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Donald Trump is gaining some ground on Hillary Clinton in the polls, leaving the Democratic presidential nominee with a smaller lead heading into the crucial month of September.
EDISON (TIP): The meet and greet program organized by Overseas Friends of Bharatiya Janata Party (OFBJP-USA) in honor of Shriya Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh was a great success with hundreds of enthusiastic BJP supporters, friends of Madhya Pradesh and NRIs shoving the venue to listen to their beloved chief minister who has transformed Madhya Pradesh into one of the top performing states in all fields.

Anand Jain (NJ Co-Conver, OFBJP) welcomed the audience and the chief guest. After the traditional lighting of the lamp and rendition of United States and Indian national anthems, attendees observed a moment of silence in the memory of the departed BAPS Pramukh Swami Maharaj.

Krishna Reddy (President, OFBJP) briefly introduced the achievements of OFBJP. He mentioned that OFBJP is actively engaged with various organizations in taking up the issues NRIs of India are facing and also help find solutions to them. OFBJP has embarked on the path of reaching to NRIs’s regularly through its monthly newsletter which is now printed by the CM of MP. He invited the audience to connect with OFBJP as it is the best platform available to serve our motherland and also to work for the welfare of the Indian diaspora.

Addressing a huge gathering Shivraj Singh Chouhan responded to a query from a NRI from the UK. He was happy to be amongst the NRIs and humbled by their love for the mother land. He mentioned that they were successful and the fact that we have a big presence in Silicon Valley and one in every six American visits a doctor of Indian origin for treatment speaks volumes of our success here. India under the able leadership of Shri Narendra Modi is growing at a bright spot among the world economies in a short span of two years. We have left China behind with 7.4% growth rate and policy continuity. After Modi government took over the country especially the youth are being empowered with confidence.

Madhya Pradesh (MP) a state once called a sick and backward state is one of the top performing states in the country now. The state has shown double digit growth consistently and had won awards not only during the current NDA rule but also during UPA regime. The state has good road connectivity. 24x7 power, good law and order and stability and a government that is working round the clock for the people.

There was a time over a decade ago when people would have to be happy for getting electricity for few hours a day but now with more than 16% Megawatt capacity the state not only provides 24x7 power to its households and industries but also for the excess energy even to its neighboring states. The state had already realized its ex-PM Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s dream of river inter-connectivity and connectivity. The state has major rivers like Narmada, Shipra and Narmada and help bring over 16 lakh hectares under irrigation. Under the UP A regime. The state has all the things needed for investment like power, roads, infrastructure and best of all a good road connectivity, 24x7 power, good law and order and stability and a government that is working round the clock for the people.

The state of Madhya Pradesh has become a destination for investment with its stable law and order and good governance; and has already attracted investments worth few lakhs crores. The state already has land-banks from which land can be allotted for industries in short span of time. Indore has become a fast growing industrial city. The state government also promotes entrepreneurship by giving loans to its youth without any guarantee from parents or anyone else. Several universities have been started, many technical institutes have been modernized to impart skill development to its youth. The state supports the entrepreneurship in the Marketing and Marketing which has become a paradigm shift in the model of governance.

The state exhibited a glimpse of its effective governance and tourism during the Simhastha Kumbh Mela held this year. Over 2 crore people came to the town of Ujjain, a small town with a population of 7 lakh and on the last day of the event over 20 lakh pilgrims took a holy dip. The event was passed off peacefully and the best of the facilities were provided to all the visiting devotees.

The state government is going a step further and researching into things that would make its people happy and started a Department for Happiness which comes up with its report and the state tries to implement its suggestions. Shivraj Singh Chouhan emphasized that BJP is a party with a difference and nationalism is its core ideology. During the recent BJP Chief Ministers’ meet, the party came up with a proposal to implement a proposal that will ensure food, clothing, housing, education, cleanliness and medical treatment for all the under privileged sections of their respective states. This is on the lines of the principle of Antyodaya and Integral Humanism of Late Deen Dayal Upadhyaya which considers poorest of the poor as gods and their upliftment is of the utmost importance to the party.

He reiterated that the party is committed and ensure the benefits of development reach the last man in the social strata. Just as a grandson of Shri Pandit Kripalal Dutt (Swami Vivekananda) who a century ago preached the ancient Hindu concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The whole world is a family), we shall care and love our fellow human beings as if they are members of our own family.

Mr. Chouhan congratulated the Indian diaspora for the achievements and a high profile visit of the OFBJP-USA members and promised that the government of MP will extend help in every possible way if they come to invest in the state. He appealed to the NRIs to visit the state not just as an investor but as a tourist too visit world famous Khajuraho, Sanchi, Mahakal, wild life sanctuaries, tiger reserves and enjoy the hospitality of one of the fastest growing states of India.

Mr. Chouhan’s speech was marked by several rounds of applause and the OFBJP-USA members received a standing ovation after his speech.

Earlier, Rajendra Shukla (Minister for Labour & Employment, OFBJP-USA) spoke briefly about the benefits of investing in Madhya Pradesh and how the state has transformed itself from being a backward state under the able leadership of Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The state has all the things needed for investment like power, roads, infrastructure and best of all a good road connectivity, 24x7 power, good law and order and stability and a government that is working round the clock for the people.

He appealed to the NRIs to choose MP as an investment destination and promised that the government of MP would work with the investors to help set up their industries. He appealed to the NRIs to choose MP as an investment destination and promised that the government of MP would work with the investors to help set up their industries. He appealed to the NRIs to choose MP as an investment destination and promised that the government of MP would work with the investors to help set up their industries. He appealed to the NRIs to choose MP as an investment destination and promised that the government of MP would work with the investors to help set up their industries.

NYC Department of Small Business Services offers free services to businesses

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The NYC Department of Small Business Services offers free services to help businesses start, operate, and expand in New York City. We have trained business specialists located throughout the five boroughs who can help you access financing assistance, answer your questions about how to work with the government, recruit new employees, and navigate government rules and regulations. Take advantage of our free business services: nyc.gov/nybusiness
Yet another hate crime - A Queens businesswoman: Nazma Khanam killed

QUEENS, NEW YORK(TIP): In what apparently is a hate crime, a previous life was lost in Queens. Nazma Khanam, a businesswoman died after she was attacked in Jamaica Hills. Mayor Bill de Blasio, a longtime state judge in Brooklyn-Laura Jacobson, has been on the bench for 25 years and who also serves as an acting surrogate in Brooklyn, was seeking election to another 14-year term on the Supreme Court.

In July, the New York Post published an article quoting unnamed sources who said that the screening committee, which rarely recommends against keeping a sitting judge on the bench, determined that Jacobson was not qualified for reelection. The sources said that an “abnormal” percentage of the judge’s decisions had been reversed on appeal, that she lacks work ethic and that “she’s not the brightest bulb in the courthouse.”

In a lawsuit filed Friday in the Eastern District, Jacobson alleges that the leak was made as retribution for decisions that made her fall out of favor with Brooklyn's “Democratic political machine.” Specifically, she alleges that she was being punished for reducing the amount of counsel fees paid to Steven Finkelstein, who is both a member of the screening committee and counsel to the Brooklyn Public Administrator, who Jacobson said was charging excessive fees.

Jacobson says she also ran afoul of the party’s bosses in 2014 when she granted a temporary restraining order to block the State University of New York from selling Long Island College Hospital over the objections of Frank Carone, a partner at Abrams, Fensterman, Fieldman, Esisman, Formato, Ferrara & Wolf who represented SUNY at the time.

Jacobson also denied that her decision had been reversed on appeal 57 times throughout the past decade, as the Post reported, citing the anonymous sources, saying that an “infinitesimal” number of the 4,000 orders she has issued since 2006 have been reversed by a higher court.

In addition to the Brooklyn Democratic Party and the screening committee, the parties named in Jacobson v. Kings County Democratic County Committee, 16-cv-4699, include party chair Frank Seddio, who recently became president of the Brooklyn Bar Association; and Martin Edelman, a Manhattan attorney who chairs the screening committee. The Post is not a party to the suit.

In a statement emailed to the Law Journal, Bob Liff, a spokesman for the Brooklyn Democratic Party and the screening committee, the parties named in Jacobson v. Kings County Democratic County Committee, 16-cv-4699, include party chair Frank Seddio, who recently became president of the Brooklyn Bar Association; and Martin Edelman, a Manhattan attorney who chairs the screening committee.

In a lawsuit filed Friday in the Eastern District, Jacobson seeks $5 million for damages and attorney fees and a preliminary injunction calling on Frank Seddio to disband the screening committee.

In a statement emailed to the Law Journal, Bob Liff, a spokesman for the Brooklyn Democratic Party and the screening committee said the selection committee is independent and that members are selected by various bar associations.

“We are reminded, yet again, that we must work tirelessly for peace. Violence against one Muslim New Yorker is violence against all New Yorkers. We must keep fighting the divisive rhetoric that has too frequently made our Muslim neighbors targets of hostility. “While the NYPD and District Attorney do not yet know the motive behind this tragedy, all angles are being explored and the NYPD Hate Crimes Unit is involved in the investigation. I have no doubt that the investigation will be thorough and impartial, and that it will exhaustively examine every avenue that could lead to the family and community receiving the justice they deserve.”

Assemblyman David Weprin issued the following statement in response to the death of Nazma Khanam.

“I am saddened to hear news of the death of Nazma Khanam following yesterday’s deplorable attack in Jamaica Hills. Our community is one that stands together against each and every possible bias incident, and together we mourn the passing of one of our neighbors. I send my condolences to the family of Nazma Khanam and urge the New York Police Department to investigate this attack as a possible hate crime against the Muslim American community.”
First Indian-American Councilman Takes Office in Woodbridge, New Jersey

Indian American doctor in California arrested for providing opioids in exchange for sex acts

SAN DIEGO, CA (TIP): Physician Naga Raja Thota, 62, a pain specialist with an office in El Cajon, was arrested Wednesday August 21st, and said he had committed a crime and charged with distributing oxycodone and other highly addictive drugs without any legitimate medical purpose in exchange for sex acts, as reported by voiceline.com.

The doctor was taken into custody by San Diego Drug Enforcement Administration agents at his practice. The complaint said at least two young women received prescriptions for opioids without a legitimate medical purpose on numerous occasions in exchange for sex acts.

The complaint also described a pattern in which sexually-explicit texts are exchanged by the doctor and the women, followed by prescriptions written for them by Thota. According to the complaint, one victim said she met Thota when she was hospitalized for withdrawal symptoms for Hydrocodone and Alprazolam. Thota agreed to treat her but documented that his treatment was for pain even though this victim did not suffer from any medical condition that caused chronic or ongoing pain. This victim also stated that Thota kept increasing the dosage. This victim, who was 20 years old when she met Thota, said she felt if she did not submit to sexual acts with Thota he would not have provided her with additional opioid prescriptions. After being exposed to greater dosage levels of opioids by Thota, the young woman started using an even stronger opioid - heroin.

“Prescription drug abuse and overdoses have reached alarming levels,” said U.S. Attorney Laura Duffy. “We are going after doctors who abuse their power to prescribe and exploit the desperation of addicts for their own gratification.” Doctors who exploit patients are the worst kind of predators,” said DEA San Diego Special Agent in Charge William Sherman. “DEA recognizes the trust the citizens of San Diego place in their doctors. We will continue to ensure that physicians who are abusing that trust by bartering sex for prescriptions will be arrested and prosecuted.”

If anyone has information regarding other victims or if you believe you were victimized by Dr. Thota, contact DEA at (858) 616-4100 and ask for the Diversion Duty Agent.

Indian-Origin Eye Specialist Jailed in UK for Negligence

SUFFOLK, UK (TIP): An India-born woman optometrist in the UK was handed down a two-year suspended jail term for failing to spot a life-threatening eye infection in an eight-year-old boy who died of a brain tumour in 2012.

The 59-year-old woman, who is of Indian origin, was charged after a post-mortem report showed that a six-year-old boy had developed charges of gross negligence amounting to manslaughter but was found guilty after a trial at Ipswich Crown Court here. The prosecution claimed her conduct had been so far below the expected standard it was “criminal”.

Sentencing Rose, Judge Jeremy Stuart-Smith said it was the first case of its kind and ordered her to complete 200 hours of unpaid work and gave her a 24-month supervision order. A suspended jail term in the UK refers to a deferred custodial sentence on strict conditions.

The judge told her, “You simply departed from your normal practice in a way that completely untypical for you, a one-off, for no good reason”. Detective Superintendent Tonya Antonis of Suffolk Police, said the sentence was “proportionate in the circumstances”, “It was never the Barker family’s intention that this case went to trial”. The woman’s victim Joanne Barker said the family had struggled to accept Vincent’s death and the impact on his life.

“The knowledge our loss should have been prevented and Vinnie should have been saved is intolerable to live with,” Barker said in a statement. Rose had claimed her examination of Vinnie was tricky because he had closed his eyes to the light and looked away during the test.

Indian Americans Raj and Bhati Shah in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Center Debut Mobile Clinic in Maharashtra

MARYLAND (TIP): Indian American owned health care informatics company CTIS led by its founders Raj and Bhati Shah have collaborated with the Johns Hopkins Center for Clinical Global Health Education and Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Government Medical College to equip and dispatch a custom-designed mobile health care services van to Maharashtra, India.

The mobile clinic, the parties say, is designed to address the fact that India assumes a large burden of chronic and infectious diseases, leading the world in deaths related to tuberculosis, cervical cancer and diabetes, and ranking third in the number of people with HIV.

Equipped with a $100,000 donation from CTIS and the Shahs, the mobile clinic features advanced laboratory equipment for disease diagnoses, including a GeneXpert rapid TB diagnostic system. The van includes other modern care and treatment capabilities, including mobile radiology equipment.

While mobile clinics sponsored by corporate hospitals and charity organizations have been deployed in Maharashtra primarily to provide health care in rural areas, the group behind this effort says it is novel, in that it will strategically enhance community outreach for tuberculosis screening, research and care, and provide wellness services.

Johns Hopkins Center for Clinical Global Health Education Director Robert Bollinger, M.D., M.P.H., says the support from the Shahs will lead to improvements in health and wellness in Maharashtra, as well as provide a model for innovative health research, care and wellness for the rest of India.

Indian American IT-Alumni Ajei Gopal named CEO of ANSYS

pennsylvania (TIP): Indian American IIT-Alumni Ajei Gopal has been named CEO of US-based software firm ANSYS that produces engineering simulation software used for testing product designs across a wide spectrum of industries including rockets, and wearable technology.

Ajei Gopal, 54, is an IIT Bombay alumnus and software industry veteran, will become the CEO of Pennsylvania-based ANSYS with effect from January 1st next year.

Mr. Gopal has served as interim president and COO at California-based technology company Symantec, leading the company through the recruitment of a permanent CEO. He was senior vice president and general manager at Hewlett-Packard from 2011 and has worked at IBM from 1991 to 2000. He began his career as a member of the technical staff at Bell Communications Research.

Mr. Gopal has 21 US patents to his name and has a doctorate in computer science from Cornell University and a bachelor’s degree from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. The company said having Mr. Gopal on board is “a huge win for ANSYS”. “I have no doubt that his outstanding leadership, unique perspective and appreciation for ANSYS’s culture, people and organization make him the right choice to serve as our next leader during this exciting time,” Mr. Cashman said.

Mr. Gopal said he was “honored” to lead ANSYS.

Mr. Gopal will join ANSYS as president and COO of the company on January 1st, 2017.

ANTISYS develops, markets and supports engineering simulation software used for predicting how product designs will behave in real-world environments.
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Indian-Origin Boy Devises Breast Cancer Treatment

LONDON (TIP): A 16-year-old Indian-origin boy in the UK has claimed to have found a treatment for the most deadly form of breast cancer which is unresponsive to drugs.

Krtin Nithiyanandam, who moved to the UK from India with his parents, hopes he has found a way to turn so-called triple negative breast cancer into a kind which responds to drugs.

Many breast cancers are driven by oestrogen, progesterone or growth chemicals so drugs that can block these fuels, such as tamoxifen, make effective treatments.

However, triple negative breast cancer does not have receptors and it can only be treated with a combination of surgery, radiation and chemotherapy which lowers the chance of survival. “I’ve been basically trying to work out a way to change difficult-to-treat cancers into something that responds well to treatment. Most cancers have receptors on their surface which bind to drugs like Tamoxifen but triple negative don’t have receptors so the drugs don’t work,” Krtin was quoted as saying by The Sunday Telegraph.

“The prognosis for women with undifferentiated cancer isn’t very good so the goal is to turn the cancer back to a state where it can be treated. The ID4 protein actually stops undifferentiated stem cell cancers from differentiating so you have to block ID4 to allow the cancer to differentiate.”

“I have found a way to silence the genes that produce ID4 which turns cancer back into a less dangerous state,” Krtin added. Some women with triple negative cancer respond very well to treatment while others quickly decline.

The problem lies in whether the cancer cells are “differentiated” or not. Differentiated means they look more like healthy cells and they tend to grow and multiply quite slowly, and are less aggressive. However, when cancer cells are “undifferentiated” they get stuck in a dangerous primitive form, never turning into recognizable breast tissue, and spreading quickly, leading to high grade tumors.

He has also discovered that upping the activity of a tumor suppressor gene called PTEN allows chemotherapy to work more effectively, so the dual treatment could prove far more effective than traditional drugs.

The therapy idea saw him shortlisted for the final of the UK-based young scientists program titled The Big Bang Fair.

His efforts had hit the headlines last year when he won the Google Science Fair for creating a test which helps pick up the early signs of Alzheimer’s disease and potentially stop it spreading further.

Krtin Nithiyanandam has claimed to have found a treatment for the most deadly form of breast cancer.
Secretary Kerry's visit: India unfurls its big power vision

T he military agreement signed with the US (LEMOA) has stolen all the thunder in two recent high-level interactions with the US. The spin seems to make the agreement the epitome of Indo-US ties because of its political weight. The Americans had actually offered a palette of four military agreements. India had earlier signed the end-user verification agreement which is theoretically more intrusive. The real test of Indo-US strategic closeness will be the other two military agreements that have been opposed by the Indian military. But the LEMOA, despite its strategic ordinariness, has created a climate of freshness in Indo-US ties. Its timing should give India considerable political capital when a new US President is in office. In India, US Secretary of State John Kerry uttered platitudes on terrorism that India likes to hear but Sushma Swaraj also evoked a phrase that is music to American ears - India’s willingness to not be a net provider of security to the region. In other words, it means the Indian military will rise to the occasion in case of any trouble in the region. In the diplomatic world of give and take, US President Barack Obama has already assured US backing to India’s renewed quest for Nuclear Suppliers’ Group membership.

That is not all. Kerry’s surprise suggestion of an India-US-Atlanticalian trilateral can bring New Delhi back into the Kabul game. It also suggests increasing American engagement with Pakistan that has been reflected in the US holding back funds for Pakistan’s F-16 fighter jets to the tune of about $600 million in military aid. And in a reminder to the world that India should not be hyphenated with Pakistan, India stood up to its G-20 stature when Sushma Swaraj reminded the Americans about the pending transfer of $100 billion to developing countries to battle climate change. The agreement for joint Indo-US research in the Arctic may not turn many heads but this will be the arena for resource grab in the coming decades. Taken together - net provider of security, NSG, Afghanistan, climate change and Indo-US will be India’s long-term vision on the world stage in the coming years.

(Trubine, India)

GUEST COMMENT

Setting out for New Friends

Many nations stand ready to reconfigure around the idea of religious tolerance

The new outreach to ‘secular’ Muslim nations can only work if Modi aligns his domestic politics with his foreign policy. Merely milking the latter for domestic electoral reasons would be short-sighted and alienate both new and old friends,” says the author

A Modi doctrine on Pakistan is now the hallmark of his two years of Pakistan policy vacillations. It basically has old elements which are newly interpreted.

First is ‘zero tolerance to terror’, which even the Vajpayee government espoused. The Congress in opposition ridiculed it, arguing that a counter-terrorism policy could not be made so contingent as that would give terrorists veto on the nationalisation process.

In power, the Congress discovered that dialogue and terror could indeed not coexist if the attack caused widespread loss. Neither of the two governments, however, could devise a counter-strategy to deter future attacks. This was because military options ran into the nuclear conundrum i.e. retaliation could lead to nuclear holocaust. The Vajpayee government retaliated when Parliament was in session in December 2001 by mass troop mobilization. The Manmohan Singh regime cancelled parleys after coordinated train bombings in Mumbai, a suicide attack in Pathankot, and a drone campaign in Madrid, caused massive carnage. Dialogue was resumed only when a new counter-terrorism mechanism was established.

The Modi government is trying to break out of this catch-22 situation by lowering the threshold of terror tolerance. The Pathankot attack did not cause significant loss of life or assets. But because the planning and stretching was traced to Pakistan, the arrest and prosecution of perpetrators was made an additional precondition to dialogue.

Second, is the new approach to the Hurriyat. It is to have no role in Indo-Pakistan parleys. Again, past Indian governments have scowled at Pakistan after Hurriyat was a deal broker. India reasons that Pakistan cannot determine the representatives of J&K people when they have elected the government of the state. Why should not India have the serving Chief Minister in attendance when talking to Pakistan instead of, or in addition to, the Hurriyat?

Third, is the Modi government’s alacrity in bringing on record, what was whispered in the past, regarding Sino-Pak activities in Gilgit-Baltistan. This would now be on the agenda of talks with both countries, particularly when China itself has conceded in the past in Article 6 of the 1963 Sino-Pakistan border agreement that all understandings were subject to settlement of the Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan.

The doctrine got the Prime Minister’s imprimatur in his Red Fort Independence Day speech. It played well domestically with social media in a tizzy over the new assertiveness. But there are international ramifications for which the government is calibrating its diplomacy. Besides UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, who has to issue homilies on peace and security, even the US is beginning to lean on India. The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) is getting proactive and Pakistan is unleashing a major diplomatic offensive by dispatching two dozen envoys to plead its case over Kashmir. Pakistan senses an opportunity with the widespread protests in the Valley and the approaching session of the UN General Assembly in September.

But both nations have domestic imperatives too. In Pakistan, despite the chief of army staff, Gen Raheel Sharif, announcing retirement when his three-year term ends in November, speculation is rife about an election. PM Nawaz Sharif would prefer a new appointee as the incumbent has developed an overpowering persona. A strong pitch on Kashmir helps Sharif’s repin legitimacy that his long medical absence and lacklustre performance has dented. The Obama administration may favor a transition too, as the US appears tired of the Pakistan army’s role in Afghanistan. Newly anointed Taliban leader Mullah Mansour’s killing by a US drone and the US urging India to give military assistance to Afghanistan convey a policy shift, transitory though it may be.

The Modi government likewise faces crucial elections in Punjab, with extreme anti-incumbency and UP, where the BJP may lose. In power, the Congress discovered that all understandings were subject to settlement of the Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan.

The new outreach to ‘secular’ Muslim nations can only work if Modi aligns his domestic politics with his foreign policy. Merely milking the latter for domestic electoral reasons would be short-sighted and alienate both new and old friends. The Modi government’s twin strategy thus is to woo select Muslim nations to bolster Muslim votes in UP. Newly drafted Minister of State M.J. Akbar spent a week in Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, including a pilgrimage to the shrine of Husoain at Karbala. Besides the outreach to the Shia crescent that Iran dominates, the BJP eyes the Shia vote in UP, realizing that Sunnis will largely vote to defeat them. But the UN Security Council has begun examining the use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime in Syria. Akbar may have bitten more than India can diplomatically chew.

Punjab was also covered when Akbar sought help to locate three dozen-odd, mostly Punjab/Sikh, workers from around Mosul. Minister Sushma Swaraj has been for two years assuring their families that they were alive when the disarray of the IS and military pressure on them makes it highly unlikely that those non-Sunni stragglers can be alive among them. However, in Punjab, it covers the Akali/BJP flanks. Akbar also elicited support from Syria on India’s Kashmir position. ‘Secular’ Muslim nations are a rarity in today’s world. President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi of Egypt is another leader holding out against the Muslim Brotherhood and radical Islam. He began his India visit on August 31. For decades, President Hosni Mubarak was unable to visit and receive an honor conferred by India. But Egypt, the heart and mind of the Arab world, is today worth cultivating again. Many nations stand ready to reconfigure around the idea of religious tolerance and cohabitation, much as once the non-aligned movement roared around the belief in strategic independence and post-colonial South-South interdependence. But the new outreach to ‘secular’ Muslim nations can only work if Modi aligns his domestic politics with his foreign policy. Merely milking the latter for domestic electoral reasons would be short-sighted and alienate both new and old friends.

(The author is a former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs)
Ever since the ascendance of BJP to the center of power in New Delhi two years ago, it appears that a carefully crafted strategy is in place to appropriate icons and legacies that the party is so embarrassed by the lack of pedigree that they are even willing to go out and create some history of their own. With unlimited resources at their disposal, they get hold of some hired hands that are ready to scan every nook and corner to find any missing comma or invisible gaps in crumpled pieces of history to recreate a story to fit their narrative.

The recent efforts to diminish the contributions of Jawaharlal Nehru to the development of a modern India and to redefine Sarat Patel’s role during the independence struggle and to portray him as anything but pluralistic is quite evident to all keen observers of the fast moving political dynamics in the country. One may also witness the rush by the ruling class to embrace Ambedkar as one of their own while asserting that BJP faced much more to stir up mass feeling, resulting in internal divisions and insecurity, must be resisted by any Government that may function for the time being.”

Then there was a mercy plea by Veer Savarkar, leader of the Hindu Mahasabha to the British Government that “if he is released, then he would be loyal to the British Government and was also ready to serve it.” He also opposed the ‘Quit India’ movement and asked Hindus to stay active in the war effort and not to disobey the government.

The words and deeds of these erstwhile leaders of RSS and BJP clearly indicate that they were not only non-participants in the freedom struggle where hundreds of people were risking their lives on a daily basis but also collaborators who supported the British on critical occasions. The British acknowledged that the RSS had “scrupulously kept itself within the law, and refrained from taking part in the disturbances that broke out in August 1942.”

It is quite a sad day when a prime minister of India belittles the sufferings of the freedom fighters under the courageous leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru while asserting that BJP faced much more adversity during the post-independence era compared to the Congress party during the freedom struggle. Political discourse is often riddled with hyperbole. However, the memory of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom deserves much more gratitude and respect from all of us.

If we would like to take a peek into the individual and collective sacrifices, there would be a page to write: Pandit Nehru was sent to jail about nine times and spent a total of 2,338 days; Mahatma Gandhi served time in prison for a total of 50-60 years, while asserting that BJP faced much more...
Malaysia confirms first case of Zika in woman who visited Singapore

KUALA LUMPUR (TIP): Malaysia on September 1 reported its first suspected case of Zika, a 58-year-old woman believed to have contracted it in neighbouring Singapore where more than 100 cases have been confirmed.

The Malaysian outside had made a brief trip in late August to visit her daughter, who lives in Singapore and has already been confirmed as having the Zika virus, Malaysia’s health ministry said in a statement.

After returning to her home near the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, the 58-year-old woman fell ill and was diagnosed with “suspected” Zika, based on a urine test. Full confirmation via blood tests is pending.

“The source of infection is suspected to have occurred in Singapore,” the statement said.

The Aedes mosquito-borne Zika, which has been detected in 67 countries and territories including hard-hit Brazil, causes only mild symptoms for most people, such as fever and a rash.

But pregnant women who catch it can give birth to babies with microcephaly, a deformation marked by abnormally small brains and heads.

Tropical Malaysia, which already has struggled in recent years to control the spread of Aedes-borne dengue fever, has been bracing for Zika after Singapore last weekend reported a surge in cases.

In an update on Wednesday, Singapore authorities said the number of infections there had risen to 115. Malaysia’s health ministry said five other Malaysians who live and work in Singapore were among the city-state’s cases.

The ministry said Malaysia was intensifying monitoring at border points and ramping up mosquito-control measures across the country, such as fogging with pesticides.

It called on Malaysians to do all they can to eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites such as standing water and to seek early medical attention if they have Zika symptoms, especially if they have visited outbreak areas such as Singapore.

“From the first reported case of Zika, we can conclude that it is rather easy to get infected by the virus when visiting places that have (an) outbreak, including Singapore,” it said. (APP)

Rajapaksa’s brother indicted by anti-graft commission

COLOMBO (TIP): The brother of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa was among eight persons against whom the Sri Lankan graft commission filed a corruption case on Tuesday for causing a loss of nearly US$ 75 million to the country.

Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, 67, was the powerful secretary to the Ministry of Defence under his brother’s rule. He and seven others were implicated in the case that they had caused a loss of over 11 billion Sri Lankan rupees (USD 74.93 million) to the state.

The floating armory was seized by the police after Rajapaksa lost the presidential election in January 2015 and the operation was later handed back to the navy.

In 2007 Gotabhaya Rajapaksa’s family was accused of many cases of alleged wrongdoing during the decade when they were in power. They have dodged all cases as politically motivated to extract revenge from them. (PTI)

Bangladesh top court upholds death sentence of war criminal

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh’s top court on August 31 rejected a final appeal by the leader of an Islamist party against a death sentence over atrocities committed during the 1971 war of independence, lawyers said, meaning he could be hanged at any time.

The verdict comes as the Muslim-majority nation suffers a series of militant attacks, the most serious on July 1, when gunmen stormed a cafe in the capital, Dhaka, and killed 20 hostages, most of them foreigners.

In March, Dhaka’s High Court upheld the death penalty for Mir Quasem Ali, 63, a media tycoon and key financier of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, for murder, confinement, torture and incitement to religious hatred during the war to separate from Pakistan. The charges were made in the six-week-long trial set up by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2010 that sparked violence and drawn criticism from opposition politicians, including leaders of the Jamaat-e-Islami, who say it is victimising her political opponents. (PTI)

At least 12 killed, 52 wounded in blasts in Pakistan

PESHAWAR (TIP): At least 12 people were killed and 52 wounded when two bomb blasts were detonated outside a district court in northwestern Pakistan on September 2, a rescue official said.

“So far we recovered 12 bodies of the lawyers, police personnel and civilians. Besides this, we rescued 52 injured, including lawyers, police personnel and civilians from the spot,” Harris Habib, chief rescue officer in the city of Mardan in Khyber Paktunkhwa province, where the blasts took place, told Reuters.

Earlier, at least one civilian and four suspected militants were killed in a Christian neighbourhood in Pakistan’s Peshawar.

The Pakistani Taliban faction Jamaat-ur-Ahrar on Friday claimed responsibility for a suicide attack on a Christian neighbourhood in northwestern Pakistan where at least one security guard was killed.

Taliban spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan said there were “several deaths” in the attack on the neighbourhood one security officer said.

The military said four attackers wearing suicide vests and carrying firearms were killed. (Reuters)

Maldives issues arrest warrant for ex-president Mohamed Nasheed

COLOMBO (TIP): The Maldives announced on September 1 it is seeking former president Mohamed Nasheed’s arrest for failing to return to the troubled archipelago to complete a prison sentence after receiving medical treatment in Britain.

Nasheed, the Maldives’ first democratically elected president, recently won political asylum in Britain after being granted permission to travel there for treatment while serving the sentence for a terror-related offence.

“A court order (has been) issued for arrest of former president Mohamed Nasheed,” the government said in a statement, issued after Nasheed flew to neighbouring Sri Lanka, where he is expected to seek political asylum.

“The Maldives correctional service is seeking to have him brought back to serve the remainder of his 13-year sentence,” the statement said, without detailing how it planned to seek his return.

Opposition sources said Nasheed has been meeting Maldives opposition groups in Sri Lanka in recent days to hatch a plan to topple the archipelago’s president Abdulla Yameen.

Nasheed was among members of several exiled opposition groups meeting in Colombo, two people in Nasheed’s Maldivian Democratic Party have told AFP.

The Maldives has been gripped by political turmoil since Nasheed was among members of several exiled opposition groups meeting in Colombo, two people in Nasheed’s Maldivian Democratic Party have told AFP.

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NEW YORK (TIP): CRY, Child Rights and You America Inc. (CRY America), a 501(c)(3) non-profit that works towards ensuring children their basic rights to live, learn, grow and play will host the 13th CRY Walk for Child Rights across 16 cities. The annual walk brings together people from varied walks of life, who feel passionately for children’s cause. The event provides them a platform to help children secure a better future and reinforces the belief that the ability to change lives lies within each one of us. Walkers and runners alike, across New York, San Diego, New Jersey, Boston, Philadelphia, Orange County, Bay Area, Atlanta, Phoenix and Raleigh are invited to participate in 16 walks and runs along with 16 kids dash. Events across cities will include fun activities for both adults and children like yoga, dancing, jugging, music, food stalls and face painting. The participants will also be able to buy fun CRY merchandise like T-shirts to support the cause. The annual event is not just a space for families to have an outing but also to support and ensure opportunities are provided to all children and bring lasting change in their lives. The CRY Walk series commences on September 11 at Irvine, Orange County and concludes on November 13 at Bay Area. The national sponsors of the Walk 2016 are India TV, Pizza Hut, India Stratus, Shani Sangeet and India Abroad. We appreciate the generous support of our event sponsors, media sponsors and donors in enabling this event. The volunteers, fundraisers and team leaders across 16 cities who have relentlessly worked to organize this event in aid of underprivileged children, deserve a special mention. Speaking about the event, Shefali Sunderlal, President, CRY America said, “Only when children are given the right opportunities, do they realize their full potential, aim for their dreams and achieve them. Raising awareness and fund support by participating in CRY Walk is a step forward in ensuring that children get these opportunities and a chance at a healthy, successful life.” CRY America has thus far ensured that 618,915 children living across 3,084 villages and slums have access to education, healthcare and are protected from violations through support to 70 Projects in India and the USA. The continued support of our donors and volunteers has helped us uphold children’s rights. It is this support and belief in our work which propels us and will allow us to ensure many more children get access to quality education, health services, essential nutrition and are protected from child labor, child marriage, abuse, and discrimination”, Sunderlal concluded.

About CRY America: CRY, Child Rights and You America Inc. (CRY America) is a 501(c)3 non-profit that is driven by its vision of a just world in which all children have equal opportunities to develop to their full potential and realize their dreams. With the support of over 25,153 donors and 2,000 volunteers, CRY America has impacted the lives of 618,915 children living across 3,084 villages and slums through support to 70 Projects in India and USA.

For more information about CRY or CRY Walk 2016, visit www.americacr.org, email support@cryamerica.org or call 6179591273.

The Indian Panorama
Hillary Clinton Aide Huma Abedin Dumps Husband Anthony Weiner over New Sexting Scandal

NEW YORK (TIP): Hillary Clinton aide Huma Abedin is done playing the good wife to Anthony Weiner, announcing on Monday she is leaving the serially sexting ex-congressman after he was accused of sending raunchy photos and messages to yet another woman.

Abedin, who as vice chair of Clinton's campaign is destined for big things if the Democrat is elected president, stayed with Weiner after a sexting scandal led him to resign from Congress in 2011 and after a new outbreak of online misbehavior wrecked his bid for New York mayor in 2013. She didn't leave even when a recent documentary blew up tense moments in their marriage to big-screen proportions.

But on Monday, August 29, she effectively declared she had had enough.

"After long and painful consideration and work on my marriage, I have made the decision to separate from my husband," she said in a statement issued by the campaign. "Anthony and I remain devoted to doing what is best for our son, who is the light of our life."

The New York Post published photos late on Sunday that it said Weiner had sent last year to a woman identified only as a "40-something divorcee" who lives in the West and supports Republican Donald Trump. The photos included two close-ups of Weiner's bulging underpants.

In one of the pictures, Weiner is lying on a bed with his toddler son while texting the woman, according to the Post.

The tabloid also ran sexually suggestive messages that it said the two exchanged.

Weiner told the Post that he and the woman "have been friends for some time."

"She has asked me not to comment except to say that our conversations were private, often included pictures of her nieces and nephews and my son and were always appropriate," said Weiner.

The 51-year-old Democrat told the newspaper.

Weiner didn't return a call, text or email from The Associated Press. He deleted his Twitter account Monday.

The Post didn't say how it obtained the photographs and messages.

Abedin, 41, is a longtime Clinton aide and confidante who is often referred to as the candidate's second daughter.

Trump immediately seized on the aide's marital split to accuse Clinton of "bad judgment." He suggested that Weiner might have compromised national security, but offered no evidence to support the allegation.

"I only worry for the country in that Hillary Clinton was careless and negligent in allowing Weiner to have such close proximity to highly classified information," Trump said in a statement. "Who knows what he learned and who he told?"

Abedin has been under scrutiny during the probe into Clinton's use of a private email server while she was secretary of state. Federal prosecutors declined to file charges in the investigation, but FBI Director James Comey said Clinton and her aides had been "extremely careless" in their handling of classified information.

Abedin began working for the former first lady as a White House intern and became a trusted aide as Clinton won a seat in the Senate representing New York in 2000, ran for president in 2008 and served as President Barack Obama's secretary of state. Former President Bill Clinton officiated when Abedin and Weiner married in 2010.

The marriage would provide years of fodder for political commentators, armchair psychologists and spouses all over America who wondered: How could she stay with him?

Abedin was pregnant with the couple's son, Jordan, when a photo of a man's bulging underpants appeared on Weiner's Twitter account in 2011. After initially claiming his account was hacked, Weiner acknowledged inappropriate online communication with several women.

Two years later, Abedin was all in for her husband's mayoral bid, raising money, appearing on the campaign trail and participating in interviews in which the couple talked about rebuilding their trust and marriage. Then a new series of sexually explicit pictures and messages emerged, and Weiner was forced to acknowledge he kept sexting after he had resigned from Congress.

Still, Abedin said, "I love him, I have forgiven him, I believe in him, and … we are moving forward."

"Voters weren’t ready to forgive, however, Weiner lost the Democratic primary."

Weiner has since remained in the public eye, commenting on politics on cable news shows. "Weiner," the documentary offering a cripe-inspiring inside view of his mayoral campaign and its unraveling, played in theaters earlier this year and is set to air on Showtime this fall.

He recently refused to answer when asked whether he was still sexting, telling The New York Times Magazine in an interview published August 16: "I’m not going to go down the path of talking about any of that."

Some psychology experts, while cautioning they haven’t treated him, suggested his behavior smacks of extreme impulsiveness, compulsion or addiction.

"Impulsivity is something that a lot of people really struggle with," said Jeannette Stern, a New York therapist. While there are various approaches people can try to change such behavior, she noted, "they have to really be willing to stop."

(Source: news reports)

Scientific co-operation between India & US seeks to have greater social impact

As the two countries find new and closer ways to collaborate, the Indo-US Science & Technology Forum incubates and nurtures innovations in public health, agriculture and other areas of greater good

ATLANTA (TIP): The World Affairs Council of Atlanta and the American India Foundation (AIF) hosted, August 18, Dr. Rajeev Tayal, Executive Director of the Indo-US Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF) for a breakfast presentation at the City Club of Buckhead in Atlanta. Set against the backdrop of the ever increasing science and technology co-operation between India and the United States, Dr. Tayal delved into a range of issues including the start-up climate in India, the innovation landscape and how IUSSTF is striving to be an enabler of new ideas.

In a Q&A format with moderator Charles Shapiro, World Affairs Council President, Dr. Tayal discussed how targeted investments can have a societal impact in India, the United States and beyond.

Dr. Tayal highlighted the success of the Forum saying, "We have been able to connect about 25,000 scientists on both sides. This bridging has been one of our biggest successes. Half a dozen products have just reached the market." He added. "We are good value for money. We take care of educational and research activities, support bilateral workshops. Both parties (US & India) deliberate on scientific issues. We support virtual centers which provide unique opportunities for people to work and collaborate together."

India's Consul-General Nagesh Singh who was present on the occasion said, "There are nearly 50 tracks of dialogue happening across the two countries. There is a greater acceptance of the importance of knowledge-sharing on both sides as we see scientists working at key research institutions. We are pleased to host Dr. Tayal in Atlanta and put the spotlight on the niche areas that IUSSTF is working on to strengthen the science and technology partnership between the two countries."

IUSSTF is a nodal agency established under an agreement between the Governments of India and the United States, is an autonomous, not for profit society in India, co-funded and co- governed by both the governments. Dr. Tayal pointed out that, "Although there are several other bi-lateral arrangements similar to this, the India-US engagement has been the most vibrant. We support the last-mile coverage of the R&D value chain." He quoted examples of medical devices to address several health issues like diabetes, and a low-cost knee joint that is a collaborative effort between Stanford University and a hospital in Jaipur, Rajasthan, India. IUSSTF does not patent these innovations nor control the intellectual property and leaves it to the innovators.

Chair of the AIF Atlanta Chapter Dr. Amitabh Sharma welcomed the gathering highlighting the role of AIF in nurturing an environment of collaboration and shared learning especially in the context of addressing the larger social issues of access to education, public health and skilling young people.

Other key people in attendance included Tarun Mohindra, Counsellor, Science and Technology, Embassy of India, Georgia Tech Professor Suman Das, Arun Rai from Georgia State University and Shaliesh Patel from the Chugh Firm.
Air India (AI) to launch a direct international flight between Chandigarh and Singapore

CHANDIGARH (TIP): “Singapore is a potential destination. Air India will launch a direct flight between Chandigarh and Singapore,” Air India Express CEO K Shyam Sundar said here, August 25. He, however, did not divulge the timeline.

Sundar said Air India Express, a low-cost carrier and subsidiary of flag carrier Air India, will operate its first direct international flight from Chandigarh airport to Sharjah on September 15.

The flight will operate on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays. “Air India Express will be the first carrier to operate an international flight from Chandigarh,” he said.

Air India Express has inducted three new aircraft in its fleet this year and will induct three more next year. It currently operates about 350 flights per week of which flights on the India-UAE routes account for 275 flights per week. Source PTI

Gujarat eyes tourism investment worth Rs 8000 cr at IITIS

NEW DELHI (TIP): Gujarat Tourism is offering 32 tourism projects to attract private investments at the forthcoming Incredible India Tourism Investor’s Summit (IITIS) to be held from September 21-23 in New Delhi.

The total estimated value of the projects is around Rs 8,000 crore which includes innovative projects with global appeal like Dev Ni Mori Buddhist tourist site development (Rs 1,200 crore), Sant Nagari, highlighting lives and contributions of India’s saints (Rs 600 crore), Giant Wheel at Sabarmati Riverfront (Rs 800 crore) etc.

S. J. Haider, Principal Secretary-Tourism, Government of Gujarat, says, “Gujarat will be a key partner State at IITIS. We will highlight around Rs 8,000 crore worth of projects in the summit. These will include major religious tourism projects like Dev Ni Mori, Sant Nagari and others. At the same time, we will be putting forward modern tourism projects like the Giant Wheel at Sabarmati Riverfront, Global Village, Mini India at Adalaj in Ahmedabad, cruise tourism, aero sports etc.” Haider further informed that the state government aims to take up all these projects on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Source: TOI

RSS defamation case: Stand by what I said, ready to face trial, says Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI (TIP): Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi on September 1 told the Supreme Court that he stood by his remarks blaming the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) for the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Congress leader further said that he was ready to face a trial before a Maharashtra court which had issued a summons to him as an accused in the defamation case.

Gandhi’s lawyer Kapil Sibal told the Supreme Court: “I stand by each and every word. I will never take my words back. I stood by it yesterday, I stand by it today and I will stand by it in future. I am ready to go to trial.”

However, the submission was opposed by Sibal who said the statement made by the opposite side was like a political profession which cannot be accepted by the apex court.

As the bench was not inclined to entertain Rahul’s plea, Sibal said he preferred to withdraw the appeal filed by the Congress leader against the Bombay High Court judgement refusing to quash the case and summons issued to him by the trial court.

The bench allowed his plea and declared the Special Leave Petition filed by Rahul as “dismissed as withdrawn”.

The bench also said the trial court would go into the case without being influenced by any of the observations made by the apex court and the High Court during the various hearings before them.

RSS activist Rajesh Kunte filed the defamation case against the Congress leader over his remarks at a 2014 election rally in Bhiwandi, Maharashtra, that people associated with the RSS killed Mahatma Gandhi.

On August 24, Rahul had told the Supreme Court that he had never blamed RSS as an institution for the assassination, he could show that the sequence of his sentences used in the election rally were such that RSS was his target.

The scheme however will not be applicable to Pakistani citizens, Union Minister Venkaiah Naidu tweeted.

The scheme is expected to encourage foreign investment in India and facilitate the Make in India program. Under the scheme, suitable provisions will be incorporated in the Visa Manual to provide for the grant of permanent residency status to foreign investors.

An official statement said permanent residency status will be granted for a period of 10 years with multiple entries. This can be reviewed for another 10 years if the holder has not come to adverse notice.

The scheme will be applicable only to foreign investors fulfilling the prescribed eligibility conditions, his or her spouse and dependents.

In order to avail this scheme, the foreign investor will have to invest a minimum of Rs. 10 crore to be brought within 18 months or Rs. 25 crore to be brought within 36 months.

Further, the foreign investment should result in generating employment to at least 20 resident Indians every financial year,” the statement said.

The permanent residency status will be granted for a period of 10 years initially with multiple entry facility, which can be renewed for another 10 years.

The status will serve as a multiple entry visa without any stay stipulation and holders will be exempted from the registration requirements.

This status holder will be allowed to purchase one residential property for dwelling purpose. The spouse/ dependents will be allowed to take up employment in private sector (in relaxation to salary stipulations for Employment Visa) and undertake studies in India.

An Opportunity to buy Indian Residency with Investment of INR 10 Crore

NEW DELHI (TIP): Air India (AI) is ready to launch its fleet this year and will induct three more next year.

S. J. Haider, Principal Secretary-Tourism, said Air India MD Ashwani Lohani will make an announcement about the flight on September 15 at the forthcoming Incredible India Tourism Investor’s Summit (IITIS) to be held from September 21-23 in New Delhi.

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Gujarat Tourism

Rajiv Agarwal, Recruitment Manager, Gujarat Tourism, revealed that the state government is offering 32 tourism projects to attract private investments at the Incredible India Tourism Investor’s Summit (IITIS) to be held from September 21-23 in New Delhi.

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Haider further informed that the state government aims to take up all these projects on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.
Arvind Kejriwal sacks Sandeep Kumar: Skeletons keep tumbling out of Aam Aadmi Party’s cupboard

NEW DELHI (TIP): Was Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal always aware of the dubious background of certain legislators and chose to turn a blind eye until shamed publicly by the media? Why did he choose people with such credentials to represent Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), whose USP has been honesty?

The latest is Delhi’s Women and Child Development Minister Sandeep Kumar, who was sacked on August 31 after receiving an ‘objectionable’ CD, in which the minister was purportedly shown in a compromising position with two women.

Prior to this, two other ministers — Jitender Singh Tomar and Asim Ahmed Khan — in Kejriwal’s Cabinet had met a similar fate in 2015 on the charges of fake degrees and bribery respectively.

“Within an hour of receiving the CD at his residence in Civil Lines, the CM sacked Sandeep Kumar, after having a high-level meeting with senior leaders. It’s a very unfortunate incident and the CM didn’t hesitate to take strong action, which will be a message for others,” an AAP source said.

On 14 February, 2015, when Kejriwal after taking oath, promised an unprecedented, honest government to the people of Delhi, he wouldn’t have envisaged that quite a few of his legislators would have skeletons in their cupboards to embarrass him.

The decision to remove the minister was taken at a high-level meeting and the announcement was made by Kejriwal himself through a tweet.

“Received objectionable CD of minister Sandeep Kumar regarding propriety in public life. That can’t be compromised. Removing him from Cabinet with immediate effect,” Kejriwal tweeted.

The surprising part of this unfortunate episode is that unlike in the case of the other minister — Jitendra Singh Tomar, who resigned after his arrest in the bogus degree case — 36-year-old Kumar was not in the list of AAP candidates against whom the former leader and co-founder of AAP Prashant Bhushan had raised questions about their dubious reputation and referred the matter to party’s internal Lokpal.

That red flag against a dozen leaders turned out to be the bone of contention between Kejriwal and the duo — Yogendra Yadav and Prashant Bhushan — which ultimately led to the expulsion of the latter in 2015.

But, with time moving ahead, skeletons are tumbling out of AAP’s cupboard.

The ‘bogus degree’ issue of the law minister had snowballed into a major political controversy in April, with the opposition parties demanding the minister’s sacking. But, what amazed the opposition was Kejriwal’s stoic silence on the entire controversy and not taking any action. The minister resigned only after the police arrested him in June.

NEW DELHI (TIP): India and the US on Tuesday agreed to move forward on building six nuclear reactors and discussed ways to enhance cooperation in the field of atomic power and space.

John Kerry, US Secretary of State, who is here for the 2nd India-US Strategic and Commercial Dialogue (S&CD), said his country would want its civil nuclear cooperation with India to take shape in setting up of reactors.

“We have agreed now to move forward on Westinghouse nuclear reactors which will provide energy for six million Indians, not to mention the enormous number of jobs it will create. Our civil nuclear cooperation will bring affordable clean energy to tens of millions of Indian households as we move closer in the use of safe, modern latest generation nuclear power,” Kerry said.

Under the Indo-US nuclear cooperation agreement signed in October 2008, two US companies would build 12 atomic reactors, each with a capacity of 1000 MWs.

However, the US has often raised concern about hurdles faced by American companies over a series of issues. Kejriwal’s action this time has came two months after the Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the United States.

Kerry said these agreements include six reactors, which are supposed to be set up in six years.

PoK would’ve been ours if left to us: Indian Air Force chief

NEW DELHI (TIP): Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha today indicated that Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) would have been India’s had the country gone for a military solution rather than taking a “peaceful road”.

He rued that air power was not fully utilised by Pakistan, which had been left with several times in the past, while India did apply ourselves adequately.

“We are ready to use air power to defend ourselves and maintain a conducive environment,” Raha said. The IAF Chief said the only time when air power was fully utilised by us: Indian Air Force chief

We have been reluctant in use of power, specially against PoK, PoK has recently witnessed violent protests. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day speech, had spoken of rights violations in PoK and Balochistan.

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He rued that air power was not fully utilised by Pakistan, which had been left with several times in the past, while India did apply ourselves adequately in achieving the ending state after the conflict,” the IAF Chief said while speaking at a seminar here.

He said India’s security environment had been vitiated and that aerospace power would be required to deter a conflict in the region as well as ensure peace. “We have been governed by high ideals and we did not follow any very pragmatic approach, to my mind, to security needs. To that extent, we did ignore the role of the military power to maintain a conducive environment,” Raha said. The IAF Chief said the only time when air power was fully utilised by us: Indian Air Force chief

CBI requests Pak for info on Dawood's front firm

NEW DELHI (TIP): The CBI has sent a judicial request to Pakistan seeking information about underworld don Dawood Ibrahim’s gutka business set up with help from Indian merchants, after it filed an FIR against the most wanted terrorist.

CBI sources said Letter Rogatory, a judicial request to get information, has been sent to Pakistan, the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates seeking details of Dawood’s gutka business purportedly run by his brother Anses Ibrahim.

Recently, the CBI filed a supplementary charge sheet against Dawood Ibrahim, his brother-in-law A H Antule, chairman of PSLV, and his brother Anees Ibrahim. Dawood Ibrahim has also been named as accused in the Dawood Ibrahim case.

Prominent gutka businessmen M J Joshi of Goa gutka and R L Dharwale for helping Anses Ibrahim set up gutka plant at Hyderabad in Sindh province of Pakistan.

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Recalling Mother Teresa’s Grace

Mother Teresa will be canonized on September 4. The world seems to be converging at the Vatican to witness the historic occasion. President Obama has announced the presidential delegation for the ceremony India, too, is participating. India’s Foreign Minister, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj will lead the Indian government’s delegation to the sainthood ceremony of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, on September 4 in the Vatican. The official spokesman of the foreign ministry, Vikas Swarup made the announcement at a press conference. “In view of the importance that we attach to this very significant event - the canonization of Mother Teresa - let me tell you, the government of India’s delegation will be led by the Honorable External Affairs Minister herself,” Swarup told journalists. He noted that the composition of the delegation is being finalized and its members will be announced in due time.

Ashutosh, the spokesperson of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) which heads the government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi said that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will be travelling to the Vatican as he has accepted the invitation of Missionaries of Charity to attend the event. The Delhi chief minister met Mother Teresa in 1992, who asked him to work with the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, now called Kolkata. He remained there for several months, before joining the Indian Revenue Service. Earlier in May, Mamata Banerjee, chief minister of West Bengal state said she has accepted the invitation of the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata to attend the ceremony in the Vatican.

The whole world, as I said earlier is converging at the Vatican.

My thoughts go back to January 27th, 1980. Mother Teresa had come to Ludhiana, Punjab where I was a college lecturer. She had visited the town to inaugurate Missionaries of Charity’s new home in Salem Tabri neighborhood on Jalandhar Byepass.

A few days before she arrived, I received a call from Father Kurian Muttathupadam who was then Director Principal of the Sacred Heart Boys School, which was run under the Diocese of Jalandhar. Father Kurian told me about Mother Teresa’s coming visit and asked me to welcome her on behalf of the citizens of Ludhiana. I was overwhelmed with joy at the prospect of getting an opportunity to be in the gracious company of a wonderful soul. I kept counting the days. I kept rehearsing my speech which was to be brief. I was only to extend Mother a welcome and speak briefly about the noble work she and her organization -Missionaries of Charity - were doing. Even though I was trained to speak extemporaneously on any subject under the Sun and for long periods, here I was framing, re-framing my sentences.

And then on the 27th January, 1980, Mother Teresa arrived at the venue to inaugurate the new house for Missionaries of Charity and the inmates which I faintly recall, would have been around 20. And I am told now there are a hundred inmates who include sisters, destitute women and children.

It was a huge gathering, mainly of Catholic Christians who had come not only from Ludhiana but also from neighboring towns of Phillaur, Phagwara, Jalandhar, Nakodar, Kapurthala, Jagraon, Moga, Khanra, Chandigarh etc. to catch a glimpse of Mother Teresa.

The Bishop of Diocese of Jalandhar Bishop Symphorian Keeprath and several priests were present, as was my dear friend Father Kurian who unfortunately died a year ago. I was invited to speak. In fact, I was the only person to speak, besides the Bishop and Mother Teresa herself. After I made a brief speech I came down from the dais and sat in the front row with my lovely wife Gurdarshan Kaur. The two of us listened to Mother’s message. She spoke of importance of compassion and love. Her message was simple and clear. God has created all in His own image and we all are His children. As such, we must love one another. Later, Mother went around meeting people. When Gurdarshan and I got our opportunity to be with her, I held her small, tender hands and kissed them, even as my wife looked on. I remember Mother uttering blessings and then she moved on.

Little did I know then that Mother Teresa would one day be a Blessed one, that one day, she will be canonized. I feel so elated to think that I touched the tender, soft, loving small hands of a great soul. I feel her presence whenever I think of her. I rejoice in her canonization.

Mother Teresa was widely known as a living saint as she ministered to the sick and the dying in some of the poorest neighborhoods in the world. Although some people criticized her for not also challenging the injustices that kept so many people so poor and abandoned, her simple service touched the hearts of millions of people of all faiths.

Born to an ethnic Albanian family in Skopje, in what is now part of Macedonia, she went to India in 1929 as a Sister of Loreto and became an Indian citizen in 1947. She founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950. Shortly after she died in 1997, St. John Paul II waived the usual five-year waiting period and allowed the opening of the process to declare her sainthood. She was beatified in 2003.

After her beatification, Missionary of Charity Father Brian Kolodiejchuk, the postulator of her sainthood cause, published a book of her letters, “Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light.” The letters illustrated how, for decades, she experienced what is described as a “dark night of the soul” in Christian spirituality; she felt that God had abandoned her. While the letters shocked some people, others saw them as proof of her steadfast faith in God, which was not based on feelings or signs that he was with her.

The date chosen for her canonization is the eve of the 19th anniversary of her death and the date previously established at the Vatican for the conclusion of the Year of Mercy pilgrimage of people like her who are engaged in works of mercy.

Affectionately known as the “saint of the gutter” for her unconditional love for the poor, abandoned and the marginalized, she earned several international honors, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.
More than 61 million people in India have diabetes

55% of Indians with diabetes live in rural areas

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A Flying Jatt

CAST: Tiger Shroff, Jacqueline Fernandez, Amrita Singh, Gaurav Pandey, Nathan Jones, Kay Kay Menon
DIRECTION: Remo D’Souza
GENRE: Fantasy

STORY: Aman fears heights, dogs and industrialist Malhotra who sends merciless Raka to grab Aman’s land - but what happens when Aman discovers his own superhuman powers? Can he defeat Raka - and the power behind him?

REVIEW: So, straight away, the best thing about A Flying Jatt is the fumbling yet played by Tiger Shroff. Wicked industrialist Malhotra (Kay Kay) wants Aman’s family’s lands, which hold a sacred tree, for his polluting industries. Aman’s mother, Mrs. Dhillon (Amrita), ferociously opposes Malhotra - but Aman quakes before him, intimidated by most things on earth, including his own martial arts students.

Can Aman ever stand up to Malhotra and his huge henchman Raka (Nathan) - and can he fight his own fears?

Tiger does a neat job as Aman, shivering superhero who fights crime but also buys ‘do kilo lauki’ on the way home. Tiger’s evolution, from a kind but confused kid on land - but what happens when Aman discovers his own powers? - to a kind but confused kid on land - but what happens when Aman discovers his own superhuman powers? Can he defeat Raka - and the power behind him?

The film takes off only because of its simplicity that evokes more Haathi Mere Saathi and less cool-cat Krrish. The film takes off only because of its simplicity that evokes more Haathi Mere Saathi and less cool-cat Krrish. The film takes off only because of its simplicity that evokes more Haathi Mere Saathi and less cool-cat Krrish. The film takes off only because of its simplicity that evokes more Haathi Mere Saathi and less cool-cat Krrish. The film takes off only because of its simplicity that evokes more Haathi Mere Saathi and less cool-cat Krrish. The film takes off only because of its simplicity that evokes more Haathi Mere Saathi and less cool-cat Krrish.

 Despite his ability, Malhotra’s malevolence comes through. The villains remain cardboard stark shebang of a superhero versus super-dark powers scary - just cartoonish.

Sonakshi Sinha will be seen doing action sequences in her upcoming ‘Akira’ and the actress says she is only interested to play female-oriented characters. Sonakshi says it is only by chance that she is getting such roles. ‘It is happening by chance that I’m doing ‘Akira’ and then ‘Noor’. The audience is opening up to these kinds of films. They like to see something different. I only look at how good the character is and how badly I want to play. So, for me these are really good roles and that is why I have taken them up.’

Sonakshi’s last release was ‘Tevar’ which hit theatres in early 2015 and the actress says she may have been absent from the big screen but she was shooting back-to-back films. ‘I was shooting, I was working for ‘Akira’ because the shoot went on for a while then I started ‘Force 2’ and then ‘Noor’ happened.

Sonakshi says she will be seen doing action sequences in ‘Force 2’ as well but it is very different from her upcoming film. ‘There is action in ‘Force 2’ as well but it is very different from ‘Akira’. It is much styled and sleek. In this film, it is very raw and hard-hand combat. It’s quite different and interesting.’

Source: PTI

JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ IS A CHOREOGRAPHER’S DELIGHT!

Jacqueline Fernandez, who is riding high on the success, with back of back hits like ‘Housefull 3’, ‘Tishoom.’ ‘ ‘A Flying Jatt’, is a treat for the choreographers to work with. According to them, this actress, who has slew of hit numbers to credit, she dances with complete ease and makes the steps look even better.

On a related note, the 31-year-old actress has the maximum hit songs like ‘Chattinga Chhattinga’, ‘Lat Lag Gayi’, ‘Pyar Ki Maa Di’ and the very recent ‘Beat Pe Now.’

The actress has also learnt various dance forms, like tap, aerial, ballet and others for her various songs so far. Speaking about the same, Jackie said, “Apart from performing in front of the camera, dancing is another thing I completely enjoy. It’s a treat to work on dance numbers.”

The ‘Housefull 3’ actress is currently judging dance reality show ‘Jhalak Dikhla Jaa’ and working on her untitled next with Siddharth Malhotra.

Source: ANI
EMMA THOMPSON IN TALKS TO STAR IN ‘THE CHILDREN ACT’

Oscar-winner Emma Thompson is in negotiations to star in director Richard Eyre’s adaptation of Ian McEwan’s book ‘The Children Act’. The story revolves around a kind British High Court judge, who must decide on the most difficult case of her life, reported Deadline.

Judge Fiona Maye’s job often strains her marriage but she faces a real turmoil when she is to decide on the case of a 17-year-old boy suffering from leukemia.

The child does not want to be forced to have possible life-saving blood transfusions because it goes against his religion. The project would reunite Thompson with her ‘Love Actually’ and ‘My Fair Lady’ producer, Duncan Kenworthy.

NATALIE PORTMAN STRUGGLES WITH FRENCH ETIQUETTE RULES

Actress Natalie Portman says she struggles to get her head around French etiquette rules.

The Black Swan actress moved to Paris, France in 2014 after her dancer-choreographer husband Benjamin Millepied became the Paris Opera Ballet’s director of dance.

But following a recent move back to Los Angeles, Portman, 35, says she is pleased to be back on familiar turf, as she is never really used to having to follow French social customs, reported Entertainment Tonight.

“I feel there’s a lot of rules of politeness and codes of behaviour there you have to follow,” she said during an appearance on Jimmy Kimmel Live!

“It’s a lot looser here (in the United States).”

The Academy Award-winner added that Parisians have a very cool demeanour, and she is very careful about what she behaves in public. In fact, she was grateful when a friend shared some advice with her so that she wouldn’t be snubbed by disgruntled staff in boutiques.

“A friend of mine taught me that when you go in some place you have to say ‘bonjour’ before you say anything else, then you have to wait two seconds before you say something else.

“So, if you go into a store you can’t be like, ‘Do you have this in another size?’ or they’ll think you’re super rude and then they’ll be rude to you,” she shared.

In contrast, Natalie, who has a five-year-old son named Aleph, finds Americans are a little overly friendly.

“Everyone smiles a lot here. It’s so nice. They’re more cool in France. I didn’t realise I got used to it until I got here and I was so surprised. Someone would smile at my child and I’d be, ‘What a good person’. People are really lovely here.

MOVIE REVIEW
Nine Lives
KEVIN SPACEY
AS YOU’VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE

STORY: Tom Brand (Spacey) is a high-rolling business big shot and while he has achieved business success, his personal relationships are in the doldrums. He has an estranged young daughter Rebecca (Weissman) and wife Lara (Garner). He gets a shot at mending things with his daughter on her birthday but on visiting a pet shop run by Felix Perkins (Walken) the cat that he buys seems to trade souls with him. Felix is a bit more than meets the eye and tells Brand that he has a limited time to get back to his family or remain in feline form forever.

REVIEW: It goes without saying that you have the need to elaborate that Kevin Spacey is a man of massive acting talent, having essayed a number of roles throughout his long career. This however, would have to be among his most unusual - left of centre, if you will. And then there is the delightful Christopher Walken, who plays a shop owner who is really some kind of a sorcerer.

Spacey is a man of massive acting talent, having essayed a number of roles throughout his long career. This however, would have to be among his most unusual - left of centre, if you will. And then there is the delightful Christopher Walken, who plays a shop owner who is really some kind of a sorcerer. The film essentially rides on the humour, Spacey’s dry wit and wry asides, as he at first struggles to come to terms that he is now a cat. The primary funny bits lie in how he does his damnedest to connect with his daughter and convey what his predicament now is. Whether he succeeds or not, is left for you to see. Garner does come across as a bit overshadowed here. But then, Nine Lives isn’t about her character, as it isn’t central to the script.

So, the cinematography might not exactly blow you away, but what is refreshing is being able to see Spacey - an actor usually known for his intensity (think American Pie, and Usual Suspects) - play such a lighthearted role. And it is always a delight to see the eccentric talents of Walken being strutted out on screen. This is a simple movie, with a simple little moral and not one to be dissected and examined frame by frame. There is humour, there is fun and Nine Lives is honestly, quite enjoyable. It will put a smile on your face.
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Turkey discharges 820 more military personnel

ISTANBUL (TIP): Turkey’s state-run Anatolu news agency says more than 800 further personnel have been discharged from the military in the latest crackdown following July’s abortive coup.

It reported Thursday that the Ministry of National Defense has dishonorably discharged 820 personnel from the Army and Navy. Of those, 648 were already under arrest.

The government has launched a massive crackdown against the movement led by US-based Islamic cleric Fethullah Gulen. Ankara alleges Gulen and his followers were responsible for the violent coup attempt that left more than 270 people dead. Gulen denies any involvement.

Some 35,000 people have been detained for questioning, with more than 17,000 of them being formally arrested to face trial. Tens of thousands more people have been suspended or dismissed from their jobs, including thousands from the military (AP)

ISIS says spokesman Adnani killed in Syria’s Aleppo

BEIRUT (TIP): The Islamic State group has said its spokesman Abu Mohammad al-Adnani was killed while monitoring military operations in the Syrian province of Aleppo.

The announcement came as a US defence official said an IS “senior leader” was targeted in a US-led coalition air strike yesterday in Aleppo province.

“Coalition forces conducted an air strike in Al-Rab, Syria, targeting an IS senior leader,” the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

“We are still assessing the results of the operation at this time.”

Quoting a “military source”, IS news agency Amaq said:

“We are still assessing the results of the operation at this time.”

A remarkable fight for life followed complications but the youngster, who spent time on a life support machine, has amazed medics and his family.

Ma said the air force had entered into a "transformation" stage, changing its focus from quantity to quality, the report said. (Reuters)

Doctors stop baby's heart for 15 hours to do life-saving surgery

BEIJING (TIP): China is developing a new long-range bomber, the head of the Chinese air force was quoted as saying in state media on Friday, the latest move in its ambitious military modernisation programme.

China has already improved its aircraft, is now also developing its own stealth fighters. In July, it put into service a new, domestically developed long-range aircraft.

Ma said: “If a coalition air strike hit him, it shows intelligence penetration by the coalition is very high. Otherwise it would not have been possible to take out so many high-ranking figures.” Another analyst, Charles Lister, tweeted that Adnani’s death is a “big blow to IS”.

LOndon (TIP): A nine-month-old baby in the UK, born with a large hole in his heart and faced certain death has survived a marathon surgery when doctors stopped his tiny heart stopped for 15 hours for a life-saving procedure.

Nathan Byrne is now the smiling picture of health, British media reported on August 29.

Without complex surgery, which saw his thumb-nail sized heart stopped for 15 hours, he would not have lived beyond six months, Scottish newspaper Daily Record reported.

Surgeons told parents, Lesley Condie and David Byrne, Nathan would be in surgery for seven hours, but complications saw the procedure take more than double that time.

A remarkable fight for life followed complications but the youngster, who spent time on a life support machine, has amazed medics and his family.

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China says developing new type of long-range bomber

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Strong magnitude 7.1 quake strikes New Zealand but no major damage

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND (TIP): A strong magnitude-7.1 earthquake rattled the coast of New Zealand’s North Island on Sept 2 morning, triggering a small tsunami and shaking items from shelves but not causing any major damage or injuries.

The quake struck just over 160 kilometers (100 miles) northeast of the city of Gisborne at a depth of 19 kilometers (12 miles), according to the United States Geological Survey. It was widely felt throughout the North Island and was followed by a series of aftershocks.

Bill Martin, the owner of a holiday park in Te Araroa, a remote coastal community that was among those most affected by the quake, told The Associated Press he was taken by the jolt a little before 5 a.m. "It was very violent," he said. "It lasted maybe about 10 seconds but it seemed like an eternity."

Martin said the quake sent some of his household ornaments crashing from their shelves and knocked over bottles. (AP)

First video interview of Mandela discovered after 60 years

JOHANNESBURG (TIP): The Nelson Mandela Foundation on Thursday said that it might have discovered the anti-apartheid revolutionary African leader’s first known television interview which was recorded almost six decades ago.

The 24-second clip was reportedly filmed during a break at the infamous 1956 Treason Trial which lasted four-and-a half years. The interview was conducted at the Old Synagogue in Pretoria which was used as a court for the Treason Trial.

Mandela was one of the last group of 28 accused in the marathon trial who were acquitted on March 29, 1961.

Days later Mandela went underground until his arrest on August 5, 1962, which ultimately saw him spend 27 years in prison, most of them on Robben Island, before becoming the first democratically-elected President of South Africa.

The recently resurfaced video was broadcast on January 21, 1961 by a Netherlands television broadcaster, AVRO. (Reuters)
Mother Teresa sainthood on Sunday

Vatican City (TIP): Affectionately called the “saint of the gutters” during her lifetime, Mother Teresa of Calcutta will be made an official saint of the Roman Catholic Church on Sunday (September 4), just 18 years after her death.

A Nobel Peace Prize winner, Mother Teresa was one of the most influential women in the Church’s 2,000-year history, acclaimed for her work amongst the world’s poorest of the poor in the slums of Kolkata. Hundreds of thousands of faithful are expected to attend the canonization service for the tiny nun, which will be led by Pope Francis in front of St Peter’s basilica.

The Church defines saints as those believed to have been holy enough during their lives to now be in Heaven and able to intercede with God to perform miracles. She has been credited with two miracles, both involving the healing of sick people.

Although criticised both during her life and following her death, Mother Teresa is revered by Catholics as a model of compassion who brought relief to the sick and dying, opening branches of her Missionaries of Charity (MoC) order around the world. “Even in popular culture she’s identified with goodness, kindness, charity,” said Father Brian Kolodiejchuk, the MoC priest who campaigned for her sainthood.

Her critics view her differently, arguing she did little to alleviate the pain of the terminally ill and nothing to stamp out the root causes of poverty.

In 1991, the British medical journal Lancet visited a home she ran in Kolkata for the dying and said untrained carers failed to recognise when some patients could have been cured. Kolodiejchuk said her detractors missed the point of her mission, arguing that she had created a place to comfort people in their final days rather than establish hospitals. “We don’t have to prove that saints were perfect, because no one is perfect,” he said.

In her adopted India, Mother Teresa has been accused of looking to convert the destitute to Christianity, something her mission has repeatedly denied.

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the umbrella right-wing Hindu organisation that helped create the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, also accuses Mother Teresa of revelling in the misery of others.

“As a resident of Kolkata, I feel insulted to see its poverty being glorified by the MoC. As a Hindu nationalist, I also feel that Christianity is not the only way of salvation,” said Jishnu Bose, the RSS spokesman in the city.

But Mother Teresa still has legions of supporters in India, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi. “All her life she worked to serve poorer sections of Indian society. When such a person is conferred with sainthood, it is natural for Indians to feel proud,” Modi said on Sunday in a radio broadcast. Source: Reuters

US imposes sanctions on 'Putin's bridge' to Crimea

MOSCOW (TIP): Companies building a multi-billion dollar bridge to link the Russian mainland with annexed Crimea, a project close to the heart President Vladimir Putin, were targeted by the United States in an updated sanctions blacklist on September 1.

The US Department of the Treasury added dozens of people and companies to the list, first introduced after Russia annexed the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine in 2014 and expanded over its support for separatist rebels in the east of the country.

As well as multiple subsidiaries of Russian gas giant Gazprom and 11 Crimean officials, the Treasury named seven companies directly involved in the construction of the 19 km (11.8 miles) road-and-rail connection across the Kerch Strait, dubbed “Putin’s bridge” by some Russians.

Chief among those were SGM Most, a subsidiary of lead contractor Stroygazmontazh which is already under U.S. sanctions, and sub-contractor Mostrost, one of Russia’s biggest bridge builders.

“Treasury stands with our partners in condemning Russia’s violation of international law, and we will continue to sanction those who threaten Ukraine’s peace, security and sovereignty,” said John Smith, acting director of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control, which levies sanctions.

The Russian Foreign Ministry was not immediately available for comment, but Moscow has previously said sanctions levied over its actions in Ukraine undermine efforts to resolve the conflict.

Set to be the longest dual-purpose span in Europe when completed, the Kremlin sees its 212-billion rouble ($3.2 billion) bridge as vital to integrating Crimea into Russia, both symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region. Putin has called the undertaking symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region. Putin has called the undertaking vital to integrating Crimea into Russia, both symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region. Putin has called the undertaking vital to integrating Crimea into Russia, both symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region. Putin has called the undertaking vital to integrating Crimea into Russia, both symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region. Putin has called the undertaking vital to integrating Crimea into Russia, both symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region. Putin has called the undertaking vital to integrating Crimea into Russia, both symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region. Putin has called the undertaking vital to integrating Crimea into Russia, both symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region. Putin has called the undertaking vital to integrating Crimea into Russia, both symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region. Putin has called the undertaking vital to integrating Crimea into Russia, both symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region. Putin has called the undertaking vital to integrating Crimea into Russia, both symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region. Putin has called the undertaking vital to integrating Crimea into Russia, both symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region. Putin has called the undertaking vital to integrating Crimea into Russia, both symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region. Putin has called the undertaking vital to integrating Crimea into Russia, both symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region. Putin has called the undertaking vital to integrating Crimea into Russia, both symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region. Putin has called the undertaking vital to integrating Crimea into Russia, both symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region. Putin has called the undertaking vital to integrating Crimea into Russia, both symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region. Putin has called the undertaking vital to integrating Crimea into Russia, both symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region. Putin has called the undertaking vital to integrating Crimea into Russia, both symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region. Putin has called the undertaking vital to integrating Crimea into Russia, both symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region. Putin has called the undertaking vital to integrating Crimea into Russia, both symbolically and as an economic lifeline for the region.

The restrictions on the energy giant and its subsidiaries prevent US firms or citizens because of his links to the Russian leader, which the Treasury says have helped him win billions of dollars in state contracts. He cannot raise capital in the West or hire Western sub-contractors to help his firm complete the project.

Officials linked to the bridge’s construction say they have all the skills, equipment and supplies required to build it without Western help.

"The sanctions will not affect the construction of the bridge,” Crimea Bridge infocentre, the organization responsible for communications about the project, said in a statement on Thursday. "The contractor has all the resources necessary for the timely completion of the project.”

Rotenberg and his brother Boris have denied getting help from the Russian leader for their businesses. Gazprom did not reply to a request for comment.

The restrictions on the energy giant and its subsidiaries prevent US firms or citizens from providing goods or services supporting the firm’s deepwater, arctic offshore, or shale oil projects. (Reuters)
Aafter sporting layers of make-up for hours you may want to use a soft and natural make-up cleanser to get rid of it. Use cucumbers and yogurt, which can act as natural make-up cleaners and leave your skin safe and glowing, says an expert.

**OIL CLEANSERS:** Use oils such as coconut oil and olive oil can cleanse your skin thoroughly, removing all sorts of make-up applied on your face. Apart from the make-up, these oils remove dust and dirt settled on your face without over-drying it.

**MILK:** Milk helps you to gently get rid of dirt and acts as the best make-up remover for sensitive skin. This is one of the most affordable options for removing make-up and keeping your skin refreshed.

**CUCUMBERS:** This vegetable is one of the most popular ingredients in skincare. It is known to be a cooling agent due to its high-water content. Grated cucumber can be used as a cleanser and if you want to get rid of that pigmented lipstick, add a little bit of milk or olive oil to the mixture.

**YOUGURT:** Yogurt not only helps in relieving stubborn sunburns but also acts as a good cleanser. Dip cotton balls into plain yogurt and rub them all over the skin. Rinse off with cool water.

**HONEY AND BAKING SODA:** Honey is well-known for its anti-bacterial and anti-inflammatory properties. On a clean cloth, put some honey and sprinkle baking soda on it. This is one of the best ways to remove all the make-up and dirt from your face.

**ROSE WATER:** Apply rose water on cotton balls and gently wipe your face and neck before you're off to bed. This magic potion not only leaves a good fragrance of rose but also keeps all the dirt at bay.

**BANANAS:** If there are ripe bananas at home, do not throw them away. Mash them into a paste and apply them onto your face. Keep the mash on for five minutes and rinse well with a warm wash cloth. This helps to remove all the make-up and keeps your skin smooth and hydrated.
MEDITATION OR VACATION? WHAT IS BETTER?

Researchers have been using a rigorous study design to assess the biological impact of meditation as compared to going on a vacation.

Examining the effect of meditation on gene expression patterns in both novice and regular meditators, they found that a resort vacation provides a strong and immediate impact on molecular networks associated with stress and immune pathways, in addition to short-term improvements in well-being, as measured by feelings of vitality and distress.

A meditation retreat for those, who already used meditation regularly, was associated with molecular networks characterized by antiviral activity. The molecular signature of long-term meditators was distinct from the non-meditating vacationers.

The study involved 94 healthy women, aged 30-60. Sixty-four women were recruited who were not regular meditators.

Participants stayed at the same resort in California for six days, and randomized so that half were simply on vacation while the other half joined a meditation training program for Well Being.

The meditation program included training in mantra meditation, yoga, and self-reflection exercises.

For greater insight into the long-term effects of what scientists dubbed the "meditation effect" compared to the "vacation effect," the team also studied a group of 30 experienced meditators who were already enrolled in the retreat that week.

Researchers collected blood samples, and surveys, from all participants immediately before and after their stay, as well as surveys one month and ten months later.

Eric Schadt, the senior author said, "In the spirit of other research efforts we have pioneered with other groups, this work underscores the importance of studies focused on healthy people. By combining an interrogation of gene networks with advanced data analysis and statistics, we have generated clinically meaningful information about stress and aging that is relevant to the broader population."

The research team examined the changes in 20,000 genes to determine which types of changes were changing before and after the resort experience.

Scientists performed an integrative transcriptomic analysis, comparing gene expression networks across all three groups of participants and finding unique molecular profiles and pathway enrichment patterns.

Study results show that all groups, novice meditators, experienced meditators, and vacationers had significant changes in molecular network patterns after the week at the resort, with a clear signature distinguishing baseline from post-vacation biology.

The most notable changes in gene activity were related to stress response and immune function.

Researchers also assessed self-reported measures of well-being.

While all groups showed improvements up to one month later, the novice meditators had fewer symptoms of depression and less stress much longer than the non-meditating vacationers.

The psychological effects appear to be enduring and it is unknown how much of this longer-lasting benefit may be due to continued practice or lasting changes in how people view events in their lives.

Professor Elissa S. Epel, the first author of the study explained, "It's intuitive that taking a vacation reduces biological processes related to stress, but it was still impressive to see the large changes in gene expression from being away from the busy pace of life, in a relaxing environment, in such a short period of time. These findings will have to be replicated to see if the changes are reliably invoked under the same circumstances, in future studies, and compared to an at-home control group."

"Based on our results, the benefit we experience from meditation isn't strictly psychological; there is a clear and quantifiable change in how our bodies function. Meditation is one of the ways to engage in restorative activities that may provide relief for our immune systems."

The authors demonstrated, for the first time, that a modified strain of mice generated to display human-like symptoms of Alzheimer's show significant cognitive improvements, including a reversal of spatial memory deficit, when the brain's expression of p62 is reversed.

The study, published in the journal Molecular Psychiatry, further showed that the improvement is correlated with reduced levels of amyloid beta and associated plaques in the brain.

The new research has described the mechanism by which p62 activity improves Alzheimer's disease symptoms in mice—by a process known as autophagy.

The term refers to the degradation or disassembly of unnecessary or dysfunctional components of cells—a form of biological recycling essential for cellular health.

Source: AINS

PROTEIN SHOWS PROMISE FOR EFFECTIVE ALZHEIMER’S TREATMENT

Researchers have found that a protein may help reverse the effects of damaging plaques in the brain associated with Alzheimer’s disease.

The findings may offer clues leading to successful treatment of the disease.

The accumulation in plaques of fragments formed from deposits of a critical protein, known as amyloid beta, is a hallmark of Alzheimer’s disease, the most common form of dementia.

This study demonstrated that a multipurpose protein, known as p62, regulates the degradation or turnover of amyloid beta in living systems, which may help reverse the effects of damaging plaques in the brain.

"These exciting finding suggest that compounds aimed at increasing p62 may have beneficial effects for Alzheimer’s disease," said one of the researchers Salvatore Oddo from Arizona State University in the US.

Currently, there is no effective therapy for Alzheimer’s that disease causes nerve cell death and tissue loss throughout the brain. During the course of the disease, the brain shrinks dramatically, affecting nearly all its functions.

Shrinkage of the brain is acute in the cortex, damaging areas critical for thinking, planning and remembering.

Atrophy is particularly severe in the hippocampus, an area of the cortex that plays a crucial role in formation of new memories.

The protein p62 is known to perform an array of vital functions in cells. Of particular interest is p62’s role in the aggregation and degradation of a pair of proteins long recognized as hallmarks of Alzheimer’s disease—tau and amyloid beta.

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Source: AINS

EBOLA VIRUS LASTS IN SEMEN FOR UP TO 565 DAYS: STUDY

The largest analysis yet has found Ebola virus particles present in semen as long as 565 days after recovery from an infection, highlighting the potential role of sex in sparking another outbreak, researchers reported on Tuesday.

The study, published in the Lancet Global Affairs, involved 429 men seen between July 2015 and May 2016 who were part of the Liberian government’s Men’s Health Screening Program (MHSP), the first national semen testing program for Ebola virus.

Of the participants, 38 men tested positive during the study period. Within this group, 24 men, or nearly two thirds, had semen samples that tested positive for Ebola fragments a year after recovering from disease. Ebola tended to linger longer in men over age 40, the researchers said.

In one case, Ebola was detected at least 565 days after a man recovered from his illness.

"Before this outbreak, scientists believed that Ebola virus could be found in semen for three months after recovery. With this study we now know that virus may persist for a year or longer," said Dr. Moses Soka, coordinator of the Ebola Virus Disease Survivor Clinical Care at the Liberian Ministry of Health, who worked on the study.

As part of Liberia’s monitoring program, male survivors aged 15 and older can enroll for monthly tests of their semen.

"This program provides important insights into how long Ebola remains in semen, a key component to preventing flare-ups of the disease and protecting survivors and their loved ones," Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which is collaborating with the ministry. Other partners include the World Health Organization, and the Academic Consortium Combating Ebola in Liberia.

Semen samples in the study were tested for genetic fragments known as the viral RNA, but the tests could not tell if the virus was capable of spreading disease.

Sexual contact with an Ebola survivor in March 2015 resulted in the infection and eventual death of a woman from Monrovia, even after Liberia had been declared free of Ebola. Tests of the man’s semen showed the presence of Ebola virus 199 days after he first became ill.

The World Health Organization advises that all male Ebola survivors should be tested three months after the onset of symptoms and then monthly until they know they have no risk of passing on the virus.

Source: Reuters

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Source: AINS

Source: Reuters
AIR-BREATHTING ROCKET 'SCRAMJETS' ITS WAY INTO SPACE

CHENNAI (TIP): Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) has successfully tested two ‘air breathing’ scramjet engines as the first step to perfect a futuristic technology to launch missiles, inject heavier satellites in orbit, and fly astronauts at hypersonic speed. If fitted to a spaceplane, the engine can cut down inter-continental travel time and fly people in just an hour across the globe to New York. The engine, which use oxygen from the atmosphere to provide propulsion along with Hydrogen stored in the rocket, was developed at Rs 3 crore. During the five minute test on Sunday, the scramjet engine auto-ignited and burned fuel for five seconds at an altitude of 20km after taking off on two RH-90 (Rehini) sounding rockets at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) director K Sivan said, “We have got good results. It is only a baby step, but an important step, towards developing the full fledged technology. We need to determine what should be our next step, to demonstrate which aspect of the technology”. It will take up to three decades and more test flights to have a fully developed scramjet engine in a launch vehicle. Scramjet engines are different from conventional rocket engines that carry fuel (hydrogen) and oxidiser (oxygen) to propel a rocket. The hypersonic engine, with its air breathing propulsion system, would carry only liquid hydrogen as fuel and takes oxygen from the atmosphere which it touches supersonic speed to burn the fuel for propulsion. The engine, which will propel vehicles at hypersonic speed, will reduce rocket weight by half, increase its efficiency, cut down the cost and enable carrying heavier payload.

Isro will conduct a lot more experiments with the engine including tests at different speeds and fine-tuning use of new materials like Inconel (an alloy of nickel, chromium and iron) and a carbon-carbon composite. “Sunday’s test of autoigniting the scramjet engine was similar to lighting a match during a cyclone,” said Sivan. After the rocket reached an altitude of 7km, the first stage broke off and fell into the Bay of Bengal. When the second stage, to which two scramjet engines were fixed, auto-ignited, the rocket had reached 30km altitude at Mach 6 (7408.8 kmph) and the flame sustained for five seconds, burning the fuel.

By successfully testing a twin-scramjet engine, India has joined an elite group of countries like US, Japan, China, Russia and Europe that has demonstrated the technology which can be used to make a spaceplane. Isro’s immediate plan, however, is not to make a spaceplane. It is looking to integrate the engine with a reusable launch vehicle which is under development. There is a plan to design and develop a new vehicle that may look like a plane for the engine as it cannot be used in existing launch vehicles. While scramjet technology is not a replacement for cryogenic engines and will only be a supplement, Isro is also looking to develop a technology using air-breathing propulsion system where the air flow into the engine is compressed, converted into liquid oxygen and stored for use as fuel by the rocket after it leaves the atmosphere. Source: TOI

LONDON (TIP): Scientists have identified a young star in the Milky Way located almost 11,000 light years away from Earth and 30 times more massive than our Sun, which could help understand how the most massive stars form.

The star is still in the process of gathering material from its parent molecular cloud, and may be even more massive when it finally reaches adulthood, researchers said. Led by a team at the University of Cambridge, researchers identified a key stage in the birth of the massive star, and found that these stars form in a similar way to much smaller stars like our Sun - from a rotating disc of gas and dust.

In our galaxy, massive young stars - those with a mass at least eight times greater than the Sun - are much more difficult to study than smaller stars. This is because they live fast and die young, making them rare among the 100 billion stars in the Milky Way, and on average, they are much further away.

An average star like our Sun is formed over a few million years, whereas massive stars are formed orders of magnitude faster - around 100,000 years,” said John Ilee from Cambridge’s Institute of Astronomy, the study’s lead author.

“These massive stars also burn through their fuel much more quickly, so they have shorter overall lifespans, making them harder to catch when they are infants,” Ilee said.

The protostar that researchers identified resides in an infrared dark cloud - a very cold and dense region of space which makes for an ideal stellar nursery. However, this rich star-forming region is difficult to observe using conventional telescopes, since the young stars are surrounded by a thick, opaque cloud of gas and dust.

Using the Submillimetre Array (SMA) in Hawaii and the Karl G Jansky Very Large Array (VLA) in New Mexico, which use long wavelengths of light to observe the sky, researchers were able to ‘see’ through the cloud into the stellar nursery itself.

By measuring the amount of radiation emitted by cold dust near the star, and by using unique fingerprints of various different molecules in the gas, the researchers were able to determine the presence of a ‘Kuiperian’ disc - one which rotates more quickly at its centre than at its edge.

“This type of rotation is also seen in the solar system - the inner planets rotate around the Sun more quickly than the outer planets,” said Ilee.

“It’s exciting to find such a disc around a massive young star, because it suggests that massive stars form in a similar way to lower mass stars, like our Sun,” he said.

From these observations, the team measured the mass of the protostar to be over 30 times the mass of the Sun. In addition, the disc surrounding the young star was also calculated to be relatively massive, between two and three times the mass of our Sun.

The study was published in the journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Source: PTI

Facebook makes trending news feature more automated

Facebook is further automating its “trending” stories feature, a move that will scale back human input to prevent personal bias from influencing which stories get highlighted.

The social media giant will rely more heavily on an algorithm to operate the feature – which lists what news or events are hot topics – no longer requiring people to write descriptions, according to a Facebook blog post.

The feature prompted controversy earlier this year, with critics alleging that Facebook’s news curators were deliberately omitting stories from politically conservative outlets. The company denied.

Facebook said relying more heavily on software will allow the feature to cover a wider scope, while lessening the risk that personal bias could manipulate the list of trending topics.

“We looked into these claims and found no evidence of systematic bias,” Facebook reiterated in its blog post Friday, but added that “making these changes to the product allows our team to make fewer individual decisions about topics.”

With the change, instead of seeing story summaries in the trending list, users will simply see topics and the number of people talking about them. Letting a cursor hover over a topic will show “an automatically selected original news story with an excerpt pulled directly from the top article itself.”

Humans will still be involved in the process to ensure that topics are real-world news and not based on internet trend like #lunch.

Facebook in May made changes aimed at keeping political bias out of its “trending” stories list even though an internal investigation revealed no evidence that it was an issue.

“Our investigation has revealed no evidence of systematic political bias in the selection or prominence of stories included in the Trending Topics feature,” Facebook general counsel Colin Stretch said in a letter responding to a query from Republican US Senator John Thune, who chairs the commerce committee.

“In fact, our analysis indicated that the rates of approval of conservative and liberal topics are virtually identical in Trending Topics. Facebook updated terminology in its guidelines to be clearer and gave reviewers refresher training that emphasized content decisions may not be based on politics or ideology,” the letter said.

The review team became subject to more oversight and controls, and Facebook stop relying on lists of external websites and news outlets to assess the importance of topics in stories.

“We’ve built Facebook to be a platform for all ideas,” Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg said on his social network page after a meeting at the company’s California headquarters to discuss the allegations about anti-conservative bias.

Source: AFP
TAX DODGERS MUST COME CLEAN OR FACE ACTION, SAYS ARUN JAITLEY

MUMBAI: The Income Declaration Scheme (IDS), 2016, which closed on September 30, offers a chance to come clean, or else one must be ready to face consequences, indicated Union Finance minister Arun Jaitley on Thursday.

IDS provides an opportunity to persons who have not paid full taxes in the past to declare their undisclosed domestic income and assets, against a payment of tax, surcharge and penalty amounting to 45%.

There will also be a second window for disclosure of foreign black money, he said, referring to the declaration scheme which was available in 2015.

Detection of tax evasion is easier with improvement in technology, and implementation of GST will also help. “Thus, as we advance over the years, not only is it morally and ethically correct to pay taxes, but it is also safer,” said Jaitley.

Speaking at a seminar organised jointly by Ficci and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) he said, “I am quite conscious of the fact that India is still a society where paying tax is not exactly an exciting or popular proposition.”

Even as rates have been rationalised and the path towards a more liberal tax regime continues, tax evasion exists. Pointing to the gap between the tax collections (both direct and indirect) of roughly Rs 16 lakh crore and government expenditure of Rs 18 lakh crore, he asked the audience to think what would the figure of collection be if there was no evasion.

After having cautioned about the consequences of not coming clean under IDS, the FM appealed to people’s conscience. “A country like India needs to spend to bridge the inequality between rural and urban areas, we need to spend on human resources, on infrastructure as a whole, on healthcare and education and on various social expenditure.”

We borrow, leaving the next generation in debt,” he said. “If many did not indulge in evasion, would India have the resources to spend where we are not spending? The obvious answer is yes,” he emphasised.

Source: TOI

US factory activity shrinks for first time in 6 months

WASHINGTON (TIP): US manufacturing contracted last month for the first time since February, as new orders and output plummeted and factories cut jobs.

The Institute for Supply Management says its manufacturing index dropped to 49.4 in August from 52.6 in July. Any reading below 50 signals contraction.

This report suggests manufacturers continue to struggle as businesses spend less on machinery, computers and other large equipment. Auto sales have also leveled off this year after reaching a record level in 2015.

A measure of employment fell to 48.3, its second straight month of decline. That is a sign manufacturers are laying off workers.

Orders for new goods fell to the lowest level since December. And a gauge of production plunged to the lowest level in four years. Source: AP

Sebi unveils new rules for comexes

MUMBAI (TIP): Sebi on Thursday introduced some new risk mitigating concepts in the commodity market. The regulator aims to strengthen and upgrade the risk management process in commodity derivative exchanges.

These measures include higher margins in less-traded commodities contracts and higher margins for traders having large positions, which are also potential risks to the market. It also introduced some new tools which are aimed at neutralizing the impact of brokers’ positions who may default in case of adverse market conditions.

These new rules were imposed by Sebi after the commodities market faced problem with castor seed contracts early this year when huge positions were built that led to default by some brokers, industry sources said. These new rules came in within a year of Sebi taking over the regulation of commodities derivatives markets from the previous regulator, Forward Markets Commission (FMC).

CHENNAI (TIP): Voluntary recalls are becoming quite common in the Indian automobile market particularly as more and more car companies are aligning their recall systems with a global recall culture in the country. With its network of over 1000 dealers across the country, General Motors India has announced an investment of Rs. 5,000 crore towards Jio Digital India Startup Fund, the current VAS ecosystem needs 2-3 years to mature.

RELIANCE JIO LAUNCH SET TO TOUCHANT INDIA’S TELECOM SECTOR

MUMBAI (TIP): Reliance Industries Ltd’s (RIL) telecom unit will start offering services from 5 September, but the company has stated an altruistic objective for Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd.—that of putting India on the global map for mobile broadband Internet access—but there is no denying that this announcement has joined the telecom ecosystem across the country. First, let’s get deep dive on the math behind Reliance Jio’s expectation of breaking even or turning profitable in 12 months of operation.

The firm expects to achieve an average/revenue per user (Arpu) of approximately Rs.300 on a subscriber/base/of 100 million within 12 months of commercial operation. These bullish numbers are proposed on the back of free voice services and rock-bottom data pricing expected to bring in new customers. However, Greyhound Research believes achieving Arpu of Rs.300 is a lofty task and nearly two times the industry standard.

We are also of the firm belief that it may take the company 12-18 months (post commercial launch) before they start seeing sizable business outcomes, both in terms of revenue and subscribers. Furthermore, we estimate that it will take 3-5 financial years cycles for the company to report profits.

There are some ways in which Greyhound Research expects this announcement to impact one and all in the country’s telecom ecosystem.

Start of a two-SIM culture

With Reliance Jio’s clear focus on data, Greyhound Research believes this announcement will spark a two-SIM culture in the country. With its network chiefly built for data, voice quality may not compare to its peers and consumers are likely to opt for different SIMs for voice and data. This culture may also be triggered for other reasons including yet-to-be-known service levels from Reliance Jio.

The onset of price wars

This announcement will unleash price wars among telecom operators. Players including Bharti Airtel Ltd, Vodafone India Ltd, Idea Cellular Ltd and others will be under tremendous pressure to launch both monetary and service measures to retain customers. Greyhound Research believes this move will benefit consumers who can expect the cost for data (not voice) to reduce in the range of 25-30%.

Invest or consolidate

Jio’s announcement will further add bottomline pressures on the already struggling telecom operators. At Greyhound Research, we believe the Indian market has an appetite for two or three pan-India players at best. With deep pockets, the likes of Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel are highly likely to come out triumphant in this war; Vodafone and Idea could well be forced to invest more aggressively or consolidate.

Significant focus on VAS

By making data as the key hinge of their announcement and offering free apps worth Rs.15,000, the company has successfully offered a chance to come clean, or else one must be ready to face consequences.

With the consumer mindshare and loyalty switching at the drop of a hat, telecom operators must unidly focus on what truly matters: delivering unparalleled customer experience. The recent technology investments by Airtel and Vodafone on Data Analytics exemplify this.

At Greyhound Research, we believe, in the end, the winners in this game will be the ones who offer consistent and reliable experiences and not necessarily free services.

Source: Livemint

GENERAL MOTORS RECALLS CHEVROLET CRUZE CARS

CIENNAI (TIP): Voluntary recalls are becoming quite common in the Indian automobile market particularly as more and more car companies are aligning their recall systems with global recalls. The Takata airbag problem has led to several rounds of recalls in India in tandem with global recalls. While other companies have been proactive in recalling vehicles which may have faced tech problems in other markets and the latest to join the ranks is General Motors India.

The company on Thursday undertook a “voluntary product recall for a limited range of its Chevrolet Cruze vehicle where some vehicles have experienced loss of ignition or engine stall at low vehicle speeds,” it said in a statement. The recall affects Chevrolet Cruze vehicles manufactured between model years 2009 and 2011.

“The inspection and recommended repairs or replacement are estimated to take no more than one hour and the affected Chevrolet Cruze customers will be asked to take their vehicles to their nearest Chevrolet service dealership for inspection with a prior appointment,” said the statement.

“If we foresee a potential issue, we ensure that it is corrected as soon as possible, as part of our commitment to customer satisfaction. This is a voluntary recall and, as far as we are aware, does not affect the safety of the vehicle but we want to make sure that our customers experience the right performance from their vehicles,” said Markus Sternberg, vice-president - aftersales, General Motors India.

The company is working closely with its service network to make the entire inspection and correction exercise as smooth as possible with an option of pick up and drop to a residential address.
Internationally acclaimed astrologer Bejan Daruwalla predicts: "I am sure Hillary Clinton will surely win the elections and will help the people in each and every way she can."

"|| SHRI GANESHALAYA NAMAH ||"

Predictions for the month of SEPTEMBER, 2016

**Aries**

Ganesha says a very demanding, perhaps even challenging start is what Ganesha gives you this period. Work will be vitally important, of course, and you’ll try to give it your best shot. Arians go all out when they hunt, don’t they? It is however, people and how you relate to them that is the core area now. Where there may be a life-time bound developing and glorious love (all adding up to marriage, if you’re still single) there could also be a breakup, a parting / separation.

**Taurus**

Once more, you focus on changes in the family, or the family equation - there could be a fraught situation there. You may find yourself taken unawares, or even a little hurt by developments. Property matters will definitely be handled - adding on, acquiring, renovating, even trade-offs and exchanges - possibly within the family. It will see you being generous, accommodating, staying cool.

**Gemini**

You can’t move away from personal relationships, perhaps even at work! You will, in fact, personalize your work, put your own individual stamp on it. You need to put in work that may provide you with room for improvement in your personal space in terms of home / property, your time with your family. You want all these to be just right and go all out to make it so. You rarely do things by halves, anyway.

**Cancer**

All that caring may well have taken the mickey out of you, leaving you feeling hard done by, exploited, used. We’re all only human, after all. Showdowns, arguments, confrontations could flare up more in the work scene. You try to rise above them, avoiding both pettiness and vindictiveness in your attitude and dealings. Your lover / spouse stands by you, making large - heartedness easier to accomplish. You don’t want to be small-minded.

**Scorpio**

You have got your work and money angles firmly under control, with your activities of the last period. Now you have the time, the will, the desire to turn to people. Your self-image, popularity, public image show a major rise. Finances, too, are pretty good and serve to further boost your confidence. Please note the use of the word ‘further’. You seldom, if ever lack confidence - sometimes, in fact you have too much of it.

**Leo**

You may feel you’re being rewarded by Ganesha / God / Allah but all of a sudden there is fulfillment, job satisfaction, recognition, popularity. I need to warn you against letting your ego - usually larger than life is most Leos - take over. You’ll lose the regard of the people whose approval you crave the most. Nurture your spiritual side, touch base with both old and new friends, keep the lines of bonding, communication, affection open is Ganesha’s parting advice.

**Virgo**

Faith, finances, entertaining, friends - all show an upward movement. It’s pleasing to be part of it all. Children draw close, there is affection and closer family ties; you’re fulfilled and happy. I must explain the financial angle a little, though. It’s the macro - rather micro - (read domestic / personal) level that you’re on - investments, trading, stock options; in short, the larger picture but geared to family welfare.

**Libra**

Finances continue to be center-stage, claiming a lot of your time and attention. Trade mark-ups, spin-offs, speculation and investing in good shores (are there any, as I write this?) Work and home are balanced harmoniously, and you even have the tie and inclinations to play the field a little in terms of passion, great sex, good vibes with someone new or an existing partner. Along with such physical liaisons.

**Sagittarius**

Family life, lots of entertaining, wining and dining and also lots of financial activity are the new trends now. You try to resolve them into one totally homogeneous whole - all geared (I mean finances, entertaining) to a better quality of life for the family, and yourself in the midst of it. You will have parties, house guests, children doing sleepovers, and also much greater faith, spirituality, religious observance.

**Capricorn**

You want to live life truly king-size. There’s nothing that you want to leave to the chance of being second-rate. Higher learning, further study, research, enhancement of your skills / qualifications is the name of the game now. And you play it well! Travel, business partnerships, the progress of your children are all favored, too, and will yield the results you’ve envisaged. You will even be imaginative and inspired in your handling of religion and faith. Great mental activity thus sums it all up!

**Aquarius**

Expenses will go through the ceiling. This might well be the only catch in an otherwise high-powered period of gains and achievements. The thrust will now be on contacts, communications, correspondence even cybermail (is there such a term? If not, I’ve just coined it!) - all the Cs. You may have your own Internet portal, or perhaps some hash-hush deals. The range is vast, indeed!

**Pisces**

You now see yourself in terms of the community, of society, of even a world order. You’re willing to give something of yourself to all of the above - and love it! It is a mindset that works well closer to and, in the home, too. Friends, relatives, children, their friends, neighbors will be pampered, indulged, amused, taken care of, as you lavish time, effort, money, and above all, love, on them.

Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at info@bejandaruwalla.com and on phone 011-9825470377
Ganesha Chaturthi is the Hindu festival celebrated in honour of the god Ganesha, the elephant-headed. The festival, also known as Vinayaka Chaturthi, is observed in the Hindu calendar month of Bhadrapada, starting on the shukla chaturthi (fourth day of the waxing moon period). The date usually falls between August and September. The festival usually lasts for 10 days ending on Anant Chaturdashi (fourteenth day of the waxing moon period).

The modern festival involves installing clay images of Ganesha in public pandals (temporary shrines), which are worshipped for ten days. These are immersed at the end of the festival in a body of water such as a lake, along with the idol. Some Hindus also install the clay images of Ganesha in their homes. The festival was celebrated as a public event since the days of Maratha King Shivaji (1620–1680). However, the public festival as celebrated in Maharashtra today, was introduced by Bhauasaheb Laxman Javale in 1892 by installing first Sarvajanik (Public) Ganesh idol. Shrimant Bhauasaheb Rangari Gangati, Bhudwar Peth, in Pune. The first meeting regarding starting the Sarvajanik Ganesh utsav took place under the leadership of Bhauasaheb Laxman Javale at his residence (Bhudwar Peth) now known as Bhai Rangari Bhavan. In 1893 Lokamanya Tilak praised the concept of Sarvajanik Ganesh Utsav in Kesari Newspaper. In 1894, he installed Ganesh idol in Kesari wada, Pune too and started preaching Ganesh Utsav.

While celebrated all over India, it is grandest and most elaborate of them especially in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Tamilnadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Goa and in other parts of Western India and Southern India. Outside India, it is celebrated widely in Terai region of Nepal, especially in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Tamilnadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Goa and in other parts of Western India and Southern India. Outside India, it is celebrated in the United States, Canada, Mauritius, and other places.

Legend of Ganesha

Traditional Hindu about Ganesha tell that Parvati, the consort of Shiva, created Ganesha out of sandalwood paste that she used for her bath and breathed life into the figure. She then set him the task of guarding her door while she bathed. Shiva, who had gone out, returned and as Ganesha didn’t know him, didn’t allow him to enter. After the combat between Ganesha and Shiva, Ganesha was finally angry Shiva severed the head of the child. Parvati seeing this became enraged and Shiva then promised that her son will be alive again. The devas searched for the head of dead person facing North, but they found only the head of an elephant. They brought the head of the elephant and Shiva fixed it on the child’s body and brought him back to life. Lord Shiva also declared that from this day on, the child’s body and brought him back to life. Lord Shiva also declared that from this day on, the child’s body and brought him back to life. Lord Shiva also declared that from this day on, the child’s body and brought him back to life. Lord Shiva also declared that from this day on, the child’s body and brought him back to life.

Colorfully decorated homes and specially erected temporary structures mandapas (pandalas) in every locality. The pandals are erected by collecting monetary contributions and are decorated specially for the festival, by using decorative items like flower garlands, lights, etc. and at times have theme based decorations.

The priest then with the chanting of mantras invokes the presence of Ganesha using the statue as a channel, or body for his energy. This ritual is the Pranapratishtha. After this the ritual called as Shhodakapachara (16 ways of paying tribute) follows. Coconut, jaggery, modaks, durva (trefoli) blades of grass and red flowers are offered. The statue is anointed with red unguent, typically made of kumkum and sandalwood paste. Throughout the ceremony, Vedic hymns from the Rig Veda, the Ganapati Atharvashirsa, Upanishad, and the Ganesha stotra from the Narada Purana are chanted.

History

It is not known when and how Ganesh Chaturthi was first celebrated. Ganesh festival was being celebrated as a public event in Pune since the times of Shivaji (1620–1680), the founder of the Maratha Empire. The Peshwas, the de facto hereditary administrators of the Empire from 1749 till its end in 1818, encouraged the celebrations in their administrative seat Pune as Ganesha was their family deity (Kuladevata). With the fall of the Peshwas, Ganesh festival lost state patronage and became a private family celebration again in Maharashtra till its revival by Indian freedom fighter and social reformer Lokmanya Tilak.

The public festival as celebrated in Maharashtra today, was introduced by Bhauasaheb Laxman Javale in 1892 by installing first Sarvajanik (Public) Ganesh idol. This followed a meeting at his residence, which was attended by, amongst others, Balasaheb Natu, and Krishnajyant Kshirsagle. Kshirsagle on his visit to the Maratha ruled princely state of Owaloir had seen the tradition of public celebration still maintained and brought it to the attention of his friends in Pune.

In 1893 Lokamanya Tilak praised the concept of Sarvajanik Ganesh Utsav in his newspaper, Kesari, and the next year he installed a Ganesh idol in Kesari Wada too. Tilak’s efforts transformed the annual domestic festival into a large, well-organized public event. Tilak recognized the wide appeal of the deity Ganesha as “the god for everybody”, and popularized Ganesh Chaturthi as a national festival in order “to bridge the gap between Brahmins and ‘non- Brahmins’ and find a context in which to build a new grassroots unity between them”, and generate nationalistic fervour among people in Maharashtra against the British colonial rule. Tilak was the first to install large public images of Ganesh in pavilions, and also established the practice of submerging the idols in rivers, sea, or other pools of water on the tenth day after Ganesh Chaturthi.

Under Tilak’s encouragement, the festival facilitated community participation and involvement in the form of intellectual discourses, poetry recitals, performances of plays, musical concerts, and folk dances. It served as a meeting ground for people of all castes and communities in times when, in order to exercise control over the population, the British discouraged social and political gatherings.

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“If Hindus don’t maintain Hinduism, who shall save it? If India’s own children don’t cling to their faith, who shall guard it? Indian alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one.”
Enter Mahabaleshwar and you’re welcomed with a sight of the soaring peaks and breathtaking valleys. The cool crisp mountain air makes this hill station a great escape from humdrum of Mumbai’s daily life. Catch a boat at the lake or simply spend the afternoon gorging on strawberries. Here’s a list of must do Mahabaleshwar experiences.

VENNA LAKE
Surrounded by tall trees and greenery, the Venna Lake in Mahabaleshwar is one of the most popular tourist attractions in town. Paddle your way across the lake and enjoy the sight of lush greenery enveloping the waters. Along the banks of the lake are different street food stalls where you can grab a bite. Watching the sun set into the waters while sitting on a boat is the best way to spend your evening here.

MAHABALESHWAR VIEWPOINTS
Translating to mean ‘God of Great Power’ in Sanskrit, Mahabaleshwar is a favourite hill destination with Maharashtrians. Once the summer capital of the Bombay Presidency during the British Raj, it offers visitors a perfect blend of modernity with old-world charm. Aside from being abound with natural beauty, there’s lots you can do here to keep entertained. All parts of the hill station are accessible by car, so getting around is no problem, and if you’re feeling adventurous, just climb onto a horse and get going. Make your way to Malcolm Peth, the bazaar at the heart of Mahabaleshwar, which has a good mix of hotels, shops and restaurants. Visit Mount Malcolm which was built in 1829 and once served as the Governor’s residence, Moraji Castle which was home to Mahatma Gandhi back in 1945, and wind down at the Mahabaleshwar Club in the evening over drinks. During the day you can take the short drive up to Venna Lake and go boating or fishing, and proceed a little further down to Panchgani, and walk through the strawberry fields.

MAPRO GARDENS
For a sight (and taste!) of juicy, positively divine berries visit Mapro Gardens, situated en route to Panchgani. Not only are various jams and preserves manufactured and sold here, but you can also treat yourself to fresh salads and juices. The Gardens also host the annual Strawberry Festival where you can get your hands on some farm-fresh strawberries.

CAMEL AND HORSE RIDING
Traversing through lesser known trails is best when you’re perched up on a horse or camel. If you’re one for literally taking the reins of your adventure, then this should definitely be on your list. Most hotels provide guests easy access to horse rides. Camels and horses are in abundance at Echo Point in Mahabaleshwar and can be booked for short or long rides.

CONNAUGHT PEAK
Initially known as Mount Olympia, this peak was renamed the Connaught Peak, after the Duke of Connaught visited this spot and literally fell in love with its beauty. The second highest peak in Mahabaleshwar, it offers trekkers great views and thrilling adventures.

So strap on your bags and get ready to walk through the valleys of Mahabaleshwar. The Pratapgad Fort, Venna Lake and the Krishna Valley are clearly visible from here, and will steal your breath away with their distant magnificence.
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The bilateral relationship also deteriorated after US airstrike on a Pakistani border post in Salala that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers. In October, Clinton decided not to pay $300 million in military reimbursements to Islamabad over its alleged reluctance to act against the Haqqani network, a charge Islamabad had immediately rejected.

Security aid fell 73 per cent from nearly $1.3 billion in fiscal year 2011 to $343 million in 2015. Economic aid declined from nearly $1.2 billion in 2011 to $561 million in 2015, the report added.

The cancelled $300 million payments were in the form of Coalition Support Fund (CSF) under which Pakistan has received over $14 billion since 2002. The CSF accounted for “as much as one-fifth of Pakistan’s total military expenditures” from 2002 to 2014, said the CRS, a US government news and analysis service for Congress. The CSF is meant to reimburse US-allied nations “for their operational and logistical support of US-led counterterrorism operations”.

The Pentagon has reported that nearly half the CSF assistance to Pakistan is used for food and ammunition. The CRS data shows that CSF accounts for 43 per cent of $32.2 billion worth of US government financial transfers to Pakistan from 2012 to 2015. Economic aid comprises 33 per cent of transfers at $10.6 billion followed by 24 per cent in security aid at $7.6 billion. The CRS report, however, shows that Pakistan has or still is in the process of receiving nearly $1.2 billion worth of weapons systems from the US since 2009. This includes: Eight P-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft worth $474 million and 20 AH-1F Cobra attack helicopters at $48 million. Pakistan is also getting mid-life update kits for 60 F-16/A/B fighter jets already in its inventory at a cost of $892 million, of which the US paid $477 million through FMS. Since 2001, Pakistan has paid or is still paying $2.5 billion for US arms. This includes big-ticket items such as $4.13 billion for 18 new F-16/C/D Block 52 Fighting Falcon combat aircraft and additional armaments for the aircraft at a cost of $629 million.

**contd from Page 1**

Polls Tighten in US... exceedingly narrow, with a handful of swing states -- Colorado, Maine and New Hampshire -- already appearing out of reach.

And while the GOP nominee is running competitively in Florida and Ohio, Trump must also win Pennsylvania, which looks like a steep climb. For Trump, the deficit in polling has at least reached a level he can overcome as he enters the post-Labor Day sprint. Clinton is being dragged down by awful favorability ratings, which have prevented her from breaking away with the race.

"It's not in the bag for her yet," Patrick Murray, the polling director at Monmouth University, told The Hill.

An NBC News-SurveyMonkey poll released Tuesday found Clinton's lead falling from 6 points earlier this month to 4 points in that survey. Trump is running dead even among independents by half, from 8 points to 4 points.

Trump has also closed the gap in Reuters-Ipsos and Monmouth polls released this week, although he still trails by 3 points and 7 points, respectively.

Pollsters interviewed by The Hill say that Clinton's polling bounce after her party's national convention was aided and perhaps magnified by Trump's feud with the family of a controversial candidate.

"It's the thing that could throw all this off," Geoffrey Skelley, "Trump basically needs to run as the anti-establishment candidate and he's done that." But few believe he can win enough support away from Clinton so far. However, the Obama-Clinton administration,"

under the Obama-Clinton administration," said the CRS, a US government news and analysis service for Congress. The CSF is meant to reimburse US-allied nations "for their operational and logistical support of US-led counterterrorism operations".

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**WASHINGTON (TIP):** A recent Congressional report has revealed that US security assistance to Pakistan has declined by nearly 73% since 2011, after the country's ties turned sour with Pakistan. The caption on US security assistance was initiated in a phased manner after the killing of al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan. The report prepared for the US Congress by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) covers both military and economic assistance given between 2002 and 2015 as well as those earmarked for fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

According to a newspaper reporting from Washington, the report showed a 53 per cent decrease in economic assistance since 2011.

"The thing that could throw all this off is that we're looking at an electoral swing," said Murray.

"We've never seen two candidates who are this unpopular: That's the wild card."
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NEW DELHI (TIP): When five-time world chess champion Viswanathan Anand speaks about the health of sport in India, you are naturally compelled to pay attention. During the course of his nearly 25-year professional career, the 46-year-old has seen up close the state of sport in the country, and witnessed the differences overseas.

Disappointed. But we seemed to have created a pool of new disciplines and sportspersons who could be medal winners in 2020.

I think a sportsperson who prepared and lost narrowly would feel the most pain. You almost know by how much you lost, yet it’s not something tangible. I would say the most positive takeout is we missed narrowly in a few events and we found a lot of new talent. Gymnastics would never be considered a medal threat for India but we could easily be one in 2020.

I think we got very excited four years. We got euphoric about a medal. Hopefully, it was different, but we still knew what all the attention should be. That’s when sportspersons are competing in World Championships or qualifiers to make it to the Olympics. That’s when we need to focus on getting the spirit into us before the training begins.

Winning is all about timing. At that moment you have to be your best. In this Olympics a lot of our medal prospects lost out narrowly. Some even put in their best performance. So we were very close but couldn’t take into accounts near misses. I can tell you that for some of the matches I lost, I prepared the hardest but sometimes it just doesn’t click at that second when it matters most.

I think almost every sportsperson will have dealt with officialdom at some level. You can’t just solve it by throwing it away. We need a framework. It’s a very complex mechanism on one hand it’s needed. We have to work as to reach out to talent, but on the other hand it also stalls growth.

Every four years we go through this rhetoric, but I agree with Abhinav that it is the acoustics of the roof are proving really quiet, I couldn’t not come back.” They are very loud out there.

It’s definitely different because everywhere you play is really quiet. Here it’s super loud.”


two years after Olympics is when India should focus: Anand

NEW YORK (TIP): World number two Andy Murray made himself heard at the US Open on sept 1, downing tenacious Spaniard Marcel Granollers in straight sets to reach the third round. With pounding rain creating a din under the new $150 million roof of the Arthur Ashe stadium, Murray battled through a tense first set to triumph 6-4, 6-1, 6-4.

"Luckily that we got to play under the roof because otherwise there’d be no tennis,” said Murray, whose match went on as all action stopped on the outside courts. “It’s good Murray, who broke Granollers twice in the second set and once in a tightly contested third to seal the win. As the showers lingered, 11 doubles matches scheduled for outside courts were cancelled and some remaining matches rescheduled. The night session on Ashe remained as scheduled, with Serena Williams, who matched the Open Era record for Grand Slam singles titles with her 22nd at Wimbledon, aiming to step it up a notch against Vania King. (AP)

MENDEZ (TIP): Lionel Messi marked his retirement at the Copa America final with a goal that put Argentina a 1-0 win over Uruguay on Sept 1 that lifted them to the top of the South American qualifying group for the 2018 World Cup finals in Russia.

In a match of few chances, Messi created something out of nothing three minutes before halftime when, surrounded by three markers out of nothing three minutes before halftime when, surrounded by three markers keeping a tight defence, Messi chipped a shot that hit Jose Maria Gimenez and lifted them to the top of the South American playoff for one more berth. (AP)

US Open: Queen Serena down King, blasting 13 aces

NEW YORK (TIP): After 17 trips to Flushing Meadows and six US Open titles Serena Williams did something on Sept 1 she had never done before – win a match indoors.

With the new high-tech retractable roof over Arthur Ashe Stadium slammed shut because of persistent rain, Williams swept past American compatriot Vania King 6-3 6-1 in a tidy 65 minutes to ease into the third round.

"It was a little different playing with Ashe closed but it still feels about," said Williams, and it’s really loud out there.

"It’s definitely different because everywhere you play is really quiet. Here it’s super loud.”

Andy Murray roars into US Open third round

Andy Murray roars into US Open third round

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