will be priced starting at \$699 when it hits the market on September 20.

The phone's camera has a new "ultra-wide" angle lens. Like the other new models, the iPhone is powered by an "A13 bionic" chip made in-house by Apple and infused with machine learning as well as high-performance graphics and processing capabilities.

Apple also introduced an iPhone 11 Pro and larger-screened iPhone 11 Pro Max that will have starting prices of \$999 and \$1,099 respectively when they are available on September 20.

iPad with a Pencil

Apple introduced a seventh-



generation iPad with a 10.2-inch display priced at \$329. It is set to be in stores starting September 30.

A "must-have" Apple Pencil integrated to work with the iPad touch screen can be used as a controller for creation or productivity. The iPad case is made entirely of recycled aluminum and will have a recently introduced operating system designed specifically for the tablet computers.

Watch time

The fifth-generation Apple Watch has a touch-screen face that is always on so the time and notifications are always viewable, while still being stingy on battery power. Previous generations had the smartwatch face go dark when arms

dropped to save on power.

New software features include tracking ambient noise levels to safeguard people's hearing; an ability for women to monitor menstrual cycles, and a "compass" to keep users properly oriented.

Apple also invited Watch users to volunteer for three new health studies, though data collected will remain anonymous.

TV and Games

Apple's promised streaming television service -- dubbed TV+ -- will launch internationally on November 1.

The line-up of original shows will include "The Morning Show," "Dickinson," "See," "For All Mankind" and "The Elephant Queen."

10 small economies host 85 pc of USD15-trn phantom FDI: IMF

NEW DELHI (TIP): Ten small economies, including Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Hong Kong SAR, Switzerland, Singapore, and Mauritius host more than 85 per cent of all phantom investments estimated at USD 15 trillion globally, according to a report published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Globally, phantom investments amount to a huge USD 15 trillion, or the combined annual gross domestic product (GDP) of China and Germany, said the report authored by Jannick Damgaard, Thomas Elkjaer, and Niels Johannesen.

Phantom FDI refers to investments that pass through shell companies that have no real business activities and are tailor-made to cut tax liabilities.

"And, despite targeted international attempts to curb tax avoidance...phantom FDI (foreign direct investment) keeps soaring, outpacing the growth of genuine FDI.

less than a decade, phantom FDI has climbed from about 30 per cent to almost 40 per cent of global FDI.



This growth is unique to FDI," said the report.

It noted that according to official statistics, Luxembourg, a country of 6 lakh people, hosts as much foreign direct investment (FDI) as the United States and much more than China.

Luxembourg's USD 4 trillion in FDI comes out to USD 6.6 million a person.

FDI of this size hardly reflects brick-and-mortar investments in the minuscule Luxembourg economy.

"So, is something amiss with official statistics or is something else at play?," it added.

FDI is often an important driver for genuine international economic integration, stimulating growth and

job creation and boosting productivity through transfers of capital, skills, and technology.

However, not all FDI brings capital in service of productivity gains, the authors said.

"In practice, FDI is defined as cross-border financial investments between firms belonging to the same multinational group, and much of it is phantom in nature—investments that pass through empty corporate shells," they said.

These shells, also called special purpose entities, have no real business activities. Rather, they carry out holding activities, conduct intrafirm financing, or manage intangible assets—often to minimise multinationals' global tax bill.

"Such financial and tax engineering blurs traditional FDI statistics and makes it difficult to understand genuine economic integration," they said.

The report said a few well-known tax havens host the vast majority of the world's phantom FDI.

Luxembourg and the Netherlands host nearly half of the total such FDI, it said.



YES BANK SHARES ZOOM 13.5% ON PAYTM DEAL BUZZ

NEW DELHI (TIP): Shares of Yes Bank jumped 13.5% on Wednesday following reports that digital payments major Paytm is in discussions to buy stake in the company from co-founder Rana Kapoor.

The scrip zoomed 13.47% to close at Rs 71.60 on the BSE. During the day, it advanced 14.97% to Rs 72.55. On the NSE, it climbed 12.99% to close at Rs 71.30. The stock was the top gainer on Sensex and Nifty during the day. The company's market valuation rose by Rs 2,168.22 crore to Rs 18,260.22 crore on the BSE.

On the traded volume, 210.06 lakh shares were traded on the BSE and over 33 crore units on the NSE during the day. Paytm is in discussions to buy stake in Yes Bank from co-founder Rana Kapoor, according to sources.

Hong Kong Exchange makes surprise \$36.6 bn bid to buy London Stock Exchange

LONDON (TIP): Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd. made an unexpected bid for London Stock Exchange Group Plc, which could potentially throw the European exchange's own transformative deal into jeopardy.

The transaction values one of Europe's largest exchanges at 29.6 billion pounds (\$36.6 billion), according to a HKEX a statement Wednesday. The Asian bourse operator had considered the 'ambitious and far-reaching' deal for many months, HKEX Chief Executive Officer Charles Li said. The LSE, which agreed to snap up data provider Refinitiv in a \$27 billion blockbuster deal just weeks ago, declined to comment.

Both firms have been involved in exchange merger deals in recent years, with LSE failing in its attempt to combine with Deutsche Boerse AG and HKEX acquiring London Metal Exchange in 2012 for 1.4 billion pounds.

BRITISH AIRWAYS FACES FIRST GLOBAL PILOTS' STRIKE

LONDON (TIP): British Airways faced its first global strike by pilots on Monday and the possibility of almost all its flights being grounded for two days.

The UK flag carrier and its 4,300 pilots have been locked in a nine-month pay dispute that could disrupt or alter the travel plans of nearly 300,000 people.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government urged both sides Friday "to get round the table and sort this out".

But BA only upped the stakes by reportedly threatening to strip pilots and their families of free travel perks if the strike action goes ahead.

"We make no apology for doing everything we can to protect our customers from further disruption," a BA spokesperson told the Financial Times on Friday.

The British Airline Pilots Association (BALPA) has rejected a pay increase of 11.5 percent over three years that the airline proposed in July.

BA says the offer would see flight captains receive "world-class" pay and benefits of around £200,000 (\$246,000 or 220,000 euros) a year.

It also points out that two other unions representing 90 percent of the airlines' workers have accepted the 11.5-percent raise.

Airfares expected to rise 7-9% this fiscal, highest since 2013

MUMBAI (TIP): Air passengers are likely to shell out the highest fares for domestic travel this fiscal with the ticket prices expected to spike 7-9 per cent during the period because of limited capacity additions since the grounding of Jet Airways, rating agency Crisil Research said.

Crisil also forecast domestic passengers traffic to grow 6-8 per cent in FY20, as against a healthy 19 per cent growth registered in the year ended March 2019, on account of non-revival of Jet Airways, which ceased all operations in April due to liquidity crisis and is now under insolvency proceedings.

The 7-9 per cent expected the rise in airfares will be the highest since fiscal 2013, which had seen then Kingfisher Airlines going bust, it said.

"This is way below the 14 per cent growth logged in fiscal 2019 and the compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 18 per cent was seen in the last five years. Nevertheless, is higher than our earlier estimate of 2 per cent growth and factors an upward revision in capacity addition plans of low cost carriers (LCCs)," Crisil added.

Even if Boeing 737 Max aircraft, which have been grounded globally since March following two fatal crashes, resumes operations post H1FY20, the domestic passenger traffic growth for the industry could grow faster by about 80-100 bps at best to 7-9 per cent it said.



ALIBABA SET FOR 'BIG CHALLENGE' AS JACK MA DEPARTS

SHANGHAI (TIP): Alibaba Group chairman Jack Ma will step down from the Chinese firm on Tuesday, leaving his hand picked successor a daunting task of steering the \$460 billion juggernaut at a time when the market for its core e-commerce business has slowed sharply.

As Ma, who turns 55 on Tuesday, holds centrestage at his farewell party in the 80,000-capacity Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center stadium to the accompaniment of music and celebrity performances, attendees will be hoping to get clues on how Alibaba will be run under his heir Daniel Zhang.

An accountant by trade, soft-spoken Alibaba CEO Zhang marks a stark contrast to Ma whose flamboyant style and charismatic leadership made him the most recognised Chinese entrepreneur since the former English teacher founded the company 20 years ago in a small shared apartment in Hangzhou city in eastern China.

"He has the logic and critical thinking skills of a super computer, a commitment to his vision, the courage to



wholeheartedly dare to take on innovative business models and industries of the future," Ma said of Zhang in 2018 in a message announcing his appointment.

One of Zhang's major challenges will be finding new areas of growth as China's e-commerce sector matures, analysts said.

Last week, Alibaba announced investments of \$2.7 billion in luxury goods retail platform Kaola and a music streaming firm in moves that partly demonstrated its flexibility in adopting new strategies.

"If Alibaba wants to find new innovations or trends this is going to be more difficult than before," said Liu Yiming, an analyst at the research division of 36kr, a Chinese tech publishing group. "For Daniel Zhang, this will be a big challenge."

contd from page 1

Rousing welcome...

According to reports in Indian media, while he is planning to spend five days in New York, from September 23 to 28, plans are being explored for a day-long visit to Washington DC for a bilateral meeting with the US President at the White House.

It is learnt that Delhi and Washington are looking at September 25 and 26 as possible dates for the visit and a bilateral meeting between the Prime Minister and the US President.

If it works out, then this will be his third visit to the White House in the last six years and third meeting with Trump this year. Modi had last visited White House in June 2017 when he met Trump. He went to the White House in September 2014 when then US President Barack Obama had hosted him.

In New York, PM will address the annual UNGA session on September 27. As Prime Minister, Modi had given his maiden address to world leaders at the UNGA in 2014. His visit in September and address to world leaders at the UN will be the first after winning a second term as Prime Minister.

In a bid to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres will host the 2019 Climate Action Summit on September 23 which will be addressed by Modi.

Modi will be felicitated by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for his leadership of the Swachh Bharat Mission. He will be presented with the 2019 Global Goalkeeper Award on September 24.

As the world commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, Modi will also host a special event 'Leadership Matters: Relevance of Gandhi in the Contemporary World' on September 24 in the Economic and Social Council Chamber in the UN Headquarters.

He will also be the keynote speaker at the Bloomberg Global Business Forum on September 25.

Modi will also inaugurate the Gandhi Peace Garden, an innovative initiative to commemorate Gandhi's 150 birth anniversary this year.

Also on cards are some meetings with the Indian American community.

Canada Elections...

To form the next government, a party will need 170 seats in the new House of Commons. As of today the Liberals have 177 MPs in the 338-seat House of Commons, followed by the Conservatives with 95 MPs and the NDP with 39 MPs. Besides, there are 10 Bloc Québécois MPs, two Green MPs, one People's Party of Canada MP, one Co-operative Commonwealth Federation MP, eight independents and five vacant seats. After

meeting the Governor-General, the Prime Minister, Mr. Justin Trudeau will hold a rally shortly after the campaign launch and then take off on the Liberal plane. Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer will address party supporters in Trois-Rivières in Quebec on Wednesday morning before coming to the Ontario where he is expected to join meet and greet program of party workers at a Woodbridge park. The NDP was first to launch its campaign last Sunday when the party leader Jagmeet Singh addressed a rally in Toronto before starting an aggressive campaign in the Greater Toronto Area and southwestern Ontario in his newly revealed campaign bus. The Green Party leader Elizabeth May too has her campaign plans ready that may take her more to Quebec expecting good response there.

Indo-Canadians

Canadian politicians of Indian origin are, as usual, in the limelight as campaigning for the 2019 Federal Elections gets under way. This time a record number of 50-odd candidates of Indian origin in general and Punjabi origin in particular, are in the fray. As of today, there are 18 candidates of Indian origin in the Liberal party's list. They include Navdeep Bains, Harjit Singh Sajjan, Amarjeet Sohi, and Bardish Chagger. There are 17 candidates of Indian origin in the Conservatives list. NDP has nine candidates of Indian origin in its list. Green Party, too, five candidates of Indian origin. There may be a couple of Independent candidates as well as two of original Liberal MPs - Darshan Singh Kang and Raj Grewal - had to leave the Caucus to stand clear of the charges made against them. Of the candidates of Indian origin, there are 12 women candidates, including Bardish Chagger, who became one of the youngest leaders of the Government in the House. At the time of dissolution of the present House of Commons, there are 20 MPs of Indian origin. One of the oldest sitting MPs of the Indian origin, Deepak Obhrai, died on August 2.

The 2019 Federal Election will be unique in more than one way. This time the campaigning time will be just six weeks compared to 11 weeks in the 2015 elections. Also, this is also for the first time that one of the three major political parties - Liberal, Conservatives and NDP - will be led into elections by a leader of Indian origin. Jagmeet Singh is heading the NDP. Though before his election as the NDP President, Jagmeet Singh was a Member of Ontario Assembly and later sought an election to House of Commons from Burnaby in British Columbia.

Only other leader of Indian origin to have led a national party in Canada had been Mr Hardial Singh Bains, one of pioneers of the Communist movement in Canada.

NJ Governor Phil...

"I am excited to make the case for New Jersey as a leading investment choice for Indian companies, creating lasting partnerships and good jobs for our residents. We are proud to be the home of one of America's most deeply-rooted Indian American communities and growing our economic partnership will only strengthen those ties."

Governor Murphy's activities and public events will include meetings with key government and industry leaders, including representatives of the life sciences, technology, clean energy, film and media, and manufacturing sectors, as well as company visits and announcements. New Jersey maintains very close ties with India culturally and economically, as India is New Jersey's second largest foreign direct investor and Indian Americans represent the largest group of foreign-born residents in New Jersey. Moreover, over 50 percent of India's foreign direct investment in the Northeast comes to New Jersey.

"We are thrilled to be part of Governor Murphy's economic mission to India in September," said Jose Lozano, President & CEO of Choose New Jersey. "New Jersey is a leader in the life sciences, medical technology, clean energy and manufacturing, and we are the best place for international companies to do business. We look forward to strengthening our close cultural and economic ties with our partners in India during this trip and attracting more businesses to invest in the Garden State."

"In our increasingly interconnected world, driving international trade and investment is critical to making New Jersey a global competitor and building a foundation for long-term, sustainable economic growth," said NJEDA Chief Executive Officer Tim Sullivan. "As the country with the third largest GDP in terms of purchasing power, India is already a formidable player in the international economy and the country's influence is only continuing to grow. Governor Murphy's trip is an important step forward that will pave the way for new business partnerships between New Jersey and India and bring more investment and jobs to the Garden State."

Governor Murphy will lead the delegation, which includes First Lady Tammy Murphy, Choose New Jersey President and CEO Jose Lozano, New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) CEO Tim Sullivan, and other senior administration and Choose New Jersey officials. Throughout the trip, the delegation will showcase New Jersey's innovation ecosystem and highlight why New Jersey is the best place for the international community to do business.

USCIS Proposes more...

These proposed changes will allow

USCIS the time needed to receive, screen, and process applications, which in turn would strengthen national security, maintain technological advances in identity verification, and further deter those who may be attempting to defraud the legal immigration system under an improved process.

The original 30-day timeline was enacted more than 20 years ago. Since then, there have been additional requirements in background screening and vetting procedures to reduce fraud and identify threats to national security and public safety.

"Established before 9/11, this processing timeline does not reflect the operational realities USCIS currently faces when adjudicating employment authorization applications," said USCIS Acting Director Ken Cuccinelli. "Our first priority as an agency is to safeguard the integrity of our nation's legal immigration system from those who seek to exploit or abuse it. This proposal allows us to conduct the kind of systematic vetting and identity verification procedures expected of an agency charged with protecting national security." (*Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news*)

Google agrees to 945...

"It is a historic settlement both for our public finances and because it marks the end of an era," Darmanin said.

"By normalizing Google's situation in France, (the settlement) responds to our citizens' demands for fiscal fairness," he said. The settlement comes as France, as well as European allies, seek to find common ground with the United States in a long-running dispute over the taxation of digital giants.

French President Emmanuel Macron said alongside US President Donald Trump at the G7 summit in August that leaders had reached an agreement on the taxation of tech giants, though the precise details remain to be worked out. (Source: Agencies)

for more
news, views
and reviews,
visit @

www.theindianpanorama.news

THE INDIAN PANORAMA

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER: Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja
VICE PRESIDENT: Chitagam Saluja
CHIEF EDITOR: Prof Indrajit S. Saluja
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Bidisha Roy
GRAPHICS DIRECTOR: Om Parkash Malik
DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATION: Gauri Beri
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:
Baldev Singh / BJ Videos
Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction
Jay Mandal,
Mohammad Jaffer/ SnapIndia

Mohammad Shahzad, Zia Khan
Nisha Rani
Vaaho Photographers
Vijay Shah -Photo Journalist.
DISTRIBUTOR: Sukhwinder Singh
CORRESPONDENTS :
SACRAMENTO: Parminder S. Aujla
NEW YORK : Chitagam
FRESNO: Tarlochan Singh
DALLAS: Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon
OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS

DELHI BUREAU CHIEF: Ashishpal Singh
CHANDIGARH: Manjit Sidhu
LUDHIANA: A.S. Arora, R.P.Sharma

The Indian Panorama
P.O. Box No. 190067, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419,
Tel: 646-247-9458
Email: editor@theindianpanorama.com
DALLAS EDITION
P.O. BOX 121695, ARLINGTON, TX 76012
Lovlien Kaurr, VP & Bureau Chief

Bureau Chief Phone: 972-330-3139
E-mail tipdallas01@gmail.com; Phone: 646-247-9458
Published by Prof. Indrajit Saluja

DISCLAIMER

The Indian Panorama assumes no responsibility for the claims made in advertisements. We only sell space. Views published in the newspaper are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper. All rights are reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission in writing from The Indian Panorama is prohibited.

PITRU PAKSHA

Pitru Paksha also known as Shraaddha or Kanagat start with Purnima Shraddha, ends after 16 days on Sarva Pitru Amavasya which is also known as Sarvapitri Amavasya or Mahalaya Amavasya. Hindus pay homage to their ancestor (Pitrs), especially through food offerings.

Shraddha in Pitru Paksha is the time to remember, thank and honor our ancestors. It is believed that during the time of Shradh, ancestors come to earth to bless their kin. The relevance of Shradh can be best known from one of the greatest epic of all time Mahabharata.

Post the war between the Kauravas and Pandavas, when everything ended, Karan (Danveer Karna, brave warrior, one of the greatest legends in the war of Mahabharata) died and reached heaven, he was offered food in the form of gold, silver and jewels. On this, he questioned Indra (the lord of heaven) the reason for offering him such a food. On this, Indra told Karna that throughout his life donated gold, diamond and silver, but, never donated any food in the name of his ancestors. Karna reverted that as he was not aware about his ancestors; hence, he never did it. So, Indra asked Karna to come back to earth, where he donated food, made Tarpan during the sixteen days.

Sarpapitri Amavasya

The last day of Pitru Paksha is known as Sarpapitri Amavasya or Mahalaya amavasya. Mahalaya amavasya is the most significant day of Pitru Paksha. Person who do not know the exact date of our ancestors death anniversary, they pay homage and offer food on this day.

Year on year, pitru paksha occurs during the Krishna Paksha (waning phase or dark fortnight of lunar month) of Bhadrpada month just before the start of Navratri (Dusehra). This year, the Mahalaya Pitru Paksha stretches from September to 28.

Srimad Bhagavad Gita says the body is perishable, but the soul is deathless. In fact, the soul is never born or dead. It is eternal and immortal. Neither the five elements nor any force on the earth can destroy it. However, it wears the shell of physical body and therefore needs to experience the cycle of births and deaths. After giving up its earthly vesture, the soul temporarily takes refuge in the Pitru-loka until it gets another body to continue with the cycle.

While it is customary to perform shradh for them year on year on the month and tithi in which they left their bodies, annually, Pitru Paksha is the right time specially designated for the ancestors to visit the families they left behind to accept the offerings they give.

Mythology Relating to King Karna

Traditionally pitru paksha or shraddh is a custom that is followed by the Hindus on a regular basis. It is said that if you fail to offer water and food to the ancestors in the pitru paksha then in the afterlife you will also remain without food and water.

We all know of the king Karna from Mahabharata. He was the son of sun god. During his life he was considered to be very deeply involved in charity. He could not say no to anyone. When he died and went to heaven the gods would give him food made of gold. Karna asked the gods that he was such a famous king and would do so much charity then why was he given food made of gold. The king of the gods Indra told him that this was so



as Karna in his life was only donating gold and gems.

He never offered food and water to the poor and neither to his ancestors. King Karna realised his mistake and he wanted to correct the same. The gods decided that Karna will be allowed to get back to earth for sixteen days and feed the poor and the needy. This would help him to get rid of the problem.

Avoid New Activity During This Period

If you are planning to start any new activity then please avoid this period as it is not a good time. The manner and way in which pitru paksha rituals are performed differs from region to region.

On the shradh day many people keep fast for the ancestors to rest in peace. Many people do not cut their hair during the pitru paksha as it is considered a bad omen. Many people have different names for the pitru paksha. We are mentioning them so that you do not get confused to hear the other terms. These are: tarpanam, sola shraddha, shraddham.

Why Please Ancestors?

You may ask why you should please the ancestors or whether there is life after death? If they are dead then why should we bother about them? Well when your ancestors are not resting in peace you too will not be able to be in peace. You will often face some problem or the other. There will be disputes in the family. Women will not be able to bear children. The family members will be meeting with unforeseen accidents and the list will just go on.

When the ancestors are resting in peace you can see that your home and family will be prospering. Just because the ancestors are dead we should not forget them. They should be prayed to and offered food and water. If the deceased do not have a son then the immediate family members can also do



the shradha puja. This puja also cleans the sinful deeds of the deceased soul and ensures that they rest in peace.

The person who is performing the shradha puja during the pitru paksha must do it with complete dedication and with whole heart. You could also do it under guidance of a learned priest.

You must keep handy the list of your

ancestors who have left for their heavenly abode. Try to keep the names of at least the previous seven generations.

The puja must be offered to both the men as well as the women. After the puja food must be offered to the ancestors. We will deal in more details with the shradha puja done in pitru paksha in our next article.

PAGE SPONSORED BY

ARISH K. SAHANI

Serving Since 1972

Please Call or Write for Your Insurance Needs

Arish K Sahani (Father)

Shiv Sahani (Son)

Priya Sahani Sood (Daughter)

718 - 271 - 1906

arish.sahani@gmail.com



"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."

INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA

KL Rahul dropped, Shubman Gill in as India announce 15-member squad

NEW DELHI (TIP): Shubman Gill received a maiden call-up to the Test squad as India's selectors announced a 15-member squad to take on South Africa in the upcoming Test series. After struggling to hit his stride, KL Rahul got the axe, which could well mean Rohit Sharma gets bumped up the order to open the innings. The bowlers picked themselves after a stellar display in West Indies. However, Umesh Yadav was left out from the bowling contingent which travelled to West Indies. Also, Ajinkya Rahane and Hanuma Vihari made solid impression which leaves the team management to choose between Gill and Rohit as Mayank Agarwal's opening partner.

Chief selector confirmed after announcing the squad that Rohit would indeed open the innings. "Want to give Rohit Sharma an opportunity to open the innings in Tests," Prasad said after announcing the squad.

Rahul has struggled to find form after his century at the Oval. He did get off to starts against West Indies, but could kick on and get a substantial score.

On the other hand, Gill has been in stellar form in the recent times. He was the top scorer for India 'A' against West Indies 'A' in the unofficial Test series. He became the youngest Indian to score a first-class double hundred during the series. His chances received a massive boost when he scored 90 and 5 in the first unofficial Test against South Africa.

"It is unfortunate that Rahul



couldn't perform consistently. He played well in patches," Prasad said.

Speaking about Shubman Gill, Prasad said that the young man had done well, both as opener as well as in the middle-order.

"Shubman Gill has done well both as an opener and a middle-order batsman. So yes, he can be a back-up opener if needed. There is no dearth of openers in the country. We have created a good pool of players. There is Priyank Panchal and Abhmanyu Easwaran who are doing really well in domestic circuit," said the chairman of selectors.

The first Test of the Gandhi-Mandela Trophy will be played in Visakhapatnam from October 2 before the teams hop across to Pune for the second Test from October 10. The final match of the tour will be played in Ranchi from October 19.

India's 15-member squad

Virat Kohli (Capt), Mayank Agarwal, Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (vc), Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant (wk), Wriddhiman Saha (wk), R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma, Shubman Gill

Mary Kom, Vinesh Phogat and 7 female athletes in line for Padma Awards

NEW DELHI (TIP): Ace Indian boxer Mary Kom's name has been suggested for the prestigious Padma Vibhushan Award, country's second highest civilian award. The Sports Ministry is also discussing eight other female athletes for the Padma Awards.

Recently crowned World Champion P.V. Sindhu has been suggested for the Padma Bhushan Award.

The other seven athletes -- ace wrestler Vinesh Phogat, Indian women's cricket team T20I captain Harmanpreet Kaur, captain of the women's hockey team Rani Rampal, shooter Suma Shirur, ace peddler Manika Batra and mountaineer twin sisters, Tashi and Nungshi Malik -- have been suggested for the Padma Shri Award.

Sources in the Ministry have told IANS that these names have not yet been approved by Sports Minister Kiren Rijju. Once approved, the names will be sent to the Padma Awards Committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

"The names are being discussed and the final approval awaits," the source informed.

The names of the select awardees will be announced on the eve of the Republic Day next year.



Mary was honoured with Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awards in 2013 and 2006, respectively. In 2003, she was awarded with the Arjuna Award as well.

Whereas Sindhu recently became the world champion after she defeated Japan's Nozomi Okuhara 21-7, 21-7 in the final of the championships held in Basel, Switzerland. Sindhu, who was overlooked for the Padma Bhushan honour in 2017, was awarded with the Padma Shri in 2015.



KIM CLIJSTERS SETS SIGHTS ON 2020 COMEBACK AFTER SEVEN-YEAR ABSENCE

PARIS (TIP): Four-time Grand Slam champion Kim Clijsters plans to come out of retirement after a seven-year hiatus, returning to the WTA Tour in 2020, the 36-year-old Belgian said on Thursday.

The decision marks Clijsters' second return to the sport after first retiring in 2007.

"I don't really feel like I want to prove something," Clijsters said on the WTA Insider Podcast. "I think for me it's the challenge.

"The love for the sport is obviously still there. But the question is, am I capable of bringing it to a level where I would like it to be before I play at a high level of one of the best women's sports in the world.

"I want to challenge myself and I want to be strong again. This is my marathon."

Two years after winning her first major at the 2005 U.S. Open, an injury-plagued Clijsters decided to quit the game at the age of 23 to start a family, returning two years later to claim her second U.S. Open as an unranked player in only her third tournament back.

Clijsters defended her title at Flushing Meadows the following year and then won the Australia Open in 2011 en route to topping the world rankings for the first time since 2006.

With 41 titles to her name, Clijsters hung up her racket after the 2012 U.S. Open and later worked as a tennis commentator. Clijsters said she has been considering a return to the tour for the past two years. "I feel like I've had more energy these last six months or so than I've had in the last two years because I'm taking care of myself better," Clijsters added.

JOS BUTTLER STRIKES BACK AGAINST AUSTRALIA AFTER ENGLAND COLLAPSE

LONDON (TIP): Mitch Marsh marked his first appearance of the Ashes series by returning 4-35 to help restrict England to 271-8 on the first day of the fifth test at The Oval on Thursday.

Put into bat by Australia, England was pegged back from a strong position at 103-1 after lunch as Marsh ran through the middle order to immediately justify the decision to call him up in place of Travis Head.

Joe Root, dropped three times, scored 57 and Jos Buttler was 64 not out after putting on an unbeaten 45-run partnership with tailender Jack Leach (10 not out) to frustrate the Australians late in the day.

Australia has already retained the urn after winning the fourth test at Old Trafford last week to take a 2-1 lead in the series. England still has a chance to tie the series at 2-2, though, to end on a high a summer that saw the team win the Cricket World Cup for the first time.

Marsh, who was playing his first test since December last year, had a brilliant spell of 3-16 in seven overs after tea and is likely to finish with the best bowling figures of his career in test. The only other time he took four wickets in an innings was when he had 4-61 against West Indies in Melbourne in 2015.



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 - September 16 - September 22, 2019

ARIES: You have marvellous flashes of genuine inspiration that help you accomplish whatever you set your heart on. Getting your heart's desire could well be the theme of this period. It is almost certain that you will realise some long held dream. It could be a wish fulfilment that could be professional or personal. This is a period when you will be re-aligning goals, priorities, embarking on a self-improvement programme and even an overhaul of your outfits.

TAURUS: There are happy moments and sad ones. Nothing remains stationary as life is a continuous process of movement. One needs to constantly take stock of the situation and assess one's life. This will be one of those periods. You will add up your gains and appreciate the necessity and importance of hard work. You look purposefully at the coming period and make the necessary plans.

GEMINI: Your attention shifts to more practical issues like money, loans, funds and projects of various kinds. You look at expansion if you are going solo and a promotion if employed. The domestic scene also occupies your mind. You look at links, associations, friendships, popularity, socialising and friendships, even marriage if I may stretch it a bit.

CANCER: There is travel and new associations. There is a lot of movement both physically and intellectually in this phase. You will have new experiences and will dabble in everything that is thrown on your plate. Your schedule will be frenetic. Old projects and new ones fall on your lap and you don't want to refuse work. So, this can be a crazily busy time.

LEO: You have taken on a lot and are determined to do justice to it all. There are other demands too. There is socialising, partying, hectic lobbying and networking. Rest and relaxation will be vital. Prayers, meditation, tantra and mantra, religion and rituals will give solace, strength and inspiration. There is also a large dose of love and romance.

VIRGO: You manage to sail though it all with Ganesha's help. This trend will continue for a while and you will be at the grindstone. Why complain in these recessionary times? Honour whatever work comes to you now as there could be periods when there may be nothing on your plate. It is the law of life.

LIBRA: There are family get-togethers. You may meet up with an old flame and share notes. Despite hectic schedules, you find time for matters of the heart. There is love and longing and your thoughts go back to beautiful moments of togetherness when the world go back to beautiful moments of togetherness when the world was a lot younger and so were you.

SCORPIO: The focus is on finances and achievements, and also on bonding with those you care for. There will be parties, ceremonies and functions and you will be loving, giving and sharing. This is also a lucrative period and a good time to profit from brokerage, commissions, ties and collaborations. Ganesha wishes you well. There is peace, harmony, balance and excellence.

SAGITTARIUS: This is a period of joyousness. You realise the value of domestic commitments and feel happy and contented when you are able to meet all the demands of family members. But you will have to strive for objectivity and see both sides of the coin if you want your relationships to grow. You will have to pace yourself and find the time for the various demands on you --- work, personal aspirations.

CAPRICORN: There is harmony in your life and you are in a position to change direction and focus. Your ties and bonds have been reinforced and you seem to enjoy domestic chores and commitments. In this period, work, family and filial responsibilities will all be handled with sensitivity and grace. You will be all the I's - independent, inventive, innovative, inspirational and ingenious.

AQUARIUS: You are on the fast track to success. You pull out all the stops and think and plan ahead. There is a lot to do and you wonder what to prioritise and how to go about it. It could be a slightly confusing phase. There will be both personal and professional issues to address. On some counts, you may need to compromise too and meet the situation halfway.

PISCES: Personal relationships will be the focus now. But, on the whole, there is more positivity, hope and optimism. Children will be a source of joy and you will spend a lot of time pottering around in the garden. Nature walks and the outdoors will be rejuvenating. It may also be a good time to spend in a spa or naturopathy institute. Ganesha blesses you.

Birthday Horoscope September 16 - September 22, 2019

SEPT 16: Possessiveness, maybe even jealousy or envy, is in the air. A change in perspective about a relationship may be what's needed.

SEPT 17: A cultural theme makes the social scene much more fascinating, especially if you're at the center or heading it. Things seem to go your way.

SEPT 18: An early restlessness makes for an eagerness to try new things, and

someone you know, or meet could set the stage for doing just that.

SEPT 19: An element of unpredictability invades routine and is disruptive; don't take it for granted. Results are erratic, unexpected; responses, edgy.

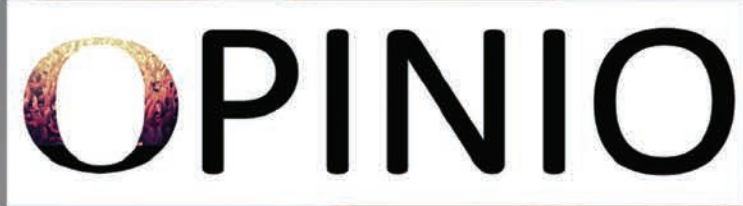
SEPT 20: A good flow of information favours talking or texting, especially if money, work, or health is the subject, at least initially. Later, progress is blocked.

SEPT 21: "Out with the old, in with the new" is a policy some are inspired to follow now. Whether that means putting a family matter behind you or cleaning out the garage or closet, energy is there to do it.

SEPT 22: The day is a bit uncertain. People, maybe co-workers, may be absent, contrary, or hard to fathom. In the face of obstacles of uncertainty, try to take a straightforward approach to responsibilities and work.

Now the number 1 News Publication for Indian Americans

Opinio's technology helped increase interaction, engagement and monetization for The Indian Panorama



Source - Alexa
* Comparison between web visibilty - NY NJ Newspapers



**BUSINESS GROWTH
THROUGH
DIGITAL MARKETING**

Time Is Money, What's your time Really Worth?

- WEB DESIGN
- ORGANIC SEO
- DIGITAL MARKETING
- TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

Got questions? We have answers! 
opiniomedia.com  just great, simple tech!

care@opiniomedia.com

Simplify your marketing with Opinio Media™

IT'S NOT WHAT BRANDS SAY, IT'S WHAT PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT MATTERS

INTELLIGENCE FOR TOMORROW

OPINION DEVELOPMENT

DIGITAL EVOLUTION

PLANS STARTING \$49/MONTH

Starter

Premium

Pro

\$49
per month

\$99
per month

\$199
per month

THE SCIENCE OF SOCIAL PR & BRANDING



Let's Talk.

Call us now @ 646-431-4064
Ask for Jack at 631-428-9081

OPINIO MEDIA, INC | 124 DEAN STREET, HICKSVILLE, NY 11801