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**DIWALI SPECIAL EDITION**

The Indian Panorama invites articles and advertisements for the Diwali special edition being brought out on October 13, 2017.

Articles and advertisements may please be emailed to [salujaindra@gmail.com](mailto:salujaindra@gmail.com) by October 5, 2017.

**For any queries, please email to [editor@theindianpanorama.com](mailto:editor@theindianpanorama.com) or call 646-247-9458**

## Ambassador Hardeep S Puri is appointed a Minister in Modi's Rejigged Cabinet

**PM Narendra Modi reshuffled his cabinet September 3 and brought in nine new faces. Nirmala Sitharaman is the First Woman Defence Minister After Indira Gandhi**

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi elevated four senior ministers to the cabinet rank as he roped in nine new faces to the Union council of ministers on September 3 morning.

The ministers promoted were Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Dharmendra Pradhan, Piyush Goyal and Nirmala Sitharaman.

*Also Read Related Stories on page 3 & 15 | contd on Page 32*

Hardeep Singh Puri being sworn in as a Union minister of state by President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. The newly inducted minister declared: "Will do my best".  
*Photo courtesy Arvind Yadav/HT*



## After DACA Repeal Trump says he has 'great love for young immigrants'

**Widespread condemnation of DACA Repeal**



**WASHINGTON (TIP):** US President Donald Trump has said that he has "great love" for young immigrants who came to America as children and hoped that the Congress would bring in a legislation to help them, hours after he scrapped an amnesty program for 8,00,000 undocumented workers.

*contd on Page 32*

*Read also Related stories on page 12*

## Fierce Hurricane Irma bears down on Florida

**TAMPA, FL (TIP):** Fast and furious large-scale Hurricane Irma is sweeping towards Florida. If the storm reaches its full potential, it could be one of the worst hurricanes in the state's history.

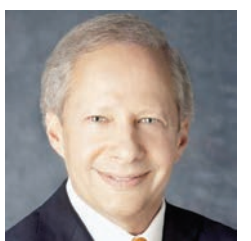
*contd on Page 30  
Read Related Story on Page 13*



## Juster Nominated as US Envoy to India

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The White House on Friday, Sept 1 announced Kenneth I. Juster, one of the foremost experts on India-US trade relations as the next ambassador to India. He succeeds Richard Verma who relinquished charge in November 2016 after Trump's election as President.

Preferred by New Delhi and vetted by the Trump Administration, Ken Juster is credited with playing a crucial role in the US-India nuclear *contd on Page 30*



*India expert Kenneth Juster nominated to be the next envoy to India*

## US tech giants vow to defend 'Dreamers'



*New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has promised to challenge any decision by Trump to end DACA.*

**NEW YORK (TIP):** US tech giants, including Apple, Google and Microsoft, have pledged to stand by their employees after the Trump administration scrapped an amnesty program that granted work permits to immigrants who arrived in the country illegally as children.

US President Donald Trump, on September 5, scrapped an Obama-era program known as Deferred Action for Children Arrival (DACA), a move likely to impact 8,00,000 undocumented workers including more than 7,000 Indian-Americans.

*contd on Page 32*

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# Hardeep S Puri - Just Minted Minister of State for Housing & Urban Development



By Ravi Batra



Hardeep S Puri, Minister of State with Independent Charge of Housing and Urban Affairs

**Ambassador Hardeep S Puri, now Minister of State with Independent Charge of Housing and Urban Affairs in the rejigged Cabinet of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 4 May 2009 - 27 February 2013. His four years at the United Nations were eventful for Indian diplomacy when India pushed for a permanent seat on Security Council, and contributed hugely to furtherance of UN agenda. Outside the UN, Ambassador Puri was an admired and much-loved person for his qualities of head and heart, and an affable and winsome nature.**

**The news of Mr. Puri's induction in Modi cabinet immensely pleased his friends and admirers in New York. One of his closest friends, attorney Ravi Batra, sent in his comment to The Indian Panorama which we are hugely pleased to publish here. Mr. Puri assumed office on September 3.**

**The Indian Panorama has had a long association with Mr. Puri who the newspaper featured a couple of times while he was stationed in New York. We are glad to see him in the select group guiding the destiny of a great democratic nation of 1.3 billion people. We wish him all success and happiness. We also congratulate his wife Ambassador Lakshmi Puri. --EDITOR**

**PM** Narendra Modi has tapped H. E. Hardeep Singh Puri as the Minister of State for Housing and Urban Development - directly answerable to him. It's a deeply happy and proud moment for all of us who know and love Hardeep, and who wish India well always (especially, to be America's indispensable ally). This most difficult of assignments has been given to a man who was born to serve and has much to contribute to humanity - now, at least to 1.3 billion Indians who are impatient to realize their version of the American Dream.

Like Ian Flemings' 007 James Bond, Hardeep is India's, to achieve the difficult goal and do it beyond expectations. My wife, Ranju and I were with him and Lakshmi in 2010 in the UNGA hall for the Security Council vote and witnessed that even as the Ballots were being given out, as India's Permanent Representative, Hardeep (and DPR Manjeev

Puri) was walking up and down the aisle to give that last "warm touch" of friendship to each nation's PR. The result was that India won on the first ballot - with a near-unanimous support of 189 countries entrusting India with global peace and security - because of Hardeep Singh Puri. Our joy and love was palpable and overflowing. We saw nation after nation coming over to greet and celebrate him. The SC seat he won, he worked hard and earned a reputation for uncommon maturity in policymaking and a healthy distaste for regime change - even if it came camouflaged as Responsibility to Protect.

Everybody knows of Hardeep's service to India - from Sri Lanka, to Ambassador in London and Brasilia, and as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva and New York. Now, India has entrusted an intractable portfolio to a man

who, like Bond, always rise to the challenge to succeed handsomely. His innate ability to first harness the challenges, develop an action plan, and then effectuate it with sufficient perseverance, and sometimes with needed flexibility, to reach the goal beyond expectations. Knowing Hardeep, from friend to family, and more, PM Modi just harnessed the personal and professional relationships of a global superlative fiduciary of India to provide affordable housing and develop urban centers that comport to the Paris Accord and latest technology.

Unlike the telephone sector success, when India escaped the landline telephone shortage and misery to 21st century digital mobile phones, in Housing & Urban Development there is no way to succeed by going 100% digital - as land will remain analogue, even if we embed it with digital upgrades.

Yet, every Indian has the right to a roof over

their head, clean water to drink, clean air to breathe and a waste management system worthy of a nation on a hasty march to enjoy her destiny with youthful vigor of an educated citizenry.

To all who have played the game of obstruction of this Portfolio, beware as Hardeep-the-diplomat will overcome you - in his unique authoritative style. Perhaps, India noticed that the very evening of his Oath-taking, he held his first meeting with his top subordinates to harness the landscape and obstacles. The rest, as they say, will soon enough be history-making success for India - as entrusted to Hardeep by PM Modi.

*(Ravi Batra is a Lawyer; Chairman, National Advisory Council South Asian Affairs, and Greenstar Global Energy Corp.; and Pro Bono Advisor to the Ukraine Mission to the UN in New York. He can be reached at ravibatralaw@aol.com)*

## Chairman Crowley Pushes for Health Care Protections, Immigrant Rights in Government Funding Bill

**NEW YORK (TIP)** House Democratic Caucus Chairman Joe Crowley (D-NY) introduced a series of amendments to the government funding bill that would defend middle class families against Republican attempts to undermine vital health care and immigration priorities. The Crowley amendments would, among other provisions, secure critical provisions of the Affordable Care Act and prohibit government funds from being spent on efforts to deport individuals eligible for the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA) or the expanded Deferred Action for Child Arrivals (DACA) programs.

As part of the government funding process, members of Congress are able to submit amendments to ensure federal funds are allocated in commonsense manners that protect

constituents. Crowley introduced or co-sponsored eight amendments - all aimed at improving the lives of individuals living in Queens, the Bronx, and across the country, such as ensuring they continue to have access to quality health care and do not see their tax dollars wasted on President Trump's detestable immigration policies.

"It's unconscionable that federal dollars would be used to advance the political agenda of congressional Republicans and President Trump. They didn't think we'd pay attention but we are, and I won't stand for it," said Crowley. "Unable to push forward their disastrous Trumpcare plan to strip millions of access to health care, Republicans are trying to sneak a repeal past the American people. House Republicans are also giving President Trump a blank check for his despicable mass deportation efforts."



## Consulate General of India, New York Special Consular Services

**I**n recognition of special needs and in order to facilitate access of members of the Indian Diaspora, Consulate General of India, New York will be open on Saturday the 16th of September 2017 from 0930 to 1330 hrs. to provide special Consular Services.

Indian Passport holders/US Passport holders of Indian origin who have applied for or are in the process of applying for Indian Passports/Visa/OCI Cards may come to the Consulate and get their applications/supporting documents pre-approved before submitting to CKGS. Applications with all supporting documents would be examined in the Consulate and approved for submission to CKGS.

Applicants who plan to attend are requested to pre-register with the Consulate by means of a mail addressed to "passports@indiagcny.org" listing the details of their application. Services would be rendered only to such applicants whose details reach the Consulate by 10th September

## Indian American Professor Included in All-star Team of Rising Researchers

**BOSTON (TIP):** New Chemical Engineering Professor Ashish Kulkarni of University of Massachusetts at Amherst recently has been included among the so-called "Talented 12", an international "dream team" of rising all-stars in chemistry, as chosen by Chemical & Engineering News. Dr. Kulkarni's baseball-card-style photo on the lively Talented 12 webpage nicknamed him the "Cancer Crusher." He comes to UMass Amherst after serving as an instructor of medicine at



*The 36-year-old academic, who completed his undergraduate work at the Institute of Chemical Technology in India before earning his doctorate at the University of Cincinnati, grew up loving cricket*

Harvard Medical School and an associate bioengineer at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Kulkarni's research efforts have been focused on the development of pioneering, structure-activity, relationship-inspired nanomedicine for cancer therapy.

"Disease develops in our body if there is an imbalance in the immune system," Kulkarni said in his Chemical & Engineering News profile. "I'm developing dual-function nanoparticles that can allow us not only to create a balance in the immune system but also to monitor whether the drug is working in real time."

As Chemical & Engineering News explained its Talented 12: "This team of up-and-comers has big ideas for using chemistry to solve global problems. Welcome to the third annual Talented 12 issue. It took us months of scouring the globe to collect all 12 of the rising stars in chemistry featured here."

As a postdoc at Harvard, he designed nanoparticles that could act as cancer immunotherapies; meaning drugs that prompt the immune system to find and attack cancer cells. But, although cancer immunotherapies known as "checkpoint inhibitors" dissipate tumors in many people with cancer, they don't work for all. Researchers have been searching to find a good diagnostic or biomarker to predict and track people's responses to the treatments. The 36-year-old academic, who completed his undergraduate work at the Institute of Chemical Technology in India before earning his doctorate at the University of Cincinnati, grew up loving cricket. Kulkarni can include his addition to the Talented 12 super team on his list of distinguished awards. Among other honors, he is the recipient of the Hearst Foundation Young Investigator Award, Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center Career Development Award, American Association of Cancer Research Scholar-in-training Award, American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics Young Scientist Award, and the Melanoma Research Alliance Young Investigator Award.

## Indian American gets 6 months prison term for illegally hiring immigrants

**FORDS, NJ (TIP):** Sanjay Gupta, an Indian American resident of Fords, New Jersey, was sentenced for illegally hiring twelve unauthorized aliens to work at his company, Doon Technologies located in Iselin, New Jersey. U.S. District Judge J. Garvan Murtha sentenced Gupta to a six-month term of incarceration and a \$10,000 fine. Judge Murtha also ordered that Gupta pay restitution totaling \$14,200 to foreign workers from whom Gupta obtained illegal fees and payments.

According to Court documents, Gupta, 51, admitted to recruiting 12 foreign workers with information technology expertise to work in the United States at his company Doon Technologies. Gupta then submitted forms and documentation to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to obtain H1-B visas for the foreign workers with the stated purpose of working for Doon Technologies. USCIS has a visa processing center in St. Albans, Vermont which processed some of the applications submitted by Gupta. However, Gupta had no intent to follow these assurances, and instead placed the foreign workers at worksites outside the State of New Jersey, and paid the foreign workers only when work was available. Gupta's misrepresentations to USCIS were material, in that H1-B visa allocations are designed to allow the employment of foreign workers in specialty occupations only when there are insufficient U.S. Citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents to work in those positions.

In addition, Court documents reflect that Gupta submitted fraudulent documentation to USCIS to obtain H1-B visas, specifically by forging fictitious contracts with purported customers in an effort to demonstrate that work would be available for foreign workers when they began work for Doon Technologies. Further, court documents reflect that Gupta demanded prospective H1-B visa beneficiaries pay Gupta an illegal fee for submitting the H1-B visa applications to USCIS. Gupta also demanded that H1-B visa beneficiaries pay him hundreds of dollars to retain their visas, or risk deportation.

# Indian American Democrat congressional candidate Aruna Miller endorsed by Emily's List

**MARYLAND (TIP):** Aruna Miller, an Indian-American politician and a member of the Maryland House of Delegates representing District 15 in Montgomery County, Maryland, picked up the endorsement of the women's political group Emily's List in the race for Maryland's 6th District congressional seat.

Miller, a former Montgomery County transportation engineer, is the only woman running in the race to replace Rep. John Delaney, who is running for president.

Miller was sworn in as a member of House of Delegates on January 12, 2011 and appointed to the Ways and Means Committee (revenue, transportation & education subcommittees). She is a member of the Land Use and Transportation Committee of the Montgomery County Delegation and a member of the Women Legislators of Maryland where she serves on the executive board.

After re-election in 2014, Miller was appointed to serve on the Appropriations Committee where she is Chair of the Oversight of Personnel Subcommittee and vice-Chair of the Transportation & Environment Subcommittee and in 2016 was appointed as vice-Chair of the Capital Budget. In the 2017 Miller was elected to Chair of the Women's Legislative



*Miller, a former Montgomery County transportation engineer, is the only woman running in the race*

Caucus.

In 2011, while serving as a Delegate, Miller encouraged strengthening economic and cultural development between Maryland and India and accompanied Governor Martin O'Malley on six-day trade mission to India, which resulted in nearly \$60 million in business deals for the state of Maryland. Delegate Miller took a lead

role in working with the Office of the Secretary of State and the Department of Economic Development to coordinate the Governor's arrangements for his first stop to Hyderabad.

In 2013 Delegate Miller was one of ten Maryland lawmakers named to the Maryland Business Climate Workgroup designed to make recommendations and develop long-term plans to streamline business regulations, encourage business innovation, and develop public-private partnerships to finance infrastructure.

In 2013 Governor Martin O'Malley appointed Delegate Miller as a Commissioner to the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB). The ICPRB's mission is to enhance, protect, and conserve the water and associated land resources of the Potomac River and its tributaries through regional and interstate cooperation.

Miller maintains her activism in community organizations, including serving on the boards of the Black Rock Center for the Arts, the Montgomery County Public Schools Educational Foundation, & the Indian Biomedical Association. She is a graduate of Leadership Montgomery (class of 2013) and in 2012, Miller served as an at large Delegate to the 2012 Democratic National Convention.

## Indian American Vas Narasimhan appointed CEO of Novartis

**BASEL, SWITZERLAND (TIP):** The Board of Directors of Novartis has appointed Indian American Vasant (Vas) Narasimhan, M.D., Global Head of Drug Development and Chief Medical Officer, as CEO of Novartis, effective February 1, 2018. Dr. Narasimhan is a member of the Executive Committee and joined Novartis in 2005. He will replace Joseph Jimenez who has been CEO since 2010. The 41-year old Narasimhan who heads the Drug Discovery division runs one of the industry's largest drug development programs overseeing 9,600 employees, 143 projects, 500 ongoing clinical trials and a nine billion dollar budget.

Dr. Narasimhan said, "I would like to congratulate Joe and express my gratitude to Joe, Joerg, and the Board of Directors. I feel honored and humbled to be asked to lead Novartis. We will continue our legacy of bringing leading innovation to patients around the world. With our recent launches, our strong pipeline, broad capabilities, world-class leadership team, and committed people, I am very confident about our future." Dr. Narasimhan has held numerous leadership positions across Novartis in commercial, drug development and strategy roles. Prior to his current role he served as Head of Development for Novartis Pharmaceuticals. Before joining Novartis in 2005, he worked at McKinsey & Company. He received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in the US and obtained a master's degree in public policy from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. In addition, he holds a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from the University of Chicago, also in the US. During and after his medical studies, he worked extensively on a range of health issues in developing countries. Dr. Narasimhan is an elected member of the US National Academy of Medicine. He is a US citizen born in 1976, married with 2 children, and lives in Basel, Switzerland. Among the string of US FDA approvals under his watch this year there is a potential blockbuster heart-failure drug Entresto. Narasimhan brought a new dynamic to drug discovery by using big data and technology extensively by partnering with tech companies like Microsoft, Google and Qualcomm.



*Dr. Narasimhan has held numerous leadership positions across Novartis*

## Second Indian student Shalini rescued from Texas lake dies

**HOUSTON (TIP):** Shalini Singh, a 25-year-old Indian student died on Sept 3, days after she was rescued along with another Indian student Nikhil Bhatia from a swollen lake in Hurricane Harvey hit Texas on Aug 26. Bhatia was rescued from the Lake Bryan along with Shalini Singh on Saturday, Aug 26. Bhatia succumbed to his injuries on Wednesday, Aug 30. Shalini, who continued to be in a



*Shalini, who continued to be in a critical condition, was declared dead late Sunday, September 10 night*

critical condition, was declared dead late Sunday night. Bhatia, a PhD student at the Texas A&M University, completed his schooling from Jaipur's St. Anslem's Pink City Senior Secondary School in 2011 and did his B. Tech in Vellore, had recently graduated from Texas A&M University in Water Management and Hydrological Science. Shalini was pursuing master's degree in public health from the same university. She came to the US only last month to pursue the two years Masters program after her degree in Dental Surgery from I T S Dental College in Greater Noida.

Bhatia, originally from Jaipur, along with Shalini from New Delhi, were swimming in the lake when a sudden current of water pushed them deeper. The friends accompanying them noticed that the duo were in distress and flagged down nearby police officers. Bryan Police officers were able to rescue and provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation to the victims until medics arrived, according to Bryan Mayor Andrew Nelson. Both were admitted to a hospital in a critical condition. Dr. Anupam Ray, the Consul General of India in Houston, was attending to their medical needs. At least 100,000 Indian-Americans living in and around Houston area have been severely affected by the tropical storm. The life-threatening storm has affected around 13 million people, with rains turning streets into rivers. At least 50 flood-related deaths have been confirmed by local officials.

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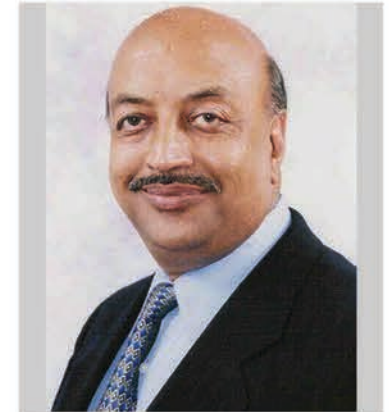
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# Comptroller Maragos: Living Wage Audits Recover \$1.1M for Underpaid Employees since 2007

## Living Wage Law May Need Revisions to Restrict Waivers

**MINEOLA, NY (TIP):** Nassau County Comptroller George Maragos issued the 2016 Living Wage Law Annual Report highlighting the recovery of over \$11K for underpaid employees and the frequent use of waivers that seek to sidestep compliance with the Living Wage Law. Cumulatively, the Comptroller's efforts have recovered \$1,089,259 of unpaid wages and uncredited compensated time off for employees since the law was enacted in 2007. During 2016 the County granted ten waivers to County vendors compared with eleven the prior year. The County's Living Wage increased on August 1, 2017 to \$13.98 per hour for employees receiving health benefits and \$16.07 per hour for those not receiving benefits.

"It is gratifying the County's Living Wage Law and Comptroller's Office enforcement through audits recovered significant money for underpaid employees," said Comptroller George Maragos. "However, we are concerned that too many annual waivers to the law are being granted, especially to the same vendors. I have requested the auditors begin a review of the waiver process to close loop holes."

The Comptroller's Office performed a living wage



review of Armor Correctional Health Services Inc. Twenty-three employees were owed \$11,287 for underpaid wages and compensated time. Armor failed to pay the required hourly rate and their policies did not provide compensated time off for employees working between 20 and 23 hours per week, or classified as per diem, as required by the law. The Comptroller's Office currently has six Living Wage reviews in process.

The Nassau County Living Wage Law was enacted to raise the minimum wage of employees working for a majority of the County's contractors. The Comptroller's Office is responsible for monitoring compliance with the Law. To date, \$1,089,259 of unpaid wages and uncredited compensated time off owed to 1,405 employees have been identified by the Living Wage audits completed by the Comptroller's Office. The Comptroller's Office has released 37 Living wage audit reports for 30 different contractors.

Information regarding the Living Wage Law can be found at <http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/1597/Living-Wage>

# Equifax Says Cyberattack May Have Affected 143 Million Customers

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Various news outlets including New York Times, Washington Post and CNN have reported that Equifax, one of the three major consumer credit reporting agencies, has been hacked. Equifax is reported to have said on Thursday, September 7 that a data breach left Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers and other sensitive information for 143 million United States consumers vulnerable to hackers.

Criminals gained access to certain files in the company's system from mid-May to July by exploiting a weak point in a website application, according to an investigation by Equifax. The company said that it discovered the intrusion on July 29 and has since found no evidence of unauthorized activity on its main consumer or commercial credit reporting databases.

Hackers were able to retrieve birth dates and addresses, as well as credit card numbers for 209,000 consumers. Documents with personal information used in disputes for 182,000 consumers was also taken.

Equifax said that some personal information for British and Canadian residents was also hacked.

The data breach at Equifax is not the largest. Yahoo disclosed in

September 2016 that 500 million user accounts had been hacked in 2014, followed by a second disclosure three months later that a different attack in 2013 compromised more than one billion accounts.

Equifax said that, in addition to reporting the breach to law enforcement, it had hired a cybersecurity firm to conduct a review to determine the scale of the invasion. The investigation is expected to wrap up within the next few weeks.

The company handles data on more than 820 million consumers and more than 91 million businesses worldwide and manages a database with employee information from more than 7,100 employers, according to its website.

"This is clearly a disappointing event for our company, and one that strikes at the heart of who we are and what we do," Richard F. Smith, chairman and chief executive of Equifax, said in a statement. "Confronting cybersecurity risks is a daily fight."

The company created a website, [www.equifaxsecurity2017.com](http://www.equifaxsecurity2017.com), to help consumers determine whether their data was at risk.

"While we've made significant investments in data security, we recognize we must do more," Mr. Smith said.

# Rahul Gandhi has the thought process of Nehru



By Rajender Ducally

The true democratization is not simply the right to vote, but it is all about the devolution of power; that is how first Prime Minister Nehru dreamt how India should be. Interestingly, this founding fundamental principle of democratization is also executed by India's beloved young leader Rahul Gandhi within world's largest political organization, Indian National Congress. The tireless efforts of Rahul Gandhi to democratize the congress from top to bottom has undoubtedly made Rahul Gandhi, the most Nehruvian congress leader since Jawaharlal Nehru. He strongly believes in Nehru's idea of India, where a billion people choose their destiny and live in harmony together and the idea of India where there is unity in its vast diversity. He has embarked on bringing the democratic process first within the Party, starting with holding elections for Youth Congress and has been slowly building a democratic Congress Party where popular leader are elected and not chosen by the leadership. He has also toured the entire country to understand and feel the country and listen to the voices of its people, especially the weak and to get an idea of the India that they would like and the issues that they face so that he can build policies for a platform for these people to succeed.

Young people in India and abroad find a lot of qualities of India's first Prime Minister Pandit Nehru in Rahul Gandhi as both Rahul and Nehru are men of ideas, but never an ideologue. Nehru understood deeply that everyone is entitled to their viewpoints and gave space to every view. Because he thought, every perspective is unique in its own way. Nehru's leadership was one of inclusion and compassion as he strongly believed that legitimacy can only come from compassion, conversation, from listening to and understanding the views, including the opposing views. Today, Indian National congress is at crossroads because it has lost the last general elections very dismally in 2014 and also for the first time in over 130 years of its history, the Party is in power in less than 5 states



Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi is visiting the US this month and will be in New York where INOC (I) has organized a reception to him on September 20

in India. In this context, Rahul Gandhi brings a very challenging thought process that will hopefully rejuvenate the Grand Old Party and revive it with his ideas of democracy, inclusion, compassion and battling for keeping secular spirit of the country in true sense.

Rahul like Nehru, is a charismatic leader and a great orator. He is also one of the very few leaders with pan-India popularity and his personal integrity is beyond reproach. He is also a dedicated party-man with profound influence over his party's cadre, like Nehru of 40's and 50s. Rahul Gandhi's messages are wrapped in fervent nationalism and convey a sense of building a great nation, much like the ideas of India's first Prime Minister. He also believes in socialism as a tool to uplift the huge section of people in India who are still living in poverty. Some of the policies in UPA Government like Employment Guarantee, Housing to Poor and Food Security are tools aimed at providing the poor people with Government assistance to fight poverty.

One can also see the reflection of the idea of Nehru in these policies where Mr. Gandhi played a key role in bringing people's idea into country's governance structure. The Food Act, RTI, MGNREGA, Right to education, Aadhaar are all such radical innovations, that created the platform for those whose

voice is not heard. He is a beacon of hope to millions of Indians, because, he firmly believes in secularism, rule of law, freedom of speech and providing an equal platform for every Indian to achieve success.

Rahul Gandhi once said "We have a tendency to worship great men. When we do that we cast them in stone. We freeze them in time". There is no doubt that Nehru was a great man. But more than that, Nehru had a dynamic way of thinking, constantly evolving, forever compassionate. This is what one can see in Rahul today, a dynamic leader, constantly evolving and actively campaigning for a tolerant society, for peace and equal opportunity to all.

Rahul Gandhi also believes that law makers are not above the law and refused to allow the bill that protected law makers from being impeached and jailed to be put to vote by his Party in the parliament when it was in power.

He is the symbol of secularism and is the hope for many people who live in poverty and need an opportunity and level playing field to succeed. While Nehru's vision built a strong base for modern Indian and established basic infrastructure for the Country post-Independence, Rahul idea of India of inclusion, opportunity for all to succeed, democratic process in the true sense and a sense of belonging in every person towards the country will propel India to be a super power in the near future.

Last, but not the least, Nehru had shared his vision of Independent India as Indian Prime Minister when he visited USA for the first time in 1949 and addressed the students, guests and faculty at Berkeley University and delivered a historic speech at the University and Rahul Gandhi will soon offer his reflection on contemporary India and road ahead at the same University on September 11th, 2017 in his maiden tour to USA as a Congress Leader.

The Diaspora in USA, the Congress Cadre in India and millions of people in India, especially the underprivileged and minorities look forward to the evolving of Rahul Gandhi as a leader post his visit to USA and also to hear his vision of India @ 70 and the road ahead, which is the theme of his visit and address to the major universities in the USA, starting from Berkeley, Harvard and Princeton University.

(The author is the National General Secretary of Indian National Overseas Congress (I), USA)

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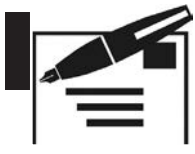
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## GUEST COMMENT

## Gauri Lankesh's killers must be found; or it'll embolden those who stifle dissent

The murder of journalist-activist Gauri Lankesh in Bengaluru has set off a wave of protests across the country; the chill that has set in is difficult to miss. It is a fool's game right now to hazard guesses about the identity of the killers, but the manner in which she was brutally murdered raises extremely worrying questions. Her killers caught her outside her home, alone and with her guard down as she got out of her car - they fired at point-blank range, hitting her on the chest and the temple. They appear to have fled without even once getting off their motorbike, leaving no finger or shoe prints, as 'clean' a murder as can be. This has the hallmark of a professional hit-job, a pre-meditated assassination. It is the police's remit to identify and nab the killers, but Lankesh's killing cannot but draw attention to the various constituencies that she kept on notice. Lankesh, the publisher and editor of the Kannada weekly Gauri Lankesh Patrike, wore her activism on her sleeve. She came up against the establishment in multiple ways, as she sought to bring Naxalites to the mainstream, take up the cause of Dalits and farmers, raise consciousness on the creeping influence of Hindutva groups, give moral support to progressive campaigns, and basically bear scrutiny on those in power.

Her murder has taken place in a year that India dropped three places in the World Press Freedom Index compiled by Reporters Without Borders, from an already bleak 133 to 136. It demands words and also acts of reassurance from the Karnataka and Central governments.

(The Hindu)

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## AS I SEE IT Decoding BJP after Baba's conviction



S Nihal Singh

The Baba, with his cult following, was a figure of considerable importance and politicians of all hues humored him for the votes he could deliver. But there was a deeper purpose for the BJP and its Haryana unit to court the Baba because it embodied the concept of religious men leading the country, rather than its politicians. Putting it another way, politicians would rule the country in concert with religious leaders. This is true despite the homilies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in radio broadcasts and otherwise.

It is no secret that the Baba endorsed the BJP in the Haryana assembly elections which tipped the scales in its favor. In gratitude, the entire state cabinet went to the Baba's headquarters to pay obeisance. Besides, photographs of the Baba with Chief Minister M.L. Khattar sweeping the floor and the Sports minister, Mr Anil Vij, with folded hands in his presence after plying him with a check for lakhs of rupees have become iconic images. Prime Minister Modi himself lauded the Baba for his "Clean India" campaign.

Where does this glimpse of religious leaders at the forefront take India? The RSS itself is confused and seems to be playing the game as it goes along. It is, of course, for a Hindu India or Hindutva as it defines it. Many of the myths it has created about the blissful days of ancient India are common knowledge. We know about planes flying, of heads transposed and plastic surgery as common features of the good old days.

In building a new India of their dreams, RSS leaders and their BJP followers needed an inventive narrative. The Mahatma was, of course, immediately appropriated. And the BJP raided the Congress repository of heroes on a mass scale. The Congress, after all, was the leader of the independence movement, with the RSS often ambivalent, if not complicit with the British rulers.

Thus, in addition to the Mahatma, felled by an RSS sympathizer, the BJP appropriated Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and many others, as the need arose. Its main target was the maker of modern democratic India, Jawaharlal Nehru. He was too cosmopolitan, too influenced by the West for the BJP's liking, vociferous as it was in striking the nationalist and native pose. The BJP is now in the process of writing a new narrative of modern India in which the towering personality who shaped the country is to be dismissed as one of many former prime ministers, his

The BJP has been courting the Babas because it embodies the concept of religious men leading the country rather than its politicians. After the Gurmeet 'Ram Rahim' episode, the RSS is in a dilemma and is simply playing along.

The RSS is still feeling its way to translate its concept of Ram Rajya into reality as it takes time to completely change the narrative.

Beyond the conviction of Baba Gurmeet Ram Raheem Singh leading to mayhem and deaths in Haryana in particular lies a preview of the RSS-inspired BJP scheme of things for a future India.



Narendra Modi eulogized Dera Sacha Sauda Baba in 2014 when he was BJP in charge of Haryana

memorial to be shared by all.

By all indications, the RSS is still feeling its way to translate its concept of Ram Rajya into reality. The Constitution is one impediment, the judiciary another, and above all the very diversity - in religious, ethnic and other terms - in governing the country. The last task falls into the lap of the Prime Minister, himself brought up in the cradle of the RSS but conscious of the pitfalls of running the country on narrow nationalist and religious lines.

With the general election of 2019 already looming on the horizon, the contest between the RSS, the legitimizing authority of the Sangh Parivar, and a practicing politician of Mr Modi's stature is likely to increase. In the end, there must be a compromise between these two poles of power while the larger ideological issue is sorted out. What to do with babas and their transgressions is another matter. There are swamis and great religious leaders who lead exemplary lives and do good. But the field has become crowded with charlatans and comen of various kinds who trade on the gullibility of the poor and their superstitious beliefs to live well and exercise influence on politicians in search of votes. The BJP is particularly susceptible to their wiles because of its own myths and the status it accords to its own concept of a Hindu rashtra.

Sober thinkers in the Sangh Parivar must realize that it takes time to change the narrative of nearly a century of the independence movement and the glorious

decades of Congress rule after India won independence. We still live in a country shaped by the giants of the independence movement, almost all of them belonging to the Congress. Yes, textbooks are being revised to rewrite history to obliterate the long decades of Muslim rule. The beautiful Taj Mahal stands uneasily in the Uttar Pradesh of Yogi Avidyanath.

The Sangh Parivar is not the first conglomerate to rewrite history. The Communists in Russia and elsewhere were quite proficient in demolishing old heroes - in Moscow lodged in a park of old curiosities - while Ukraine has also archived its Communist past and the United States is seeking to demolish statues of Confederate greats in the shape of statues of slave owners after they lost the civil war. The Parivar is repeating history with a twist by making Jawaharlal a non-person.

Future developments in a changing India will depend upon the Parivar leaders in bringing about their revolution of a Hindu India. Like all ideologues, they are men in a hurry - women never play a leading role in their scheme of things - but here again the conflict is between ideology and governance.

Two people above all will influence the outcome: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and Mr Modi, the latter in his political garb. They are unified in their ideology but divided in their responsibilities. We shall not have to wait for long to find out.

(The author is a renowned journalist)

## Murder of Gauri Lankesh is an ominous sign for India's flailing democracy



By George Abraham

Gauri Lankesh, a prominent Kannada journalist and a vehement critic of communal politics of the BJP government, was gunned down at her doorstep in Rajarajeswari Nagar in Bengaluru by some unknown assailants. She worked as an editor in Lankesh Patrike, a Kannada weekly started by

her father P. Lankesh and ran her own weekly called Gauri Lankesh Patrike.

She was known as a fearless journalist and activist who opposed communalization of politics, casteism, and marginalization of minorities in the society. Her forceful advocacy on behalf of Rohingya people is a true manifestation of her deeply held convictions. Death threats or intimidation from any quarters never stopped her from confronting the ever increasing challenges to the freedom of expression by the media, the fourth estate.

Undoubtedly, journalists, opinion makers, and reporters are being increasingly targeted by

Hindu nationalists who are on a crusade to promote their hateful agenda. In the last few years, journalists who appear to be critical of Hindu nationalists have been threatened, berated on the social media, while many women journalists have been threatened with rape and assault.

India has just celebrated its 70th anniversary of its independence. The Democratic Institutions that were created under the Nehruvian vision are increasingly under threat from right-wing forces that are closely aligned with BJP. The fundamental right to express one's

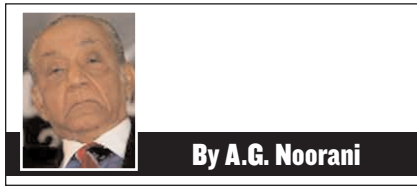
contd on page 30



A prominent Kannada journalist, known for her scathing attacks on communal forces in the country was gunned down in Bengaluru on September 5



# Of Donald Modi & Narendra Trump



By A.G. Noorani

## THE AFFINITIES BETWEEN TRUMP AND MODI ARE STRIKING, BUT NONE OF THEM BODES WELL FOR DEMOCRACY.

**N**O two persons are exactly alike. But Narendra Modi and Donald Trump resemble each other to such a degree that one might as well call them Donald Modi and Narendra Trump. The affinities are striking in their range and depth; and they are disturbing in their potentiality for harm to the national good. This comes out in sharp relief as one lists their traits one by one.

1. A monumental ego is the most conspicuous quality which Narendrabhai shares with Donaldbhai. From it follow most others.

2. Demand of loyalty. Trump was clumsy enough to sack the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Director James Comey because he failed to extract from him a pledge of loyalty; itself a highly improper demand. Modi, unable to fire heads of statutory bodies, hand-picked loyalists in advance for sensitive posts. He planted his man Friday Amit Shah as party chief and set up a cabal of fawning Ministers. Never before was the country treated to a daily dose of Ministers praising their chief. Sushma Swaraj stooped so low as to proclaim that Jawaharlal Nehru merely promoted his own image while Modi raised the prestige of the nation. To think that this is the man who sits on the chair on which Jawaharlal Nehru once sat. Not to be outdone by Sushma Swaraj, Rajnath Singh rushed to praise Modi's Independence Day speech the very next day ("patterns emerging from his address, which reflect his concept of governance almost like mantras"); Ravi Shankar Prasad's tributes to his master are as regular as they are sickeningly fulsome. As with Trump's men, Modi's stooges suffer from acute insecurity.

3. Both revel in demagoguery, laced with fierce personal attacks on opponents and critics. They believe in Balfour's dictum-speak often and speak for long; and you will acquire the contempt for his audience which every bore has.

4. Both are coarse and crassly vulgar, in their strict dictionary meaning. They do not care for censure. Modi set the tone with his speeches in Gujarat.

5. Both spread group hate with abandon.

6. Both are exclusivist ideologues owning a narrow world view and a narrow concept of nationalism. They regard themselves as the very personifications of their visions.

7. Insecure as they themselves are, Trump and Modi conduct their pantomimes with obedient advisers. Professionalism is scorned. Uneducated, except in the formal sense, the duo is also uneducable as well. They will not grow.

8. Egotism breeds ambition. Each, in his own style, seeks to recast the polity anew.

9. But neither cares to be specific about his program. If reading brings pain to the lips, reflection gives a headache.



Narendra Modi is all over Donald Trump in this picture at the White House, June 27, 2017

10. Flamboyance in style and escapist vagueness on substance. Slogans pass for policy statements: America First and Sab ka Saath, Sab ka Vikas; Modi fears parliamentary debates and press conferences. He dislikes questions and abhors precision. So does Trump.

Such persons find institutions stifling. Trump attacks the United States Congress; Modi plants favorites as heads of cultural and educational bodies in order to bend them to his will.

11. To be sure, the two adore business and will go all out to make life easier for Big Business, for favorites.

12. You know the club bore or the dinner party pest who tells any who gives him an ear, "I may not have studied economies; but my first principles are sound. I can fix the system." Trump and Modi belong to this class.

13. These "experts" in economies are experts also in foreign policy. Modi and Trump believe in highly personalized diplomacy based on one assumption and one calculation. The assumption simply is that they know better and can manage men and matters. Within weeks of being sworn in as Prime Minister, Modi hosted President Xi Jinping, with results that are there for all to see. Trump went to Saudi Arabia to egg it on in its wild schemes-isolation of Iran and humiliation of Qatar. The calculation is a crafty one. Excursions abroad will impress sceptics at home.

14. Most remarkably, our arrogant partners in daring enterprises share a love and also a hate. They love Israel. They hate China. In 2013, when he was Chief Minister of Gujarat, Modi denounced China as "expansionist". Simplistic to the core, they believe that the world would join them in their attempts to isolate the chosen victim, be it Iran or Pakistan. But states follow the national interest; policies of isolation have a short shelf life.

15. Both are ruthless. Modi lost no time in putting veterans like L.K. Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi in their place though they had run out of steam and posed no danger. Trump has shattered all records of presidential sackings of officials; Stephen K. Bannon, the "Chief Strategist", being the latest.

16. A leader's egotism, dangerous always, becomes a real menace when it is married to a narrow and exclusivist nationalism. Modi never conceals his brand. It is Hindutva "cultural nationalism". He told the Press Trust of India (PTI) "I am a Hindu nationalist", frankly and bluntly. Trump flaunts his brand of nationalism, which Charlottesville revealed.

17. Since the hard core of the constituency is what it is, neither Trump nor Modi can afford to be anything but selective in their censures of wrongs, no matter how grave. Trump's infamous remarks of August 15 on the outrage at Charlottesville will outlive his Presidency: "You also had people that were very fine people on both sides." The best comment came from Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May on August 16: "I see no equivalence between those who propound fascist views and those who oppose them. I think it is important for all those in positions of responsibility to condemn far-right views wherever we hear them."

Modi practices his brand of moral equivalence as his speeches during the election campaigns to the Lok Sabha in 2014, in Bihar and in Uttar Pradesh, revealed. Not once has he censured attacks on Muslims specifically, nor has Trump attacked the Klu Klux Klan. Modi dare not censure the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS).

18. If the polity is to be recast, it is essential that history is rewritten and national heroes are replaced with votaries of the ideology of hate. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) takes

pot-shots at Nehru. Trump plays the same game on George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, as if there was nothing else to them besides ownership of slaves. Modi has sought to rewrite history systematically to exclude Nehru's role in nation-building, very much as Stalin had history rewritten to wipe out Trotsky's record. A nation is known by the men it lauds as its heroes. Modi and his BJP-RSS mentors prefer to laud S.P. Mookerjee, Deem Dayal Upadhyaya and V.D. Savarkar.

The top leadership of the state has it in its power to promote its ideology and to create an atmosphere. In every democracy, the media has sympathizers of both, the ruling party and the opposition. Modi's regime has created a new class of active supporters in the media on whom it lavishes its largesse. These are noted columnists who never deviate from the party line and have prospered in Modi Raj. TV is as faithful, bar exceptions. They mould a climate. On August 15, the National Public Service announced that the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., had been defaced by obscene writings drawn with spray paint. A Smithsonian Museum map on Constitution Avenue had received the same treatment.

19. Besides these dozen and odd affinities lies one which bodes ill for the political system. It is the leader's belief that he stands apart and above the party. The party derives strength from him; not him from the party. Trump's recent attacks on the Republicans will soon pass. The party system is strong though the divides are not as sharp and Trump cannot last long. His ratings are abysmally low.

The RSS is disturbed by Modi's antics but shrewdly reckons that it has more to gain by him being Prime Minister than by ousting him. Modi's ratings have suffered, but they remain encouraging enough for him. The opposition has not crafted an alternative and attractive program, nor acquired an inspiring leadership. Modi developed an image of himself as one who will deliver and laced it with Hindutva. Any alternative must meet him on both.

It saddens one to note that two of the world's great democracies are led by men intolerant of dissent; driven by a tunnel vision; and made of poor quality fiber, coarse and outmoded.

"Ye gods, it doth amaze me, / A man of such a feeble temper should / So get the start of the majestic world, / And bear the palm alone."

Shakespeare had a conspirator say this of Julius Caesar. What a scornful portrait he would have drawn of sawdust Caesars Trump and Modi.

*(A.G. Noorani, author of a number of books, is a leading constitutional expert and political commentator and contributes regularly to various publications the world over)*

Source: Frontline  
Post comments

## Pakistan army chief advocates dialogue on Kashmir issue

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Pakistan army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa has called for the resolution of the Kashmir dispute through political and diplomatic means, a stance divergent from the approach the country's army has employed so far.

Bajwa's statement at his annual 'defence day' speech this week comes two days after Pakistan foreign minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif admitted for the first time that internationally proscribed terrorist organisations such as Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Muhammad were operating from within the country.

Emphasising that peace is essential for prosperity, Bajwa added, "The welfare of millions of people of these two countries is linked with permanent peace. Instead of insulting Pakistan and using force against Kashmiris, it is in India's favour to seek resolution of the dispute through diplomatic and political means."

Without naming India but referring to it as a "neighbouring country", Bajwa said, "We did not bring nuclear weapons to South Asia. And even now these weapons are simply a guarantee of peace in answer to a neighbouring country which is high on power. It is this country which has brought unconventional war to the South Asian region."

The General said, "We have paid the price for the wars started by super powers, in the form of terrorism, extremism and economic loss. We are abiding by our policy that we will not allow our soil to be used against any country, and expect the same of other countries." The Pakistan military leadership's change of approach gains significance in light of a consolidated global fight against terrorism. Pakistan has recently come under fire from all quarters, including the US, for harbouring terrorists. (PTI)

## Flooding in India, Nepal, Bangladesh affecting 16 million children: UNICEF

**UNITED NATIONS (TIP):** About 16 million children across India, Bangladesh and Nepal are in urgent need of life-saving support due to "catastrophic" flooding in the three South Asian countries, a UN agency said.

"Millions of children have seen their lives swept away by these devastating floods" said Jean Gough, UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia. "Children have lost their homes, schools and even friends and loved ones. There is a danger the worst could still be to come as rains continue and flood waters move south" she added. Weeks of torrential monsoon rains and catastrophic flooding in Nepal, India, and Bangladesh have devastated the lives of millions of children and families. UNICEF estimates that almost 16 million children and their families are in urgent need of life-saving support. Since mid-August, there have been at least 1,288 reported deaths, with over 45 million people estimated to be affected.

Many areas remain inaccessible due to damage to roads, bridges, railways and airports. The most urgent needs for children are clean water, hygiene supplies to prevent the spread of disease, food supplies and safe places in evacuation centres for children to play, the UN agency said.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is on the ground working in close coordination with respective governments and humanitarian partners from three countries to scale up its responses and respond to immediate needs of affected children and their families.

"Massive damage to school infrastructure and supplies also mean hundreds of thousands of children may miss weeks or months of school" said Gough. "Getting children back into school is absolutely critical in establishing a sense of stability for children during times of crisis and provides a sense of normality when everything else is being turned upside down."

In India, four states in the northern part of the country have been extensively affected by the flooding, affecting over 31 million people including 12.33 million children. Some 805,183 houses are either partially or fully damaged and 15,455 schools have been damaged, disrupting the education of nearly one million students. Further heavy rains in Mumbai resulted in at least five deaths by drowning and three people including two children died due to house collapse. In the affected states in India the state governments, following rescue operations, are conducting relief, rehabilitation and recovery operations. UNICEF, at the request of the state governments, is providing multi-sectoral planning and coordination support in the three worst affected states of Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Over 9.8 million people in Bihar have been reached with lifesaving information on topics such as safe drinking water and handwashing, UNICEF said. (PTI)

# For first time, Pakistan admits LeT, Jaish are based on its soil

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Pakistan on September 7 admitted for the first time that internationally proscribed terrorist outfits, such as Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Muhammad, were operating from within its territory, with foreign minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif calling for tougher action against these groups.

"We should impose restrictions on activities of elements like LeT and JeM so that we can show the global community that we've put our house in order," Asif told Geo News while responding to a BRICS declaration that named several terrorist groups, including the two, as threats to regional security.

Asif said Pakistan could no longer afford to "test" its friends on the issue of terrorism.

"Friends like China should not be tested every time, particularly in the changed (global) scenario," the minister added. Only a day earlier, the foreign office in Islamabad, as well as defence minister Khurram Dastagir, had rejected the BRICS declaration, saying there were no safe havens for terrorists inside Pakistan.

In fact, the foreign office had said Pakistan was itself a victim of terror. But foreign minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said, "I am not making any political statement.. we cannot afford to shut our eyes on



activities of these organisations in our country. If we continue to do that we will always face such embarrassments."

Asif admitted that Pakistan had made mistakes in the past, saying there was no need for the country to participate in the proxy war in Afghanistan during Ziaul Haq's tenure, and later in the war on terror. "There's an urgent need for a clean break from our past. In 1979, Pakistan had made a

wrong decision and acted like a proxy for the next decade. After 9/11, we again made a wrong decision and adopted a war, which was never ours. We have suffered uncountable losses of lives and properties in this war," he said. Asif said Pakistan needed to get rid of its false image. "We've no stakes involved but are only carrying the baggage of our past follies. We cannot correct ourselves as long as we do not accept historical facts," he said. (PTI)

## 3,500 more US troops headed to Afghanistan



**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The US will deploy additional 3,500 troops in Afghanistan, taking the total number of soldiers stationed in the war-torn country to 14,500, a defence official has said.

Defence secretary Jim Mattis authorised the new deployment which is in line with President Donald Trump's Afghan policy, which did not set a timeline for the withdrawal US troops from the country, defence department official said on Wednesday.

Trump last month ruled out a hasty withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan to end America's longest war.

Mattis has authorised about 3,500 additional troops to Afghanistan, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Last week, the Pentagon had revised

its earlier figure of 8,400 troops to about 11,000 troops. On Friday, Mattis had told reporters that he had signed paper work for deployment of additional troops in Afghanistan but did not reveal the exact figures.

The additional troops deployment come after Mattis, along with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, briefed members of the Congress on the new Afghan strategy and also about North Korea.

They were joined by General Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff, and director of National Intelligence Dan Coats.

"The US military presence in Afghanistan should be based on our national security interests, the advice of our commanders, and the facts on the ground. We must ensure that

terrorists can never again use Afghanistan as a training ground and launching pad for terrorist attacks against our homeland," Senator Todd Young said.

"Afghanistan is not a short-term circumstance we face. Despite encouraging signs I saw, it doesn't mean we are departing from Afghanistan soon," Senator Jerry Moran was quoted as saying by Military Times.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee yesterday announced plans to hold a Congressional hearing on budget request for Afghanistan and Pakistan on September 13.

Alice G Wells, acting assistant secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, will testify before the Congressional Committee. (PTI)

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## Hindu Americans Urge Congress to Enact Comprehensive Immigration Reform

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Leaders of the Hindu American Foundation called upon Congress for the swift passage of compassionate and comprehensive immigration reform, and called the termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program by President Donald Trump unnecessarily punitive.

"The termination highlights the need for Congress to stop delaying immigration reforms that serve our country's needs, and better reflect our country's values as a nation of immigrants," said Suhag Shukla, the Foundation's Executive Director. "A sign of a broken system can't get more obvious than when an order must serve as a last resort to deliver a dream or when it's used to jeopardize the immigration status of hundreds of thousands of young people, including thousands of Indian, South Asian, and diaspora Hindus, who have grown up, studied, and worked here."

In particular, the Foundation called for a congressionally mandated pathway to citizenship for previously undocumented children. There are approximately 800,000 undocumented individuals who were provided legal protections under DACA after they were brought to the US by their parents when they were children.

"Participants of DACA trusted the federal government to register and have since been extensively vetted. They're contributing members of American society - many of them taxpayers, many students - all brought here as children," Shukla stated. "No one should be penalized for the actions of their parents through no fault of their own."

Earlier this year, the Foundation outlined its key immigration policy priorities for the Hindu American community, focusing on family unification, streamlining the employment immigration system, permanent reauthorization of the Special Immigrant Non-Minister provision in the Religious Worker Visa Program, and revamping the refugee and asylum application process.

## SAALT Slams President Trump's Decision to Terminate DACA

**NEW YORK (TIP):** South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT), a national civil rights and racial justice organization, slammed President Trump's decision to terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, the latest in a litany of this administration's anti-immigrant policies.

"America's values are founded on the ideal that all people are created equal and deserve justice. The President's decision to terminate DACA puts 800,000 individuals at risk of deportation from the only country they've ever called home. Ending DACA is the latest evidence of this administration's utter lack of commitment to our nation's founding values of equality and fairness," stated Suman Raghunathan, Executive Director of SAALT. "Our current patchwork of immigration policies and programs is broken, and we demand Congress does its job to craft a commonsense immigration process that creates a roadmap to citizenship for aspiring new Americans. This is the only way to align our immigration laws with the values Americans hold dear."

The Trump administration will phase out DACA after a six-month delay, punting responsibility to Congress to craft legislation to protect Dreamers. Passing the DREAM Act 2017 is an important first step, but what the nation needs is a comprehensive immigration reform.

Over 27,000 Asian Americans, including 5,500 Indians and Pakistanis, have already received DACA. An additional estimated 17,000 individuals from India and 6,000 from Pakistan respectively are eligible for DACA, placing India in the top ten countries for DACA eligibility. With the termination of DACA, these individuals could face deportation at the discretion of the administration.

The CEOs of Apple, Google and Facebook and many other business leaders have all staunchly supported DACA and opposed its termination, citing their need for talented workers in a direct rebuttal to claims that DACA has hurt the American economy.

# DACA decision taken for safer, fairer, and legal immigration system, Says White House

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Faced with the very real possibility of a potential immediate shutdown of the entire DACA program by a federal court, President Trump took the responsible and constitutional step of announcing that the administration will be phasing out the program over the next two years.

September 5th deadline was set by the plaintiffs presenting the administration with two, and only two, real options to choose from: the likely sudden cancellation of the program by a judge or an orderly wind-down that preserves the rule of law and returns the question to the legislative branch where it belongs. The President chose the latter of the two options.

The President made the best decision in light of the fact that the system was set up by the Obama administration, in clear violation of federal law. President Obama even admitted this himself when announcing the program, calling it a "temporary stopgap measure" and calling on Congress to act.

DACA was initiated after Congress explicitly rejected the same proposal in legislative form. In other words, President Obama didn't just suspend federal law, but implemented a policy Congress had explicitly rejected.

There is a misconception that DACA primarily serves as a shield from deportation. This is misleading. DACA grants work authorization to nearly 800,000 individuals who are not legally authorized to work. DACA recipients, whose average age is in their 20s, were not an enforcement priority before, and they certainly won't become a priority now. The priorities remain the same: criminals, security threats, and those who repeatedly violate our immigration laws.



*White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders explains ending of DACA at a press briefing on September 5*

The main effect of today's announcement is that work permits and other government benefits are being gradually phased out. But rather than leave DACA recipients and men and women of immigration enforcement in confusing limbo, while the DACA program was challenged by states in the same court that struck down another of the previous administration's unlawful immigration orders earlier this year, President Obama [sic] is laying out a responsible 24-month phase-out -- sorry, President Trump.

No permits will be expiring for another six months, and permits will remain active for up to two full years. The President was elected partly on his promise to deliver meaningful immigration reform that puts the jobs, wages, and security of the American people first. He is delivering on that promise every day, and he has put forward serious proposals to Congress that would responsibly end illegal immigration, prevent visa overstays, remove dangerous criminals, protect American jobs and wages, and create a merit-based system that grows our middle class.

These are not just President Trump's priorities; they are the American people's priorities. For decades now, the American people, immigrant and U.S.-born, have asked Congress to establish a lawful immigration system that protects our country. They've asked for strong, secure borders, they've asked us to protect American security and American jobs, and they've asked us to have compassion, not only for those who are here illegally, but for unemployed American citizens, including millions of unemployed African American and Hispanic citizens who continue to suffer under a broken system.

The President's DACA decision today brings us closer to a safer, fairer, and legal immigration system. Now that he has ended this unsustainable and unconstitutional program imposed by the previous administration, the President is calling on the men and women in Congress to fulfill their duty to the American people by truly reforming our immigration system for the good of all people.

## Bill Gates Disappointed with Trump's decision to end DACA

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates expressed his disappointment on Donald Trump's decision to end the DACA program and expressed hope that Congress will quickly pass a permanent fix so that hundreds of people do not get separated from their families, friends, and communities.

"I'm very disappointed with today's decision to end DACA. Hundreds of thousands of young people who have been educated in the United States and have played by the rules their whole lives will be forced to live under the threat that they will be separated from their families, friends, and communities", Gates wrote on a Facebook post.

"Melinda and I have been incredibly impressed by the Dreamers we have come across in our work with Microsoft, the foundation, and other programs we have supported over the years. They have been raised as Americans and have taken that responsibility seriously. Dreamers



*Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates expressed his disappointment on Donald Trump's decision to end the DACA program*

*Image / Courtesy Twitter*

represent the best instincts of this country and the tradition that the great experiment of the United States is made better by people from other places coming here to dedicate their talents

and commitment to continuing to move our country forward", he further added.

"I hope that Congress will quickly pass a permanent fix to allow these young people to stay in the country without the destructive fear of deportation", he wrote.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is an American immigration policy established by the Obama administration in June 2012. DACA allows certain illegal immigrants who entered the country as minors to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation and eligibility for a work permit.

The USICS has announced that they are no longer accepting initial requests for DACA, but will adjudicate initial requests for DACA accepted by Sept. 5, 2017. They will no longer approve advance parole requests associated with DACA. They are only adjudicating DACA renewal requests received by Oct. 5, 2017, from current beneficiaries whose benefits will expire between Sept. 5, 2017 and March 5, 2018.

# Work Visa to Green Card route getting tougher from October 1

**With 2.47 lakh applications, Indians are top H-1B visa applicants till July 2017**

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Heretofore, thousands every year transited to US Green Card through their work visa in the US. H1 B route was found to be quite convenient to obtain a green card. But it appears it is not going to be the same "easy and convenient" route anymore.

As reported in The Indian Panorama earlier, from October 1, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) has made an in-person interview mandatory in such cases. In technical parlance, it refers to an I-485 adjustment of status interview. This announcement was made on August 28 and was reported immediately by The Indian Panorama

On another front, US immigration attorneys are seeing an uptick in number of 'Requests For Evidence' (RFEs) being issued by the USCIS. These RFEs relate to petitions (applications) filed on or about April 2017 for H-1B visas that will be valid from October 1, 2017.

As regards the amendment made for adjustment of status to that of a green card, NPZ Law Group managing attorney David H Nachman explains, "USCIS currently requires interviews for family-based green card and naturalization (obtaining citizenship) processes. But most of the time, it waives the interview requirement for the above category of applicants. While interviews for those transitioning from employment-based visa status to green cards were standard a decade ago, waivers have been regularly granted since then. Under the new policy, there will be no further waivers. Thus, the new process will lengthen the waiting time for green card applicants."

A vast majority of those to whom green cards are allotted comprise those who are already working in the US on temporary visas.

During the four-year period up to 2014, over 2 lakh green cards were allotted to H-1B visa holders, according to a report by the Bipartisan Policy Centre.



Latest available data released by the USCIS shows that during 2015, as many as 34,843 Indians adjusted their temporary visa status and obtained green cards. Of this, 25,179 were holding jobs in the US (primarily under the H-1B category).

Immigration.com managing attorney Rajiv S Khanna says, "A new wrinkle in the inquiries is that, as USCIS had warned, they will not accept level-1 wages to be given in H-1B cases easily. They are questioning level-1 wages almost uniformly."

He explains the various levels and illustrates the wages. Level-1 category relates to entry-level jobs and, at the other end, is the level-4 category which calls for a more technical and leadership role.

The prescribed wage at level 1 for a software developer in San Jose is \$88,733 a year, which rises to \$155,147 annually at level 4. Khanna adds, "It is the USCIS position that level-1 salary indicates a non-professional position that does not require a specific college degree and is a job that would be inappropriate for an H-1B visa."

There are often situations where level 1 is indeed the appropriate level - even the largest consulting firms in the US do send out entry-level professionals for assignments."

NPZ Law Group has seen a sharp hike in the RFEs - by 55% to 65% as compared to the past numbers.

Nachman explains, "The question that continues to arise in the RFEs is to prove that the position that the H-1B applicant will be taking is in a specialty occupation. The new set of questions that we are seeing has to do with why the level-1 wage has been chosen if the position is a 'specialty position' calling for a complex set of duties. As you can see, the US government is requiring us to argue that the position is 'complex' and then, on the other side, asking that if it is so complex why is a lower salary being assigned?"

The increase in inquiries is an administrative cost for all, and is especially challenging for those employers (mid-tier companies) that had designated level 1 even for more experienced visa applicants.

*(TIP Bureau compilation)*

## 4 killed in medical helicopter crash in North Carolina

**BELVIDERE (TIP):** The North Carolina Highway Patrol says four people have been killed in the crash of a medical helicopter.

Patrol spokesman Master Trooper Christopher Knox said the Duke Life Flight helicopter went down around 11:45 a.m. Friday near the town of Belvidere, close to the Virginia border and about 160 miles (260 kilometers) east of Raleigh.

Knox said it's not known where the helicopter was headed when it went down and authorities have no idea what caused the crash. He said the Federal Aviation Administration has been notified and state troopers are on the scene to secure the site.

The Duke Life Flight web page says its helicopters usually have two critical care providers and a pilot onboard and can only carry one patient at a time. (AP)

## Qatar crisis: Donald Trump offers to mediate

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** President Donald Trump said Thursday that he believes there is a "chance" for a Middle East peace settlement, one of the most elusive goals of US diplomacy.

"I think we have a chance of doing it," he told reporters during a White House news conference with Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

At a joint press conference with Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Trump offered to mediate and said, "I would be willing to be the mediator. I think it's something that's going to get solved fairly easily."

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt announced on June 5 they had cut diplomatic and economic ties with Qatar, accusing it of having ties with Shiite Iran and fundamentalist Islamist groups. (PTI)

## Grandparents not part of Trump's travel ban: Court



**SEATTLE (TIP):** A federal appeals court on Sept 7 rejected the Trump administration's limited view of who is allowed into the United States under the president's travel ban, saying grandparents, cousins and similarly close relations of people in the US should not be prevented from coming to the country.

The unanimous ruling from three judges on the San Francisco-based 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals also cleared the way for refugees accepted by a resettlement agency to travel here. The decision upheld a ruling by a federal judge in Hawaii who found the administration's view too strict.

"Stated simply, the government does not offer a persuasive explanation for why a mother-in-law is clearly a bona fide relationship, in the Supreme Court's prior reasoning, but a grandparent, grandchild, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, or cousin is not," the 9th Circuit said.

The appeals panel wrote that under typical court rules, its ruling would not take effect for at least 52 days. But in this instance, the judges said, many refugees would be "gravely imperiled" by such a delay, so the decision will take effect in five days. "Refugees' lives remain in vulnerable limbo during the pendency of the Supreme Court's stay," they wrote. "Refugees have only a narrow window of time to complete their travel, as certain security and medical checks expire and must then be reinitiated."

The Justice Department said it would appeal. "The Supreme Court has stepped in to correct these lower courts before, and we will now return to the Supreme Court to vindicate the executive branch's duty to protect the nation," the agency said in a statement. The US Supreme Court said in June that President Donald Trump's 90-day ban on visitors from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen can be enforced pending arguments scheduled for October, partially overturning lower-court rulings. (AP)

# Irma bears down on Florida, more than 5 million told to flee coast

**MIAMI:** Irma trained its sights on Florida and officials warned more than 5 million people that time was running out Friday to evacuate ahead of the deadly hurricane as it followed a path that could take it from one end of the state to the other.

By early evening, Irma was a slightly weakened Category 4 storm with winds of 155 mph (250 kph) and forecasters said it could be back up to Category 5 when it comes ashore near Key West on Sunday morning.

Forecasters adjusted the storm's potential track more toward the west coast of Florida, away from the Miami metropolitan area of 6 million people, meaning "a less costly, a less deadly storm," University of Miami researcher Brian McNoldy said.

Nevertheless, forecasters warned that its hurricane-force winds were so wide

they could reach from coast to coast, testing the nation's third-largest state, which has undergone rapid development and more stringent hurricane-proof building codes in the last decade or so.

"This is a storm that will kill you if you don't get out of the way," National Hurricane Center meteorologist Dennis Feltgen said. "Everybody's going to feel this one."

Irma killed at least 20 people in the Caribbean and left thousands homeless as it devastated small resort islands known for their warm, turquoise water.

In Florida, gas shortages and gridlock plagued the evacuations, turning normally simple trips into tests of will. Parts of interstates 75 and 95 north were bumper-to-bumper, while very few cars drove on the southbound lanes.

"We're getting out of this state," said Manny Zuniga, who left his home in

Miami at midnight Thursday to avoid the gridlock. "Irma is going to take all of Florida." Despite driving overnight, he still took 12 hours to reach Orlando, a trip that normally takes four hours. From there, he and his wife, two children, two dogs and a ferret were headed to Arkansas.

About 5.6 million people in Florida, more than one quarter of the state's population, were ordered to evacuate and another 540,000 were told to leave the Georgia coast. Authorities opened hundreds of shelters for people who did not leave. Hotels as far away as Atlanta filled up with evacuees.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott said people fleeing could drive slowly in the shoulder lane on highways. He hasn't reversed the southbound lanes because he said they were needed to deliver gas and supplies. (AP)

## UNRULY PASSENGERS TO BE PUT ON 'NO FLY LIST'

NEW DELHI (TIP): The government on Sept 8

unveiled rules to tackle cases of onboard unruly behaviour by passengers. The move would allow airlines to ban such passengers for a period ranging from three months to lifetime.

The commander of the flight would have the right to file a complaint against such passengers. The revised Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR), effective immediately, defines three categories of unruly behaviour —verbal, physical and life threatening.

There is a provision for debarring passengers from flying for three months for verbal unruly behaviour, six months for physical and two years or more for life-threatening behaviour.

The complaint by the pilot-in-command will be probed by an internal committee to be set up by the airline that will decide the quantum of ban. If the panel fails to give a decision in 30 days, the passenger will be free to fly.

Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju said the new rules would allow formation of a national "No Fly List" that would be shared among airlines. The promulgation of the list in India was the first of its kind in the world, he claimed.

The revised CAR will be applicable to all Indian operators engaged in scheduled and non-scheduled air transport services, both domestic and international carriage of passengers. It would also be applicable to foreign carriers, subject to compliance of Tokyo Convention, 1963. Aggrieved persons will be allowed to appeal within 60 days.



### BAN DURATION

**Up to 3 months:** For unruly physical gestures, verbal harassment, unruly inebriation

**Up to 6 months:** For physically abusive behaviour such as pushing, kicking, hitting, inappropriate touching

**Minimum 2 years:** For life-threatening behaviour such as assaults, damage to aircraft systems

## N-energy, defence to set tone of ties with Japan: Jaishankar

NEW DELHI (TIP): Drawing the emerging contours of its bilateral relations with Japan and latter's contribution to modernisation of Indian economy, New Delhi today said it will create a multi-polar Asia and highlighted civil nuclear energy and defence as two important fields that would set direction of the ties.

"Today, the two countries clearly see each other much more strategically. This is expressed through a wide range of contacts and activities, including in areas that are relatively new. Obviously, India's accelerated economic growth provides new business opportunities for Japanese companies. But the logic of our current cooperation is much deeper," Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar said in his address to the "India-Japan Colloquium" ahead of Prime Minister Shizo Abe visit next week. "A broader modernisation of the Indian economy and society is very much in Japan's larger interest. This would help create a more multi-polar Asia that, in turn, enables a more multi-polar world," he said.

Stating that cooperation in civil nuclear energy and in defence are two domains that portend the future direction of India-Japan ties, he said Japan could make a substantive difference to the country's nuclear industry. In 2016, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan, both countries signed a civil nuclear deal that allows Japan to export nuclear power plant technology to India.

currency notes (both old and new) amounting to a few thousand rupees during the search, said Haryana government deputy director Satish Mehra.

Officials involved in the search remained tight-lipped about the recoveries made inside. Sources said that a couple of rooms in one of the buildings had been sealed and that the search operation could take a long time.

The search operation began amid tight security and curfew in the area

SIRSA (TIP): The first day of search of the Dera Sacha Sauda headquarters near Haryana's Sirsa town on Friday ended with a few computers, a luxury SUV and some currency notes being seized, official (old and new currency) being seized, officials said.

Officials said that five children were found inside the Dera premises in the search.

The authorities seized a few computers and hard disks, one Toyota Lexus luxury SUV and some



on Friday morning. The media was stopped at some distance from the Dera premises to avoid any controversy.

## 1993 MUMBAI BLASTS

# Abu Salem gets life term, 2 others get death sentence

NEW DELHI (TIP): Extradited gangster Abu Salem was on Thursday sentenced to life imprisonment by a Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (TADA) court in Mumbai in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case.

Special Judge G A Sanap pronounced the death verdicts on convicts Mohammed Taher Merchant and Feroze Khan for their role in the blasts, said Special Public Prosecutor Deepak Salve.

Besides Salem, the special court awarded life sentence to Karimullah Khan and 10 years rigorous imprisonment to Riyaz Siddiqui.

The Special Judge also slapped varying amounts of fines on the convicts after finding them guilty on various charges, including murder, conspiracy to hatch the blasts, supplying arms and ammunition, and other serious offences, Salve told media-persons after the ruling.

A special TADA court had in June convicted six persons, including mastermind Mustafa Dossa and Salem, in the blasts case, 24 years after the attacks left 257 people dead in the country's financial capital.

It, however, let off accused Abdul



Quayyum for want of evidence.

Arguments over the degree of sentences continued after the conviction in June and concluded on August 10.

All the accused were facing multiple charges of criminal conspiracy, waging war against the government, and murder of people.

This was the second leg of the trial. In the first leg that concluded in 2007, the TADA court had convicted 100 accused in the case, while 23 people were acquitted.

The court had earlier held that the prosecution had proved that Salem was one of the main conspirators and that he delivered three AK-56 rifles,

ammunition, and hand grenades to actor Sanjay Dutt (convicted in the earlier phase of the trial under the Arms Act).

Salem, who was close to (Dawood's brother) Anees Ibrahim and Dossa, took it upon himself to bring a part of the arms and ammunition from Dighi to Mumbai, the court earlier said.

This was "vital towards achievement of the conspiracy so that the weapons could be used to terrorise and torment innocent citizens of India," the court had said.

The trial of Salem, Mustafa Dossa, Karimullah Khan, Feroze Abdul Rashid Khan, Riyaz Siddiqui, Tahir Merchant, and Abdul Quayyum was separated from the main case as they were arrested subsequently.

Dossa died of cardiac arrest at J J Hospital in Mumbai shortly after being convicted on June 28.

The Mumbai blast of March 12, 1993, resulted in 257 fatalities and over 700 were injured. The attacks were planned by Dawood Ibrahim, India's 'most wanted' fugitive, who also has his name prominently figuring on the 'most wanted' lists of the US and the Interpol.

## Army plans to induct 800 women in military police

NEW DELHI (TIP): A day after Nirmala Sitharaman took over as the country's first full-time female defence minister, the army on Friday announced that it is giving finishing touches to a proposal for inducting women into the military police.

The proposal is very significant as women will be inducted in the military's non-officer cadre for the first time, although they will be in a non-combat role.

In a presentation made at the army chiefs' conclave, adjutant general Lieutenant General Ashwani Kumar said, "The proposal is being finalised for induction of 800 women in the military police with a yearly intake of 52."

The three-day conclave, hosted by army chief General Bipin Rawat, is being attended by eight former army chiefs. The platform provides an opportunity to the force to draw on the collective experience of its former leaders and seek their inputs on key issues.

The force expects the plan to move fast under Sitharaman. The proposal is being pushed by General Rawat himself.

Lieutenant General Kumar said women



were required in the Corps of Military Police (CMP) to investigate gender-specific allegations and crime. The women will be inducted as junior commissioned officers and jawans. The armed forces account for around 3,500 women officers, all of whom are in non-combat roles.

Women were allowed to join the military as officers outside the medical stream for the first time in 1992.

The move to induct women in the CMP comes at a time when India's first female pilots are preparing to fly warplanes after they complete the last leg of their training later this month.

Source: HT

## 1 dead in violent clashes in Jaipur, curfew imposed

JAIPUR (TIP): One person was killed when police opened fire on a mob after it went on a rampage, setting ablaze a power house and several vehicles, following an alleged assault of a couple by a constable in Ramganj area of the city. Curfew was imposed in four police station areas of the city to bring the situation under control, a senior police official said, adding that internet services were also suspended and schools in the curfew-laden areas have been closed. A petty dispute between a police constable and a motorcycle-borne couple late last night led to clashes between the locals and the police, following which the curfew was imposed around 1 AM in Ramganj area.

## DERA HQ SEARCH: BANNED NOTES, LUXURY CAR SEIZED FROM GURMEET RAM RAHIM DEN

SIRSA (TIP): The first day of search of the Dera Sacha Sauda headquarters near Haryana's Sirsa town on Friday ended with a few computers, a luxury SUV and some

currency notes being seized, official (old and new currency) being seized, officials said.

Officials said that five children were found inside the Dera premises in the search.

currency notes (both old and new) amounting to a few thousand rupees during the search, said Haryana government deputy director Satish Mehra.

Officials involved in the search remained tight-lipped about the recoveries made inside. Sources said that a couple of rooms in one of the buildings had been sealed and that the search operation could take a long time.

The search operation began amid tight security and curfew in the area

JCB machines, locksmiths, forensic experts and dog squads were called in to assist a comprehensive search operation launched by security agencies and district authorities at the Dera premises. Internet services in Sirsa district were suspended by local authorities on Friday.

### EXPLOSIVES SEIZED

An illegal crackers factory was on Saturday found inside Dera Sacha Sauda headquarters during the

second day of search operations.

Nearly a hundred packs of crackers were also found. The authorities have sealed the factory. Also, 1,500 pairs of costly designer shoes of the Dera chief and hundreds of designer dresses were recovered.

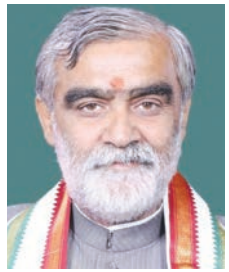
Meanwhile, the Haryana Police have arrested three Dera Sacha Sauda followers for hatching a conspiracy of trying to help Ram Rahim escape from Panchkula during an agitation on August 25.

# PM Modi's 9 new ministers

NEW DELHI (TIP): Nine ministers who joined Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet were told that they were chosen with great consideration. Meeting with them before the oath ceremony, PM Modi reportedly told the ministers to perform and "do a good job". The new members inducted in the Union council of ministers include four former senior bureaucrats and also BJP leaders from the states of Karnataka, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh which go to polls in the near future.

## THE NEW FACES

### 1. ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY



*Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare*

Sixty-four-year-old Ashwini Kumar Choubey was a health minister in Bihar. A BJP veteran, he was born at Dariyapur in Bhagalpur and did BSc (Hons) in zoology from the Science College, Patna University. At present, he represents the Buxar Lok Sabha seat. Married to Neeta Choubey, he has two sons. He was an active part of the JP Movement in the 1970s and was taken into custody during the Emergency. Chaubey is credited with for having raised the slogan -- "gharghar me ho shouchalaya ka nirman, tabhi hoga ladli bitiya ka kanyadaan". He has helped in the construction of 11,000 toilets for Mahadalit families.

### 2. VIRENDRA KUMAR



*Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development*

Virendra Kumar, 63, is the Lok Sabha MP from Tikamgarh in Madhya Pradesh. From the convenor of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), District Sagar in 1977-79 to now being set to become a Union minister, it has been a long journey for Mr Kumar, who was elected for a sixth Lok Sabha term in 2014. Mr Kumar had participated in the JP Movement and was in jail for 16 months during the Emergency. He hails from the Scheduled Caste community and holds a master's degree in economics and a PhD in child labour.

### 3. SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA



*Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance*

Sixty-five-year-old Shiv Pratap Shukla is a Rajya Sabha member from the electorally crucial UP. The lawyer-social worker was earlier a minister in the state. He was appointed a vice-president of UP unit of the BJP in 2012. He is a law graduate from the Gorakhpur University and was imprisoned for 19 months during the Emergency.

### 4. ANANTHKUMAR HEGDE



*Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship*

Ananthkumar Hegde, 49, has been a member of the 11th, 12th, 14th, 15th and 16th Lok Sabha from Uttara Kannada in Karnataka. He is an agriculturist by profession. At the young age of 28, he was elected to the Lok Sabha for the first time. During his multiple stints in Parliament, he has served as a member of parliamentary standing committees on finance, home affairs, human resource development, commerce, agriculture and external affairs. He has also been a member of the Spices Board of India for four terms. He is a practitioner of martial art Taekwondo.

### 5. SATYA PAL SINGH



*Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development; Minister of State in the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation*

Satya Pal Singh, 61, is a Lok Sabha MP from Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh. A 1980 batch Maharashtra cadre IPS officer, he retired as the Mumbai Police chief. He was honoured for his services by the Centre in 2008 with Antrik Suraksha Sewa Padak and a special medal for extraordinary work in naxal hit areas of Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in 1990. Mr Singh has written books, including on topics like tribal conflict resolution and naxalism. Born in Basauli village in Baghpat, he has MSc and MPhil degrees in chemistry, an MBA in strategic management from Australia and an MA degree in public administration as well as a PhD on the naxalite movement.

### 6. GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT



*Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare*

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, 49, is a Lok Sabha member from Jodhpur in Rajasthan. He is also a national general secretary of the farmers' wing of the BJP. A sports enthusiast, Mr Shekhawat has participated at the national and all-India inter-university level in basketball. He currently is a member of the All India Council of Sports and the president of the Basketball India Players Association. He has MPhil and MA degrees in philosophy from Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur.

### 7. HARDEEP SINGH PURI

*Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs*



Hardeep Singh Puri, 65, is a 1974-batch of Indian Foreign Service and served as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 2009 to 2013.

Known for his experience and expertise in foreign policy and national security, he is the president and chairman of think-tank Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and was the vice president of the International Peace Institute, New York. His four-decade career in diplomacy included critical roles as India's ambassador to Brazil and the United Kingdom, and Permanent Representative of India to Geneva. An alumnus of The Hindu College, Delhi University, Mr Puri was a student leader and active during the JP Movement. He briefly taught at St. Stephens College in Delhi before joining the IFS.

### 8. RAJ KUMAR SINGH

*Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Power; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy*



Raj Kumar Singh, 64, is a former IAS officer of the 1975-batch Bihar cadre and a former Union home secretary. He is a member of the current

Lok Sabha representing Arrah in Bihar. Mr Singh studied English literature at St. Stephens College and is a law graduate. He also studied at the RVB Delft University in the Netherlands.

### 9. ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM

*Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Tourism; Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology*



Alphons Kannanthanam is a former 1979-batch Kerala cadre IAS officer. He is also a practicing advocate. Mr Kannanthanam was known as

'Demolition Man' during his stint at the Delhi Development Authority for having ordered razing of thousands of illegal constructions. Born in a non-electrified Manimala village in Kottayam district to a World War II veteran, he pioneered the literacy movement in India as district collector of Kottayam by making it the first 100 per cent literate town in India in 1989. He retired from the IAS and was elected as an Independent member of the Kerala Assembly from Kanjirappally from 2006 to 2011. Mr Kannanthanam is a member of the committee set up to prepare the final draft of the National Education Policy, 2017. He has authored a book -- Making A Difference.

## NIRMALA SITHARAMAN GETS DEFENCE, PIYUSH GOYAL RAILWAYS

NEW DELHI (TIP): Nine ministers joined Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Council of Ministers on Sunday in the third restructuring exercise since he took oath of office in 2014. Four junior ministers were promoted to the Cabinet including Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi (now Minister of Minority Affairs), Nirmala Sitharaman (MoS Defence), Piyush Goyal (MoS Railways and holds additional charge of the Coal Ministry) and Dharmendra Pradhan (Petroleum and Natural Gas with additional charge of Skill Development).

### NIRMALA SITHARAMAN AS DEFENCE MINISTER SHATTERS MANY GLASS CEILINGS, AND NOT JUST BECAUSE SHE'S A WOMAN



Some are calling it a "well-disguised doosra". Some are calling it another "surgical strike". Whichever way you look at it, handing the defence portfolio to Nirmala Sitharaman is by far the biggest statement delivered by Narendra Modi in Sunday's Cabinet reshuffle.

By all means, this was a double promotion for Sitharaman, who until Saturday held the independent charge of the commerce and industry ministry. She was first elevated into Cabinet rank, and subsequently inducted into the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) by virtue of her appointment as the Union defence minister.

Sitharaman technically is the second woman to hold the defence portfolio, but for former prime minister Indira Gandhi, defence was an additional charge. Sitharaman is India's first full-time woman defence minister, and the sound of the glass ceiling being shattered would reverberate for a long time to come. Nothing carries the message of women's empowerment more than battle-hardened generals doffing their hats to a female boss. As far as symbolisms go, it is a powerful one.

As Sitharaman moves into Raisina Hill, the all powerful CCS, which also includes the prime minister, home minister Rajnath Singh, finance minister Arun Jaitley and external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj, will now feature two women. Among the many symbolisms that emerge, the first is that the prime minister firmly believes in women leading from the front. This message is reinforced by the fact that Sitharaman, a first-time Rajya Sabha MP, takes over the defence portfolio at a time when India's borders with Pakistan and China are 'hot' and we have only just emerged from a grave deadlock with the Chinese in Sikkim sector which could have very well slipped into a military conflict.

It will be unwise to look at Sitharaman's appointment only from the prism of women's empowerment. In elevating her to the post, Modi has also indicated that he considers Sitharaman to be a good performer in a tough time for the Indian economy.

The 58-year-old's tenure as MoS commerce was marked by an economy struggling to remain on feet after the twin blows of demonetisation and GST and an alarming dip in export figures. But she has earned accolades for showing tough negotiating skills at multilateral forums including World Trade Organisation, or for having the gumption to press China for a more level-playing field in trade and commerce even as the Chinese were breathing fire on the Doka La issue.

She copped a fair bit of criticism for India's lackluster performance in exports, but as she told reporters on Sunday after taking oath as a Cabinet minister, "Every criticism is a message and we have to learn from it. I am not averse to criticism and also not frightened of it (criticism), but certainly take messages from them. Criticism per se do not reflect on performance, it only adds to your performance if you are ready to take on-board the corrections that may be workable."

# RELIVING 9/11

**A co-ordinated al-Qaeda attack on America on 11th September 2001 killed almost 3,000 people. Two hijacked planes were flown into New York's World Trade Center, resulting in the collapse of the Twin Towers, while another crashed into the Pentagon. The fourth crashed in a field in Pennsylvania**

On September 11, 2001, 19 militants associated with the Islamic extremist group al-Qaeda hijacked four airplanes and carried out suicide attacks against targets in the United States. Two of the planes were flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, a third plane hit the Pentagon just outside Washington, D.C., and the fourth plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania. Almost 3,000 people were killed during the 9/11 terrorist attacks, which triggered major U.S. initiatives to combat terrorism and defined the presidency of George W. Bush.

## WORLD TRADE CENTER

On September 11, 2001, at 8:45 a.m. on a clear Tuesday morning, an American Airlines Boeing 767 loaded with 20,000 gallons of jet fuel crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City.

The impact left a gaping, burning hole near the 80th floor of the 110-story skyscraper, instantly killing hundreds of people and trapping hundreds more in higher floors.

As the evacuation of the tower and its twin got underway, television cameras broadcasted live images of what initially appeared to be a freak accident. Then, 18 minutes after the first plane hit, a second Boeing 767—United Airlines Flight 175—appeared out of the sky, turned sharply toward the World Trade Center and sliced into the south tower near the 60th floor.

The collision caused a massive explosion that showered burning debris over surrounding buildings and onto the streets below. It immediately became clear that America was under attack.

The structural steel of the skyscraper, built to withstand winds in excess of 200 miles per hour and a large conventional fire, could not withstand the tremendous heat generated by the burning jet fuel. At 10:30 a.m., the north building of the twin towers collapsed. Only six people in the World Trade Center towers at the time of their collapse survived. Almost 10,000 others were treated for injuries, many severe.

## OSAMA BIN LADEN

The attackers were Islamic terrorists from Saudi Arabia and several other Arab nations. Reportedly financed by the al-Qaeda terrorist organization of Saudi fugitive Osama bin Laden, they were allegedly acting in retaliation for America's support of Israel, its involvement in the Persian Gulf War and its continued military presence in the Middle East.

Some of the terrorists had lived in the United States for more than a year and had taken flying lessons at American commercial flight schools. Others had slipped into the country in the months before September 11 and acted as the "muscle" in the operation.

The 19 terrorists easily smuggled box-cutters and knives through security at three East Coast airports and boarded four early-morning flights bound for California, chosen because the planes were loaded with fuel for the long transcontinental journey. Soon after takeoff, the terrorists commandeered the four planes and took the controls, transforming ordinary passenger jets into guided missiles.

## ATTACK ON PENTAGON

As millions watched the events unfolding in New York, American Airlines Flight 77 circled over downtown Washington, D.C., before crashing into the west side of the Pentagon military headquarters at 9:45 a.m.

Jet fuel from the Boeing 757 caused a devastating inferno that led to the structural collapse of a portion of the giant concrete building, which is the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense. All told, 125 military personnel and civilians were killed in the Pentagon, along with all 64 people aboard the airliner.

## 2,996 PEOPLE DIED

A total of 2,996 people were killed in the 9/11 attacks, including the 19 terrorist hijackers aboard the four airplanes.



*New York City's 9/11 Memorial.*

At the World Trade Center, 2,763 died after the two planes slammed into the twin towers. That figure includes 343 firefighters and paramedics, 23 New York City police officers and 37 Port Authority police officers who were struggling to complete an evacuation of the buildings and save the office workers trapped on higher floors.

At the Pentagon, 189 people were killed, including 64 on American Airlines Flight 77, the airliner that struck the building. On Flight 93, 44 people died when the plane crash-landed in

Pennsylvania.

## HOW U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY HAS CHANGED SINCE 9/11

Arguably, the most significant difference is that the Department of Homeland Security didn't exist before 9/11. Formed in November 2002 with the passing of the Homeland Security Act, the agency replaced the Immigration and Naturalization Service and became responsible for enforcing national security and protecting

## HOW IT HAPPENED?

**The airplanes** hijacked on 9/11 begin taking off at 7:59 a.m. The first to depart is American Airlines Flight 11, a Boeing 767 that leaves Boston's Logan International Airport for Los Angeles with 92 people on board.

**At 8:14 a.m.**, United Airlines Flight 175 — a Boeing 767 with 65 passengers on board — leaves Logan for Los Angeles.

**American Airlines Flight 77** leaves Washington Dulles International Airport at 8:20 a.m. The plane, a Boeing 757 with 64 people on board, is headed for Los Angeles.

**Finally, at 8:42 a.m.**, United Airlines Flight 93 departs from Newark International Airport. The Boeing 757, which carries 44 passengers, is bound for San Francisco.

**The first crash** occurs at 8:46 a.m. when Flight 11 slams into the north tower of New York's World Trade Center.

**The second crash** comes at 9:03 a.m., when Flight 175 flies into the south tower of the World Trade Center.

**9:37 a.m.:** Flight 77 crashes into Pentagon.

**9:45 a.m.:** Just minutes after Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon, the White House and U.S. Capitol are evacuated.

**9:59 a.m.:** After burning for 56 minutes, the south tower of the World Trade Center collapses at 9:59 a.m. The fall, which kills approximately 600 workers and first responders, lasts 10 seconds.

**The fourth hijacked plane** crashes at 10:03 in a field in Shanksville, Pa.

**10:28 a.m.:** After burning for 102 minutes, the north tower of New York's World Trade Center collapses.

**5:20 p.m.:** Hours after the attacks that morning, the 47-story 7 World Trade Center building collapses from ancillary damage.

the U.S. from terrorism. The three main bodies created within the DHS consist of Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The main duties they fulfill in the post-9/11 era include screening and collecting data on international travelers, additional screenings and interviews of people of certain nationalities, and sharing information with other countries.

## Immigration Reform

While national security became a centerpiece of U.S. immigration policy after 9/11, undocumented immigrants' entry into the country has remained a constant political issue.

## Refugee Resettlement

The immigration debate in the U.S. has shifted to some degree in the last several years as the country considers whether it has a moral duty to welcome refugees? and if so, how to ensure that they don't pose a national security threat. The U.S. has admitted more than 800,000 refugees since the 9/11 attacks, if this year's figures are taken into account. Only three have been arrested on terrorism charges, according to MPI. "The threat to the U.S. homeland from refugees has been relatively low," Seth Jones, director of the International Security and Defense Policy Center at the RAND Corporation, testified to Congress in 2015. "Almost none of the major terrorist plots since 9/11 have involved refugees."





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## PARINEETI CHOPRA CLEARS THE AIR ABOUT HARDIK PANDYA

While the world knows that cricketer Virat Kohli and actress Anushka Sharma are a couple, Twitterati thought Parineeti Chopra and Hardik Pandya could be the next 'Bollywood-cricket' link after their recent Twitter chat.

It all started with Parineeti posting a picture of a bicycle few days back, but the captions spoke about the 'most amazing partner' and 'love is in the air.'

Cricketer Hardik Pandya's response to the picture set tongues wagging, talking about a 'second Bollywood-cricket link', first perhaps being Virat and Anushka.

The actress, however, later had to post a video, following the link-up rumours, that the 'partner' in question was instead her new smartphone.

At an event on Monday, the actress was asked about the link-up rumours again and this time, she set the record straight.

She said, "Whether I am single or not that is not the discussion, but I am not dating Hardik Pandya. Even I heard about it."

Fans expecting a 'second Bollywood-cricket' link after Virat and Anushka would surely be a disappointed lot.

# MADHURI DIXIT TO MAKE INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL DEBUT

Global icon and Bollywood's eternal It girl Madhuri Dixit is all set to venture into world wide music with - The Film Star.

Bollywood's Dhak Dhak Girl Madhuri Dixit, is poised to release her first-ever English language EP, The Film Star. The EP will be launched with the debut single, 'Tu Hai Mera'.

'Tu Hai Mera' is a special ode from Madhuri to her fans for all the love and support she's received from them and continues to. It is a fusion of classical Indian folk music with western pop lyrics and beats, bringing together the East and the West, creating an iconic sound and vibe.

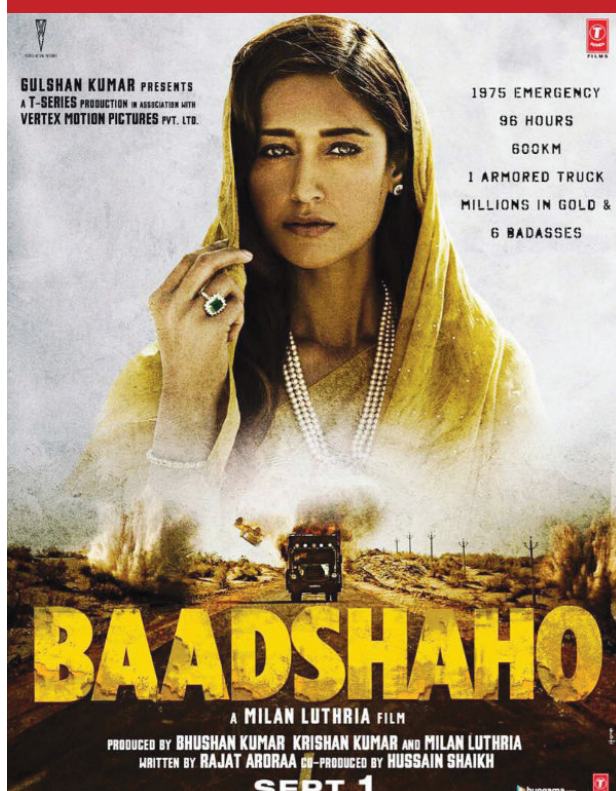
The idea to create a multilingual soundtrack from one of India's most iconic performers and entertainers like Madhuri was conceived early last year at a meeting in Beverly Hills, CA between Madhuri Dixit, her husband Shriram Nene and Sat Bisla, president & founder of A&R Worldwide. Bisla has been an early supporter for acts such as Sheppard, Coldplay, Muse, Keane, Dido, Adele, The Temper Trap, LMFAO, Jessie J, Katy Perry, Sia, Gavin James and hundreds of others prior to their global successes.

Talking about embarking on this musical journey Madhuri Dixit stated, "Music has been a part of my being from the very beginning. I was pretty clear that I wanted to kickstart this new chapter with a sense of celebration and gratitude for my fans who have offered their unrelenting support and all their love no matter what. So what better way to embark on this journey than by celebrating their appreciation!"

Talking further about her debut single Tu Hai Mera, Dixit says, "It was a pleasure to work with a team of talented individuals who understood and appreciated the beauty of the East and West. We were able to create something that really speaks to your soul. Our hope is that the audience will appreciate all the hard work our team has put into the project and that it moves them as much as it has affected us." *Source: DECCAN CHRONICLE*



## MOVIE REVIEW



### BAADSHAHO

**CAST:** Ajay Devgn, Emraan Hashmi, Vidyut Jammwal, Ileana D'Cruz, Esha Gupta, Sanjay Mishra

**DIRECTION:** Milan Luthria

**GENRE:** Action

**DURATION:** 2 hours 16 minutes

#### STORY

Emergency has been declared in India. Maharani Gitanjali(Ileana) from one of Rajasthan's princely states has already lost her privy purse. Now, she fears that she will lose the last treasure chest of gold which has been forcibly taken away from her. So she asks her trusted lieutenant, Bhawani (Ajay) to step in and plan a heist.

#### REVIEW

On paper, Baadshaho may have had the merit of a Hollywood heist thriller like Ocean's Eleven. This would seem like why Ajay Devgn agreed to be a part of this multi-starrer--that attempts to make outlaws look like Robin Hood. However good intention is defeated, when the execution offers zero novelty.

Anyway, mastermind, Bhawani, who is madly in love with Gitanjali promises her that he will win her pot of gold back. So he lovingly handpicks his crew—a lock picker, Tikla(Sanjay), a daredevil all-rounder, Daliya(Emraan), a 'I-bite-bullets-for-breakfast' kinda gal, Sanjana(Esha) who along with him, form the quartet that sets out to outsmart the faujis taking the armoured truck from Rajasthan to Delhi. It's the haraami v/s army clash.

The highlight of the film is the chase that ensues soon after Seher(Vidyut), an army officer alights from the train. You so wish that the film had maintained the same breakneck speed all through, but alas!

For a heist-thriller to work, the moves of the rural bandits should have been more calculated and precise. Instead, here you have buffoonery. Everyone is mouthing signature lines trying to constantly reiterate how "bad-ass" they are. However, if you're in the mood, indulge them-- these are Bollywood's paisa-pheko, dialogue-suno moments.

Ajay burns the screen with his searing intensity; Ileana passes muster as the Maharani with hidden facets; Emraan's takeaway is that he gets to shimmy with Sunny Leone and Vidyut gets an 'interesting' introduction.

Sunita Radia's lens captures the expanse of the desert deftly showing scale. Certain shots even stay frozen in your memory. The song Mere Rashke Qamar rekindles the magic of the voices of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan and Rahat Fateh Ali Khan. If you're an action junkie, this could be your weekend big-ticket ride.



## I DON'T ENJOY BEING SINGLE: ANGELINA JOLIE

The past year has been hard for Angelina Jolie. The actress is now opening up about her feelings. In an interview with Sunday Telegraph, she said, "Sometimes maybe it appears I am pulling it all together. But really I am just trying to get through my days. I don't enjoy being single. It's not something I wanted. There's nothing nice about it. It's just hard."

However, sources from E! News have earlier reported that she is not getting back with Brad Pitt. "Emotionally it's been a very difficult year. And I have some other health issues," Jolie said, referring to her hypertension and Bell's palsy diagnoses, and added, "I feel sometimes that my body has taken a hit, but I try to laugh as much as possible. We tend to get so stressed that our children feel our stress when they need to feel our joy. Even if you are going through chemo, you need to find the ability to love and laugh. It may sound like a postcard, but it's true."

# JENNIFER LAWRENCE'S CHARACTER REPRESENTS MOTHER EARTH

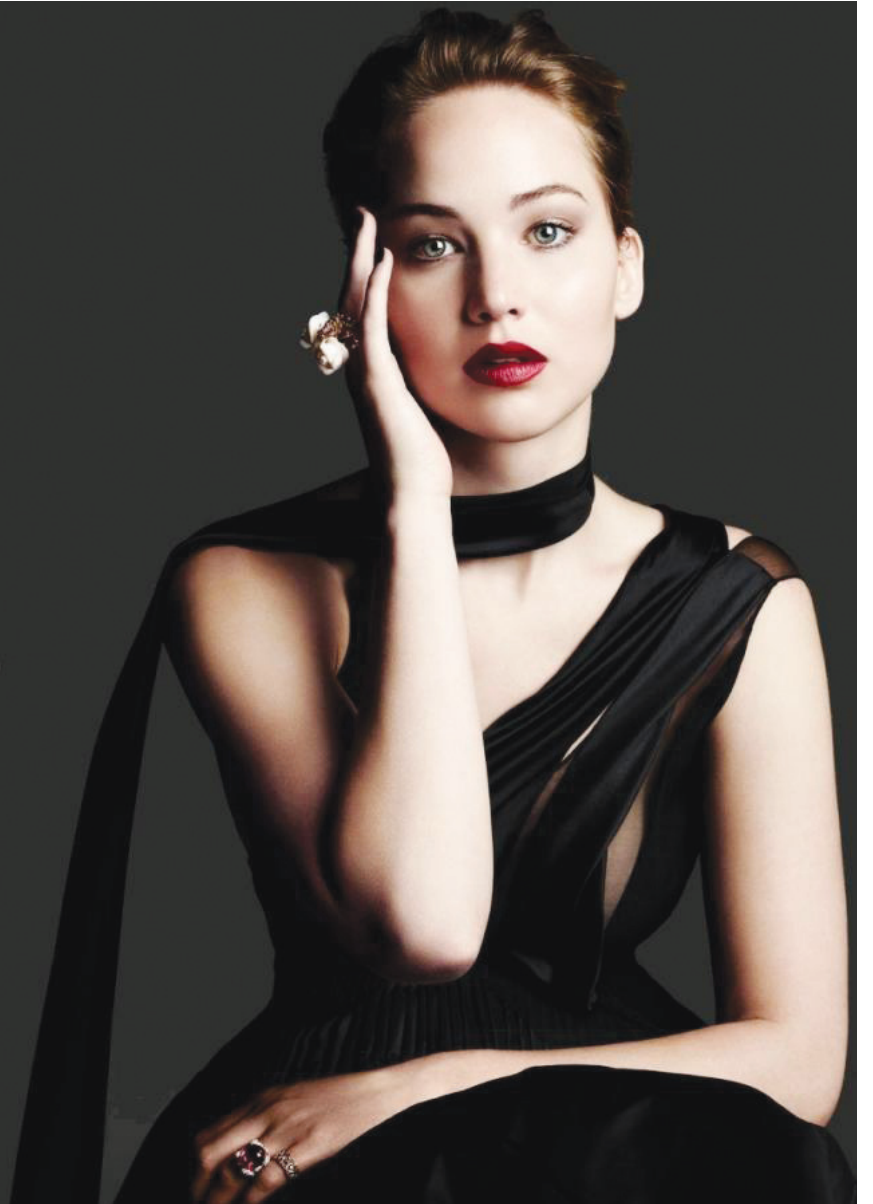
As the release date for Darren Aronofsky's upcoming horror movie 'Mother,' starring Jennifer Lawrence is coming closer, people are getting more and more curious about what the title and JLaw's character represent in the movie.

And it seems like we now have an answer to that question. While premiering his new thriller at the Venice Film Festival, director Darren Aronofsky said that Lawrence's character represents Mother Earth, and her destruction symbolizes how people treat the environment.

He said, "I think there is absolutely a connection. America is schizophrenic. We go from backing the Paris climate [accord] to eight months later pulling out. It's tragic, but, in many ways, we've revealed who the enemy is and now we can go attack it."

He also noted that making Lawrence's character completely submissive was intentional. "It really has to do with the allegory of the film and what we're trying to do there. If you think about Day 6 in your history and in your bibles, you'll kind of figure out where the film starts," shared Aronofsky.

The film also stars Domhnall Gleeson, Ed Harris, Kristen Wiig, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Brian Gleeson in pivotal roles. The flick is slated to hit theaters on September 15.



## MOVIE REVIEW

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF OCEAN'S 11, 12, 13, AND MAGIC MIKE



## LOGAN LUCKY

FINGERPRINT RELEASING PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH FILMATION ENTERTAINMENT CHANNING TATUM ADAM DRIVER SETH MACFARLANE RILEY KEOUGH KATIE HOLMES KATHERINE WATERSTON DWIGHT YOAKAM SEBASTIAN STAN BRIAN GLEESON JACK QUAD WITH HILARY SWANK AND DANIEL CRAIG AS THE BANG "LOGAN LUCKY" CASTING CARMEN CUBA COA MUSIC DAVID HOLMES COSTUME DESIGNER ELLEN MIROUNICK PRODUCTION DESIGNER HOWARD CUMMINGS CO-PRODUCERS KEN MEYER MATT SUMMERS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MICHAEL POLAIRE DAN FELLMAN ZANE STODDARD PRODUCED BY GREGORY JACOBS MARK JOHNSON WRITTEN BY STEVEN SODERBERGH DIRECTED BY STEVEN SODERBERGH

# LOGAN LUCKY

**CAST:** Channing Tatum, Adam Driver, Seth MacFarlane, Riley Keough, Katie Holmes, Katherine Waterston, Dwight Yoakam, Sebastian Stan, Hilary Swank, Daniel Craig

**DIRECTION:** Steven Soderbergh

**GENRE:** Comedy

**DURATION:** 2 hours

### STORY

Steven Soderbergh's 'Logan Lucky' is an American heist comedy film. It focuses on three siblings who plan to rob the Charlotte Motor Speedway in North Carolina.

### REVIEW

Steven Soderbergh retired from filmmaking in 2013, claiming that he had lost interest in the industry. The director behind the 'Ocean's Trilogy' - the iconic heist series - decided to come out of retirement and make another entry in the same genre, but this time at the other end of the glamor spectrum. If the sophisticated crew of Ocean's had swag, then this ragtag group has rustic charm, and loads of it. Set in West Virginia, there's nothing fancy about any of them, or their methods. But Soderbergh's years of experience with handling an assorted cast hasn't wasted away over the years. He

empowers each actor with enough material to showcase their range of skills and to a large extent, they do not disappoint.

Tatum & Driver play two siblings carrying some family baggage due to unfortunate events. They both imbibe their characters with a subtle sibling tension under the surface but are undeniably brothers in arms. Their sister Mellie Logan, played by Riley Keough, is a strong presence even with her limited screen time. There are a lot of smaller parts featuring a talented set of actors like Hilary Swank and Seth MacFarlane who might make you wonder what they're doing in this film at certain points, but clearly, everyone's having a great time playing this assorted bunch of endearing oddities. That's certainly the case for Daniel Craig, who seems to have taken up this film as a palate cleanser of sorts. Before he wears the bespoke suit again, and gets back all his fancy toys as the spy extraordinaire, he has to make do as a petty criminal with a penchant for crude bombs. Instead, Craig walks a fine line between being a tightly wound manic genius, and an eccentric loose cannon waiting to blow up. It's a thrill to watch him at work as the wild card.

Which is also a way to describe 'Logan Lucky' as a film. It's unpredictable, with some unforeseen twists and turns but with its heart intact. While the last act feels a bit drawn out, especially with the rushed introduction of a particular character, the majority of the film plays out smoothly and there's hardly a lull in the quirky humor and suspense. Even if it doesn't raise the stakes of the genre, there's enough potential to turn this funny and smartly written caper into another entertaining Soderbergh franchise.

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# VICEROY'S HOUSE

BY MABEL PAIS

- **"It's been the most satisfying thing I've ever done"**
- **"History is written by the victors"**
- **"My intention is to examine how someone like me can look at new historical evidence and explore an alternative historical narrative to what I'd been taught as a girl."**

**Gurinder Chadha**



*Hugh Bonneville as Mountbatten and Gillian Anderson as Edwina in a scene from "Viceroy's House."*

*Gillian Anderson as Edwina, Hugh Bonneville as Mountbatten and Lily Travers as Pamela in "Viceroy's House."*



**Director - Gurinder Chadha**  
**Writers - Paul Mayeda Berges, Moira Buffini, Gurinder Chadha**

**Actors - Gillian Anderson, Michael Gambon, Hugh Bonneville, Manish Dayal, Simon Callow**

**Music - A.R. Rahman**

**Running Time - 1h 46m**

**Genres - Biography, Drama, History**

At a pre-release screening Q&A in New York city, Chadha emphasizes that her mother, 91, when she was growing up in Rawalpindi (now Pakistan) recalls that everyone (Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian) lived side by side very happily with a lot of respect for one another. Chadha articulates her mother's words in Punjabi at the Q&A. In the words of Chadha's mother, in 1947, the British suddenly did black magic and whatever happened all she knows..... there was a lot of destruction. Most



*Manish Dayal as Jeet and Huma Qureshi as Alia in "Viceroy's House."*

Indians knew that there was something quite fishy about how partition came about, but no one could quite put their finger on it.

"I decided I wanted to make a film about what I call The People's Partition," she explains. "I didn't just want to explore why Partition happened and focus on the political wrangles between public figures, I also wanted to make sure the audience understood the impact of Partition on ordinary people."

Chadha's ancestors lived in the foothills of the Himalayas, now on the Pakistani side of the border. Her grandparents lived through the tumultuous events which saw sectarian violence between India's minority population of Muslims (many of whom craved their own homeland) and the Hindu and Sikh majority, bring about the greatest refugee crisis the world has ever seen; in a vast diaspora, an estimated 14 million people were displaced during Partition and up to a million died.

To make a purely political film, Chadha quips she might just as well have made a documentary. But to reach a broader audience, she needed to entertain as well as educate. "That's why I chose to interweave these political events with a love story - after all, even when the world is falling apart around our ears, life goes on - people's hearts endure pain but



*"Viceroy's House" poster*

also have huge capacity for love!"

As Chadha's conception of how to tell the story developed, she approached Cameron McCracken (Executive Producer and Managing Director of Pathe in the UK, co-executive producer of Slum Dog Millionaire) to help progress the project. The

combination of British and Indian backers gave Chadha the opportunity to make the kind of film she grew up loving.

Whilst bowing down to their genius, Chadha sees her movie as being in the same tradition as David Lean's A Passage To India (1984) and Richard Attenborough's Gandhi (1982).

As a writer-director, Chadha has repeatedly translated her personal experience as a Punjabi-British woman into uplifting, crowd-pleasing movies, from her ground-breaking 1993 debut Bhaji On The Beach to her box-office smash Bend It Like Beckham.

Asked for whom she made the movie, Chadha says that it's hard to strike those balances between an Indian audience and a western audience. "In the end, you have to do what feels right for you and I did what I felt was right for me. And I so wanted to make the film (to coincide with) 70 years after partition."

In any event, what happened in 1947 has been pored over for the last 70 years and Chadha believes her interpretation is not the first and it will not be the last. But at least it will stimulate debate!

*(Mabel Pais is a freelance writer. She writes on the arts and entertainment, health and wellness, social issues and spirituality)*

## Indian American Returns to New York after solo flight around the world



Bansal returned to Buffalo on August 21 completing a six-week world tour

**BUFFALO, NY (TIP):** Ravinder K. Bansal, a retired entrepreneur of Indian origin, who embarked on a solo flight around the world to raise money for a hospital in Haryana, has completed a six-week tour after raising \$160,000. He will donate the money to the Rotary Ambala Cancer Hospital in Haryana, India, to purchase an urgently needed MRI machine.

On July 4, Bansal, a resident of Buffalo, New York, embarked on a solo flight around the world in a single-engine Cessna 400 and returned on August 21. During the 19,878-mile trip he flew across England, France, Italy, Greece, Jordan, the UAE, and Oman and ended in India. He also had stopovers in Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Japan, Russia, and Canada during his return trip to the United States. He planned the mission after his daughter-in-law was diagnosed with life-threatening cancer. "This mission for me is very personal as it not only is an adventure that I have been dreaming about for a while, but will also help bring awareness about cancer in the rural community around Ambala and get the hospital a needed MRI machine now. Above all, it will generate publicity for the hospital that will hopefully continue to bring donations/support from the local and international community and Rotarians to keep the hospital operating and growing in future", he wrote.

"It has been a dream of mine for years to do this Round the World trip. I am finding it hard to believe that I have done it and come back home safely. I have lots of people to thank for helping me fulfill my dream. First and foremost is the unflinching support of my family, my wife Pratibha, my sons Rohan and Nitin, my brothers, sister and their families. My logistics team Eddie Gold and Ahmed Hassan of GASE, my friends in Buffalo, the new ones I made along the way and most of all God Almighty who watched over me through this entire journey. Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you all for helping make my dream come true", he wrote in his blog. Bansal is a Ph.D. holder in mechanical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Engineering, is a retired entrepreneur with a passion for flying and a wannabe Drummer.

## Parents travel from India to US to help son beat wife

**TAMPA, FL (TIP):**

An Indian woman in Florida was rescued on Sept 2 after the authorities received a call from India that she was beaten and held against her will by her husband and his parents. According to reports, 33-year-old



Police has arrested Devbir, his father, Jasbir Kalsi, and mother Bhupinder Kalsi

Silky Gaind, was found "badly beaten and bruised over her entire body" from beatings by her husband Devbir Kalsi and his parents. Police has arrested Devbir, his father, Jasbir Kalsi, 67, and mother, Bhupinder Kalsi, 61. Gaind and her 1-year-old child, who was found unharmed, have been moved to a safe place, according to the Sheriff's Office.

According to investigation report, the parents had traveled from India to "counsel and discipline" Gaind at their son's request. Devbir Kalsi had told his parents that his wife was being disobedient. While beatings by her husband continued, Gaind was held against her will by his parents. The Hillsborough County Sheriff's office said Gaind called her parents in India on Saturday, Sept 2 to tell them of the abuse. They then called authorities. According to an arrest report, Devbir Kalsi and his wife got into an argument on Friday night, during which he struck her "repeatedly and forcefully." When the woman tried to defend herself, Devbir Kalsi's parents began hitting her, too, causing bruises on her face, neck and torso before Jasbir Kalsi threatened to stab her with a kitchen knife, the report said.

Bhupinder Kalsi faces charges of battery domestic violence and failure to report child abuse.

# Indian American Former Campaign Guru Sentenced for Money Laundering in San Diego Mayoral Election

**WASHINGTON DC (TIP):** Political consultant Ravneet Singh, former CEO of ElectionMall Technologies, was sentenced Aug 31 to 15 months in prison and ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine for his role in funneling more than \$600,000 in illegal foreign campaign contributions from Mexican citizen Jose Susumo Azano Matsura to candidates in the 2012 San Diego mayoral election.

U.S. District Court Judge Michael M. Anello ordered the defendant to report to prison on October 12, 2017, to begin serving his sentence.

In September 2016, after six weeks of trial and five days of deliberations, a federal jury in San Diego returned guilty verdicts against Singh, Azano and Azano's son, Edward Susumo, who were convicted of felony counts associated with a series of illegal campaign contributions by Azano to the campaigns of Bonnie Dumanis and Bob Filner.

"American elections are not for sale," said Executive U.S. Attorney Blair Perez. "We will not allow our sacred electoral process to be compromised. This prison sentence underscores an important message: Anyone who tries to manipulate the American electorate will pay a high price."

According to evidence presented at trial, Azano, Singh, and others conspired to inject hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash and in-kind consulting services to the Bonnie Dumanis and Bob Filner campaigns,



Political consultant Ravneet Singh, former CEO of ElectionMall Technologies, was sentenced Aug 31 to 15 months in prison

despite the fact that Azano's foreign national status made such contributions illegal. To conceal his connection to these contributions, Azano arranged with his son Edward Hester and others to funnel this illegal foreign money through corporate and third person "straw donor" contributions. The conspirators, moreover, arranged for at least \$267,000 worth of Singh's in-kind consulting services to be secretly funneled to the campaigns.

In return for his political contributions, Azano sought to buy political influence. For example, he wanted support for his vision of Miami West - a San Diego waterfront development project with a yacht marina, a branded five-star hotel, and luxury bayside condominiums that promised Azano millions in profit. In other instances, Azano wanted access, like the ability to call on influential political figures or obtain letters of reference to secure his son's admission to the University of San Diego.

Ultimately, with Azano's help, Filner won the election, though he was forced to resign shortly thereafter.

For his part, Singh used his specialized skills and knowledge to facilitate the crimes. Evidence at trial demonstrated that Singh used code names for the Dumanis and Filner work that Azano paid for but never for any other domestic candidate for office; harshly reprimanded employees for using those code names in emails; and on one particularly candid occasion, referenced the "legal ramifications" of discussing these topics. Singh further concealed the payments from Azano by structuring the wires from a Mexican company, Broadlink, controlled by Azano, which had nothing to do with electoral politics, to company Singh controlled, not Election Mall, but eSolutions, which primarily developed software from India.

## Indian American appointed as U.S. Magistrate Judge in New York

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Indian American lawyer Sanket Bulsara, who recently served as acting general counsel to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, has been appointed as a magistrate judge in the Eastern District of New York and is the first South Asian American to serve on the bench in the Second Circuit.

"We are thrilled to welcome Judge Bulsara into the Eastern District family," Chief Judge Dora Irizarry said. "Judge Bulsara was chosen by the Board of Judges from among five highly qualified and stellar candidates recommended by the Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Committee composed of members of the bar and citizens of the Eastern District."

Judge Bulsara received an A.B. degree magna cum laude in 1998 from Harvard College and a J.D. degree cum laude from Harvard Law School in 2002. He is a graduate of Edgemont High School.

Upon graduating from law school, Judge Bulsara was a law clerk to Judge John G. Koeltl of the Southern District of New York. Thereafter, he was an associate at Munger Tolles & Olson in Los Angeles and Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr in New York, where he worked from 2005 to 2015, including as a partner of the firm. In



Judge Bulsara was appointed as a Magistrate Judge of the Eastern District of New York on August 28, 2017  
Photo courtesy of the Eastern District of New York

2015, he became the Deputy General Counsel for Appellate Litigation, Adjudication, and Enforcement at the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, DC.

As the Acting General Counsel of the SEC, he served as the agency's chief legal officer. He also oversaw the agency's appellate, adjudication and enforcement related legal policy

functions. Bulsara also served as Special Kings County Assistant District Attorney while he was at Wilmer Hale and successfully tried felony and misdemeanor cases.

Bulsara received several awards related to his numerous pro bono matters that have included working on prisoner rights cases and a Hague Convention child abduction matter.

# UK school bans skirts to make uniform 'gender neutral'

**LONDON (TIP):** A secondary school in the UK has banned girls from wearing skirts in a bid to make its uniform gender neutral and deal with complaints over the "decency" of short skirts.

Priory School in Lewes, east Sussex, has announced that starting from this autumn term, all new students must wear trousers, while returning students have the option to wear either trousers or skirts.

Tony Smith, the school's headmaster, said he bought in the change because pupils had been questioning why the uniform ascribed certain garments to boys and others to girls.

"Pupils have been saying why do boys have to where ties and girls don't, and girls have different uniform to boys," he was quoted as saying by The Telegraph.

"So, we decided to have the same uniform for everybody from Year 7. Another issue was that we have a small but increasing number of transgender students and therefore having the same uniform is important for them," he said.

There had also been complaints from the wider community about the length of school skirts, so this was another factor in the decision to ban them altogether.

"We know the current uniform is not necessarily worn as respectfully as it should be. There were problems with decency and a number of issues raised by people in the community about how students were wearing uniform," Smith was quoted as saying.



The school's website states that from September all new Priory students will be required to wear the updated uniform.

"This uniform has been designed specifically in response to the many issues and suggestions raised by parents, students and school staff. Specifically, it addresses the current issues of inequality and decency," the school says on its website.

"We hope that it will provide a smart, comfortable and affordable alternative to the current uniform. The new update consists of shirt, tie, school jumper and trousers. This is a gender-neutral uniform to be worn by all students," it says. The response to the change from

parents and students was divided, with some agreeing with it, while others voicing their opposition.

"My daughter and her friends are appalled by this. The school is creating a hostile environment for girls," a parent was quoted as saying.

Another parent said, "My daughter said she has got a gender and it's female, so being gender neutral when she has got a gender is a big deal for her, as she is proud to be a girl. I feel girls should be allowed to wear skirts if they want to."

Meanwhile, some parents said they supported the move. "I'm not in favour of uniform at all, but if you're going to have a uniform I think it is great it's gender neutral," a mother said. (PTI)

## Prince William and Kate expecting third child: Palace

**LONDON (TIP):** Kensington Palace said on Monday that Prince William and his wife, the Duchess of Cambridge, are expecting their third child.

William and Kate, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, already have two children, Prince George and Princess Charlotte, aged four and two.

"The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are very pleased to announce that The Duchess of Cambridge is expecting their third child," the palace said in a statement.

Kate is suffering from Hyperemesis Gravidarum, a form of severe morning sickness, and will not carry out her engagements today, it said.

The Queen and both families are said to be "delighted with the news" (AFP)

## Syrian army says Israel planes struck its positions in Hama province

**BEIRUT (TIP):** Israeli warplanes targeted a Syrian military position in Hama province early on Thursday from Lebanese airspace, killing two people and causing material damage, the Syrian army general command said in a statement.

The army statement said it took place near the town of Masyaf and warned against the "dangerous repercussions of this aggressive action to the security and stability of the region".

An Israeli army spokeswoman earlier declined to discuss reports of a strike in Syria, saying the army does not comment on operational matters.

Israeli officials have in the past admitted that Israel has attacked weapons shipments bound for Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah group, an ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, without specifying which ones.

Amos Yadlin, a former head of Israeli military intelligence, tweeted that the reported attack was not routine and targeted a Syrian military scientific centre.

"The facility at Masyaf also produces chemical weapons and explosive barrels that have killed thousands of Syrian civilians," Yadlin said in the tweet.

There was no independent confirmation that this was the target but the United Nations has said in the past that the Syrian government has carried out chemical weapons attacks, which Damascus denies.

Israeli officials have also previously said that Israel and Russia, another Assad ally, maintain regular contacts to coordinate military action in Syria.

Jets flying over Lebanon overnight broke the sound barrier and Lebanese media reported that some Israeli jets had breached Lebanese airspace. (Reuters)

## Death toll rises to 61 in powerful Mexico earthquake

**MEXICO CITY (TIP):** One of the most powerful earthquakes ever recorded in Mexico struck off the country's southern coast, toppling hundreds of buildings and sending panicked people fleeing into the streets in the middle of the night. At least 61 people were reported dead.

The quake that hit minutes before midnight Thursday was strong enough to cause buildings to sway violently in the capital city more than 650 miles (1,000 kilometers) away. As beds banged against walls, people still wearing pajamas ran out of their homes and gathered in frightened groups.

Rodrigo Soberanes, who lives near San Cristobal de las Casas in Chiapas, the state nearest the epicenter, said his house "moved like chewing gum." The furious shaking created a second national emergency for Mexican agencies already bracing for Hurricane Katia on the other side of the country. Intense rains were reported in the Gulf state of Veracruz, where the storm was expected to make landfall late Friday or early Saturday as a Category 2 storm that could bring life-threatening floods. President Enrique Pena Nieto said Friday evening in a televised address that 61 people were killed - 45 in Oaxaca state, 12 in Chiapas and 4 in Tabasco - and he declared three days of national mourning.

The worst-hit city was Juchitan, on the narrow waist of Oaxaca known as the Isthmus, where 36 quake victims died.

About half of Juchitan's city hall collapsed in a pile of rubble and streets were littered with the debris of ruined houses. A hospital also collapsed, Pena Nieto said after touring the city and meeting with residents. The patients were relocated to other facilities. (AP)

# Merkel's party alleges Russian cyber attacks ahead of elections

**BERLIN (TIP):** A top leader of German Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative party said her website had been hit by thousands of cyber attacks - many from Russian IP addresses - before Sunday's televised election debate.

German intelligence and government officials have often voiced concerns that Moscow could seek to interfere in the Sept. 24 national election, in which Merkel is widely expected to win a fourth term.

Russia has repeatedly denied trying to influence foreign elections.

Julia Kloeckner, vice chairman of Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU), said on Monday that her political website had seen some 3,000 attacks on Sunday before the debate between Merkel and Social Democratic leader Martin Schulz.

Following a pattern seen in earlier hacks, the CDU's headquarters in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, where Kloeckner is the party's leader, also experienced "massive attacks" ahead of the debate, she said.

"Many of the senders have Russian IP addresses," Kloeckner added.

German authorities have blamed a spate of cyber attacks directed at the German parliament, individual lawmakers, political parties and political think-tanks since summer 2015 on APT 28, a Russian hacker group with links to Moscow.

Kloeckner did not say how the attacks had been discovered or what form they had taken. Many recent cyber attacks targeted



at German politicians and institutions have used phishing schemes that include attachments with malicious software.

Germany's BSI federal cyber protection agency said it was aware of the incidents and was in touch with the CDU headquarters in the state, a spokesman said.

Officials with the headquarters of the CDU and the Social Democrats, junior partners in the ruling coalition, said they had not seen a wave of similar attacks on their websites.

Hans-Georg Maassen, the head of Germany's BfV domestic intelligence agency, told reporters in July that Berlin expected Russia to try to influence this month's election and said he suspected that Russian President Vladimir Putin would prefer a different German

chancellor than Merkel.

Merkel backs continued sanctions against Russia for its actions towards Ukraine. Relations between Germany and Russia have been cool in recent years, although Germany is highly dependent on energy supplies from Russia.

A spokesman for the German interior ministry told a news conference on Monday that cyber attacks directed at political parties had increased generally in recent months, but declined to comment on the latest incidents.

He noted the BSI had been working closely with politicians and parties to increase security.

Experts said hackers were increasingly going after subsidiary sites such as those of local party branches in the hope of finding vulnerabilities. (Reuters)

# LACK OF SLEEP MAYBE RUINING YOUR MARRIAGE: STUDY



Couples who fight may find a way to resolve their issues by getting a good amount of sleep, a new study suggests.

The study was conducted by a team at the Ohio State University Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research.

Inflammatory responses have been linked to many chronic illnesses, heart disease and arthritis. Because sleep issues have been linked with inflammation, researchers wanted to understand its relationship with a couple's marriage, Stephanie Wilson, lead researcher on the study told the Daily Mail.

For the study, a couple's response to stressful situations was compared to how much of sleep they were getting. 43 couples participated in the research where they talked about a hot button issue in their marriage, according to a report by the Daily Mail. Before talking about the topic, couples provided a sample of their blood and information about the amount of sleep they had. A second blood

sample was taken after the issue was discussed.

"We found that people who slept less in the past few nights didn't wake up with higher inflammation, but they had a greater inflammatory response to the conflict," Wilson said. Adding, "So that tells us less sleep increased vulnerability to a stressor."

Those who slept less than seven hours were more likely to fight with their partner and were found to have higher levels of an inflammatory response in their blood. Well-rested partners had a healthy approach to an issue than those who were sleep-deprived.

Experts recommend couples get at least seven hours of sleep to improve their marriage and wellbeing. "We would tell people that it's important to find good ways to process the relationship and resolve conflict," Janice Kiecolt-Glaser, senior author and director of the Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research told the Daily Mail. *Source: ANI*

## Key to happy marriage lies in separate bank accounts

According to a new study, the real secret of a long and happy marriage is not in romantic dates or loving spouses, but rather lies in separate bank accounts.

Even though a majority of couples accept that a joint bank account has the potential of building trust and openness, one in four claimed that amalgamating income - and especially savings - was likely to cause irreversible rifts that could end in break-up or divorce.

The study was commissioned by the website MoneyMagpie.com as part of a wider study by Opinium Research into Britain's spending habits.

According to founder and consumer affairs expert Jasmine Birtles, the findings reflect positively on newlyweds who are taking proactive steps to reduce the risk of unnecessary conflict before it arises.

She went on to add that the results of the research appear to suggest that more people than ever before are choosing to keep their finances separate after getting hitched or moving in together.

She says that while joint bank accounts could be a simple way of managing household spending for newlyweds, survey suggests that couples were increasingly reluctant to lose their financial independence.

The study found that 34 percent of married couples preferred keeping their finances separate. *Source: DECCAN CHRONICLE*



Study shows that 34% of married couples keep their finances apart.

## FOOD CORNER

### JACKFRUIT PAYASAM

#### INGREDIENTS

500 gm pureed jackfruit, 2 teaspoon cashews, 1 cup grated coconut, 2 cup coconut milk, 2 cup powdered jaggery, 1/2 teaspoon green cardamom, 2 teaspoon ghee

#### Method

- To prepare this delicious payasam recipe, put a deep-bottomed pan on medium flame and melt ghee in it. When the ghee is hot enough, add the cashew nuts and roast them. Once done, transfer to a bowl and keep aside. Add the grated coconut in the same pan and lower the flame, dry roast till golden brown in colour.
- Now, add the pureed jackfruit in the pan along with jaggery powder and roasted cashews, and cook for about 10 minutes. Make sure that the mixture is thickened. (Note: You can also use the pulp of the jackfruit.)
- When the jackfruit mixture is thickened, add the coconut milk along with cardamom powder and stir continuously. Stop in between and bring the milk to a boil. Let the milk and jackfruit mixture simmer for another 10 minutes.
- Once cooked, turn off the flame and garnish with mixed dry fruits. Serve hot!

### TOMATO RICE



#### INGREDIENTS

1 cup soaked basmati rice, 2 medium chopped onion, 2 teaspoon sambhar powder, 1 handful chopped coriander leaves, 2 tablespoon refined oil, 1/2 teaspoon garlic paste, 4 large chopped tomato, 3 medium green chilli, 1/4 teaspoon powdered turmeric, 3 pinches salt, 1/2 teaspoon ginger paste, 2 pinches red chilli powder

#### Method

- Wash and dry the basmati rice and soak for about 20 minutes. Take a deep pan, put it on medium flame and pour water in it. Bring it to a boil, and then add the soaked rice. Cover the pan with a lid and cook on medium flame till the rice becomes soft, but not mushy. Now remove from fire and keep it aside. Now put the chopped tomatoes in a blender and blend it properly. Transfer the puree in a bowl and keep it aside. Now heat 2 tbsp of oil in a pan and add the ingredients for seasoning (mustard, asafoetida, curry leaves, dried red chillis). Add onions and saute. Then add green chillies and ginger-garlic paste. Saute these ingredients for a minute.
- Now add the tomato puree, turmeric powder, red chilli powder, sambhar powder and salt. Cook until the oil separates. Add the cooked rice to the tomato gravy and mix well. Once done, transfer the tomato rice in a serving bowl and garnish with coriander leaves. Serve hot with papads, potato chips or raita.



# BREASTFEEDING COULD REDUCE ASTHMA ATTACK RISK

**A** new study has found breastfeeding reduces the risk of asthma attacks by half.

A new study found children who suffered from the chronic lung disease and were naturally fed were less likely to endure its symptoms - breathlessness, coughing and wheezing, according to a report by the Daily Mail. When the symptoms worsen that is when the attack occurs. Sufferers are unable to speak or eat and have difficulty breathing.

For the study, researchers examined 960 children between the ages of four and 12 who used asthma medication regularly. A questionnaire revealed information about whether or not they were breastfed. The results showed asthma sufferers who had been breastfed were 45% less likely to suffer from the attacks.

Researchers believe this may be because of breastfeeding's effect on an individual's immune system. "Changes in the composition and activity of the gut microbiome in early life can influence the immune system and these changes might indirectly lead to changes in asthma later in life,"



lead author of the study Dr Anke Maitland-van der Zee from the University of Amsterdam told the Daily Mail.

Dr Maitland-van der Zee also stated currently it "is still unclear whether there is a causal relation between

breastfeeding and asthma exacerbations".

"Further prospective research is warranted to confirm this association and to clarify the underlying mechanisms" Dr Maitland-van der Zee told the Daily Mail.

# Just 25 min of yoga can boost energy levels and brain function

**M**editating and practising yoga have numerous health benefits. They can boost your body and mind, and even 'reverse' stress-causing DNA. A new study suggests that just 25 minutes of hatha yoga and mindfulness meditation every day can significantly improve brain function and energy levels. It can boost the brain's executive functions, cognitive abilities linked to goal-directed behaviour and the ability to control knee-jerk emotional responses, habitual thinking patterns and actions.

Researcher Peter Hall from the University Of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada said that hatha yoga and mindfulness meditation both focus the brain's conscious processing power on a limited number of targets like breathing and posing, and also reduce processing of non-essential information. "These two functions might have some positive carry-over effect in the near-term following the session, such that people are able to focus more easily on what they choose to attend to in everyday life," Hall added.

The team involved 31 participants, in which the participants completed 25 minutes of hatha yoga, 25 minutes of mindfulness meditation and 25 minutes of quiet reading (a control task) in randomised order. The results indicated that following both the yoga and meditation activities, the participants



performed significantly better on executive function tasks compared to the reading task. "This finding suggests that there may be something special about meditation — as opposed to the physical posing — that carries a lot of the cognitive benefits of yoga," said lead author Kimberley Luu.

The study also found that mindfulness meditation and hatha yoga were both

effective for improving energy levels, but hatha yoga had significantly more powerful effects than meditation alone. Hatha yoga involves physical postures and breathing exercises combined with meditation. Mindfulness meditation involves observing thoughts, emotions and body sensations with openness and acceptance. *Source: ANI*

# Now, one can detect cancer in just 10 seconds

**A** new device can detect whether or not a tumour is cancerous in just 10 seconds. The researchers from University of Texas, Austin invented a powerful tool that rapidly and accurately identifies cancerous tissue during surgery, delivering results in about 10 seconds— more than 150 times as fast as existing technology.

The MasSpec Pen is an innovative handheld instrument that gives surgeons precise diagnostic information about what tissue to cut or preserve, helping improve treatment and reduce the chances of cancer recurrence.

"If you talk to cancer patients after surgery, one of the first things many will say is 'I hope the surgeon got all the cancer out,'" said team leader Livia Schiavinato Eberlin. "It's just heartbreaking when that's not the case. But our technology could vastly improve the odds that surgeons really do remove every last trace of cancer during surgery."

The current state-of-the-art method for diagnosing cancers and determining the boundary between cancer and normal tissue during surgery, called Frozen Section Analysis, is slow and sometimes inaccurate. Each sample can take 30 minutes or more to prepare and interpret by a pathologist, which increases the risk to the patient of infection and negative effects of anesthesia. And for some types of cancers, frozen section interpretation can be difficult, yielding unreliable results in as many as 10 to 20 percent of cases.

However, in tests on tissues removed from 253 human cancer patients, the MasSpec Pen took about 10 seconds to provide a diagnosis and was more than 96 percent accurate. The technology was also able to detect cancer in marginal regions between normal and cancer tissues that presented mixed cellular composition. The team expects to start testing this new technology during oncologic surgeries in 2018.

"Any time we can offer the patient a more precise surgery, a quicker surgery or a safer surgery, that's something we want to do," says James Suliburk. "This technology does all three. It allows us to be much more precise in what tissue we remove and what we leave behind."

Although maximizing cancer removal is critical to



The current method for diagnosing cancers, called Frozen Section Analysis, is slow and sometimes inaccurate.

improve patient survival, removing too much healthy tissue can also have profound negative consequences for patients: For example, breast cancer patients could experience higher risk of painful side effects and nerve damage, in addition to aesthetic impacts. Thyroid cancer patients could lose speech ability or the ability to regulate the body's calcium levels in ways that are important for muscle and nerve function.

In tests performed on human samples, the device was more than 96 percent accurate for cancer diagnosis. The team has also demonstrated that it accurately diagnoses cancer in live, tumor-bearing mice during surgery without causing any observable tissue harm or stress to the animals.

Physicians can operate the disposable handheld device easily. It requires simply holding the pen against the patient's tissue, triggering the automated analysis using a foot pedal, and waiting a few seconds for a result. Meanwhile, the pen releases a drop of water onto the tissue, and small molecules migrate into the water. Then the device drives the water sample into an instrument called a mass spectrometer, which detects thousands of molecules as a molecular fingerprint.

*Source: ANI*



## CSIR'S ARTIFICIAL LEAF CREATES FUEL FROM SUNLIGHT, WATER

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Scientists have developed an artificial leaf that absorbs sunlight to generate hydrogen fuel from water, an advance that may provide clean energy for powering eco-friendly cars in the future.

The ultra-thin wireless device mimics plant leaves to produce energy using water and sunlight.

"It is known that hydrogen generation from renewable resources will be the ultimate solution to our energy and environment problems," said Chinnakonda S Gopinath, a senior principal scientist at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Chemical Laboratory in, Pune.

Gopinath, said that his team had been working in the area of water splitting to generate hydrogen for nearly a decade.

"Hydrogen burning gives energy and water as a side product, underscoring its importance and relevance to the present day world," he told PTI.

"This line of research is very relevant to our country.

India is blessed with plenty of sunlight through the year that is not exploited significantly to produce energy or hydrogen," he said.

The device consists of semiconductors stacked in a manner to simulate the natural leaf system. When visible light strikes the semiconductors, electrons move in one direction, producing electric current.

The current almost instantaneously splits water into hydrogen - which researchers believe is one of the cleanest forms of fuel as its main byproduct is water.

At present, hydrogen is produced from fossil fuels by steam reforming and in this process emits a large amount of carbon di-oxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) - a green house gas that promotes global warming.

"In the present work, we have made an attempt to generate solar hydrogen. The preparation method reported is simple and practicable and hence there is a very good possibility of scaling it up," he said.

The research was published in the Scientific Reports, an online, open-access journal from the publishers of Nature, states that the device of an area of 23 square centimetres could produce 6 litres of hydrogen fuel per hour.

"But in the not-so-distant future, we could expect to see a car fuelled by hydrogen generated from the artificial leaf process on-board or stored during the day time," Gopinath said.

To improve the light-absorbing efficiency of the artificial leaf, researchers used gold nanoparticles, titanium dioxide and quantum dots. *Source: PTI*

# MYSTERIOUS SURFACE DEVICE ON THE CARDS NEXT MONTH

**M**icrosoft had launched the Surface Pro and the Surface Laptop earlier this year, but now it appears that the company still has a few surprises on the Surface front for 2017.

Corporate VP for Surface at Microsoft, Panos Panay, will attend the company's Future Decoded event in London on October 31, and according to reports, there will be unveiling of at least one new device as a part of the Surface lineup.

Details are not present as of now, but from previous reports, a second generation Surface Book is very likely to make ground at the event. It was believed originally that Microsoft would unveil the second-generation Book in October 2016, but the company allegedly held back the release because certain features weren't ready. It now turns out that the Surface Book 2 is ready for debut and it could see daylight next month in London.

Also, there is a possibility that Microsoft is planning to discuss the future of Windows 10 on ARM chips, as the company and its partners originally promised to bring such



devices to the market in late 2017.

According to a statement from a Microsoft spokesperson, that plan is still on the table, and with the October 31 event one of the last this year, the software giant could use it specifically to introduce such devices. At this point, it's not known if Microsoft itself wants to join this Windows 10 on ARM push with a Surface model, but more news in this regard are expected to be shared in London.

*Source: DECCAN CHRONICLE*

## Indian-origin scientist creates medical camera to see through body

**LONDON (TIP):** An Indian-origin scientist has led a team at a UK university to create a medical camera that can see through the human body, and he believes it has immense potential for doctors in tracking internal examinations.

Kev Dhaliwal, Professor of Molecular Imaging and Healthcare Technology at the University of Edinburgh, believes that with this device doctors will no longer be required to exclusively rely on expensive scans and X-rays.

"It has immense potential for diverse applications, such as the one described in this work. The ability to see a device's location is crucial for many applications in healthcare, as we move



forwards with minimally invasive approaches to treating disease," said Dhaliwal, the Project Lead of Proteus, which is part of a larger research collaboration developing a range of new technologies.

The camera is designed to help doctors track medical tools, known as endoscopes, that are used to investigate a range of internal conditions.

The new device is able to detect sources of light inside the body, such as the

illuminated tip of the endoscope's long flexible tube.

Until now, it has not been possible to track where an endoscope is located in the body in order to guide it to the right place without using X-rays or other expensive methods.

Light from the endoscope can pass through the body, but it usually scatters or bounces off tissues and organs rather than travelling straight through. This makes it nearly impossible to get a clear picture of where the endoscope is.

The new camera takes advantage of advanced technology that can detect individual particles of light, called photons, the team explains.

## Google's new tool to help SMBs manage biz online

**G**oogle on Thursday launched a new dashboard feature within Search for 'Google My Business' customers. The dashboard allows Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs) to easily manage their businesses online.

For this, owners are required to find their businesses on Google Search, complete and enhance listing, share photos and posts and see how many views they are receiving.

According to Google India, more than 80 per cent of people are searching the Internet to find local information.

"When people get to know your business, they are more likely to become customers and businesses with complete listings on Google are twice as likely to gain customer trust, 38 per cent more likely to attract in-store visits and 29 per cent more likely to see a purchase," Google India said in a statement.

An owner can find business on Google Search and click the edit button on a new menu above the search results.

The fields which can be edited will be highlighted where an owner can update information and upload photos directly.



**Google says more than 80% of people are searching the Internet to find local information.**

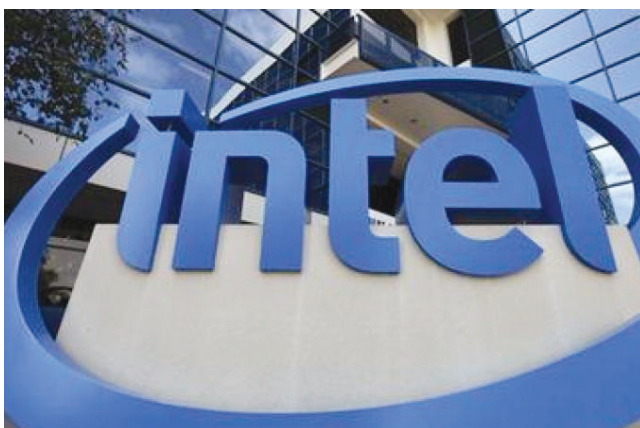
# Intel to update 5G testing device to meet standards

**C**hipmaker Intel Corp said on Thursday that it was updating 5G equipment that will allow telecom companies like AT&T Inc and Verizon Communications Inc to run trials based on standards to be released later this year.

A 5G network is expected to offer faster speeds, more capacity and shorter response times while supporting uses ranging from self-driving cars to remote surgeries. Telecom companies and their suppliers consider it to be a multibillion-dollar revenue opportunity.

Intel has five 5G trials with global service providers and 15 more in the pipeline, Chief Executive Officer Brian Krzanich said on a post-earnings conference call in July.

One such trial, with wireless carrier AT&T, involves a 5G



broadband service that could be introduced as soon as late 2018.

Intel's mobile trial equipment, which looks like a large box, handles the processing needs for a 5G connection. The updated version, slated for the fourth quarter, will support new 5G standards that the Third Generation Partnership Project, a telecom group known as 3GPP, is expected to release in late 2017.

As a result, the new platform will allow Intel's partners to "really see what works and what doesn't," Rob Topol, general manager of 5G business and technology, said in an interview.

Intel participated in 3GPP's working groups to develop the 5G standards, Topol said. 3GPP also developed current mobile phone standards for 4G LTE. *Source: Reuters*

# PAKISTAN'S HABIB BANK TO CLOSE NEW YORK OFFICE

## To pay \$225 million fine for compliance failures

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The New York State Department of Financial Services on Thursday said Pakistan's Habib Bank had agreed to pay \$225 million to settle an enforcement action brought against it for infringing laws designed to combat illicit money transfers.

The DFS said in a legal filing last month it was seeking to fine the bank, Pakistan's biggest lender, up to \$630 million for "grave" compliance failures over anti-money laundering and sanctions rules at its only U.S. branch.

The regulator said the bank, known as HBL, agreed to pay just over a third of that sum as part of a broader settlement in which it will shutter its New York branch, subject to conditions.

These include submitting to a DFS investigation of transactions processed by the branch from October 2013 to the end of September 2014, and from April 2015 through the end of July 2017.

In a statement HBL said it "remains committed to strengthening its compliance processes, operations and controls" across its 1,700 branches.

Shares of HBL surged 5 percent, to 160.58 rupees per share, amid investor relief that the fine was not larger than \$225 million.

Thursday's announced settlement does not preclude further future enforcement action if the DFS investigation reveals further problems.

The enforcement action followed a 2016 review in which the regulator said it found "weaknesses in the bank's risk management and compliance" that management had failed to tackle.

The review showed HBL had failed to properly screen thousands of transactions and had processed payments for known criminals and sanctioned entities, among other failings.

"The bank has repeatedly been given more than sufficient opportunity to correct its glaring deficiencies, yet it has failed to do so," Financial Services Superintendent Maria Vullo said in the statement.

"DFS will not stand by and let Habib Bank sneak out of the United States without holding it accountable for



**New York regulators said Habib facilitated billions of dollars of transactions with Saudi private bank, Al Rajhi Bank, which reportedly has links to al Qaeda, and failed to do enough to ensure that the funds were not laundered or used for terrorism.**

**Habib, Pakistan's largest private bank, neglected to watch for compliance problems and red flags on transactions that potentially could have promoted terrorism, money laundering or other illicit ends, New York banking officials said.**

putting the integrity of the financial services industry and the safety of our nation at risk."

HBL disclosed it was in negotiations with the DFS last month and said the potential fine and closure of its New York branch would have no material impact on its business outside the United States.

"HBL is pleased to have this matter behind it and has begun the orderly wind-down of its New York operations," Matthew Biben, a partner at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP and the bank's U.S. lawyer, said in a statement.

"HBL believes that the opportunity to resolve this matter consensually at this time is in the best interests of its investors, shareholders and customers. HBL remains committed to

strengthening its operations and controls."

The DFS said a court hearing set for later this month had been canceled as part of the settlement.

Pakistani brokerage firm Intermarket Securities said the hefty fine would hurt profits and could force HBL to issue foreign-currency subordinated debt to pay the regulator.

But the sum was "manageable" and the medium-term outlook for the bank should not be affected, it said in a research note.

"Under the circumstances, we believe it makes sense for the bank to take this one-off hit, rather than approaching courts which would have put the share price under a cloud for longer."

Source: Reuters



Jaguar Land Rover's I-PACE concept car is seen on display ahead of its 2018 production launch as Jaguar's first fully electric SUV at their 'Tech Fest' in London.

## JAGUAR LAND ROVER TO ROLL OUT ONLY ELECTRIC CARS FROM 2020

**LONDON (TIP):** Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover today announced that all its new car models will be electrified from the year 2020.

The luxury brand, acquired by the Indian automotive giant nine years ago, unveiled plans for a range of fully electric, plug-in hybrid and mild hybrid vehicles in the coming years.

"Every new Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) model line will be electrified from 2020, giving our customers even more choice.

We will introduce a portfolio of electrified products across our model range, embracing fully electric, plug-in hybrid and mild-hybrid vehicles," Dr Ralf Speth, JLR Chief Executive Officer, revealed at the inaugural Tech Fest in London today.

"Our first fully electric performance SUV, the Jaguar I-PACE, goes on sale next year," he said. Source: PTI

## Switch to clean vehicles or be bulldozed: Gadkari to auto cos

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Carmakers producing vehicles that run on traditional fuel, take note — Union minister Nitin Gadkari has a clear message: Go for alternative fuel, else he will not mind "bulldozing" them in his bid to check pollution and imports. According to the road transport and highways minister, a Cabinet note on electric vehicles is ready that will take care of charging stations. He was addressing the SIAM's annual convention here.

He held out a veiled warning, saying those supporting the government will have an advantage and those busy "minting money" will be in trouble, asking them not to approach the government later on the ground that they have huge stock of vehicles that do not run on alternative fuel.

"Already, we are in the process of a Cabinet note where we are going to plan charging stations... It is in the last stage and will be done as early as possible," he said, adding the government will soon bring in a policy on electric vehicles.

"I urge you (carmakers) politely to do research. First, when I urged you for electric vehicles, you said battery is costly. I coaxed you to start at least. Now, the batteries cost 40% less. And if you start now, cost will be reduced further on mass production. Teething trouble is everywhere," he explained. He promised that the proposed vehicle scrapping policy stuck due to GST issues will be sorted out soon. Source: PTI

## Govt blacklists 300,000 shell company directors

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The government on Wednesday decided to bar as many as 300,000 directors of companies that have defaulted on statutory compliances from serving on the boards of other firms to improve corporate governance and check financial irregularities through the use of shell companies.

The ministry of corporate affairs, which regulates unlisted companies, also decided to track down the beneficial owners of suspected shell companies and take penal action against those who divert funds from companies that are struck off the records of the Registrar of Companies (RoC).

The ministry said it is also monitoring the action being taken by regulatory bodies against professionals such as chartered accountants, company secretaries and cost accountants who have been found to have colluded with the shell companies in committing financial irregularities.

## RBI had cautioned govt on DeMo: Rajan

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan today said as the central bank head he had cautioned the government about demonetisation and the estimated loss of GDP at 1-2% or Rs 2 lakh crore.

Speaking at the launch of his book, 'I Do What I Do', Rajan said while the data on the impact of demonetisation is still coming in and needs to be analysed, an additional cost in the form of black money coming in to the banks and interest being paid on it amounts to Rs 22,000 crore a year.

Rajan's comments come at a time when the RBI revealed that 99% of the scrapped Rs 500 and 1,000 notes came back to the banking system and there has been intense scrutiny of the benefits



of demonetisation.

When asked about the demonetisation, the former RBI Governor said, RBI had prepared a note and told the government that the short-term economic cost of note ban

would outweigh its long-term benefits. He said no decision on demonetisation was taken during his term and neither was a date fixed.

Rajan said after demonetisation there had been estimated loss of economic activity and GDP to the tune of 1-2% which is around Rs 2 lakh crore. In addition, black money has come into the banking system and it remains to be seen how much tax can be collected from these accounts.

The additional cost to the banking system is in the form of Rs 22,000 crore in interest a year that has to be paid after the black money has efound its way into the banks, he said. Source: The Tribune

## "|| SHRI GANESHAYA NAMAHA ||"



## BEJAN DARUWALLA

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## Predictions for the month of SEPTEMBER, 2017

Today there is computerized voice type analysis. My observation is you, Scorpio, Taurus and Libra are blessed with the baritone which persuades people to do your bidding. This is certainly yoga time or yoke time or partnerships of all possible sorts. I suggest yoga and partnership with God will be exceptionally fruitful. Enjoy it. Life is sweet but short.

Cleanliness, purity and mysterious creativity is associated with you Virgos because your name is associated with Virgin Mary the mother of Christ. That's why I predict that Virgo Narendra Modi will be able to cleanse and purify the Ganges. Mighty achievement. But Virgos are school masters. School masters are perhaps too rigid and lay down the law a bit too hard for others to follow. A little bit of tolerance and flexibility is needed. After all, all human beings have their failings.

**Aries:**

Never believe that your life is useless. Never believe that after your death there will be complete silence. Never believe that your grave and resting place will be unmarked. Be sure that your vibrations will remain in the ether forever. In other words, be sure that in one way or the other you will never be forgotten.

**Taurus:**

Music, the arts and the rhythm of life itself go naturally with you Taureans. September is the month for all of this. Add to it genuine spirituality, tantra and mantra, birth of children, bhajans, satsangs, entertainment and the natural flow of the energy of life itself. A month to show how good and great you can be.

**Gemini:**

Ganesha quotes nothing great is easily won, Nothing great is easily lost, Every good deed nobly done, will repay the cost. It means in simple language that you will be rewarded in one way or the other for every good deed you have done. It means nothing good ever goes in vain.

**Cancer:**

Though your grave might be unmarked be sure that you will never be swallowed in silence. A time to make your presence felt of transport and publicity, news and views and messages. Extend a helping hand to one and all and Mother Nature will do exactly the same for you.

**Leo:**

Leo Sprinter Bolt was defeated in the recent Olympics. But though defeated the winner bowed down to him and paid homage. This is the clue to your powerful personality, your image and finally your great spirituality. The Sun is your main planet therefore the mantra is specially meant for you. OM HRAM HREEM HROM SA SURYAYE NAMAH

**Virgo:**

This is the month when you can sweep away one and all by your diligence, intelligence, inspiration and undoubted sincerity as well as imagination. Knowing this it becomes your dharma to do all that you can not only for yourself but for others. Love and duty are the two wheels of your bicycle.

**Libra:**

The peace that passeth understanding as the Bible says can be yours. At the same time, paradoxically, you may have to look after the weak and the helpless. Expenses may mount. It is a month of paradoxes and contradictions. But given faith in God and your own self you will come out a winner.

**Scorpio:**

As the Bible says, "The truth shall make you free". In other words, be absolutely honest in your dealings and game set a match will be finally yours. The simple reason is friends and well-wishers will flock to your side and support you once they know that you are sincere and cooperative.

**Sagittarius:**

Pressures are certainly going to mount in terms of prestige and work. Your attitude will be mighty important. Stay hopeful, buoyant and do not lose your confidence under any circumstances. You may have to work hard on two fronts home and work very sincerely. The mantra for you is, "OM JHRAM JHREEM JHROOM SA GURUVE NAMAH".

**Capricorn:**

Pilgrimages, spirituality of totally different dimension, tours and the ability to synchronize different trends and directions should help you in a thousand different ways. God favors you because you certainly deserve it. This is high praise, nobly deserved and won. Conference and meetings are foretold.

**Aquarius:**

Karmic debts will have to be paid, like it or lump it. The best thing is to accept it and go right ahead bravely and intelligently. This is not going to be easy. But in life the spiritual path can be one of thorns and thistles. Yes, you will be able to walk on it. Otherwise also this is a slightly uneven month.

**Pisces:**

You will grow through what you go through. Partnerships at all levels are predicted. The greatest partnership is with your Maker and your own Destiny. A time to heal others and thus be at peace with yourself. In short hostility and love, enmity and friendship all come to a meeting point, a very unusual month. Journey with a stop-over is possible.

Bejan Daruwalla is world's most famous astrologer today. He appears regularly on world wide TV shows. Bejan who has been a professor in English, has authored a number of books on astrology. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on March 29, 2012, lunched one of Bejan's books, '2012- End of the World? Bejan contributes to a number of journals and

newspapers in many parts of the world which include Berkley Communications (London) Times of India (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai) and The Indian Panorama ( New York and Texas). Bejan's predictions have mostly been correct and people the world over rely on his predictions.

Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at [info@bejandaruwalla.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwalla.com) and on phone 011-91-9825470377 [www.bejandaruwalla.com](http://www.bejandaruwalla.com)

# ONAM, THE HARVEST FESTIVAL

Onam is the biggest and the most important festival of the state of Kerala. It is a harvest festival and is celebrated with joy and enthusiasm all over the state by people of all communities. According to a popular legend, the festival is celebrated to welcome King Mahabali, whose spirit is said to visit Kerala at the time of Onam.

Onam is celebrated in the beginning of the month of Chingam, the first month of Malayalam Calendar (Kollavarsham). This corresponds with the month of August-September according to Gregorian Calendar.

Carnival of Onam lasts from four to ten days. First day, Atham and tenth day, Thirunam are most important of all. Popularity and presentation of rich culture of the state during the carnival made Onam the National Festival of Kerala in 1961. Elaborate feasts, folk songs, elegant dances, energetic games, elephants, boats and flowers all are a part of the dynamic festival called Onam.

Government of India has taken due notice of this vibrant and colorful festival. It promotes Onam internationally in a big way and celebrates 'Tourist Week' for Kerala during Onam celebrations. Thousands of domestic and foreign tourists visit Kerala to be a part of Onam.

## Legends

Just as in the case of many other festivals of India, there are several interesting legends behind the origin of Onam. The festival is celebrated by all in the state of Kerala, but Nambudiri Brahmins of Kerala are the most spirited when it comes to Onam celebrations as they attribute its origin to their own community. Nambudiri also called Namputiri is the dominant caste of Kerala. Its members regard themselves as the true repositories of the ancient Vedic religion and of the traditional Hindu code.

## The Legend of King Mahabali

It is believed that there once lived a wise and generous asura (demon) king, Mahabali. He was highly regarded by his subjects and everybody was happy in his kingdom.

Gods felt challenged with the growing popularity of Mahabali. They sought help from Lord Vishnu who was worshiped by King Mahabali. Lord Vishnu took the avatar of a poor and dwarf Brahmin, called Vamana and came to the kingdom of Mahabali just after his morning prayers, when the King gave boons to the Brahmin.

The disguised Lord Vishnu asked for as much land as could be covered by his three steps. The King made a promise to do so. Suddenly, Vamana increased to a massive size. With his one step he covered the whole of the sky and with the other he covered the whole of earth. He then asked for a place to put his third step. King realised that the boy was no ordinary Brahmin and asked Vamana to put his third step on his head.

The boy did so, pushing Mahabali in the nether world, the patala. Lord Vishnu was pleased with King Mahabali generosity and granted him a boon. Deeply attached with his people, the King said he would like to visit Kerala and his people every year. Lord Vishnu was pleased to grant the request.

It is this homecoming of King Mahabali that is celebrated as Onam every year.

## The Legend of Boat Palliodam

The story goes that several years ago some people were traveling in the boat called Palliodam when all of a sudden the

boat got stuck in the bend in the river. The oarsmen tried to move it but were unsuccessful. The spiritual head, Bhattathiripad who was boarding the same boat Palliyodam, thought that it was a bad omen as the boat was laden with food. He came to river bank to seek help and saw a hut by a dim light that was glowing. He decided to visit the hut and ask for help.

When Bhattathiripad went close to the hut he saw a poor widow weeping and some children sleeping besides her. The woman told Bhattathiripad that her children slept off hungry and she has no food to feed them. Bhattathiripad was moved by her pathetic state. He went to the boat Palliyodam and brought food for the family. When the family became happy with the food, boat Palliodam could be easily maneuvered to the main course of river again.

From then on began the tradition of feeding one poor person on the day of Onam.

## The Legend of Vanishing Boy

It is said that once, about 10 kilometers up the river Pampa from Aranmula, the head of the Katoor Mana, a Nambudiri family, had a bath in the river. He said his prayers and waited to feed a poor man to complete his ritual. He waited for long but nobody came. Tired of waiting, the Brahmin closed his eyes and began to pray to Lord Krishna. As soon he opened his eyes, he saw a small boy in tatters before him. The devout Brahmin gave a bath to the boy, a set of clothes and a sumptuous meal.

To the surprise of the Brahmin, the boy vanished as soon as he finished his meal. He looked for the boy and spotted him near Aranmula Temple. But, the boy disappeared again.

The Brahmin came to the conclusion that he was no ordinary boy and was God himself. From then on the Brahmin brought food to Aranmula Temple every year during Onam.

## Customs of Onam

Carnival of Onam encompasses a spectrum of fascinating activities. Traditional people of Kerala even go out of their way to celebrate the festival exhaustive of stipulated customs and traditions in full grandiose.

Besides the various rituals that are meant to be completed in individual households, there are a lot of customary activities that are organised at the level of society and city all over the state.

## Athachamayam

Athachamayam is a grand procession that marks the beginning of the grand carnival of Onam. It is celebrated with lot of fan-fair on the day of Atham at Thirpunchura and Piravam. The event recalls a royal tradition when Maharajas of erstwhile Kochi State as a custom traveled to the Thripunchura Fort with their entire entourage. Today, even in the absence of the King, the custom retains its regal charm. Highpoints of the event are performances by folk artistes, caparisoned elephants, musical ensembles and dance shows by skilled artsites.

## Snake Boat Race

The most enthralling and popular of all such customary events is the Vallamkali or the Snake Boat Race. The event is held just a few days before Thiru Onam. Though the event takes place at several places in the city, the most important of them all is the one organised at Alappuzha. A large

number of big and decorated boats called chundan vallams participate with hundreds of boatmen. Rowing of boats on the rhythm provided by the songs and music of the drum makes it a captivating event.

## Aranmula Uthrittathi

This is another magnificent boat event organised in connection with Onam. This annual event takes place on the day of Uthrittathi Asterism at Aranmula. This is meant to relive mythology that narrates a story of Lord Krishna crossing the river on that particular day. It is believed that the spirit of the Lord is present on all the boats hence there is no competition of any sort in this event. A large number of

resplendent site to watch the bejeweled elephants walking on the streets in their full majesty and grandeur. Children particularly take great delight in watching the show of their favourite animal. Songs, dance and merry making are a part of this event.

## Celebrations at Cheruthuruthy

Renowned for housing the famous,



K e r a l a



people come to watch the joyous event. Some also offer Valla Sadya as a vazhipadu (offering) in the temples on this occasion.

## Procession of Decked Elephants

Trichur, the cultural capital of Kerala, marks the festival in its own beautiful style. Here, a procession of decorated elephants in carried out on the streets. It's a

Kalamandalm, the Kathakali Training Centre, Cheruthuruthy is a small village in the north of Trissur district. Onam celebrations at Cheruthuruthy are marked for the Kathakali performance by the best artists of the state. A large number of people gather in this village to watch the enactment of scenes from epics and folk tales.

**If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, Who shall save it?**

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## Murder of Gauri Lankesh is an ominous sign for India's flailing democracy

opinion is under assault as either sedition charges are filed against the individuals or the institution that exercise those rights or the law enforcement mechanism is being manipulated to intimidate and silence those voices.

Gauri Lankesh's death appears to be a meticulously planned and executed to silence a powerful voice. The opposing forces could not match her rationale pointing up the dangers of right-wing politics and its possibly disastrous effect on the secular fabric of the nation. Her harsh criticism of prevailing casteism in the society was often directed at Institutions that still harbor those sentiments and made her more of a passionate activist who had little patience for the status-quo.

This is not the first murder of a rationalist and thinker after the ascension of BJP to the power at the Center. A rationalist professor and thinker M M Kalburgi was murdered in the quaint town of Dharwad. In the neighboring state of Maharashtra, rationalists Govind Pansare and Narendra Dabholkar were also shot, and the one thing that united them all was their strident voices against intolerance and hatred of the right wing ideology.

It is no more an exaggeration to say that India is governed under a 'simulated emergency' without truly declaring it. Shani Prabhakaran, a television reporter from Kerala, spoke candidly about the treatment of the media by the BJP government at a recent seminar in Chicago sponsored by the India Press Club. According to her, as soon as she finished a television segment analyzing the last three years of the governance by the Modi regime, a questionnaire from Delhi had arrived with a number of questions asking her to substantiate each criticism! Commenting on the recent raids, NDTV's Prannoy said the following 'our fight is not against the CBI, I-T or the ED but against politicians who were using these Institutions and ruining and destroying our country.'

The basic responsibility of a journalist is to inform the public free of hype and bias. The fourth estate, as the media is often dubbed, acts as a mirror and a watchdog for the good of the public. However, most of the media in India today are controlled by big corporations whose professional responsibilities of the news outlets they own are intertwined with their business interests. The result is an abject failure in reporting the news with fairness and balance that could prove to be detrimental to a vibrant democratic society.

Never in the history of India, a governing party had made such blatant attempt to eliminate an opposition party (Congress Mukta Bharat), intimidated and scared Media houses from reporting factual news, invoked colonial-era sedition laws to silence student activists from speaking out or created a hostile environment where these killings go unabated.

Through her sacrifice, Gauri Lankesh has woken up our conscience once again. She had recognized the fact that our hard fought freedom and liberty, once again is in danger. In her death, our flailing democracy will be missing one of its strongest defenders. May I salute this brave soul for her true grit and passion for justice!

'The power to question is the basis of all human progress' - Indira Gandhi

*(The author is a former Chief Technology Officer of the United Nations and Chairman of the Indian National Overseas Congress, USA)*

contd from page 1

## After DACA Repeal...

US Attorney-General Jeff Sessions on September 5 announced the rescinding of the Deferred Action for Children Arrival (DACA), an Obama-era amnesty program that granted work permits to immigrants who arrived in the country illegally as children.

The move likely to impact 800,000 undocumented workers including more than 7,000 Indian-Americans.

"I have a great heart for the folks we're talking about-a great love for them. And people think in terms of children, but they're really young adults. I have a love for these people, and hopefully now the Congress will be able to help them and do it properly," Trump told reporters at the White House, September 5.

The decision has evoked widespread criticism with former President Barack Obama calling it calling it

"wrong," "self-defeating" and "cruel."

The announcement, which was anticipated for the past few days, was greeted with protests from across the country. The move is likely to impact 8,00,000 undocumented workers including more than 7,000 Indian-Americans.

Hundreds of protesters gathered outside the White House yesterday demonstrating against Trump.

The White House has defended the decision to rescind DACA.

"There is a misconception that DACA primarily serves as a shield from deportation. This is misleading. DACA grants work authorization to nearly 800,000 individuals who are not legally authorized to work. DACA recipients, whose average age is in their 20s, were not an enforcement priority before, and they certainly won't become a priority now," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said yesterday.

"The priorities remain the same-criminals, security threats, and those who repeatedly violate our immigration laws," she said.

Sanders said the main effect of the announcement is that work permits and other government benefits are being gradually phased out.

"No permits will be expiring for another six months, and permits will remain active for up to two full years. The president was elected partly on his promise to deliver meaningful immigration reform that puts the jobs, wages, and security of the American people first.

"He is delivering on that promise every day, and he has put forward serious proposals to Congress that would responsibly end illegal immigration, prevent visa overstays, remove dangerous criminals, protect American jobs and wages," she said.

Responding to questions, Sanders exuded confidence that that the Congress is going to step up and do their job.

"This is something that needs to be fixed legislatively, and we have confidence that they (Congress) are going to do that. And we stand ready and willing to work with them in order to accomplish responsible immigration reform, and DACA is certainly part of that process," she said.

Senator Bob Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said the president is right to want this issue to be resolved legislatively.

"Hopefully, while addressing it, we also will deal with a myriad of other issues that need to be corrected with our broken immigration system, including enhancing enforcement and security measures," he said.

Senator Chuck Schumer said most Americans know how heartless this DACA decision is, ripping apart families and telling people who worked so hard to become Americans for years that they now have to leave the country.

"These are folks who were brought here as children, through no fault of their own. They may have known no other country but ours and have voluntarily registered themselves with the government in order to live, work and give back to our great country," he said.

Schumer said 91 percent of DACA recipients are employed, paying taxes and paying into Social Security.

A study by the Center for American Progress earlier this year found that ending DACA would drain \$433 billion from national GDP over 10 years, he said.

"The human and economic toll of rescinding DACA will be far reaching. The Trump administration's action to end DACA is senseless and cruel. California has its eyes on Congress to do what it should have done years ago, but we cannot bank on that.

"So, the Governor stands with Attorney-General Becerra as he takes our fight to court to defend the Dreamers," California Governor Edmund G Brown said.

House Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer has written a letter to Speaker Paul Ryan today urging him to allow consideration of amendments to the omnibus appropriations bill on the Floor this week that would prohibit the use of taxpayer funding by the Administration for certain purposes. (Source: PTI)

## Juster Nominated as US Envoy...

pact. Till recently Juster served as the deputy assistant to the president for International Economic Affairs, coordinating international economic policy with national security and foreign policy for the Trump Administration. Juster will succeed Richard Verma, President Obama's nominee, who left New Delhi after Trump won the Presidency in November 2016, leaving the post unfilled for almost a year.

Juster an alumnus of Harvard College received his master's degree in Public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and his law degree from the Harvard Law School. Juster's stint in public service, saw him serving as Under Secretary of Commerce from 2001-2005, Counselor (acting) of the State Department from 1992-1993,

### POETRY CORNER

## The Journey



BY MANNAT ARORA

**The journey acquaints the traveler,  
With roads narrow and wide.  
As they bend and curve; swivel and swirl,  
They take him places near and far.**

**At times they teach him,  
The lessons of walking;  
Rugged they maybe- giving him a furious  
fight,  
Smooth they may turn out to be- proving it's  
not so difficult all the while.**

**As smooth seas never made skilled sailors,  
All the bumps, bends and brakes;  
Make him balance his staid.  
Fast ways never meant the destination was  
any nearer.**

**He sees the sun strike a silent slumber;  
Worried, if he'll never make it;  
But the road roars,  
Of the drawing destination.**

**So he beats on, mindfully marching to make  
the future his present;  
Milestones moving by his side, painting  
pictures of proximity.**

**(MANNAT ARORA, BASED IN LUDHIANA, INDIA,  
IS A PENULTIMATE YEAR STUDENT OF  
BACHELORS OF LAW AT PANJAB UNIVERSITY.  
WINNER OF A NATIONAL-LEVEL POETRY  
COMPETITION, SHE STRONGLY CONSIDERS  
LITERATURE TO BE A FOOD FOR THE SOUL.  
SHE IS A UNIVERSITY TOPPER. SHE SPENDS  
MOST OF HER TIME IN HER LIBRARY OR IN  
THE BACKYARD PLAYING WITH HER DOG)**

and deputy and senior adviser to the Deputy Secretary of State from 1989-1992. In the private sector, he has been a partner at the investment firm Warburg Pincus LLC, Executive Vice President at Salesforce.com, and senior partner at the law firm Arnold & Porter.

His foreign policy expertise was garnered while serving as Chairman of Harvard University's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, and as Vice Chairman of The Asia Foundation. Juster also founded and served as the US Chair of the US-India High Technology Cooperation Group, and was one of the key architects of the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership initiative between US and India, which laid the foundation for the historic civil nuclear agreement.

Juster's long service in Public office and expertise in US-India relations, may indicate a smooth sailing through the Senate confirmation hearing. India's Modi government has also expressed approval on Juster's nomination.

## Fierce Hurricane Irma bears...

It's not clear exactly where the storm will make landfall, but winds well in excess of 100 mph could batter numerous population centers along Florida's west coast. And coastal waters could rise 10 to 15 feet above normally dry land, completely inundating homes, businesses, and roads.

Hurricane warnings cover much the Florida peninsula's coastal areas. Hurricanes watches extended farther north into coastal Georgia and South Carolina. 5 million have been told to flee.

# AGRA: THE LAND OF TAJ MAHAL

A walk through history, Agra is the mystical abode of all things past. Though magnificence of the Taj Mahal attracts tourists to Agra from all over the world, this city is also peppered with forts, tombs and mausoleums that make for an attractive itinerary. Nicknamed Baby Taj, the tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah is worth a visit. A visit to the ruined city of Fatehpur Sikri, Agra Fort, and Akbar's Tomb also deserve a place in your itinerary. Fatehpur Sikri built by Emperor Akbar requires you to keep aside a day for visit. The Agra Fort should be explored for its antiquity and display of architectural finesse. A city of dualities, Agra has also been quietly undergoing a metamorphosis of its own as new hipster neighbourhoods are cropping up throughout its length and breadth. Besides the Taj Mahal, tourists also flock to the Mehtab Bagh, which is neatly aligned with the Taj, for an enchanting view of the iconic monument on full moon nights.

## TAJ MAHAL

The Taj Mahal is considered by many, to possess architectural beauty unsurpassed by any other structure in the world. Constructed over a period of 22 years, employing twenty thousand workers, it was completed in 1648 C.E. and costed a whopping 32 million Rupees. Built entirely of white marble, it almost seems to glow in the moonlight, with the shimmering Jamuna river situated just across. The Muslim emperor Shah Jahan built this monument in the memory of his wife Mumtaz, whose grave is housed within the premises at the lower chamber. The grave of Shah Jahan was added to it later. The Taj stands tall and regal on a raised, square platform, forming an unequal octagon with its four truncated corners. The architecture uses the interlocking arabesque concept, where each element is singular in its entirety, but integrates seamlessly with the whole. The central dome spans 58 feet in diameter and soars to a height of 213 feet. It is flanked on four sides by smaller domed chambers, and four slender minarets rising to a lower height of 162.5 feet. The entire mausoleum is decorated with an inlaid design of flowers and calligraphy using precious gems like agate and jasper, and the main archways are carved with passages from the Holy Qur'an.



## MEHTAB BAGH

Originally built by Emperor Babur as the last in a series of 11 parks bordering the Yamuna's east bank, this Mughal garden was conceived before even the Taj Mahal. Although it fell into disrepair owing to a flood in 1652 AD, it was reconstructed and restored to its former glory in 1996, and is now one of the best spots to take in stunning views of the Taj Mahal. The gardens surrounding the Taj Mahal are perfectly aligned with Mehtab Bagh, and a large octagonal pool at the heart of the garden offers a perfect reflection of the Taj in the moonlight. Translating to mean 'Moonlight Garden', this is where Mehtab Bagh gets its name from.

## FATEHPUR SIKRI

Fatehpur Sikri is a town located about 40 kilometres from Agra, and has been given the status of a World Heritage site by UNESCO. Founded in 1569 by the Mughal emperor Akbar, this was the Mughal capital from 1571 to 1585, during which the empire reached its pinnacle of success. The site was chosen to honour the Sufi saint Salim Chishti and the city within was built to honour the birth of his child, Salim. The construction of this walled city took almost 15 years to complete, and the complex included several royal palaces, a harem, courts and a mosque. The buildings have been made from red sandstone and have been designed in keeping with Persian architectural concepts, although the overall style is Mughal.

## AKBAR'S TOMB

Sikandra Complex containing Akbar's tomb is one of Agra's architectural marvels. Work on it was started by Akbar in 1605, and was



completed by his son Jehangir after his death. Using various different styles of architecture, this beautiful and imposing tomb is located amidst a gorgeous garden, and has been constructed using red sandstones and glossy white marble inlaid in geometric patterns. The huge courtyard is entered through a stunning gateway, and features three-storey minarets in each. The tomb of Mariam Zamani, Akbar's Christian Wife from Goa and King Jehangir's mother, is placed nearby.

## AGRA FORT

Aside from the Taj Mahal, Agra has one of the finest Mughal forts in India, the Agra Fort. A massive red sandstone structure located on the



banks of the Yamuna River, construction on the fort was started in 1565 by the Mughal Emperor Akbar, and further additions in white marble were subsequently made up till the reign of his grandson Shah Jahan. Originally built for military purposes, it was later used as a palace, and eventually even served as a prison where Shah Jahan was confined for 8 years by his son Aurangzeb, who seized power in 1658. The fort runs along a length of 2.5 kilometres within enclosed walls, it encompasses several exquisite palaces such as the Shah Jahani Mahal, Jahangiri Mahal, Khas Mahal, audience halls named Diwan-i-Am and the Diwan-i-Khas, a Fish Pavilion, the Nagina Masjid, Garden of Grapes and the Pearl Mosque. A world heritage site, it is a testament to

architecture which deserves a visit.

## ITIMAD-UD-DAULA'S TOMB

Nicknamed the Baby Taj, the exquisite tomb of Mizra Ghiyas Beg was the precursor to the Taj Mahal. Built between 1622 and 1628, it is located along the banks of the Yamuna and was built by the Mughal queen Noor Jahan, wife of Emperor Jehangir, to commemorate her parents. It is an architectural marvel located at the heart of the well known and scenic Persian Garden. The tomb has been elegantly designed and finished in the most beautiful architectural style laid in yellow marble with black and white marble inlay. A similar tomb was later built by Noor Jahan for her husband near Lahore in Pakistan.

contd from page 1

## Ambassador Hardeep...

Here are the revised portfolios of the ministers:

## CABINET MINISTERS

1. Rajnath Singh: Minister of Home Affairs.
2. Sushma Swaraj: Minister of External Affairs.
3. Arun Jaitley: Minister of Finance; Minister of Corporate Affairs.
4. Nitin Jairam Gadkari: Minister of Road Transport and Highways; Minister of Shipping; Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
5. Suresh Prabhu: Minister of Commerce and Industry.
6. DV Sadananda Gowda: Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
7. Uma Bharati: Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
8. Ramvilas Paswan: Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
9. Maneka Sanjay: Gandhi Minister of Women and Child Development.
10. Ananthkumar: Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers; Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.
11. Ravi Shankar Prasad: Minister of Law and Justice; Minister of Electronics and Information Technology.
12. Jagat Prakash Nadda: Minister of Health and Family Welfare.
13. Ashok Gajapathi Raju Pusapati: Minister of Civil Aviation.
14. Anant Geete: Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
15. Harsimrat Kaur Badal: Minister of Food Processing Industries.
16. Narendra Singh Tomar: Minister of Rural Development; Minister of Panchayati Raj; Minister of Mines.
17. Chaudhary Birender Singh: Minister of

Steel.

18. Jual Oram: Minister of Tribal Affairs.
19. Radha Mohan Singh: Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
20. Thaawar Chand Gehlot: Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.
21. Smriti Zubin Irani: Minister of Textiles; Minister of Information and Broadcasting.
22. Harsh Vardhan: Minister of Science and Technology; Minister of Earth Sciences; Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
23. Prakash Javadekar: Minister of Human Resource Development.
24. Dharmendra Pradhan: Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
25. Piyush Goyal: Minister of Railways; Minister of Coal.
26. Nirmala Sitharaman: Minister of Defence.
27. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi: Minister of Minority Affairs.

## MINISTERS OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

1. Rao Inderjit Singh Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning; Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
2. Santosh Kumar Gangwar: Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
3. Shripad Yesso Naik: Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH).
4. Jitendra Singh: Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of

Atomic Energy; Minister of State in the Department of Space.

5. Mahesh Sharma: Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Culture; Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
6. Giriraj Singh: Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
7. Manoj Sinha: Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Communications; Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways.
8. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore: Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
9. Raj Kumar Singh: Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Power; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
10. Hardeep Singh Puri: Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
11. Alphons Kannanthanam: Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Tourism; Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

## MINISTERS OF STATE

1. Vijay Goel: Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of State in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
2. Radhakrishnan P: Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance; Minister of State in the Ministry of Shipping.
3. SS Ahluwalia: Minister of State in the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
4. Ramesh Chandappa Jigajinagi: Minister of State in the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
5. Ramdas Athawale: Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
6. Vishnu Deo Sai: Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel.
7. Ram Kripal Yadav: Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development.
8. Hansraj Gangaram Ahir: Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.
9. Haribhai Parthibhai Chaudhary: Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines; Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal.
10. Rajen Gohain: Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways.
11. VK Singh Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs.
12. Parshottam Rupala: Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Minister of State in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
13. Krishan Pal: Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
14. Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor: Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
15. Shiv Pratap Shukla: Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance.
16. Ashwini Kumar Choubey: Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
17. Sudarshan Bhagat: Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
18. Upendra Kushwaha: Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
19. Kiren Rijiju: Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.
20. Virendra Kumar: Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development; Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
21. Anantkumar Hegde: Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
22. MJ Akbar: Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs.

23. Niranjan Jyoti: Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

24. YS Chowdary: Minister of State in the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State in the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
25. Jayant Sinha: Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
26. Babul Supriyo: Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
27. Vijay Sampla: Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
28. Arjun Ram Meghwal: Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of State in the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
29. Ajay Tamta: Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles.
30. Krishna Raj: Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
31. Mansukh L Mandaviya: Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; Minister of State in the Ministry of Shipping; Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
32. Anupriya Patel: Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
33. CR Chaudhary: Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
34. PP Chaudhary: Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice; Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
35. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre: Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence.
36. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat: Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
37. Satya Pal Singh: Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development; Minister of State in the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

## US tech giants vow to defend 'Dreamers'

Microsoft and Apple are offering the most full-throated defense of "Dreamers" - undocumented individuals who have been in the US since they were young and registered with the federal government to get work permits.

Apple CEO Tim Cook condemned the Trump administration's decision and pledged in a note to employees to offer any employees affected by the change the "support they need, including the advice of immigration experts." Apple will "fight" for its Dreamers, Cook tweeted. "#Dreamers contribute to our companies and our communities just as much as you and I. Apple will fight for them to be treated as equals," he tweeted.

"You're going to have to go through us to deport Dreamers who work here," Microsoft said, adding it will stick by its employees affected by any change to DACA, even in court. - PTI

New York to file lawsuit protecting beneficiaries

US President Donald Trump's decision to end benefits for children brought into the US illegally faces a legal challenge from New York and other states. New York Attorney General Eric T Schneiderman will announce a multi-state lawsuit to protect beneficiaries of DACA program.

Schneiderman and New York Governor Andrew Cuomo have promised to challenge any decision by Trump to end DACA. Cuomo said the move would affect roughly 42,000 New Yorkers, upending their lives and ripping families apart

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# NADAL BEATS DEL POTRO; REACHES US OPEN FINALS

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Once Rafael Nadal went from passive to aggressive and got his uppercut of a forehand going, it didn't take long for him to power into the U.S. Open final. Closing in on a third title at Flushing Meadows and 16th Grand Slam championship overall, Nadal overcame a so-so start with an overwhelming performance the rest of the way Friday night, taking nine games in a row during one stretch to beat 2009 champion Juan Martin del Potro 4-6, 6-0, 6-3, 6-2 in the semifinals.

"He played so smart from the second set until the end of the match," del Potro said. "He was dominant."

No. 1 Nadal will be a significant favorite Sunday against No. 32 Kevin Anderson of South Africa, who beat Pablo Carreno Busta 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 to become the lowest-ranked U.S. Open finalist since the ATP's computer rankings began in 1973. The 6-foot-8 (2.03-meter) Anderson, who won an NCAA doubles title at the University of Illinois, is equipped with a big serve, certainly, but he only once had even been a quarterfinalist at a major until this week. He's also lost all four previous matches against Nadal.

Plus there's this: Nadal looked as good as ever over the last three sets against del Potro, further confirmation of his return to the height of his powers. Nadal is again healthy and capable of excellence, after wrist and knee injuries dulled his effectiveness in 2015 and 2016 — the first seasons since 2004 in which he not only failed to win a Grand Slam trophy but didn't even make a final.

"It's been an amazing season, of course, after a couple of years with some troubles, injuries, tough moments," Nadal said. "So this year, since the beginning, has been a very emotional year."

He reached the Australian Open final in January, losing to Roger Federer, then claimed his record 10th French Open championship in June. When Nadal's uncle and coach, Toni, was asked to describe his nephew's year, this was the reply: "It's easy to describe it. He has played really good." Well, then.

Save for a less-than-dominant opening set Friday, in which Nadal had nine winners and 10 unforced errors, he barely missed his



targets. His numbers the rest of the way: 36 winners, 10 unforced errors.

Eventually, Del Potro's flat, fearsome forehand became less dangerous, as if he suddenly remembered just how weary he was, and his backhand — a two-handed shot he has had to rebuild after three operations on his left wrist — was effective early, then stopped hurting Nadal.

"He was playing all the time to my backhand, and when you don't have that confidence to play three, four hours with a good backhand against Rafa, it's just a matter of time," del Potro said.

Dealing with the flu and a fever, del Potro came back from a two-set deficit to win his fourth-rounder in five sets, then got past 19-time major champion Federer in the quarterfinals in four. Maybe it was all too much for del Potro, whose one Grand Slam title came via wins over Nadal in the semifinals and Federer in the final in New York eight years ago.

That was the last time Nadal lost in a major semifinal; he's now won 15 in a row. This time,

the 24th-seeded del Potro actually edged ahead with the match's first break, going up 3-2 in the first set when a backhand return caught the net tape and took a fortuitous roll over to Nadal's side for a winner.

"Lucky," del Potro acknowledged later. That moment was greeted with a chorus of "Ole, ole, ole, ole! Del-po! Del-po!" for the popular Argentine, who would serve out that set, punctuating it with a forehand.

Maybe that woke up Nadal, who wouldn't again relinquish a game until he owned the second set and a 3-0 lead in the third. The next time del Potro served, Nadal finally earned his first break point with some fantastic defense, throwing himself to his left to somehow get back one massive forehand from del Potro, who — perhaps stunned that ball came back — sent his next forehand long.

By now, Nadal was pulling his own intimidating, topspin-lathered forehand up the line and pressing the matter whenever del Potro left a ball short. As Uncle Toni put it, Nadal "began to attack, with very good decisions."

It was quickly clear that the only doubt remaining was what the final score would be. "Just the fight to be in the final, and have a chance to fight for another title here, is so important for me," Nadal said.

Hours earlier, Anderson was so excited that he celebrated his semifinal victory as if it made him the champion, stepping on a chair and then a flower box to help him climb into his guest box in the stands.

"I don't know if it's appropriate," Anderson said. "It certainly felt the right thing to do."

Hip, leg and elbow injuries caused him to miss time this season. Ankle surgery, plus left knee, right shoulder and groin injuries were problems last year.

He is appearing in his 34th major tournament and took advantage of a draw depleted by withdrawals of several top players, including past champions Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray and Stan Wawrinka.

"It's nice," Anderson said, "that some of them gave us a bit of a shot to make a run in this tournament." *Source: AP*

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Americans Sloane Stephens and Madison Keys, both struggling with serious injuries just three months ago, advanced to their first Grand Slam final at the US Open. Stephens, who missed 11 months with a left foot injury before returning in July, outlasted seven-time Slam champion Venus Williams 6-1, 0-6, 7-5. "I'm super happy to be in a Grand Slam final," Stephens said. "To do it here, my home Slam, is obviously more special. I think this is what every player dreams about."

Keys, who had a wrist surgery for the second time in 10 months after a first-round French Open exit, routed 20th seed CoCo Vandeweghe 6-1, 6-2 in 66 minutes to complete the first all-American US Open final since Serena Williams beat sister Venus in 2002.

"It still doesn't feel real. I'm still shaking," Keys said. "I played pretty well. There's a lot of things in my head right now, so I'm struggling to come up with words. I knew I had to rise to the occasion. I'm just happy to be in the final."

The friends and Fed Cup teammates will meet on Saturday at Arthur Ashe Stadium in the

biggest match of either's career for a top prize of \$3.7 million.

"I've known her for a long time. She's one of my closest friends on tour," Stephens said. "I love her to death. And it's not easy playing a friend."

Stephens, who was wearing a walking boot in June and ranked 957th in July, has won 14 of her past 16 matches, with semifinal runs at Toronto and Cincinnati. "I have no words to describe what I'm feeling, what it took to get here, the journey I've been on," Stephens said. "It's incredible. I don't know how I got here. Your guess is as good as mine. Just hard work. That's it."

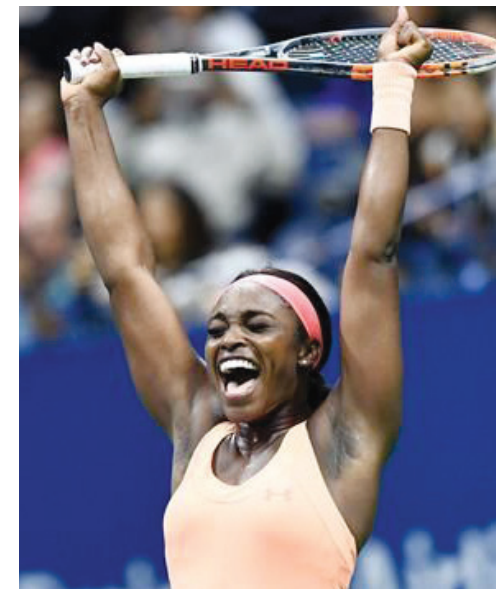
Stephens beat Keys in the second round at Miami in 2015 in their only career meeting. "Sloane is a new person right now," Keys said. "She's so excited to be out on the court again. I'm excited we get to play each other in the US

Open final."

Stephens needed a thrilling break at love in the penultimate game to deny two-time champion Williams her first US Open final in 15 years. "I just worked my tail off and tried to run every ball down and here we are," Stephens said. "It required a lot of fight and a lot of grit."

Williams could not overcome 51 unforced errors that doomed her bid to become the oldest women's singles finalist in US Open history at age 37. Now 83rd, Stephens is the lowest-ranked Slam finalist since unranked Justine Henin at the 2010 Australian Open and the lowest at the US Open since unranked Kim Clijsters won the 2009 title. "It was definitely well competed," Williams said. "In the end she won more points than I did and that's what it added up to. Just made so many errors at the end there... I wasn't playing well. Just wasn't playing well."

*Source: AFP*



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