

# The South Asian Times

NEW YORK EDITION

Excellence In Journalism

Vol. 4 | No.12 | July 9-15, 2011 | 60 Cents

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## Pakistan turns 'new front line' of war on terror



*53 percent of terror plots worldwide since 2004 involved jihadists, like Tehrik-e-Taliban and LeT cadres, trained in Pakistan.*

**Toronto:** Pakistan is now the new front in the war on terror as it has become a new safe haven for al-Qaeda, says the Canadian media a day after the country blacklisted the Pakistani Taliban and started withdrawal from Afghanistan Tuesday.

"The war on terror has shifted, and Pakistan is its new front line," said the daily National Post.

"These two events (blacklisting of the Pakistani Taliban and the start of withdrawal from Afghanistan) encapsulate a shift, not only for Canada, but for all other nations on the front lines of the war on terror. For a number of years, those lines have been shifting southeast, from Afghanistan to Pakistan," the paper said.

It said the Tehrik-e-Taliban is very dangerous as its "stated goal" is

resistance to the country's government, the draconian imposition of Sharia law and the waging of war against NATO forces in Afghanistan.

Because of these militant outfits Pakistan has become "the main staging area for terrorist plots around the world and - despite the United States' assassination of Osama bin Laden in Abbotabad - a new safe-haven for al-Qaeda."

Quoting a study by the New America Foundation, the paper said 53 percent of terror plots worldwide since 2004 involved jihadists trained in Pakistan, compared to six percent in Yemen and three percent in Iraq. Pakistani jihadi groups have directed 44 percent of the terror plots since then, according to the paper.

*War on terror continued on page 4*

## 2G scam claims another minister: Maran quits



*Union Textiles Minister Dayanidhi Maran is second DMK minister to exit Manmohan government in the spectrum scam.*

**New Delhi/Chennai:** Union Textiles Minister Dayanidhi Maran resigned Thursday following allegations of involvement in the 2G spectrum scam, becoming the second DMK minister after A. Raja to exit the cabinet.

While the government and the Congress party did not comment on the big political development, an emboldened opposition described it as "too little too late" and sought resignation of Home Minister P. Chidambaram, who they alleged

showed complicity in the scam.

Thursday's turn of events is likely to impact both the shape of impending cabinet shuffle and delicately poised relations between the Congress and the DMK.

*2G scam continued on page 4*

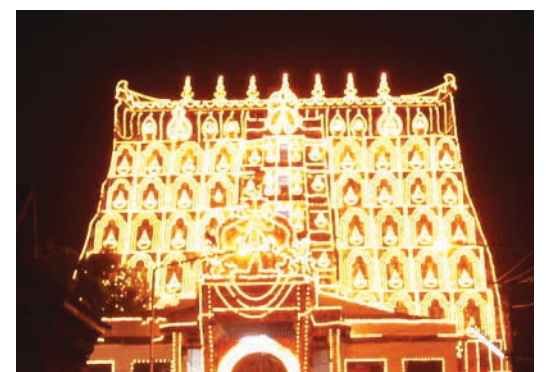
## Kerala temple treasure could be worth \$100 billion

**New Delhi:** The valuables found in the secret cellars of Kerala's famous Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram could be worth Rs 5 lakh crore (\$100

billion), believes former chief secretary of Kerala CP Nair.

As per a report, Thursday, the former bureaucrat claims that the estimated market value of the treasures unearthed from the temple makes it the richest temple in the world.

*Kerala treasure continued on page 4*



*Only five of the six secret cellars of Padmanabhaswamy Temple have been opened, yielding Gold idols, ornaments and other valuables.*

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## Dirtier air and higher power bills for NY if nuclear plant closes

*Gov. Cuomo is determined to close the Indian Point plant but Mayor Bloomberg has said it cannot be shut down for the next 4-5 years.*

**New York:** Shuttering the Indian Point nuclear power plant, 35 miles north of Manhattan, would lead to significantly dirtier air and higher electric bills for New York City residents, according to a report commissioned by the city.

The report concludes that, for the next several years, there probably will not be enough new power generated to replace the 2,000 MW produced by the two reactors at Indian Point. That shortfall could leave the city with a less reliable supply of electricity and a greater risk of brownouts, the report finds.

Those findings reinforce the stated views of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, who has said that Indian Point probably cannot be shut

down "for the next four or five years." That position could leave him at odds with Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, who has told executives of Indian Point's owner, Entergy, that he was determined to close the plant, which stands along the Hudson River about 35 miles north of Midtown.

The licenses for the plant's reactors are scheduled for renewal in 2013 and 2015. Together, the reactors produce as much as 25 percent of the power consumed in Consolidated Edison's service area, which includes New York City and Westchester County.

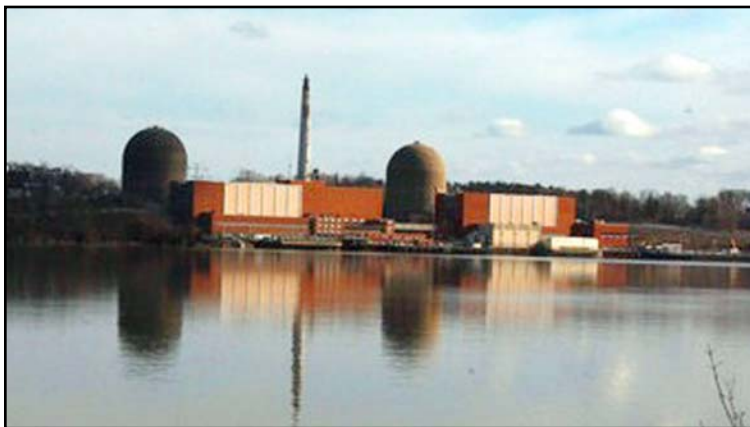
Asked for a response to the report, Josh Vlasto, a spokesman for Mr. Cuomo, indicated that it would not

deter the governor. He reiterated a statement from last month that said that "the governor's longstanding position with respect to closing Indian Point has been clear, and this administration intends to follow through with implementing that policy."

Three projects are under way that could replace some of the power that would be lost if Indian Point closed. But even after the completion of all three — power plants in Astoria, Queens, and Bayonne, N.J., and a transmission cable from New Jersey to Manhattan — there would not be enough power to meet the standards for reliability required in the city, the report says.

When demand for electricity rises in the summer of 2016, the first peak period after the reactors could be retired, "given the current prospects for new capacity in New York, resource adequacy will fall below acceptable levels at that point," it says.

Last week, the mayor addressed that potential problem in a radio interview. "If you want to shut down Indian Point, you probably cannot do it for four or five years anyways because we don't have alternative power sources," Mr. Bloomberg said. "Now, there are plants being built and power lines bringing pow-



*A view of the Indian Point nuclear power plant, 35 miles north of Manhattan.*

## Another accolade for Dr Leena Doshi



*Dr Leena Doshi, the founder of Doshi Diagnostic Imaging Services, receiving Award for Leadership and Community Service from former President of India APJ Abdul Kalam on June 23, 2011 in a Convention at Hotel Hilton, New York.*

er from up north into the city, but it's four or five years before they get here."

On another issue important to the mayor, the report says that a shutdown of Indian Point "would substantially reduce the possibility" of achieving the goals for reducing the city's carbon emissions that were laid out in Mr. Bloomberg's long-term plan known as PlaNYC. It estimates that the amount of carbon emissions and nitrogen oxides in the air in the city and state would increase by at least 5 percent to 10 percent because replacing Indian

Point's output would require more fuel-burning plants.

A shutdown also would drive up the wholesale cost of electricity in the city and state by about 10 percent, or a total of \$1.5 billion a year, it says. That would translate to a rise of 5 percent to 10 percent in the amount residential customers pay Con Edison for the electricity they consume. Those consumers also would most likely bear some of the costs of the subsidies that would be necessary to entice developers to build new power plants, the report says.

## Speed up visas for Indians in US: Punjab

**New Delhi:** The Punjab government has asked the external affairs ministry to remove hurdles faced by people of Indian origin (PIO) in the US in obtaining visa to visit India. Punjab Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Affairs Minister Captain Balbir Singh Bath, who met Union Minister of State for External Affairs Preneet Kaur here, also asked the central government to expedite the visa applications from PIOs in the US from his state and to clear

the backlog.

Bath told reporters here soon after his meeting with Kaur that she assured to address the PIOs' issue, not just of the US, but from other countries too.

He said during his recent visit to the US, several PIOs from Punjab had brought to his notice the delay in getting visas to visit India for both business purposes and to meet their family members and relatives.

*Shri Sanatan Mandir, Parsippany, NJ, organized a three day religious discourse on Shrimad Bhagawat Dasham Skandh "Bal Krishna Lila" by world renowned saint Rameshbhai "Bhaishri" Oza. The Katha offered the attendees a unique opportunity to learn and understand the life of Lord Krishna in Gokul & Vrindavan*

## Rameshbhai Oza holds discourses in NJ



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## Sewa International raises \$25,000 in YFS Cricket for Charity



The trophy winning Jersey city 'Pinch Hitters' team with the organizers of "YFS Cricket For Charity" tournament

**Jersey City:** In an intense and gripping game that brought back memories of the recently finished Cricket world cup finals, 'Pinch Hitters', a team from Jersey City won the trophy in the "YFS Cricket For Charity" tournament organized by Youth For Sewa (YFS) volunteers from Sewa International New Jersey & New York.

More than 300 players from 28 teams took part in the tournament held on June 11, 18 and 25 at Lincoln Park, Jersey City. Several families from the area watched cricket games on all three days as teams played with gusto to win the "De Ghuma Ke" (Hit Real Hard) trophy.

Another New Jersey team "Blue Warriors" came runner up. Batting second, Pinch Hitters, the winning team easily chased the target of 67 runs with 8 balls to spare.

"Sewa is not a slogan but a lifestyle - one that includes care and concern for others; one that allows us to give back to our community and ultimately leads to our own well-being", said Darshan-Soni, VP - Organization of Sewa International.

Participating in the award ceremony on the 25, Soni detailed service activities and disaster relief efforts taken up by Sewa volunteers in the US and other countries. He said the money raised in the tournament would support Sewa's International Development Fund.

"With the International Fund we support programs such as Sponsor a Child and School Kit Drive that cover educational expenses of extremely poor children in urban slums and villages in India. Many educational programs are taken up as part of project Vidyadaan - Sanskrit for 'Spreading Knowledge', said Mr. Soni.

### 2G scam continued from page 1

Maran, 44, submitted his resignation to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh after a cabinet meeting, ending speculation over his fate in a government eager to cleanse its image after a series of corruption allegations.

Sources said Manmohan Singh received the resignation after a brief meeting with key ministers - Pranab Mukherjee, P. Chidambaram, Kapil Sibal and M. Veerappa Moily - as well as Attorney General Goolam E. Vahanvati.

The meeting was called to study the CBI's 2G status report that was filed with the Supreme Court Wednesday. The agency alleged that Maran forced telecom promoter C.

Sivasankaran to sell his Aircel stake to the Malaysia-based Maxis Group, considered close to the Marans.

A CBI official said in New Delhi that the agency will question Maran soon.

Raja quit in November 2010 and is now lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail for his alleged involvement in financial irregularities in allotting second generation radio wave licenses to mobile phone service providers.

Karunanidhi's daughter and MP Kanimozhi is also in prison for allegedly conspiring with Raja. In Chennai, Karunanidhi expressed support for Maran, blaming the media for his resignation.

### War on terror continued from page 1

"And those plots may not just involve conventional weapons," but also nuclear weapons, the paper said, quoting the just released report of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) which says Pakistan's nuclear programme is among the fastest growing in the world.

According to the report, Pakistan's nuclear stockpile has gone from 70 to 80 weapons in 2010 to between 90 and 110 today, putting it on a par with India and escalating what amounts to a local arms race in the region.

There are fears that the nuclear arsenal may fall in the hands of Islamic militants, the paper said.

These fears become all the more frightening as the Pakistani Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) has the potential to outstrip al-Qaeda in posing threat to the West where "it is building the network that allows them to attack," the paper said.

### Kerala treasure continued from page 1

Separately, R Ramachandran Nair, another former chief secretary, told reporters that articles, ornaments and other precious stones recovered from the temple are its exclusive property and no one has any right over them.

"The Maharaja is the Trustee of the temple and hence the official custodian of the wealth. The royal family has not touched a single paisa from these offerings. Neither the government nor the politicians can interfere with these offerings in any manner," Nair added.

Breaking its silence on the issue, the Kerala government has also declared that the valuables belong to the temple and should be preserved there.

However, a final decision in this regard would be made by the Supreme Court, which had constituted a seven-member panel to prepare a detailed inventory of the articles, valuables and ornaments found from the temple's treasure trove.

Yesterday, the apex court had ordered the videography of the inventory and asked those involved in the exercise to desist from speaking to the media. So far, five out of the six secret cellars had been opened by the panel and the articles found from there have been duly enlisted.

The decision on opening the remaining

cellar would be taken on Friday after further discussions, sources from the temple said.

However, members of the Travancore Royal Family have kept a low profile on the findings. More than the value of the treasures unearthed, what is interesting is the strange ties the Royal family shares with Lord Padmanabha and the temple.

All Maharajas who have ruled Travancore were known as Padmanabha Daasa (servants of Lord Padmanabha).

Princess Gouri Lakshmi Bai, the niece of Uthradam Thirunal Marthanda Varma, the present title holder of the erstwhile Travancore State, said it was not proper to describe the findings in the chambers as treasure. "It is offerings made by the Lord's devotees and hence it is his wealth. They are not treasures," she said.

Though the exact date on which the temple was consecrated is not known, there are official records dating back to 910 AD.

"There are records indicating offerings made by Raja Raja Cholan and Krishna Devarayana of the Vijayanagar Empire," said Ramachandran Nair.

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**Forsythe Media Group, LLC**  
ISSN 1941-9333  
76 N Broadway, Suite 2004,  
Hicksville, NY 11801  
Ph: 516-390-7847

Website: [TheSouthAsianTimes.info](http://TheSouthAsianTimes.info)  
Updated Daily

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Xitij Joshi/[xitijphoto.com](http://xitijphoto.com)

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Bhagwati Multimedia, Rahul Sahota,

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**News Service:**  
HT Media Ltd., India  
IANS Newswire Services

**Printing:** Five Star Printing, NY  
Richner Publications

**Emails:**  
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## 5 Indians in Carnegie Corporation's "Americans by Choice" list

**New York:** Forty-five women and men from around the world have been selected "Americans by Choice" by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, a philanthropic foundation created by Andrew Carnegie in 1911 and The New York Times. Each year, this list, declared on Independence Day salutes their founder Andrew Carnegie's legacy, by celebrating an ideal he held so dearly: citizenship.

The Americans celebrated in the list, which includes 5 Indians this year, emigrated to the United States from six continents and range in occupation from opera singer and NASA astronaut to circuit court judge and university president.

They also include a celebrity chef, MVP baseball player, artist and comedian. The first Indian on the list is Dinesh R Desai - the Chairman of DARR Global Holdings, Inc. He founded the firm in 1986. Desai spent 12 years with American Can and Arco Chemical in various management positions, including marketing, manufacturing, finance, planning, and research and development. He came to America from India in 1972. He also holds a Master's degree in Chemical Engineering from Montana State University and an MBA

from Temple University. Desai graduated from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai, with a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering.

He is followed by Harmit.S.Malik who is in the biomedical field. He arrived at the University of Rochester in 1993 with an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from IIT Mumbai and was soon assigned to teach an introductory genetics course. Although Malik had started taking biology courses in India after reading *The Selfish Gene* by Richard Dawkins, he had never formally studied genetics. Biology was a shift for Malik. Malik studies the battlefield of evolutionary conflict and describes the biological forces that shape essential DNA elements as well as the ongoing struggle between pathogens and their hosts.

Another Indian included in the list is Jamshed Barucha, President of Cooper Union. His research is in cognitive psychology and neuroscience, focusing on the cognitive and neural basis of the perception of music.

He was editor of the interdisciplinary journal *Music Perception* and was a Fellow at

the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. He has served as a Trustee of Vassar College, where he received the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Alumnae & Alumni of Vassar College.

Ramani Ayer, 63 was appointed as a director of XL Group in February 2011. Previously, Ayer served as the Chairman of the board and CEO of Hartford Financial Services Group Inc. from February 1997 to October 2009. In addition, Ayer is the former Chairman of the American Insurance Association, the Property & Casualty CEO Roundtable and the Insurance Services Office. He is currently a member of the board and past chairman of the Hartford Hospital, as well as a board member of the Maharishi University of Management and the David Lynch Foundation. The last but not the least is federal chief information officer Vivek Kundra who recently quit the position for Harvard Fellowship.

Economist Raj Patel from UK and entrepreneur-philanthropist Safi Qureshey from Pakistan are other South Asians in the list.

## IRS revives amnesty program for foreign accounts holders

**New York:** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is reviving an amnesty program for people with unreported foreign accounts. The 2011 voluntary disclosure initiative imposes somewhat higher penalties than the prior voluntary disclosure initiative which ended in 2009 but still allows qualifying participants to obtain certainty about avoiding criminal prosecution.

To qualify, individuals with foreign accounts must disclose any unreported income from 2003 on and pay all taxes, interest and penalties due on the understatement. The initiative is currently set to expire on August 31, 2011.

For taxpayers seeking to participate in the initiative, the IRS will require the participant to agree with the following terms if the participant otherwise qualifies (i.e., is not currently under an IRS investigation or audit):

1. Payment of a 25% penalty on the highest aggregate annual balance for the unreported international account during calendar years 2003 through 2010 (reduced to 12.5% when the balance in all international accounts does not exceed \$75,000 during these years, and reduced to



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5% for certain inherited accounts);

2. Payment of any U.S. income tax due on unreported income for an unreported account during the calendar years 2003 through 2010; and,

3. Payment of a 20% penalty on any U.S. income tax due under number two.

Participants accepted into the initiative must file amended returns and make an arrangement for payment of all taxes, interest, and penalties on or before August 31, 2011.

Taxpayers accepted into the initiative must also agree to surrender certain defenses in order to participate in the initiative. The surrender of these defenses could result in a significant reduction in the above monetary penalties. The decision regarding whether to participate in the voluntary disclosure initiative depends on a participant's facts and circumstances as well as the participant's risk tolerance with the IRS.

## Brooklyn Shanti's new track gets Bipasha Basu tweeting

**New York:** Former vocalist of the acclaimed Dum Dum Project, Brooklyn Shanti has released a new track whose melodic Caribbean harmony sets a base for his eased Bengali vocals on "Rani Rani." The track focuses on seeking real love and the patience it takes to find one. "Rani Rani" literally translates to "my princess, my queen", mentioned Brooklyn Shanti about his track. This is the first single off of Brooklyn Shanti's EP, which will release sometime this year. The music video features stills of Bipasha Basu and what's more, it caught the attention of the superstar herself. The Bollywood hottie tweeted, "Saw a cute bengali song by Brooklyn Shanti called 'Rani Rani' with my pix as visuals for the video! Liked the song:)."



*Brooklyn Shanti's song 'Rani Rani' features stills of Bipasha Basu*

## Gayatri Chetna Center holds free health camps in NJ

**New Jersey:** About 160 people without adequate insurance coverage benefited from a health camp organized by the Gayatri Chetna Center of New Jersey, in Piscataway June 19. Participants were asked to provide blood samples a

week prior to the camp and were checked by doctors based on their diagnosis. A large team of volunteers from Gayatri Chetna Kendra with a medical background, worked hard to support the camp and their effort was appreciated

by the patients and their relatives who participated in the camp.

The group will also celebrate the birth centenary of its founder - Pandit Shriram Sharma Acharya in the Piscataway campus July 28 to 31.



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## Kushagra Bajaj gifts \$2.5 million to Carnegie Mellon for endowment chair

**Pittsburgh, PA:** Kushagra Nayan Bajaj, vice chairman of Mumbai-based Bajaj Group, has made a \$2.5 million gift to endow a professorship at Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business. The gift will be used to establish the Bajaj Family Chair, which will be held by a Tepper School professor to be named by the university's president and provost. The chair recipient will select the field of teaching and research.

Bajaj graduated from the Tepper School in 1997 with a degree in economics, political philosophy and finance. He is providing the gift through his family foundation, the Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation.

"I am proud to strengthen my association with Carnegie Mellon University and this endowment is a gesture of appreciation for my alma mater," he said in a statement. "I wish the university the very best with its



**K N Bajaj is vice chairman of Mumbai-based Bajaj Group**

Inspire Innovation campaign. More than 30 percent of Carnegie Mellon students are from outside the U.S., and most of them are from India, the university said, adding that the largest concentration of CMU alumni outside of the U.S. live in India.

"On behalf of Carnegie Mellon, I thank Kushagra Bajaj and his family for this wonderful gift," said Carnegie

Mellon president Jared L. Cohon. "Through his generosity, (Bajaj) is further strengthening the connection between Carnegie Mellon and India...We are pleased to partner with him through this professorship." Carnegie Mellon's main campus in the U.S. is in Pittsburgh, Pa. It also has campuses in Silicon Valley and Qatar, and programs in Asia, Australia, Europe and Mexico. The university's \$1 billion Inspire Innovation campaign aims to build its endowment, support faculty and research, and enhance the physical campus with equipment and facility improvements.

The Bajaj Group is one of India's top 10 business conglomerates. It has interests in power generation, consumer goods, coal mining, sugar manufacturing, ethanol production and real estate. The group's revenues are more than \$1 billion with a gross market cap of over \$1.5 billion.

## Jalaram Mandir raises \$65,000 for expansion project

**Hoffman Estates, Ill:** Over 800 devotees helped raise some \$65,000 at a June 11 fundraiser for the Jalaram Mandir here. All the money raised at the event at India House in Schaumburg, Ill., will benefit the temple expansion project, according to a press release.

The event began with lamp-lighting ceremony led by priest C.L. Shastri, who also delivered the benediction. Mafat Patel was the chief guest and Hoffman Estates Mayor William McLeod was the guest of honor.

In his brief remarks, McLeod appreciated the community's contributions to diversity in the village and praised the temple expansion as a valuable addition to the landscape.

Rajendra Prasad, who flew from India especially to attend the event, gave the benediction seeking Lord

Jalaram's blessings for the community.

In his opening remarks, Chirayu Parikh, president of the temple's executive committee, thanked trustees, donors and volunteers for their support.

He praised Don Class, construction superintendent of the village of Hoffman Estates, Hemant Purohit, the project architect, and all those who had contributed to the project.

Madhusudan Thakker, chairman of the temple's executive committee, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the life and times of Jalaram bapa.

The event culminated with a classical dance presentation by children, choreographed by Mrugakshi Desai. Other children recited the Hanuman Chalisa and Jolly Mukherjee and group also performed.

## Pam Kwatra named President at 2011 Annual SABAN Awards



**Chief Guest Congresswomen Judy Chu of California 32nd District honored Kwatra with the proclamation**

**Los Angeles:** The South Asian Business Alliance Network (SABAN) held its 5th annual business showcase, gala award and entertainment night on June 24, 2011 at the Grand Wilshire Hotel here.

The theme of this year's event was "the emerging South Asian Americans."

At this event SABAN named

Pam Kwatra their national President. The gala event started with the opening speech by Kwatra.

Kwatra is a community leader and Founder/President of Kripari Marketing, recipient of the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor Award and President of Indian National Overseas Congress, New Jersey.

## Dr Abdul Razzaque Ahmed receives prestigious Pan Arab League award

**Dubai, UAE:** The Pan Arab League of Dermatologists honored Dr. Abdul Razzaque Ahmed of Boston, Massachusetts with a "Lifetime Achievement Award." The Award was given at a joint meeting of the Pan Arab League of Dermatologists and Dubai Derm 2011 held at the International Convention Center in Dubai. The patron of the Meeting was HRH Crown Prince of Dubai, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who presided over the session. In announcing the Award, Dr. Omar Al Sheikh of Riyadh, KSA, Secretary General, stated: "In recognition of his 35 years of dedication and commitment to treating patients with severe autoimmune blistering diseases and for the discovery of new and novel therapies to treatment them. In addition, in recognition of his numerous landmark and milestone contributions enhancing the understanding of the molecular mechanisms of their pathogenesis, the Pan Arab League of Dermatologists present this Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Abdul Razzaque Ahmed."

The Pan Arab League of Dermatologists has been in existence since 1979. It consists of 23 Arab countries which have a cumulative population of over 8700 dermatologist that constitute the League. It meets every three years in a different Arab country. This is the first time in its 33 years of existence that it has bestowed such an award.

Dr. Ahmed is originally from a small town called Wani in the District Yavatmal in Maharashtra in Central India. He studied medicine at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi. Shortly thereafter he went to the United States where he trained in

Internal Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh, in Dermatology at the University of Buffalo, and in Allergy and Clinical Immunology at the University of California at Los Angeles. Dr. Ahmed was on the Faculty of Medicine at UCLA for six years before moving to Harvard University in Boston. He began molecular research and earned a Doctorate of Science degree from the Harvard University Faculty of Medicine, and a Master's degree in Public Administration (MPA) from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Dr. Ahmed is one among a handful of blistering disease specialists in the world.

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## Nikki Haley's memoir to hit stands in 2012

**New York:** South Carolina's Indian-American Governor Nikki Haley is all set to publish her memoir just shy of her 40th birthday. Her book, "Can't is Not an Option", is expected to hit shelves in January 2012 and will be published by Sentinel, a conservative imprint within Penguin Group.

At 39, Haley maybe the youngest politician in America but her profile is no less.

Haley's fight to prove that women can rock, provided inspiration when it seemed impossible that a relatively inexperienced, deeply conservative woman could win a bid to govern the state where the Civil War began. She has built a governorship on aggressive budget cutting, a relentless pursuit of job growth and a cheerleader's enthusiasm for a state that often finishes toward the back of the pack in education, economics and health.

In March, Haley said in a published interview that in her memoir "she would cover everything from growing up in rural South Carolina to her contentious 2010 campaign, when she faced - and denied - allegations of infidelity."

Though the Republican governor says she's not seeking higher office, her literary agent Robert Barnett's past clients include Presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

Haley's new book will give the first-term Republican a chance to reveal behind-the-scenes details of her once unlikely



*South Carolina's Indian American Governor Nikki Haley*

election as South Carolina's chief executive, how she handled the state's rough-and-tumble politics and her life as a first-generation American, postandcourier.com said.

"A lot of people wanted to know what happened in the campaign," she was quoted as telling The Post and Courier in April.

During the primary season, Haley, a married mother of two, also shouldered accusations of marital infidelity. The book also is expected to cover Haley's vision for the country and the Republican Party, according to her publishing house.

A parade of Republican presidential candidates has passed through her office in the Capitol here, seeking her advice and, more important, her endorsement. South Carolina, which holds the South's first primary, has correctly picked the Republican presidential

nominee in every race since 1980.

Legislators say her administration is a refreshing change from the tumultuous days of her predecessor, Mark Sanford, whose uncooperative relations with elected officials is legend around the Statehouse. She has also received good marks for fighting to lower Medicaid costs and for many of her cabinet appointments.

Though the governor's strict approach to limiting spending hit a wall with lawmakers, who this week overrode most of the vetoes she issued on a \$6 billion general fund budget.

Still, governing the way she wants to seems to give her the biggest thrill. "You can feel the energy. You can feel the buzz," she said. "It's because people are incredibly excited about their government and elected officials are incredibly scared and it's a beautiful thing."

## Indian-American broadcaster files age discrimination suit

**Houston:** Veteran former Indian-American broadcaster Sue Manteris has filed a federal discrimination and harassment lawsuit against her former employer KSNV/Channel 3.

Varanasi-born Sunanda "Sue" Tripathi-Manteris, filed the lawsuit against station owner Valley Broadcasting Co., Intermountain West Communications, other corporate entities and KSNV station managers and executives in US District Court for Nevada.

Manteris, who had been with the NBC Las Vegas affiliate for 22 years before her final broadcast on June 9, claims that KSNV's let her go because she was too old and from an ethnic minority.

She had been told her contract was not being renewed because of cost-cutting measures at NBC-owned KSNV-TV station.

But Manteris, who is in her mid 40s, claims she was picked on because she was she considered too old to read the news. She also alleges that her contract was not renewed because she was a minority worker, and said other staff from ethnic minorities had been replaced by white reporters.

She called the lawsuit "a fight, I couldn't run away from."

"Cost-cutting measures cannot target all



*Sue Manteris has filed case against KSNV/Channel 3*

minority workers in a department, and women over 40 only; not in this millennium, not in this country," Manteris said, adding, "unfortunately, some businesses still need to learn that."

The lawsuit, which was filed with US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, names Valley Broadcasting Co., the owner of KSNV. It also names news director Bob

Stoldal, general manager Lisa Howfield, and KSNV attorney Douglas Roman Hill.

"This case is about principles, ethics and the law of our land," Manteris said in a statement. In her complaint, Manteris alleged that the station "has failed to ensure a workplace free from discrimination and employment."

"Despite being a large and highly visible organization, the station has no company diversity training program... (nor) Human Resource Department involvement in the handling of discrimination complaints, she said.

Manteris is one of the first Asian-American broadcasters in Las Vegas. She moved to the city to work in Channel 3 as a reporter in 1989. She eventually became news anchor and in recent years, was being promoted by the station on-air as 'Anchor Mom.'

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## Indian forum welcomes easing of passport surrender rules

**Washington, DC:** The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO International) has welcomed a relaxation of rules requiring former Indian citizens to produce a surrender certificate of their old passports when seeking Indian visas.

The relaxation incorporates two of the GOPIO demands: elimination of surrender certificate requirement from those who became naturalized citizens more than 10 years ago and an OCI (Overseas Citizenship of India) application need not be accompanied by an original US passport.

The change 'will not only stop the decline of goodwill in the Indian commu-

nity for the government of India but can also reduce workload at the consulates', said Inder Singh, GOPIO International chairman.

'Now that the work load will be less, Indian missions in western countries and Travisa should finish off all the backlogs soon and make the process of getting an OCI card and entry visa to India easier for the Indian community,' said Thomas Abraham, former chairman of GOPIO International.

'This is a welcome action that removes an undue burden on former citizens of India and improves goodwill towards India,' said Ashook Ramsaran, executive vice president of GOPIO International.



July 9-15, 2011

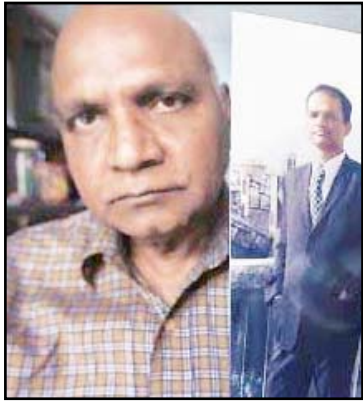
TheSouthAsianTimes.info

## Vikram Buddhi held beyond jail term

*Father seeks justice*

**New York:** The father of jailed Indian researcher and lecturer Vikram Buddhi has sought Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh's urgent intervention, seeking justice for his son who has been jailed in the US despite completing his 57-month jail term on May 6. Buddhi was jailed for allegedly threatening to kill former president George W Bush.

Buddhi has already served the full 57-month jail term, but he is still held behind bars by the immigration department which has the power to deport him. Speaking to Indian media, his father Captain B K Subbarao pointing at the recent case of 18-year-old Krittika Biswas, daughter of an Indian diplomat in New York, said: "Krittika was pushed into a US



*Father Captain B K Subbarao with son Vikram Buddhi's picture*

police lock-up and forced to confess about sending obscene emails to her school teacher in New York. However, it was all the more surprising how top MEA officials worked through the night to inter-

vene in the case of Krittika who was jailed for one day. But, in Vikram's case there was no sincere help or intervention from the Indian government in the last four-and-a-half years."

Vikram, a National Science Talent Scholar in India, is an MSc in mathematics from IIT-B. He worked for a year at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research at Mumbai and then joined the mathematics department of Purdue University in the US in 1996. At Purdue he received the MS degree in mathematics and had been pursuing PhD degrees simultaneously in pure and applied mathematics. At Purdue University Vikram received two times Best Teaching Award from the Department of Mathematics.

## Doctor to pay \$ 5.7 mn in false claim case

**Boston:** An Indian-American physician will pay more than \$5 million to the US government to settle allegations that he submitted false claims to health-care programs.

Rakesh Nathu, a Las Vegas physician, has agreed to pay \$5.7 million dollars plus interest as settlement, the Justice Department has announced.

The government alleges that Nathu submitted improper claims to health-care programs Medicare, TRICARE and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan from 2007 to 2009 in which he double billed for several procedures affiliated with radiation treatment plans, billed for certain high reimbursement

radiation oncology services when a different, less expensive service should have been billed and claimed money back for medically unnecessary radiation oncology services.

"We expect that physicians who participate in federal health care programs will bill for their services accurately and honestly," Assistant Attorney General for the Department's Civil Division Tony West said.

"This case is about stealing millions of dollars from taxpayers," Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services Daniel Levinson said. "We will continue to fight this kind of unconscionable abuse of our Medicare program."

## Construction of Texas Guruvayurappan Temple moves ahead

**Houston:** Construction of Sri Guruvayurappan Temple here has entered second phase.

According to reports, the temple organizers are aiming to build this grand temple based on the architectural and ritual features of Guruvayur Devaswom of Kerala by summer 2013 and claim that when completed, it will be the first of a kind Guruvayurappan temple in western world. Second phase will also include a community center.

It recently conducted Shadhadhara Prathishta, a ritual milestone, and buried a time capsule. Phase three will bring more accomplishments.

Kerala Hindu Society, a non-profit organization established in 1983 but whose history goes back to 1979, has acquired 4.8 acres for this project and architect

Kanippayur Krishnan Nampoothiripad and thanthri Karianur Divakaran Nampoothiri are reportedly associated with it. Sasidharan Nair, Somarajan Nair, Sathyan Pillai, and Muralee Kesavan are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively of the Temple Board.

Guruvayur Devaswom, abode of Lord Sree Guruvayoorappan at Bhoolokavaikundam, about 29 kilometers from Thrissur in Kerala, is a well known pilgrimage site in India, where the presiding deity is Mahavishnu. According to the legends, the idol worshipped here is more than 5000 years old.

Guruvayur is a form of Krishna. Another \$6 million Guruvayurappan Temple is also planned in Brampton, Ontario, Canada.

## Hundreds mourn Indian origin marine killed in Afghanistan

**California:** Hundreds mourned the death of U.S. Marine Corporal Gurpreet Singh at Mount Vernon Memorial Home in Fair Oaks Saturday morning.

The Oakmont High School alumnus and former Antelope resident died from wounds received in combat June 22 in the Helmand province of Afghanistan.

Singh, who migrated at the age of 11 from Punjab to the United States with his family in 2000, died on his second tour of duty in Afghanistan. Family members said he didn't have to go on the second tour but decided to go in a friend and fellow Marine's place, instead.

Singh decided to join the Marines when he was 17 years old. Family members said it was important to him that he served in Afghanistan, where he could help protect both his country and the innocent Afghan people. The entrance to the Mount Vernon chapel, where the funeral



*US Marine Corps carry remains of Cpl Gurpreet Singh at Dover Air Force Base*

service took place, was lined with scores of Patriot Guard Riders -- a collective of motorcycle clubs and supporters who attend funerals of service members killed in combat.

A hall of riders bearing the American flag greeted those who attended the funeral service.

Shortly after the service, military

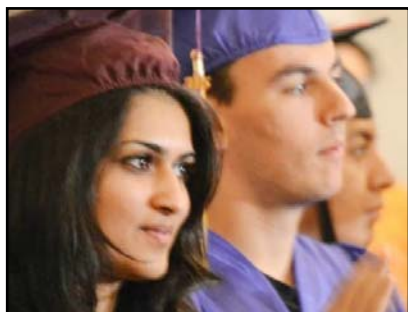
honors included the firing of three volleys each by seven service members. The body was then cremated according to Sikh ritual.

Singh is survived by his parents, Nirmal Singh and Satnam Kaur, his sister, Manpreet Laur; his grandmother, Nasib Kaur, and grandfather, Ajit Singh.

## Mandeep Chahal thanks supporters in her valedictory address

**Washington, DC:** Last week, just hours before Mandeep Chahal and her mother were scheduled to be deported to India, the immigration officials changed their minds and canceled the deportation. At the last minute, she was given a one year stay of deportation. This was no doubt thanks to the thousands of supporters who took action to keep her at home in California.

Mandeep was the featured speaker at the U.S. Capitol in front of Senators and hundreds of youth like herself, who only want the opportunity to live in the country they love without the fear of deportation. This event comes on the heels of an important Senate hearing on the DREAM Act, which is legislation that would enable these talented young



*Mandeep Chahal and her mother's deportation was stayed at last minute after a Facebook campaign last week*

people to earn their citizenship through either two years of college or military service. As she stood before a crowd of hundreds in the historic Kennedy Caucus Room on Capitol Hill,

Mandeep told the story of how she was saved from deportation. She asked elected leaders to ensure that no family ever has to go through the anguish that she endured, and said:

As a student, I work hard. I'm in the honors program at one of the country's top public universities, and I'm on track to go to medical school. I plan to spend my life working for the public good in the United States of America. If it took all this for me to stay in my country, then something is wrong. It shouldn't be this hard.

In a room full of fellow undocumented students and Members of Congress, she said that President Obama can stop the deportations of people like her even if Congress fails to act.

## First Punjabi charter school to open in California

**Fremont:** Country's first Punjabi charter school will be set up in West Sacramento, California in August next year.

With a mission to promote "a culture of strong social and family values" and provide a "rigorous" curriculum the "Sacramento Valley Charter School" aims at meeting "academic, social and emotional needs" of the children.

This school located on the property of Sikh Temple of Sacramento, will provide free education from kinder-

garten to grade six, along with enrichment programs, Punjabi language education, school uniform, free vegetarian lunch and refreshments, free transportation.

The school will have Michael Ettner reporting as the principal of this publicly funded school granted by the Washington Unified School District. Dave Westin and Dr. Dayton Gilleland are Board President and Superintendent respectively of the District.



# End of space shuttle, end to US dominance of space?

**Washington:** The flight into space by NASA's space shuttle Atlantis this Friday will mark end of the shuttle era, but many believe it may also mean the end of US hegemony in the space.

Although NASA has led many manned flights into space for three decades, no additional such flights are planned for the moment.

Top officials at the space agency, however, maintain this isn't the end of this country's manned effort in space, rather just the beginning of a new chapter.

"I don't think this means the end of US crewed flights, but we're in a period of uncertainty and we don't know for how long," Valerie Neal, the official in charge of the shuttle area at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, said.



*Space Shuttle Atlantis, docked to the International Space Station.*

"I think that what's a little disappointing is that we really don't have a clear vision of what it is that's going to come after," Neal said.

"There's uncertainty in NASA and among the general public."

After this NASA shuttle flight, private companies will be in charge of developing the technology for future space vehicles.

This will enable the US space agency to focus on other projects, like working out the logistics of a manned Mars mission or traveling to an asteroid, two of the goals President Barack Obama set out in his new space strategy, says NASA director Charles Bolden.

Although, the companies with which NASA has signed agreements to develop new spacecraft "are making some optimistic predictions" about when the new space vehicles will be ready, Neal said, "the truth is that they have still not been prepared".

As a nation, we are in "the final part of the second great era of space exploration," similar to what we went through in the 1970s after the last Apollo mission, the program that succeeded in putting men on the moon, he added.

NASA took almost a decade to develop and launch the shuttle program, and it was not until April 12, 1981 - 20 years after Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man to travel into space - that Columbia was sent into orbit, followed by Challenger (1983), Discovery (1984), Atlantis (1985) and Endeavour (1992).

Neal, whose museum will receive the Discovery to exhibit to the public in April 2012, said that the shuttles had been great spacecraft.

## President working at broader deal on deficit cuts

**Washington:** With a crucial negotiating session on a budget deal Thursday, President Obama wants to strike a far-reaching agreement on cutting the federal deficit as Republican Speaker John A. Boehner has signaled new willingness to bargain on revenues.

Mr. Obama, who is to meet at the White House with the bipartisan leadership of Congress in an effort to work out an agreement to raise the federal debt limit, wants to move well beyond the \$2 trillion in savings sought in earlier negotiations and seek perhaps twice as much over the next decade, according to Democratic officials, reported the New York Times.

The president's renewed efforts follow what knowledgeable officials said was an overture from Mr. Boehner, who met secretly with Mr. Obama last weekend, to consider as much as \$1 trillion in unspecified new revenues as part of an overhaul of tax laws in exchange for an agreement that made substantial spending cuts, including in such social programs as Medicare and Medicaid and Social Security — programs that had been off the table.



*President Obama had a one-on-one with Speaker John A. Boehner on the deficit issue.*

The intensifying negotiations between the president and the speaker have Congressional Democrats growing anxious, worried they will be asked to accept a deal that is too heavily tilted toward Republican efforts and produces too little new revenue relative to the magnitude of the cuts.

Congressional Democrats said they were caught off guard by the weekend White House visit of Mr. Boehner — a meeting the administration still refused to acknowledge on Wednesday — and Senate Democrats raised concerns at a private party luncheon on Wednesday.

House Democrats have their own fears about the negotiations, which they expressed in an hour long meeting Wednesday night with Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner.

## Still a case for trying Strauss-Kahn

**New York:** What is so wrong with the original plan to hold a trial for Dominique Strauss-Kahn to decide if he committed an act of sexual violence against a hotel housekeeper?

After all, it's not as if the case against Strauss-Kahn, the former head of IMF, has simply dissolved with the discovery that the woman who accused him has lied about her past, and had shady connections and a bank account with irregular cash deposits, argues Jim Dwyer in the New York Times.

To begin with, there is evidence in the case that other people can provide, notably, crime lab results that show the semen of Strauss-Kahn was found on her clothing.

Besides, in the moments after the encounter between Strauss-Kahn and the housekeeper, four employees at the Sofitel New York each spoke to her, one after the other, and each was convinced that she was "shook up" and "in distress," according to a person involved with that part of the investigation. "You had two former police officers who didn't think she was making it up," the person said.

His lawyers maintain that whatever happened between Strauss-Kahn and the housekeeper did not involve force or criminal behavior. They have also said that videotape of him at lunch, just after he left the hotel, would show a calm demeanor. With last



*Dominique Strauss-Kahn, with his wife, Anne Sinclair, could leave his temporary residence in Manhattan on Saturday after case against him crumbled.*

week's revelations about the housekeeper, the lawyers for Mr. Strauss-Kahn have said the case should be dismissed.

There is little question that the police and Manhattan prosecutors had probable cause to arrest Strauss-Kahn: they believed a crime had been committed, and he had been involved.

Prosecutors do not have to abandon criminal cases simply over problems with witnesses' backgrounds, said Bruce Green, a law professor at Fordham and an authority on legal ethics.

## Fewer Americans are filing for bankruptcy

**New York:** After steadily climbing for several years, the number of Americans filing for bankruptcy is on the decline, though that is not necessarily an indicator of an improving economy.

The number of bankruptcy filings in June was 120,623, or an average of 5,483 a day, a drop of 6.2 percent from May, when filings totaled 122,775, or 5,846 a day, according to a report from

Epq Systems, which tracks bankruptcy filings.

There was one additional day to file in June compared with May. Average daily filings are down nearly 10 percent from June of last year.

Though economic factors like foreclosures and unemployment play a role in bankruptcy, over the long run, the filing rate tends to be more closely tethered to the

amount of outstanding consumer debt.

Access to credit, however, can influence the bankruptcy rate over the shorter term: as lenders tighten their standards, filings tend to rise because struggling consumers can no longer rely on credit cards or other loans to get them through a rough period. But when more new loans are being made, filings tend to fall — at least for a while.

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## FeTNA meet in South Carolina showcases Tamil culture

**Charleston, SC:** FeTNA – the Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America organized the 24th annual Tamil Convention during the July 4 weekend at Gaillard Municipal Auditorium, Charleston, SC.

FeTNA is an umbrella organization of Tamil Sangams in North America. It provides for developing connectivity among the Tamil communities in the continent aimed at preservation and growth of Tamil language, culture, and community.

FeTNA has been principally responsible for bringing together 40 Tamil Sangams to celebrate annually a festival in which the individuals and groups from member Sangams have presented artistic programs or interacted in one of many activities organized during the convention weekend.

FeTNA have so far sponsored 24 Tamil Scholars in the past 15 years to visit the US and the various members Tamil Sangams. The other accomplishments of FeTNA include the project for a Tamil chair and hence the support FeTNA has provided to the University of California, Berkeley Tamil Chair Project.

Dr. Pazhani Sundaram the President and Dr. Dhandapani Kuppaswamy Vice President of FeTNA and co-ordinator of the convention, made elaborate



*Actor Nasser and other guests lighting the traditional lamp at the inaugural ceremony of FeTNA 2011.*

arrangements with many strategic partners.

Most prominent participants this year were Rathika Sitsabaiesan, Actors Nasser, Charlie, Lyricist Na.Muthukumar, and Singer Devan.

Rathika gave a beautiful, down to earth speech, which was appreciated by everybody. Her speech was enthusiastic and displayed her self-confidence and leadership skills. Actor Nasser gave a wonderful speech which showed his enormous literary knowledge. He is so simple, humble and beautiful person to talk with.

Actor Charlie is not only a com-

edy actor, but is also a knowledgeable person who holds an M.Phil degree. The skit which he and his two friends played made everybody laugh for a long time.

The dance programs by the local kids were extraordinary. The way they danced with perfect speed, beauty and the timing were all just awesome.

The program of Dr. Syed from Trichy did show the enormous talent that one can have. Almost all the audience praised him for his performance.

Programs like Silambattam (a kind of Martial arts), Thappattam (a kind of rural folk art), glued the audience to their seats and at the end – the crowd went berserk and the artists received standing ovation for their superlative performances. These kind of ancient, culturally rich forms of arts are continuously introduced to the new generations by FeTNA.

Also, programs like Tamil literary quiz, Special debate, Poetry reading involved active participation from the attendees and tested their oratory skills as well. The age group that attended these programs was a wide one – ranging from just 8 to 80. Prizes were distributed for the winners of the contests.

One of the highlight of the convention every year is the Tamil Literary Quiz. The questions cov-



*Dindugal Sakthi folk artist group performed "Thappattam".*



*Actor Nasser releasing the FeTNA Souvenir 2011. (from left) Dr. Udhy Kumar, Dr.Dhandapani (Convention Co-ordinator & Vice President), Dr. S. Palaniappan, Dr.Mu. Elangovan, Actor Nasser and Dr. Pazhani Sundaram (President)*

ered the ancient literary books of Tamil literature. The beauty of the program is that the questions are designed graphically including audio, video and presentation modes.

The convention also saw some brilliant speakers like Prof. Punitha Ekambaram, Prof. Ilangovan, Prof Palaniappan, Mr. Abdul Jabbar, cricket commentator among others.



*Comedian Charlie and the Puthugai Poobalam group performed a comedy program.*



*Bharathanatayam dance by Kodai Mazhai Vidya and group.*



*Viswanathan Ruthra Kumaran, Karen Parker, Human rights activist and Dr. Dhandapani, Convention Co-Ordinator & Vice President.*



# 8,000 Telugus throng 18th TANA meet

**Santa Clara, CA:** More than 8,000 people descended on Santa Clara to be part of the 18th TANA (Telugu Association of North America) Conference from the continent around the world. In one of its kind event, the historic convention attracted famous cine actors, community stalwarts and politicians.

Presided over by TANA President Jayaram Komati, Conference Convener Sateesh Chilukuri, Chief guest India's minister of state for Defense Pallam Raju, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh ministers Aruna Kumari Galla, Pitani Satya Narayan, Members of Parliament Rayapati Sambasiva Rao, Madhu Yashki, N Venugopal Reddy, Political leaders including Raghavulu, Narayana, media big-wigs Radhakrishna, Ravi Prakash, Yuva Ratna Nadamuri BalaKrishna were among the key dignitaries who were present during the traditional lamp lighting and inaugural ceremony. TANA Board member Dr. Chowdary Jampala was the emcee of the event.

The Union Minister Pallam Raju highlighted the economic growth of India, especially rising standards of rural India, tier-two cities and asked NRIs to support their motherland in developmental activities. Citing the Indian cricket team that won the World Cup, the minister said, "The best highlight of the victory was that many of the team members who brought home the World Cup to India represented

the country's rural parts and not urban like in the past".

Galla Arunakumari, the Minister for Mines, said as expatriates, everyone should give something back to the home country and requested every individual to contribute in their own way to the country and to the great state of Andhra Pradesh. She also asked NRIs to take care of their parents and ensure that they are happy.

The inauguration was followed by 20-minute theme songs and cultural programs organized under the leadership of Vijaya Aasuri, cultural committee chair. Convener Steesh Chilukuri, deputy conveners Veeru Vuppala, Jayaprasad Vejendla directed more than 300 volunteers in putting the 3-day program.

TANA organized a series of events for day one and day two of the conference. The major attractions include Business conclave, Film & Photography, Praja prathinidula vedika, Encounter with Raviprakash, Open heart with RK, Women's forum, Alumni meetings, Investment seminars, Religious talks and Cultural programs. All the programs drew lot of attendees filling the halls.

While Inauguration and Music concert by Indian Idol Sreeram Chandra, Kousalya, Pranavi and Deepu were highlights on the stage, the second day, The socio fantasy "Raja Raja Narendra" by Nandamuri Balakrishna, Parachuri Gopala Krishna,

Gummadi Gopalakrishna, Murali Mohan, AVS, Jonnavittula, Sana, Jyothi, Surekha Vani and Ganesh received a huge applause from the audience. Comedy Dhamaka by AVS and group also received their share of applause. The dance performances by local artists and artists from India were a huge success. "Krishna Mukunda" dance ballet by small kids got standing ovation by the audience.

Exhibit stalls were sold out a month before the kick off of the event. Over 120 exhibitors participated this year with participation from Jewelry, Diamonds, clothing, real estate, non-profits and media and community services. Government and NGOs also added to the group. Phoenix, Manjeera, Ramky, APIIC and Basava Tharakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital were there. "We have broken all the records in TANA history and we had the best exhibition till date", said Ramesh Mandalapu, chair of exhibits committee.

Jayaram Komati and Sateesh Chilukuri thanked the tireless work of over 300 volunteers in putting together the 3-day program.

They joined TANA leadership in thanking all the delegates, sponsors, donors, volunteers and all people who attended the convention. "We would not have done without your support", Komati said adding that the conference surpassed all yardsticks in making history.



*Kalaptasvi K. Viswanadh receiving lifetime achievement award.*



*Mahishasura Mardini dance drama*



*Shriya Saran addressing the convention.*



*Volunteers felicitating Mr Jayram Komati (TANA President)*



*Mr Sateesh Chilukuri, Mr. Jayaram Komati felicitating AP Speaker Mr. Manohar.*

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# Deadlock over Telangana, protests on

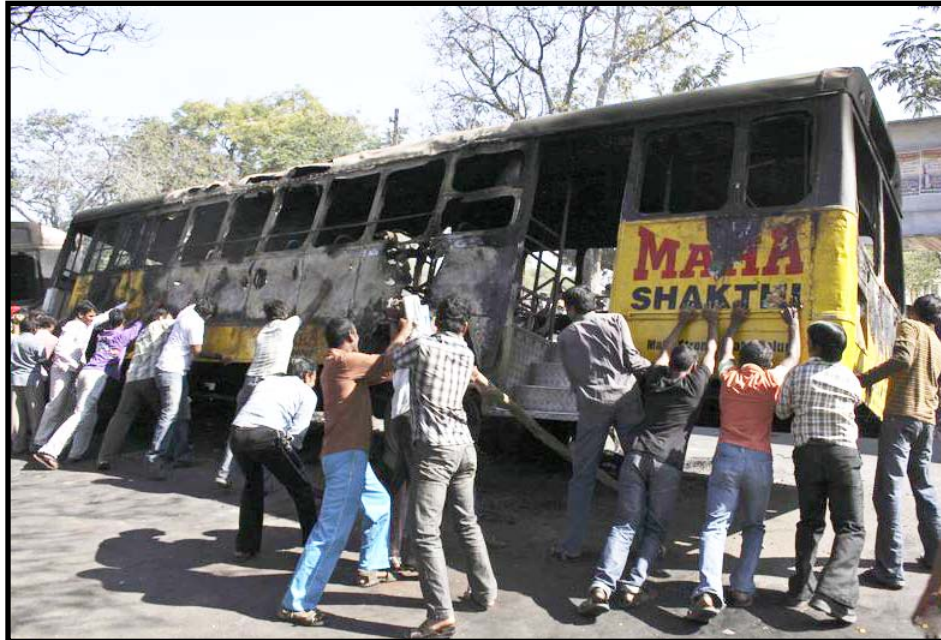
**New Delhi/Hyderabad:** The deadlock over Telangana continued as Congress leaders returned from New Delhi without an assurance from the central leadership while protests rocked the region on the second day of a 48-hour shutdown.

Despite the resignation of 13 MPs and 100 legislators from the region, the central government said it was not thinking of imposing President's Rule in Andhra Pradesh.

"There is no move to impose President's Rule," Home Minister P. Chidambaram said in New Delhi.

He said the central government had also not taken any final decision on whether or not to give statehood to Telangana, saying the "consultation process is still in progress".

Telangana leaders demanded that the process for formation of a separate state be initiated with a fixed time frame and made it clear that any delay would not be good for the party. Claiming that their talks have not failed, state minister K. Jana Reddy said in



*People take to the streets protesting for a separate Telangana state, in Hyderabad.*

New Delhi that they were optimistic the central government would initiate the process immediately by taking note of their views.

Soon after his return to Hyderabad, Congress MP from Karimnagar Ponnampalapati Prabhakar lashed out at his own party describing it as accused number one in Telangana and blamed it for the present crisis. Life remained paralyzed across Telangana on the second day of the 48-hour shutdown called by the Telangana Joint Action Committee (JAC).

Public transport remained crippled in Hyderabad and nine other districts of the region while shops, business establishments, hotels, petrol bunks as well as educational institutions were shut for a second straight day.

Coal production in Singareni Collieries was affected for the second day as a majority of nearly 100,000 employees in the mines, spread over four Telangana districts, refused to work.

## '2011 most peaceful in a decade'

**Greater Noida:** So far this year, India has witnessed the lowest levels of violence in a decade thanks to the paramilitary forces, Home Minister P. Chidambaram said.

"In the first six months of 2011, we have seen the lowest levels of violence in the country in the last decade, whether it is terrorism in Kashmir or insurgency in the northeast or the Maoists," Chidambaram told reporters here at an event to lay the foundation stone of an Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) referral hospital.

"The credit goes to the paramilitary forces of our country who are doing all the dirty work so that we can sleep peacefully at night," he added.

According to the minister, the people of India should be empa-



*Home Minister P. Chidambaram.*

thetic towards the lakhs of central armed police force personnel who face frost bite in one posting and unbearable heat in the other.

"These brave men and women are fighting a battle everyday in some part of the country or other to serve us... please show empathy towards them," said Chidambaram.

## Marching on: Rahul takes on Mayawati

**Aligarh/Lucknow:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi recently completed the second day of his 'padyatra' (march) against land acquisition in Uttar Pradesh, attacking the Mayawati government, even as the Supreme Court came down heavily against the state's acquisition policy. But while the landowners were welcoming the apex court order on returning the acquired lands, political tempers were rising with the Mayawati-led state government imposing prohibitory orders in Aligarh district, banning any assembly of five or more people.

As the organizers of the yatra, mostly village leaders, did not make any announcement of the schedule for Thursday, officials in Aligarh hinted that the administration, despite the ban orders, may not be stopping the march. "We will see the situation Thursday. But one fact is clear, the villagers are supporting Rahulji," Iqbal Singh, a village leader accompanying Gandhi said.

Gandhi's surprise padyatra to support the farmers' cause began from the violence-hit twin villages of Bhatta-Parsaul.

Political watchers view the yatra as a strategy to take on the ruling Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and to revive the Congress for the assembly polls due next year.

Gandhi's padyatra was scheduled to culminate in a 'kisan mahapanchayat' (farmers' rally) in Aligarh town. The district authorities have prohibited any gathering of



*Rahul's march to support the farmers began from the violence-hit villages of Bhatta-Parsaul.*

five or more people under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code. In Aligarh, district police chief Satyendra Vir Singh said: "Section 144 is in force all over the district since June 12 and in this background Rahul Gandhi's padyatra will be a clear violation."

Singh, however, clarified that if there is no apprehension of breach in law and order, the authorities might choose not to prevent Rahul's padyatra.

Meanwhile, the Gandhi padyatra got a boost with the Supreme Court upholding an Allahabad High Court verdict and quashing the acquisition of land in Shahberi village of Greater Noida.

## \$20 Billion temple treasure in Kerala

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Will the only remaining locked chamber of the 16th century Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple be opened? Suddenly, there is growing talk that opening it may cause misfortune.

One of the chambers that was opened after over 150 years revealed mind boggling rubies, diamonds, idols of gods and gold coins of a bygone era, estimated to be worth more than a lakh crore rupees. But the revered shrine here still has one last locked room - now the object of much curiosity.

Will this secret "Chamber B" be opened by the seven-member Supreme Court committee entrusted to prepare an inventory of the temple?

Since June 27, the shrine has



*People are wondering if Chamber B of Padmanabhaswamy Temple too will throw up priceless treasures.*

been making headlines after the discovery of eye popping treasure

in Chamber A. It is one of six at the temple. The discovery has

made the temple the world's richest. While many are wondering if Chamber B too will throw up priceless treasures, others are wary of misfortune befalling those who dare to open it.

According to the royal family that takes care of the shrine, opening Chamber B could be a bad omen for the state and also for those involved in the exercise.

A member of the family is likely to be in Delhi this week to brief the Supreme Court about the temple and its traditions, a top source said.

"Numerous stories are there, though no one knows their veracity. But not many are willing to ignore them either.

The deity is believed to have immense powers and many who have done things not in tune with

temple customs have suffered," said a source attached to the temple. The main temple deity, Padmanabhaswamy, is a form of Vishnu in Ananthasayanam posture, or in eternal sleep.

The temple has a 100-foot, seven-tier 'gopuram' or temple tower besides a corridor with 365 and one-quarter granite stone pillars with elaborate carvings. The foundation of the present gopuram was laid in 1566.

The temple has been maintained by the royal family of Travancore whose headquarters are situated near the residence of the Kerala governor.

While four of the temple chambers are opened during special occasions, Chamber A and B remained unopened for over 150 years.



## 2G scam: Maran resigns from Cabinet

**New Delhi:** A day after he was nailed by the CBI in the 2G spectrum allocation scam, Union textile minister Dayanidhi Maran met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and handed over his resignation. Maran's resignation came minutes after the cabinet meeting ended.

According to Times Now, Dayanidhi Maran was the first to leave 7 Race Course Road, Prime Minister's residence, soon after the meeting ended. He is scheduled to fly out to Chennai later this evening.

Maran's resignation comes ahead of a cabinet reshuffle that may happen as early as next week. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was under pressure to drop him to signal a tough stance against a raft of graft cases that have emerged in recent months.

Maran declined to make any comment when television reporters asked him if he had



*The CBI in its status report has pointed finger at Federal Textiles Minister Dayanidhi Maran (left) for sitting on Aircel's application for a spectrum license.*

left the cabinet.

Earlier in the day, BJP leader Arun Jaitley had said that Dayanidhi Maran had run out of options and he should quit. He further added that the Prime Minister cannot look away after the developments in connection with the 2G scam.

AIADMK too had said that there was no use expecting Dayanidhi Maran to take

responsibility and the Prime Minister should simply drop him.

On Wednesday, the CBI told the Supreme Court that its preliminary inquiry into the allegation of Sivasankaran, a serial entrepreneur known as Siva in business circles, suggested that Maran starved Aircel of new licences to bully him into selling out.

## India, Pak foreign ministers may meet

**New Delhi:** The foreign ministers of India and Pakistan are expected to meet in New Delhi on July 27 to review progress in the bilateral peace process that was revived earlier this year, according to a media report.

Pakistan will have to appoint a full-fledged foreign minister before expected meeting and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar is among the front-runners for the slot, The News daily quoted its sources as saying.

Before the meeting of the foreign ministers, two working groups will meet by the middle of this month to discuss proposals on confidence-building measures, including the expansion of cross-Line of Control movement and trade and nuclear confidence building measures, the report said.

The Pakistani delegation for talks on cross-LoC CBMs will be led by Zehra H Akbari, director General (South Asia) while Irfan Yusuf Shami, director general (disarmament division) will head the team for talks on nuclear CBMs.

The two foreign secretaries, who held talks in Islamabad during June 23-24, will meet again in New Delhi ahead of the ministerial meeting.



*The foreign ministers will meet after the completion of talks on eight separate issues.*

Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir will travel to New Delhi a day ahead of the minister, the report said. "Some tangible outcome could be expected" from the talks of the foreign ministers as "the atmosphere between the two countries has reportedly turned conducive", the daily quoted diplomatic sources as saying.

The foreign ministers will meet after the completion of talks on eight separate issues, including the Kashmir dispute, trade and commerce and counter-terrorism.

## Cash-for-vote scam: SC seeks report



*The nation was shocked by the spectacle of three BJP MPs displaying wads of currency notes in Parliament as bribe money to vote in favor of the UPA during the 2008 trust vote.*

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court has directed the Delhi Police to place before it the status report on the probe conducted by it in the "cash-for-vote" scam during the trust vote faced by the UPA government in July 2008.

Not satisfied with the Center's contention that an FIR has been lodged in the case and probe will be completed within two months, a bench headed by Justice Aftab Alam ordered the police to file the status report by July 15.

"Two months is a long time. Tell us about the present status of the probe," the bench said, while posting the matter for further hearing on July 15. Solicitor

General Gopal Subramaniam said that the status report will be filed within the stipulated period in a sealed envelope before the court.

The court passed the order on a petition filed by former Chief Election Commissioner J.M. Lyngdoh seeking its directions to the government to take action against politicians involved in the scam. The petition alleges that though the entire nation was shocked by the spectacle of three BJP MPs displaying wads of currency notes in Parliament as bribe money to vote in favor of the UPA during the 2008 trust vote, no action has so far been taken against those guilty.

## Justice Hegde to abstain from Lokpal draft

**Bangalore:** Lokayukta Justice N. Santosh Hedge expressed disappointment at the Union government's attitude towards the drafting of Lokpal Bill and said that he has decided to stay away from the issue. Sources said that he knew earlier what would transpire with the joint committee on drafting the Lokpal Bill.

Once he decided to submit his resignation from the joint committee, the request from Anna Hazare and others made him remain with the committee. Hegde is also in a dilemma on attending a meeting called by civil society office bearers on July 15 at Delhi.

He was reportedly frustrated with the politicizing of the Lokpal issue. When contacted, Justice Hegde told Express that he is in close contact with the members of the civil society and Anna Hazare. "Now I am very busy on preparing the final report on illegal mining, which is an important task before me. Hence, I will abstain from the Lokpal Bill issue for a while," he added.

Knowing the government's attitude, Justice Hegde decided not to take a single penny of its allowances.



*Lokayukta Justice N. Santosh Hedge.*

He did not use his current office for attending meetings in Delhi. He utilized only the airfare allowance but not the daily allowance of ₹3,500 and vehicle and food facility.

## 40 die as train rams into bus

**New Delhi:** At least 40 people were killed and 35 others injured when a train rammed into a bus at an unmanned crossing near here in Uttar Pradesh in the wee hours on July 7.

The accident occurred at around 2.20 AM when the train on its way from Mathura to Chapra in Bihar rammed into the bus carrying a marriage party from Adupura village at the crossing in Dariyawganj area in this district

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# Indian diaspora's beginnings to be recorded for posterity

**New Delhi:** Indentured migration that took thousands of poor Indians across the seas to the new British plantation colonies to meet the shortage of labour after the abolition of slavery and that formed the beginnings of the vast Indian diaspora spread across the world, is to be recorded for posterity in the Memory of the World register.

The governments of Fiji, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago had made a joint submission to Unesco in 2010 for the records of Indian indentured laborers to be inscribed in the International Register of Memory of the World Program.

The indentured migration took thousands of poor Indians across the seas to the new plantation colonies to meet the shortage of labor after slavery was abolished in Britain. It is a forgotten period of colonial history, though it formed the beginnings of the large Indian diaspora.

The Memory of the World Program is meant to safeguard documentary heritage against loss, decay or destruction by any means. It was launched in 1992 and has about 238 items from around the world listed in the Register. Inscription in the Memory of the World Register is recognition of the historical importance of the items and beginning of steps to preserve them and make them accessible to scholars and other interested parties.

Indian indenture documents are among the 45 new documents and documentary collections that were recommended earlier this year by the International Advisory Committee of the Memory of the World Program and endorsed by the director general of Unesco, Irina Bokova.

According to the Unesco website, 'Listing of items such as these on the Memory of the World Register is intended to generate

interest and help with the conservation of documentary heritage which helps us to understand our society in all its complexities'.

The submission by the four governments stated that the 'Indian indentured immigration was first accounted for in the 1830s and over a period of roughly hundred years, 1,194,957 Indians were relocated to 19 colonies. These records are the only documents for ancestral and lineage research for the numerous descendants of those Indian laborers'. Their deterioration or loss would leave a void in the memory of many former colonies, and erode the sense of belonging of many of the descendants of the original laborers.

The arrival of large groups of Indian laborers in the receiving colonies had immense repercussions, many of which are still being felt today. This mass movement of labor was meticulously recorded by former colonial powers and



*Indentured Indian labors working in sugarcane fields in South Africa.*

stored in the archives of many receiving colonies around the world.

As a result, the documents relating to the Indian indentured laborers, dispersed all over the world, offer a unique perspective of colonialism as a major phenomenon in the unfurling of world history. The loss of such records would deprive humanity of the enduring knowledge of the legacy of indentured

labour against the backdrop of colonialism and the concept of 'empire', according to the submission.

These records hold considerable social and historical value and are among the most requested and used documents in the National Archives of the former colonies which received indentured labor. They capture a unique migration history of Indian communities around the world.

## Hindus in Canadian city oppose Muslim prayers at school

**Toronto:** Friday namaz at a school in the Toronto suburb of North York has angered Hindu advocacy groups here, who want it stopped.

The noon-time prayers for 400 Muslim students of the Valley Park Middle School were introduced three years ago. Angry Hindu advocacy groups want the 40-minute prayers, which are conducted by an imam specially brought from a mosque, to be stopped immediately.

The local Canadian Hindu Advocacy, led by Ron Banerjee, is roping in various Hindu organizations to hold protests outside the school to pressure management to stop the Friday prayers.

"This is alarming and unacceptable. We respect the separation of church and state," Banerjee has said in interviews to the media.

"There's not supposed to be any religious classes

taking place in public schools," according to Banerjee.

He says his group is writing letters to the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) to intervene to stop the practice being allowed by the school management. The school has the responsibility for ensuring secular education for students, the Hindu advocacy leader adds.

Banerjee says upset parents of Hindu students at the Valley Park Middle School have brought this practice to their notice.

He said Hindu groups will also raise objections to "the serving of halal meat within TDSB schools. Our organization is determined to ensure all Hindu students are provided non-halal meat alternatives".

Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus are the biggest non-white communities of the Toronto area.

## Canada's Ontario govt. funds expansion of Hindu temple

**Toronto:** Ontario province in Canada is reportedly helping cover the costs of the expansion of Devi Mandir in Pickering (Ontario).

The reports suggest that the Mandir organization will receive over \$422,000 for upgrades,

repairs, renovation and installation of the solar panel roof system. Funds are said to be coming from Ontario's Community Capital Fund.

Devi Mandir, whose tagline is "More than a place of worship", is run by Satya Sanatan Dharma

Cultural Sabha and claims to propagate "the teachings of Sanatan Dharma through Puja, Pravachans (discourses) and Bhajans." Its aim is "to ensure that the youth of today are well equipped to propel Hinduism into the future."

## Indian student leader gets Australian award

**Melbourne:** The leader of the association of Indian-origin students in Australia who protested attacks against Indians in Melbourne has been given the 2011 Young Victorian of the Year award.

Amit Menghani, a 24-year-old aerospace engineering graduate, is president of the Federation of Indian Students of Australia (FISA), The Age reported Saturday.

The Victorian of the Year Award is awarded for outstanding public and community services.

Menghani had led a rally of 2,000 Indian students in 2009 protesting a spate of violent attacks against people from the community in Melbourne.

The rally was called after a student was stabbed in the head with a screwdriver.

"There lacked a channel between the media and the students, so I decided to make people aware that these things were happening," Menghani said.

Born in Jaipur in Rajasthan, and raised in the United Arab Emirates, Menghani came to Australia when he was 18.

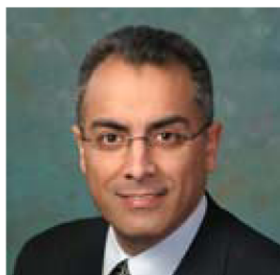


*Amit Menghani, president, Federation of Indian Students of Australia led rally of 2000 students in 2009 protesting violent attacks on Indians*

His middle-class family had taken a loan of \$100,000 to educate him. In his acceptance speech Friday, Menghani said he had learnt much from his family's sacrifice.

He said he owed a lot to Victoria, and hoped it would one day become "a world leader in multi-ethnic co-habitation", especially Keralites, stay in the building.

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SAT JUL 30	Radisson Plaza Mississauga, 175 Derry Road East Mississauga, Ontario L5T 2Z7	11:00 AM
SAT JUL 30	Edison Hotel, 3050 Woodbridge Ave. Edison, NJ 08337	11:00 AM

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*D.R. Mehta receiving JAINA Award for his contribution to Jaipur Foot and social service. Award presented by Dr. Manoj Dharamsi and JAINA Past President, Lata Champsee.*



*Dr. Neal Barnard, Keynote speaker, being felicitated by Dr. Sushil Jain (l) and Dr. Manoj Dharamsi (r).*

# JAINA 16th biennial Convention in Houston – a huge success

By Shashank Jain  
Photos: Sunil Chaudhary, Swapna Patel

**Houston:** Over 2,800 Jains attended the 16th Biennial JAINA Convention in Houston. JAINA, founded in 1983, is a federation of over 80 North American Jain centers. The event was held at the George Brown Convention Center from July 1st to July 4th during the US Independence Day weekend. The conference theme was "Live and Help Live."

The events started on Friday with blessings from many scholars, monks, and nuns followed by dinner and then 'Gandhi Before Gandhi' drama, a tribute to Veerchand R. Gandhi, a Jain scholar. Mohandas K. Gandhi lived with VR Gandhi for several years and during those times MK Gandhi learned much about Jainism and Non-Violence as a philosophy and practice.

After late evening of Raas Garbha, the next morning started with sessions on Yoga, Meditation, and Pratikraman (meaning going back to path of purification). A beautiful



*Exhibits of over 40 "Innovative Jain Projects" in North America.*

temporary temple was built with two murtis (idols), and officially opened for prayers. Then a grand procession took place in the large hallways of the convention center with each Jain Sangh carrying their flag. The convention was officially inaugurated by lighting of the candles by Lata Champsee, D.R. Mehta, Sushil Jain, and Dr. Neal Barnard, Uday Jain, and other sanghpatis.

In the afternoon, many parallel sessions took place including lectures on Basic principles of Jain Dharma, Community Service, ABCD on Entrepreneurship, Yoga for Seniors, Jain Way of Entrepreneurship, Practicing Ecology in Daily Life, Jainism and Sustainability, Social Challenges for Seniors, Animal Rights, Vegan Diet and more. With so many parallel sessions, the attendees were often

torn between their desire to attend multiple sessions in the same time slots. The evening entertainment program included a beautiful stage program called "Swagatam" by Jain Society of Houston and cultural programs by various US Jain Centers.

In parallel to these programs, youths were having their own programs which included Jainism 101, Jain Networking Forum, Government Activism, Comparative World Religion, Easy Jain Cooking, and more. In the evening, Jain Networking Forum had dinner and social evening and mixer. Such networking events in the past conventions have led to many marriages.

Also, in a first, this JAINA convention had displays of "Innovative Jain Projects in North America." Over 40 project posters described how Jains are channeling their energy in Living and Sharing a Jain Way of Life. Projects included Jain Mentorship Program, New Brochures on JAINA and Jainism, Jain Way of Life Handbook – Guide to Compassionate Happy and Healthy Living, Jain Food Book, Pathshala Material (Sunday School),



*A scene from SWAGATAM - A signature performance by Jain Society of Houston - with over 170 performers it depicted Jains all around the world.*

Humanitarian Projects, Mangalam Jain TV Show, JAINA Interfaith Activities, Overcoming Fundamentalism, Boy Scouts of America, Jain Religion Emblem Awards Program. This event was co-sponsored by Jain Center of Greater Boston.

The Sunday activities were similar to Saturday's and included many new sessions. Topics included Significance of Pooja, Doctrine of Karma, Jain Way of Running a Business, Academic Studies and Strategies for Growth, Preventing Heart Diseases, Significance of Charity and more. Following dinner, the evening entertainment was highlight of the conference. An award ceremony took place in the evening where Girish Shah of San Francisco was awarded the JAINA Ratna Award for his 30 years of contribu-

tion to Jainism, JAINA, and his local Jain Sangh. JAINA Recognition Awards were presented to Hasendra Shah CA, Mukesh Doshi IL, Padma Shah CA, Paresh Shah VA, Ramesh Doshi Amdavad India, Sunil Jain IL, Yogesh Shah CA, Ajay Dagli MI, Hemang Srikishan IL, Kritka Jain, CA, Saahil Jain CA, Shardule Shah MA. JAINA Presidential Award were given to Jain Center of Southern California, Institute of Jainology, D.R. Mehta from India, Hasmukh Shah, Shantilal Mutha from Pune, India.

The attendees were entertained past midnight by Jains Got Talent and concert by Indian Idols Bhoomi Trivedi and Sreeram Chandra.

Such a large event was made possible by many contributors including Sanghpatis, Shri Uday Jain &

Sushila Jain, Rajeev & Nita Daga, Dr. Rajniben & Dinesh Lakhia, and Nimmi and Mukesh Amritlal Turakhia.

The convention board team and over 100 volunteers from Houston and other centers worked over a year to make this event possible.

The Convention Board members include Dr. Sushil Jain Convener, Uday Jain Co-Convener, Himanshu Ajmera, Co-Convener, Lata Champsee, Ashish Bhandari, Dr. Nitin Shah, Dipak Doshi, Dr. Manoj Dharamsi, Riddhi Desai, Jainesh Mehta and Arpan Shah.

The host center was Jain Society of Houston.

The convention came to a close on Monday with the closing ceremonies and blessings from the monks and nuns.



*JAINA Convention opening ceremony inauguration by Dr. Sushil Jain (from left), Uday Jain, D.R. Mehta, and Mukesh Turakhia*



*Evening program with Bhoomi Trivedi of Indian Idol fame*



*Jains Got Talent & Indian Idol night*



*The new JAINA committee for the next two years was sworn in and is headed by Dr. Sushil Jain President, Mr. Prem Jain First VP, Mr. Ashok Domadia Secretary, Mr. Dipak Doshi Treasurer, Mr. Yogendra Jain VP North East, Mr. Haresh Shah VP Mid East, Dr. Deepika Dalal South East, Mr. Uday Jain VP South West, Dr. Manish Mehta VP Mid West, Mr. Rajen Dhami VP West, and Mrs. Lata Champsee Past President.*

*JAINA 2011 Convention Board Members posing with Jain Society of Houston volunteers.*



# Jain Diaspora meet emphasizes greater communication and collaboration

By Dr. Manish Mehta

Chairman, JAINA Diaspora Committee

At the 16th Biennial JAINA Convention in Houston from July 1 to 4, nearly 3,000 Jains from North America, India and other countries availed of many opportunities to learn and reinforce their knowledge of Jain Way of Life by listening to lectures by Jain religious and academic scholars.

The Jain Diaspora Conference is also held at each JAINA Convention since 2007, attracting Jain community leaders from several countries where significant populations of Jains reside. JAINA is leveraging its brand, key UN and NGO relationships and social media technologies to organize and facilitate an intercontinental network of global Jain community leaders committed to a better world. This year, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Manish Mehta (JAINA's Vice-President for Midwest USA), a dozen community and business leaders gathered to identify common needs, share best practices, and synthesize collaborative solutions to address concerns, ranging from instilling common Jain identity in new Diasporic generations, to promoting awareness of non-violence and interfaith harmony on the world stage, as well as to broaden participation in humanitarian, environmental and disaster relief programs in affected countries including India. The long-term



objective is to create an integrated platform to share, celebrate and advance JAINA's vision of The Global Jain – an individual committed to making a positive difference in the world.

The 2011 Jain Diaspora Conference was held on July 3, attracting a large audience to hear multi-media presentations and talks by visiting community leaders such as:

\* **Dr. Devendra R. Mehta** (Founder and Chief Patron of Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Sahayata Samiti, Jaipur): Using a multi-media presentation, he spoke of the tremendous success and potential of a family of low-cost prosthetic limbs and joints promoted worldwide since the 1970s as Jaipur Foot, which has benefitted free-of-cost nearly 1.4 million sufferers of polio, landmine explosions, and



Shanti Muttha, with microphone, and Shri Dilip V Shah, Past JAINA President, responding to questions from the audience, as other panelists look on (from left): Dr DR Mehta, Dr. Natubhai Shah, Nirmal K. Sethi Jain, and Shri Kamlesh C. Mehta.

other amputees by changing their lives for the better and enabling them to perform normal work and household duties. BMVSS is now collaborating with Stanford University to help improve and implement the new Jaipur Knee so as to benefit the masses world over. Dr. Mehta was honored by JAINA.

\* **Dr. Natubhai K. Shah** (Chairman of Jain Network, London), who was the main force in the development of the Jain Center of Leicester in the 1980s, and is now involved in developing a new Jain Center in London for the welfare of UK's Jains while making an impact on the mainstream and politicians in the UK. He shared the plans for establishing a multi-purpose Jain temple and community center in London that makes innovative use of social entrepreneurship to become self-sustaining.

\* **Nirmal Kumar Sethi Jain** (President of All India Digambar Jain Mahasabha, New Delhi): In a spirited speech he emphasized five areas where Jains need to be united and work closely with the Indian Government: (a) Preservation of Jain antiquities, artifacts and temples which are in disrepair; (b) Recognition of the distinct religious identity of Jains as separately evolved from Hinduism; (c) Need for greater research in Jain history to create a strong body of religious and cultural texts; (d) Empowerment of women, youth and weaker sections of Jain society through education so as to encourage greater civic engagement; and (e) Making the Jain community strong and influential despite its small numerical strength (there are about 5 million Jains amongst India's 1.2 billion population), by obtaining minority status in more Indian states than the present 11 states.

\* **Shantilal G. Muttha** (Founder and Chairman of Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana, Pune): India is witnessing a quantum jump in issues like decline in values and resultant increase in traits of arrogance, aggression, intolerance and violence among children, as

well as declining sex ratio among Indian Jains, problems of match-making, divorces, etc, which prevents rural Jains from finding suitable matches given the decrease in number of girls, education, nuclear family etc. He said these problems will increase manifold in the coming decades. BJS has scientifically researched, designed, developed and implemented practical, replicable modules to address these issues for the last 26 years with substantial results following the Jain way of life. Some of these modules are being plugged into government systems on an experimental basis. Muttha and BJS were recognized at the Convention.

\* **Mahendra and Asha Mehta** (Founder of Ratna Nidhi Trust, Mumbai): Shri Mehta was unable to attend the Diaspora Conference, but his contributions to advancing humanitarian projects in India, Africa and some Asian countries through partnership with JAINA and other NGOs were recognized.

\* **Kamlesh C. Mehta** (Founder and publisher of The South Asian Times as well as a serial entrepreneur) challenged North American Jains to more visibly promote and disseminate fundamental Jain teachings and moral/spiritual/ethical values such as Ahimsa, multiplicity of viewpoints and non-attachment to mainstream business and social communities across America and the world. He felt that ancient Jain principles are more relevant today than ever in guiding the world to follow the high moral and ethical road.

\* **Stephanie Londono**, a recent graduate of classes taught by Jain Samanijis at Florida International University (which hosts the US' first Bhagwan Mahavir Endowed Professorship in Jain Studies): Stephanie showed excerpts of a new YouTube documentary she prepared after interviewing over a dozen Jain business and industry leaders about how they incorporate Jain ethics in their business enterprises.

Continued on page 23...



Members of the second discussion panel at the Jain Diaspora Conference, (from left): Harnish Jani, Dr. Mamta Shaha, Lata Champsee (JAINA President), Dr. Manish Mehta (Chair of JAINA Diaspora Committee), Namrata Lisa Abrams, Nirali Becky Kleinschmidt, Dr. Vidula Bavishi and Dr. Mukesh Bavishi.

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# Anti-graft bill: The corrupt are afraid

By Arvind Kejriwal  
and Kiran Bedi

It is being alleged that the jan lokpal will become a parallel government — since it would not come under the government — and will be a threat to parliamentary democracy. Both these assumptions are wrong. The government will remain powerful. The jan lokpal will only keep a check on it from becoming arbitrary, unjust and corrupt.

Several independent institutions such as the Supreme Court, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), the Chief Election Commission (CEC), the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the Chief Information Commission (CIC) already exist. Some of these institutions were created through law and some through the Constitution. Are they parallel governments or a threat to democracy? No. Similarly, the jan lokpal will be one such independent institution. Instead of being a threat to democracy, it will be a threat to the corrupt.

Another important question that is being asked is this: who would be the jan lokpal accountable to? To answer this, we must see who are the existing independent institutions accountable to. What can a citizen do if a judge, the CAG, CEC, CIC or CVC is corrupt? He can do nothing. In some cases, Parliament can impeach the wrongdoers. But despite strong and credible evidence of corruption in so many cases, no one has been impeached in the last 62



*When Anna Hazare sat on a fast for the lokpal bill, he received tremendous support from the people. The government hopes that its misinformation campaign will decrease his popularity.*

years.

Compare this with the level of accountability provided in the Jan Lokpal Bill. It will be directly accountable to the citizens, as per the drafted provisions, contrary to the one provided by the government's bill. Under the people's bill, an ordinary citizen can complain against a jan lokpal member to the Supreme Court. And if found guilty, the court can remove the member. The Supreme Court will also have the power to punish complainants who make frivolous or malicious complaints...

What if the jan lokpal staff becomes corrupt? We had suggested several measures to address this issue like complete transparency in the lokpal's functioning, an independent complaints authority to receive complaints against the lokpal staff, time-bound investigation of complaints against the staff and their summary removal if found guilty, social audits, annual financial and performance audits by CAG, annual performance appraisal by a parliamentary committee. The government has rejected all these proposals, thus ensuring that there

are very high chances of the government's lokpal turning corrupt.

It is also being alleged that the jan lokpal is a 'Frankenstein's monster'. Barring powers to recommend dismissal of a corrupt officer, no other power has been suggested for the lokpal that is not already vested in the CBI. The lokpal would obviously need these powers if he has to do any worthwhile investigation. Vested interests want a weak and ineffective lokpal. We should demand a strong lokpal but with adequate checks and balances. In contrast, the government is offering us just the opposite.

It is being alleged that if the lokpal has jurisdiction over the PM, judges, MPs and officers, it will become a superpower. This is wrong.

An income tax officer has powers to scrutinize the returns of the chief justice of India, the prime minister, the president, ministers and MPs. He even has powers to impose taxes and penalties on them. Does that mean that he will become a superpower? No. Likewise, an investigative officer in the lokpal would only — and only — investigate any allegation of corruption against these authorities.

When Anna Hazare sat on a fast for the lokpal bill, he received tremendous support from the people. The government hopes that its misinformation campaign will decrease his popularity. People should guard against such propaganda because it is only being done to protect vested interests and will hurt the general public.

*(Arvind Kejriwal and Kiran Bedi are part of Team Anna Hazare.)*

## Passport rule relaxation welcomed by NRIs

By Kul Bhushan

Rules regarding surrender of Indian passports upon acquisition of US citizenship, introduced by India's Ministry of External Affairs in May 2010, have been relaxed from June 1, 2011 after strong pressure by NRIs.

Indian consulates charged US\$175 as fee for the surrender of old Indian passports and additional penalties for various "violations". Now the fee is reduced to just \$20.

The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO International) welcomed this step in a statement received in New Delhi. GOPIO had expressed strong objections and collected over 30,000 petitions and sent its objections with the petitions to the Prime Minister of India.

A statement issued by GOPIO chairman Inder Singh said, "Nevertheless, the removal of burdensome procedures and fees on Indians who became citizens of other countries was not addressed in a coherent, consistent and equitable way.

As a result, during the last one



year alone, there have been demonstrations, hunger strikes and thousands of emails to the Indian consulates, GOPIO and the government of India, and yet the issue never got the full attention of the government of India for a comprehensive solution as promised."

It is heartening to know that two of the demands in the GOPIO memorandum have been accepted and have been implemented by the MEA with directives to all Indian high commissions and consulates, said the statement.

That is: (1) Elimination of surrender certificate from those who became naturalized citizens more than 10 years ago, and (2) An OCI (Overseas Citizenship of India) application need not be accompanied by an original US passport.

The MEA has issued a circular to all Indian Missions/Posts that says, "(i) Registration of surrender certificate: Since visa and other applicants (for consular services) of Indian origin are being put to discomfort by the request for surrender certificate every time they

seek a service, all Missions/Posts have been advised to register the surrender certificate, electronically or otherwise, at the first occasion it is presented. Such a record will ensure that PIOs will no longer be required to produce the certificate on every occasion of approaching the Mission/Post for consular assistance.

(ii) 'Deemed surrender' cases: In order to deal with instances where a Person of Indian Origin was in possession of an Indian passport that expired more than 10 years ago, and where in the intervening period, he/she has acquired foreign citizenship, all Missions/Posts have been advised to treat such cases as 'Deemed surrender.'

On the production of documents showing the acquisition of foreign nationality more than 10 years ago, such persons will be issued 'deemed surrender' certificates, without causing the additional burden of producing passports which may not be in the possession of the Person of Indian Origin."

"We compliment the MEA high level delegation in accepting some of GOPIO's recommendations and

the MEA issuing the directives accordingly.

The elimination of surrender certificate requirement from people who have obtained foreign citizenship more than 10 years ago will not only stop the decline of goodwill in the Indian community for the government of India but can also reduce workload at the consulates," said Inder Singh.

"Now that the work load will be less, Indian missions in western countries and Trivandrum should finish off all the backlogs soon and make the process of getting an OCI card and entry visa to India easier for the Indian community," said Dr. Thomas Abraham, former chairman of GOPIO International, who has been involved in this issue from the beginning.

"Finally, MEA has taken some steps to remove the difficulties faced by many who became citizens of other countries and are desirous of visiting India or applying for OCI cards.

This is a welcome action that removes an undue burden on former citizens of India and improves goodwill towards India", said Ashook Ramsaran, Executive Vice President of GOPIO International.



# DK Bose lands Censor Board in trouble

Giving a go ahead to the Delhi Belly song DK Bose seems to have landed the censor board in a lot of trouble. Though producer Aamir Khan and actor Imran Khan are happy about the decision, the masses aren't.

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry and the Censor Board have been receiving letters from the angry masses demanding an 'explanation' for having passed a song with a word that sounds obscene when played in loop.

Surprisingly, it was the sole decision of the CEO of the censor board, Pankaja Thakur to give the song a go ahead. No



Actor Imran Khan in a still from the song DK Bose.

other member of the committee was present for the screening of the same, informed a source. "It is enough to have just one member present for any screening," the source added.

Now, this decision has sparked off more than just controversies within the industry. A source close to the censor board informed, "Parents are really angry with the song. It's a part of trailers that are screened in theatres along with U certified films, though Delhi Belly itself has received an A certification. It's also running on national television."

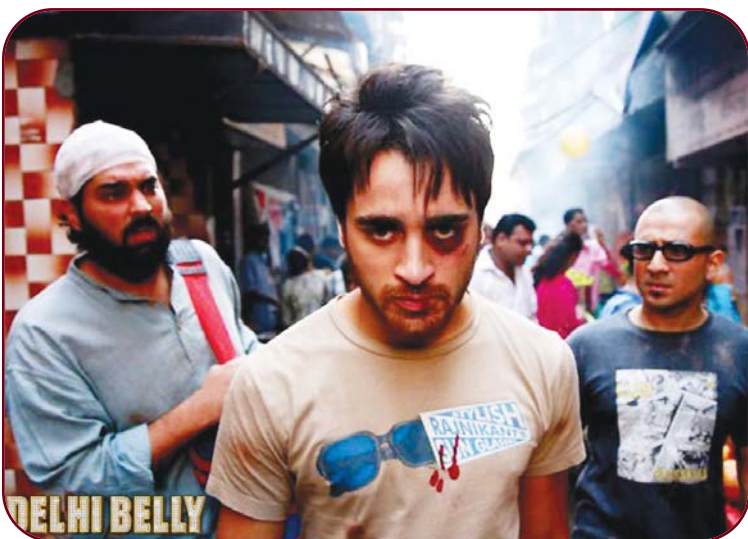
The CEO of the censor board, Pankaja Thakur seemingly,

remains impervious to such widespread dissatisfaction. When contacted, she said, "The I&B Ministry sent us a complaint that was filed on their website.

And we have replied back. And yes, we have also received a few complaints from people. But that's okay. We even received objections to Sheila Ki Jawaani (Tees Maar Khan) and Munni Badnaam Hui (Dabangg) as well."

Aamir's spokesperson defended, "DK Bose is just a name. Some people are capable of seeing abusive language in everything. It depends on how your mind works. We can't help it."

## 'Delhi Belly' - Wicked voice of new India



A scene from Delhi Belly.

It is a cliché as old as this nation - of the many Indias that breathe under one India, Indian cinema has hardly been representative of even a few of these. Yet, one would have expected, after globalization and the emergence of a new bold, urban India, that at least this class would get representation in commercial cinema.

Though there have been successful attempts in the past, it is with "Delhi Belly" that the urban, money-is-everything, foul-mouthed India has been captured with aplomb. And that, depending upon your morality, is good or bad.

Tashi (Imran Khan), a Delhi-based journalist living filthily with two roommates, winds up with a bunch of 'desi' goons chasing him and his mates after a mix-up. The three are forced to navigate the dark underbelly to survive, while encountering one situation after another and one idiosyncratic Indian after another.

The beauty of Abhinav Deo's film is not its smooth story, loosely inspired by the type of films made famous by Guy Ritchie, 'Lock Stock..' and 'Snatch' among others,

neither is it Ram Sampath's catchy music that beats to the rhythm of the film, or the slick, seamless direction, or its immaculate casting and performance or even its wickedly witty dialogues.

The true beauty of the film is in all these elements together creating a madcap image of a new, unabashed, even shameless section of India.

Though Delhi is referred to in its title, it is not the real Delhi that Dibakar Banerjee captures with satirical reality in his films. Instead, it is the image of a Delhi populated by young, educated, newly 'liberated' urbanites. In that it is the splitting image of that young urban India anywhere perpetually churning like the stomach of a character in the film, a showcasing of this nation's new neo-liberal underbelly.

However, the other Indias might not take kindly to the film. Hypocritical Indians okay with female infanticide and dowry would be aghast at how almost every 'bad' word that they know is spoken everywhere on the streets and in homes, finds a place in the usually moralistic Bollywood.

## Aamir Khan embarrasses Ashutosh

Ten years have passed and nobody knew that the Lagaan director Ashutosh Gowariker was not too keen on Amitabh Bachchan's booming voice to narrate his magnum opus that created history in Bollywood and found entry at the Academy Awards as well.

It was revealed only at the celebration of the completion of 10 years of the film recently and one saw Ashutosh going red with embarrassment.

The reason being Ashutosh's good pal and Lagaan's producer and lead actor Aamir disclosed this in the presence of Big B who was sitting right next to the director on the stage and had to face the questioning look of the towering personality.

The story goes that Aamir was



Aamir and Ashutosh: The hit pair of Lagaan.

very keen on having Amitabh as the narrator. He had no doubts about it. Without any discussion with his director, Aamir approached senior actor who agreed to do it immediately. For him to have an idea what the film was all about, Aamir showed Amitabh (and Jaya) the rough cut without the climax. But Ashutosh completely refused to have his voice for the film and made Aamir go back to Amitabh and tell him that.

Hesitatingly Aamir went back to Bachchan who gracefully accepted the change.

But again after two months Ashutosh changed his mind and decided to have Bachchan's voice for the narration. And poor Aamir had to do the dirty work once again. He went to Bachchan who said yes to Aamir.

## RGV lodges complaint against Hindu groups

Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma has decided to lodge a complaint against BJP's youth wing after latter threatened filmmakers and television channels against casting Kannada actress Maria Monica Susairaj, who was convicted for the murder of a television executive.

"Am on my way to Oshiwara police station to lodge a complaint against BJP Yuva Morcha president for threatening me with dire consequences (sic)," the director posted on the microblogging site Twitter.

The Mumbai units of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Shiv Sena and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) had reacted following reports that filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma wanted to hire Maria for his next film and that Susairaj could be invited to join the next season of reality show Bigg Boss.

Mumbai BJP youth wing general secretary Amit Satam had warned filmmakers and TV channels against casting Susairaj in any of their ventures.

He even threatened to unleash "Shiv Sena style"



Ram Gopal Varma: Courting trouble.

opposition in case any filmmaker or TV channel hired Susairaj.

Panase said there had been a trend to cast people with shady or criminal backgrounds on TV reality shows.



## It's the Big B through and through in 'Bbuddah...'

Folklore has it that wherever the Big B stands, the queue begins. It's time to queue up for a film that reads like a running commentary on the Bachchan legend. Blessed are the generations that get to see India's most iconic and enduring screen-hero play a variation on all his most cherished roles.

And then some more to the angry Vijay persona that the Big B created through those brilliantly-written films of Salim-Javed in the 1970 and 80s, the actor still sprightly enough to make all the bachcha-log of Bollywood look like performing midgets, adds dollops of wry cynicism that goes well with our times.

Make no mistake Telugu cinema's most successful director Puri Jagannath is not just a Bachchan fan. He's also a master storyteller.

It's a skillfully written yarn that doesn't stray into the yawn zone for even a second. Every character, even the relatively minor ones like the Bachchan's landlady who



Amitabh in a still from the movie 'Bbuddah...'

Though the narration seems to leap before it looks, the director actually manages to create a controlled atmosphere of plot development within the chaos of Mumbai's streets clogged with scampering gangsters, cops and their minions.

"Buddah...Hoga Tera Baap" offers a pleasurable romp into the star-power of the Big B. The rapport that his character builds up through some lovely actresses of several generations (Hema Malini, Raveena Tandon, Sonal Chauhan, Charmee) is so bloody robust and funny, you are left wondering how much of the sly subtle foxy flirtatiousness comes from the star and how much of it was there in the screenplay.

Undoubtedly well-written and directed with sure-handedness that cannot hide Puri Jagannath's boundless admiration for the Bachchan phenomenon, "Bbuddah...Hoga Tera Baap" is one of those garam-masala products that's far clever than the outward flamboyance of the main character and execution suggest.

## Ash pregnant, Bhandarkar in depression

After Heroine, his "most ambitious project", was put on the backburner indefinitely following the news of his lead actress Aishwarya Rai's pregnancy, acclaimed filmmaker

Madhur Bhandarkar says he went into depression and that he's upset that the "truth was hidden" from him. "This decision of pulling the plug had a devastating effect on me ... It was like an avalanche collapsing on me... I was in a state of total shock and depression," Bhandarkar posted on his blog recently.

The filmmaker, who has given hits like "Page 3", "Chandni Bar" and "Fashion", remained silent so far, ever since producers UTV took the decision to stall the movie for the sake of Aishwarya's health.



Bhandarkar and Aish in happier times.

"It was a collective decision of the producers of the film to pull off the plug on the current assembled project...I am still reeling in a state of shock.... But still chose to remain silent all these days; but was coerced into breaking my silence... as I realized that the truth deserved to be told," he added.

## Notice to Big B, Sony TV for insulting Netaji

The Bombay high court has issued notices to Amitabh Bachchan and Sony Television in response to a PIL which challenges a promo in Kaun Banega Crorepati claiming it has insulted and maligned the slogan 'Tum mujhe khoon do, main tumhe azadi doonga', coined by Subhash Chandra Bose.

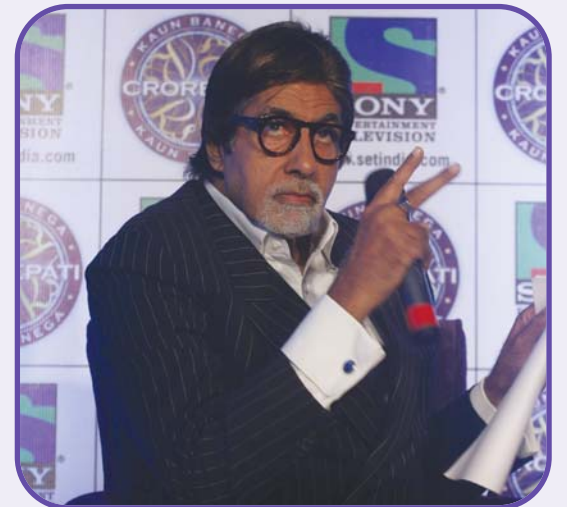
The notices were issued by Chief Justice Mohit Shah and Justice G S Godbole who asked the Bollywood actor, anchor of the show, and Sony TV Channel to file a reply by July 28.

Of the six scenes from the promo, five are insulting and derogatory to Netaji's slogan.

Some scenes in the promo show that people were unaware about the slogan and Netaji's role in freedom struggle, the PIL said.

On the sets of Kaun Banega Crorepati, Bachchan asks a child "who said this? -- You give me blood and I will give you freedom" and the child replies "just now you said it" and then stops in a confused state of mind. Bachchan tells him, "Somewhere you have heard this".

The actor then tells viewers, "Ladies and gentle-



KBC host Amitabh Bachchan.

men from the start I have been saying that any question cannot be small."

The petitioner said he was immensely hurt by the promo which is being telecast on Sony TV channel.

## Anushka engaged to Ranveer?

Anushka Sharma, who is rumored to be dating her Band Baaja Baaraat co-star Ranveer Singh, was spotted with a ring in the engagement finger at the screening of one of the recent film releases.

There were reports about a spat between Anushka and Ranveer during IIFA Awards, the reason being Ranveer's growing camaraderie with Sonakshi Sinha during rehearsals. So has Ranveer resolved her insecurities with a band on her finger?

Earlier, the duo reportedly locked lips during Shahid Kapoor's birthday bash.



Anushka-Ranveer: Time for another Band Baaja Baaraat?

However, the actor's manager denied all the reports. "Anushka isn't going around

or engaged to clear the air," the manager said. Is wedding on the cards? Time will tell!

## Marriage not troubled: Shilpa Shetty

Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty has refuted reports that her marriage is in trouble, saying that she and her husband Raj Kundra are holidaying in the US. She also says that she is not pregnant.

"First I hear am preggars. Now I hear my husband's having an affair from the press.

It is common for papers to stoop low to sensationalize false stories," Shilpa posted on her Twitter page.

There were reports that Kundra had met a gorgeous lady at a hair-transplant clinic



All's well between Raj and Shilpa.

in London and later gifted the holiday. But, the 36-year-old actress has denied the reports.



# LeT a formidable terror threat to India: US

**Washington:** The US considers Pakistan based terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taeba (LeT), held responsible for 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, as a formidable terrorist threat to Indian, US, and other Western interests in South Asia and potentially elsewhere.

In Afghanistan, the US military and NATO are committed to preventing Al Qaeda's return and disrupting any terrorist networks located there that have the ability to plan and launch transnational terrorist attacks, the White House said in its new counter-terrorism strategy.

"But even if we achieve the ultimate defeat of Al Qaeda in the Afghanistan-Pakistan theatre, an expanded and diverse network of terrorist groups determined to focus beyond their local environments is likely to persist," said the strategy essentially focused on destroying Al Qaeda.

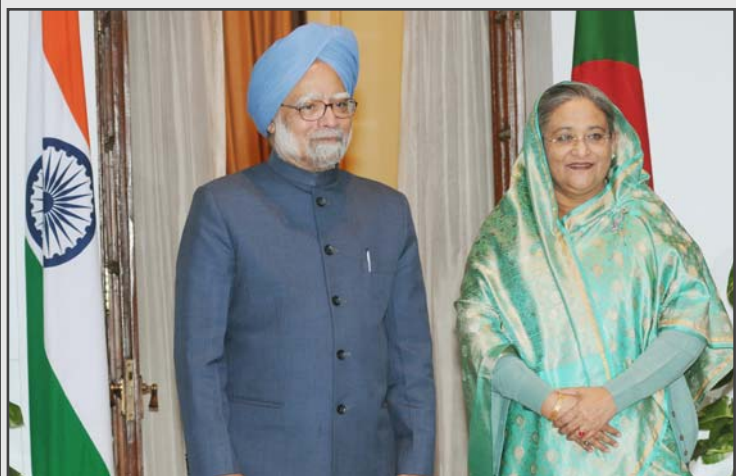


*LeT was responsible for the rampage in Mumbai that killed over 100 people.*

In South Asia LeT, "the organization responsible for the rampage in Mumbai in 2008 that killed over 100 people, including six Americans-constitutes a formidable terrorist threat to Indian, US, and other Western interests in South Asia and potentially elsewhere", it said.

US counter-terrorism efforts against LeT will continue to focus on ensuring that the group lacks the capability to conduct or support operations detrimental to US interests or regional stability, including escalating tensions between Pakistan and India, the strategy said. Much of US effort against LeT "will continue to centre on coordinating with, enabling, and improving the will and capabilities of partner nations-including in South Asia, Europe, and the Arabian Gulf-to counter the group and its terrorist activities", it said.

## Manmohan to go on 'charm Dhaka' trip



*A file photo of Indian PM Manmohan Singh with his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina.*

**New Delhi/Dhaka, July 4:** Downplaying the row over remarks of the Indian prime minister about anti-India sentiments in Bangladesh, New Delhi announced Manmohan Singh's visit to Dhaka Sept 6-7 and underlined its commitment to "forging a stronger and enduring relationship" with its eastern neighbor.

Manmohan Singh's visit is poised to be a landmark trip, during which New Delhi is expected to unveil a raft of concessions, including a further easing of textile imports, signaling a new phase in improving bilateral ties.

In New Delhi, Vishnu Prakash, the spokesperson of the external affairs ministry, disclosed the dates for the visit in a tweet on the micro-blogging site. Later, the external affairs ministry made it official, saying the Indian prime minister "would be paying an official visit to Bangladesh from Sep 6 to 7".

In Dhaka, the Bangladesh government also announced the visit, saying it "is expected to infuse fresh dynamism into the multi-faceted, multi-dimensional relationship between the two countries". "The two sides have been

working towards making the visit by the Indian Prime Minister a successful and a fruitful one," the Bangladesh government said.

The announcement of the prime minister's visit by both sides on the same day indicated their conscious effort to play down the controversy triggered by Manmohan Singh's off-the-record remarks in an interaction with Indian editors last week about 25 percent of Bangladeshis being under the influence of the "anti-Indian" Jamaat-e-Islami, a rightwing Islamist political party. These remarks created a storm in Bangladesh and were splashed in all Bangladeshi dailies.

Ahead of Manmohan Singh's visit, External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna will travel to Dhaka July 6 on a three-day trip that is expected to pacify hurt feelings in Bangladesh and set the stage for the prime minister's visit.

This will be Manmohan Singh's second visit to Dhaka. He visited Bangladesh to attend the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit in 2005. July promises to be an intense month for India's diplomatic thrusts in Bangladesh.

## ISI ordered Shahzad's killing: US



*A file photo of slain journalist Saleem Shahzad.*

**Islamabad:** Pakistan's powerful Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency had ordered the killing of Pakistani journalist Saleem Shahzad, a media report quoted US officials as saying.

New classified intelligence shows that Shahzad, who had written scathing reports about the infiltration of militants in the country's military, was killed on the directive of the ISI in an effort to silence

criticism; The New York Times reported quoting two senior officials. The 40-year-old journalist had disappeared from Islamabad May 29.

The intelligence, which several administration officials said they believed was reliable and conclusive, showed that the actions of the ISI, as it is known, were "barbaric and unacceptable", one of the officials said without disclosing fur-

ther details.

The disclosure of the information could further aggravate the badly fractured relationship between the US and Pakistan, which worsened significantly with the American commando raid two months ago that killed Osama bin Laden in a Pakistan safehouse and deeply embarrassed the Pakistani government, military and intelligence hierarchy. Another senior official said there was enough other intelligence and indicators immediately after Shahzad's death for the Americans to conclude that the ISI had ordered him killed.

Shahzad's body was retrieved from a canal 60 miles from Islamabad. The ISI publicly denied accusations in the Pakistani news media that it had been responsible, calling them "totally unfounded".

Shahzad was the 37th journalist killed in Pakistan since the 9/11 attacks, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

## Lanka frees 14 fishermen after warning

**Ramanathapuram:** The Sri Lankan navy apprehended 14 fishermen from Rameswaram mid-sea for allegedly trespassing the international maritime boundary line recently. They were, however, released after a stern warning.

Some outboard engine-fitted country boats had set out to sea from Rameswaram on recently. However, the fishermen were subsequently surrounded by the Lankan navy.

Fourteen fishermen were apprehended by the Lankan navy, which took them its country along with their country boats.

Boats' owner Kani told fisheries officials about it, who said there was a restriction on country boats on the distance they could travel



*A Sri Lankan fisherman.*

in sea.

The fishermen had gone beyond the restricted distance, despite surveillance by the Indian navy

and the Indian Coast Guard. The fishermen were released with a stern warning against trespassing into Lankan waters.



## Montblanc to take over Indian operations?

**Mumbai:** Montblanc, one of the first luxury brands to be sold in India through the organized retail format in the post liberalization period, is evaluating steps to wrest control of its Indian operations from Dilip Doshi-promoted Entrack International, its Indian distributor.

Montblanc is expected to take over the operations of the 17 stores that Entrack runs in India and enter this time through a majority-owned subsidiary. If all goes well, this could happen well before the Diwali season kicks in. Sources in the know say that Dilip Doshi, may get anywhere between \$25 and \$50 million to cede control.

Doshi, however, is expected to continue his relationship with Montblanc either through a minority stake or as an advisor. The details are currently being finalized. Doshi brought in the brand more than a decade ago and popularized the German luxury brand in India through stores in 5 star hotels. Though largely known for its pens, Montblanc also sells an entire range of products and accessories which include watches, eye wear, cuff links and leather products like belts and wallets.

Luxury retail watchers say that when a lux-



*Montblanc is expected to take over the operations of the 17 stores that Entrack International runs in India.*

ury brand in a new market moves from one business cycle to the other they are bound to change partners and acquire new ones. In 2006, Gucci entered India through a franchise agreement with Murjanis but then went on to float a subsidiary with 51 % stake, the maximum allowed for foreign companies under the single brand retail format. The luxury market, currently estimated at around \$4 billion, is growing at a compounded annual rate of 25% and is expected to touch \$14.72 billion by 2015.

## Boeing's Dreamliner will fly to India

**New Delhi:** Amid growing uncertainty whether its biggest customer in India Air India would be able to afford the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, the US aircraft major is going to fly in the aircraft to the country next week. The plane, which last Sunday made its first flight to Tokyo, will fly to Delhi and Mumbai before winging back to Boeing headquarters in Seattle, US.

AI had ordered 27 Dreamliners in 2005 as part of the 68 Boeings ordered along with IA's order for 43 Airbus. Jet with its order for 10 787s is the only other Indian customer for this plane.

While AI was supposed to be the second customer after Japan's All Nippon Airways, the national carrier's financially broke status



*The Boeing 787 Dreamliner.*

has forced the government to rethink over what to do with Dreamliner order that will cost around \$4 billion.

Among the options available to the government for the Dreamliners, which were supposed to start joining AI in 2008 but have

been delayed by over three years, are either deferment or cancellation.

Boeing now says the aircraft delivery to AI will begin by this year-end, continue for three to four years and that the national carrier will get compensation for the delay.

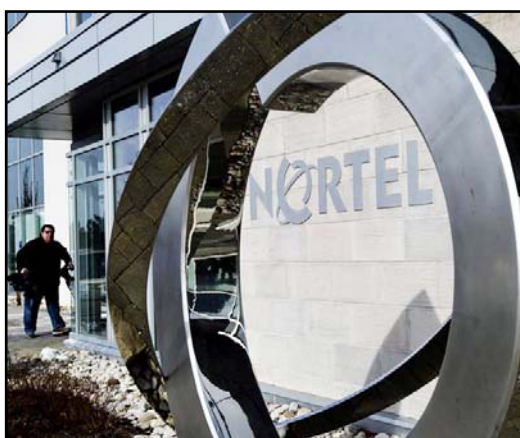
## Google suffers in Nortel patent loss

**Toronto:** Google, which initiated the bidding war for precious Nortel patents in April, has suffered a huge blow with an Apple-led consortium walking away with 6,000 patents for \$4.5 billion last week.

The bidding process for 6,000 patents and patent applications began in April, with Google offering a \$900-million stalking horse bid. Apart from Apple, BlackBerry maker Research In Motion (RIM), Microsoft, Ericsson, Sony and EMC make up the winning consortium.

According to analysts, the patent auction is a big blow to Google as the search engine was willing to pay any price to beef up its bank of patents - which is the smallest among major wireless players.

As Google is also involved in



*An Apple-led consortium won 6,000 Nortel patents for \$4.5 billion.*

more than 45 patent lawsuits - the biggest against any major player - it wanted Nortel patents badly to protect itself against such lawsuits in the future.

Since Nortel-patented technology is used in RIM's BlackBerry, Apple's iPhone and Google Android smart phones, the buyer of these patents now get the rights to license this technology to secure royalties and gain market influence in the multi-trillion-dollar technology field.

## FDI inflow to India at \$4.66 bn

**New Delhi:** Inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) in India surged 111 percent to \$4.66 billion in May, the second highest monthly equity inflow in 11 years, as the government reiterates its commitment to liberalize norms, official data showed.

The total FDI inflows in the first two months of the current fiscal rose to \$7.78 billion as compared to \$4.39 billion in the corresponding period of last year, registering a growth of 77 percent.

"There has been a continuing and sustained effort

to make the FDI policy more liberal and investor-friendly. Significant rationalization and simplification of the policy has, therefore, been carried out in the recent past," the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement. Recent investments are an indicator of this positive trend, it said.

The proposed tie-up between British Petroleum (BP) and Reliance Industries, with a likely FDI of over \$7 billion, could possibly be the single largest FDI into the emerging market.

## Apple pushes BlackBerry to third spot

**Toronto:** There is more bad news for slipping BlackBerry maker Research In Motion (RIM). According to the latest smartphone market data, BlackBerry is at third place as Google Android and Apple iPhone have further increased their share in the US.

Market research leader ComScore reported Tuesday that Google Android devices have carved out as much as 38.1 percent of the market share during the past three months.

During this period ending May, Google Android ranked as the top operating system with 38.1 per-



cent of US smartphone subscribers, up 5.1 percent, ComScore said. Apple bumped BlackBerry from number two position with 26.6 percent of the market share, up 1.4 percent.

BlackBerry was relegated to the third rank with 24.7 percent, slipping 4.2 percent during the period. The share of Microsoft also shrank to 5.8 percent, down almost two percent, the report said.

RIM is currently valued at about \$14 billion, down from \$83 billion in June 2008 when its stock touched the \$150-mark.

## Jain Diaspora Meet

*Continued from page 18*

\* **Harnish Jani**, a popular writer and narrator, delivered a talk on behalf of Shri Ratilal K. Chandaria, Chairman of Institute of Jainology, London. He highlighted the visionary contributions of Shri Chandaria, patriarch of a large family scattered in a dozen countries, in developing and deploying the Gujarati Lexicon - an online translator, guide and tool for

accelerating the learning of 4.5 million Gujarati words. The Lexicon is ideal for diaspora Gujaratis who want to learn their mother-tongue in a fun and entertaining manner. IOJ was presented a JAINA Presidential Award at the Convention.

\* **Dr. Mukesh Bavishi** (a leading gynecologist and cancer surgeon from Ahmedabad), described the use of 'stitchless surgeries' pioneered by him and his wife Dr. Vidula Bavishi to resolve critical

health and other socially challenging conditions (often arising from crimes committed against mentally handicapped women) pervasive in rural populations of India.

\* **Namrata Lisa Abrams and Nirali Becky Kleinschmidt**, office-bearers of Lighthouse Center, Ann Arbor, MI) described the activities of nearly 100 non-Jain individuals who have adopted the Jain Way of Life and vegan diets to practice Jain meditation and healing tech-

niques as taught by Jain Acharyas Gurudev Chitrabhanu and Pramoda Chitrabhanu.

\* **Dr Mamta Shaha**, Founder and Chair of JAINA Media Publications Committee: She announced the achievement of a milestone of the first 100 complete Mangalam TV episodes on YouTube and encouraged Jain NGOs and temple congregations to be more proactive in reaching out to help the communities they reside in.



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TheSouthAsianTimes.info

## US warns of terror attacks on airlines

**Washington:** The US government has warned domestic and international airlines that some terrorists are considering surgically implanting explosives into humans to carry out attacks, according to sources.

There is no intelligence pointing to a specific plot, but the US shared its concerns last week with executives at domestic and international carriers.

People traveling to the US from overseas may experience additional screening at airports because of the threat, according to the Transportation Security Administration. "These measures are designed to be unpredictable, so passengers should not expect to see the same activity at every international airport," TSA spokesman Nick Kimball said. "Measures may include interaction with passengers, in addition to the use of other screening methods such as pat-downs and the use of enhanced tools and technologies."

Placing explosives and explosive components inside humans to hide bombs and evade security measures is not a new idea. But there is new intelligence pointing to a fresh interest in using this tactic, a US security official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive security information.

When the US government receives information suggesting terror tactics that could threaten commercial aviation, the TSA alerts companies domestically and



*Airport security has increased markedly since 9/11.*

abroad. Last December, the US received intelligence that Al-Qaeda's Yemen branch was considering hiding explosives inside insulated beverage containers to carry them on airplanes. That warning was shared with domestic and foreign airlines so that security could be on the lookout, even though there was no specific plot.

Airport security has increased markedly since the Sept 11, 2001, terror attacks. But terrorists remain interested in attacking aviation and continue to adapt to the new security measures by trying to develop ways to circumvent them.

## Gaddafi to step down?

**Moscow:** Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi has said he would step down if his security is guaranteed, according to a Russian official.

"The colonel (Gaddafi) is sending signals that he is prepared to relinquish power in exchange for security guarantees," the unnamed Russian official told the Kommersant daily.

The Russian newspaper described him as a high-level source in the Russian leadership. France was willing to provide these guarantees, the official said. Gaddafi wants his son Saif al-Islam to be allowed to run in elections if he steps down, the Kommersant said.

The Libyan government has



*Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.*

said it was in talks with opposition leaders, but the rebels continue to demand that Gaddafi stand down and leave Libya.

The Interfax news agency quoted Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, head of the world chess federation FIDE, as saying that Gaddafi's oldest son Muhammad Gaddafi told him that Western forces were stationed in the capital Tripoli to kill the Libyan leader.

## Thousands fete Dalai Lama on birthday



*On his 76th birthday, Dalai Lama urged followers to practice compassion.*

**Washington:** Thousands of people flocked to a Washington arena to celebrate the 76th birthday of Tibet's spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, who urged followers to mark the occasion by practicing compassion.

The Verizon Center in the US capital's Chinatown was transformed into little Tibet, with vendors selling handicrafts from the Himalayan land and intricate mandalas hanging incongruously underneath advertisements for fast food.

Tibetan monks and nuns folded their hands with reverence and American supporters broke into an impromptu song of "Happy Birthday to You" as the Dalai Lama came on stage to mark the start of a 10-day ritual known as a kalachakra.

"Some people ask me for some message for my birthday celebra-

tions. I always say, the best gift to me is to practice compassion," the Dalai Lama said, advising the crowd to look into their minds and hearts.

"Happiness -- it is not money, it is not material things, it is not power," he said. "It is (inside), full of self-confidence."

Nepal, Tibet's neighbor which is eager not to upset China, banned public celebrations of the Dalai Lama's birthday, with riot police arresting three Tibetan exiles and preventing hundreds more from attending a party.

But the Dalai Lama enjoyed shows of support at his birthday party.

Desmond Tutu, South Africa's former archbishop who fought non-violently against the apartheid regime, saluted the Dalai Lama as a friend in a videotaped message.

## Dawood, LeT in Russia's terror list

**Moscow:** Russia has identified underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, and Pakistan-based terror outfits LeT, HuJI and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi as financiers of terrorism through money laundering, telling people to exercise caution while entering into financial deals.

The comprehensive list also recognizes Jamaat-ud-Dawa, led by Mumbai terror attack accused Hafiz Saeed, as a cover used by Lashkar-e-Taiba.

The list was published by the Russian government daily 'Rossiiskaya Gazeta', which said the purpose of publishing it was to help banks and general public while they are entering into normal financial and other deals, because the money launderers often use the normal channels in their activities like sale and purchase of a house.



*Underworld don Dawood Ibrahim.*

The first part of the list in English is compiled by the Russian foreign ministry on the basis of UN and other data and includes about 600 foreign companies, outfits and individuals.

The second part compiled by Russian justice ministry identifies 48 organizations and over 1,500 individuals, whose illegal activities against Russia were established in court or whose activities on Russian territory were officially terminated.

This part also names LeT, whose activities were put to an end in Russia and banned by the court order. This is for the first time Russia has put the comprehensive list of terror financiers in the public domain, albeit, the list of organizations and individuals under suspicion of money laundering to finance terrorism will remain classified, Rossiiskaya Gazeta writes.

## Iran test fires surface-to-sea missiles



*Iranian revolutionary Guards personnel, foreground, watch the launch of a Zelzal missile outside the city of Qom.*

**Tehran:** Iran has successfully test-fired several anti-ship missiles at sea as part of a 10-day military exercise that began last week.

State news reports say the country's elite Revolutionary Guards fired two missiles capable of hitting targets at a distance of 300 kilometers and a third "land-to-sea" missile with a range of up to 200 kilometers. The reports say the tests took place on Wednesday (July 6) near the port city of Bandar Jask in an area close to the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran says the military exercises, which ended Wednesday, were designed to preserve the country's "readiness against enemy strikes."

The United States and other Western nations suspect Iran is planning to build nuclear warheads for its missiles. Iran says its missiles are conventional and designed for the nation's protection.



## Doping shame: Four NIS officials removed

**Patiala/New Delhi:** A day after Sports Minister Ajay Maken vowed to clean up the system in the wake of the doping scandal, heads have started rolling. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) removed four officials of the National Institute of Sports (NIS) in Patiala.

SAI's executive director L.S. Ranawat said steps are being taken to make NIS drug-free. The local administration also cracked the whip, sleuths of the state drugs authority conducting surprise raids at medical stores near the NIS campus.

Earlier, the sports ministry, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) indulged in a blamegame over rampant doping after Ukrainian coach Yuri Ogorobonik, who trained six of the eight athletes who tested positive, was sacked.

Sports Minister Maken held former AFI president Suresh Kalmadi and secretary general Lalit Bhanot responsible for the mess the sport is in. Stand-in IOA president Vijay Kumar Malhotra took exception to the minister's remark and blamed the Sports Authority of India (SAI) which is responsible for the appointment of coaches and doctors. On his part, AFI chief M.L. Dogra



*Sini Jose, Mandeep Kaur, Manjeet Kaur and Ashwini C. Akkunji after winning the gold in Women's 4 x 400m Relay Final at the 16th Asian Games Guangzhou 2010.*

refused to accept that training in Ukraine was the sole reason for the doping cases.

Maken, at a hurriedly called media conference in the morning, ordered the firing of Ukrainian coach Yuri Ogorobonik and instituted a high-level inquiry into the entire

unsavory episode, and Malhotra blamed the ministry for not acting swiftly when the first doping case surfaced and the IOA complained to the government.

Ogorobonik, who is in Patiala, told the electronic media that he was being framed as

he has never prescribed any steroids to the athletes.

"Every athlete has their food supplement plan. I have not given any anabolic steroids. I am a professional. I have prohibited these substances 20 years ago. It is a bad anabolic. I am not stupid to advise these substances to athletes. I am being set up," said the Ukrainian, who has been associated with the Indian athletics for over a decade.

The National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) asked the dope tainted athletes to submit their food supplements for testing as they claimed innocence.

Ranawat said a first information report (FIR) has been filed to initiate action against local chemists, who were selling banned drugs without prescriptions. Ranawat also said that Ukrainian coach Yuri Ogorodnik, who has been sacked, has been asked to stay on in the country to complete investigations.

Indian sports was rocked by eight athletes testing positive for banned drugs. India's golden girls Sini Jose, Mandeep Kaur and Ashwini Akkunji, who won gold medals in the 4x400 meters relay in the Commonwealth and Asian Games, along with five other athletes have flunked dope tests conducted by WADA and NADA.

## Rain wrecks Windsor Park Test debut



*Members of the Indian cricket team at Windsor's Park.*

**Roseau (Dominica):** West Indies were offered temporary reprieve in the third and final cricket Test against India after persistent rain wrecked Windsor Park's inauguration.

The hosts found themselves in an all-too-familiar position having been sent in to bat, reaching 75 for three in their first innings, after rain allowed just 31.1 overs on the opening day at Test cricket's newest outpost.

The weather interrupted about 15 minutes after West Indies continued from their lunch-time total of 64 for three, and the players never returned to the field.

To the rich applause of a modest crowd, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, becoming the most capped player for West Indies with 133 Tests, joined fellow left-hander Darren Bravo about 45 minutes before

lunch.

They were still together after the interval, when the rain swept across the ground, adding 40 - unbroken - for the fourth wicket, and both getting into their stride with crisp drives through the covers off Praveen Kumar.

West Indies had run into trouble early again, Ishant Sharma undermining their feeble top-order batting before lunch with two wickets for 23 runs from eight overs.

The lanky Sharma, the most successful of all bowlers in the series, has now taken 18 wickets over the three matches.

The hosts decision to give left-hander Kieran Powell and middle-order batsman Kirk Edwards their Test debuts failed to bring stability to their batting, and West Indies soon sunk to 35 for three inside the first one and a half hours.

## Sangakkara slams Lankan cricket board

**London:** Sri Lanka's senior batsman Kumar Sangakkara has lashed out at the cricket administration back home, saying their "corrupt" practices have tarnished the image of the sport in the island nation.

Sangakkara said the loyal fans in Sri Lanka are becoming increasingly disillusioned.

Sangakkara, while delivering the MCC Spirit of Cricket Lecture at the historic Lord's Monday, made startling claims about the dirty board politics prevailing in Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) that, he said, has also involved the players from time to time. The stylish southpaw, who resigned from captaincy after the 2011 World Cup, chose the occasion also to inform the audience about the history of Sri Lankan cricket, its "most powerful moment of unity" in 1996 when they won their maiden World Cup crown and how sport, if run properly, can be a tool of reconciliation between the Tamil and Sinhala community after



*Kumar Sangakkara.*

the end of a 30-year-old civil war.

"After 1996 the cricket board has been controlled and administered by a handful of well-meaning individuals either personally or by proxy, rotated in and out, depending on appointment or election," said Sangakkara. "Unfortunately, to consolidate and perpetuate their power, they opened the door of the administration to partisan cronies that

would lead to corruption and wanton waste of cricket board finances and resources."

Sangakkara's comments came after Sri Lanka's sports ministry dissolved the SLC's interim committee last week following allegations of financial mismanagement against it during the last World Cup which Sri Lanka co-hosted alongside India and Bangladesh.

## Novak's win good for tennis: Federer

**Bern:** Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic's rise to become the top-ranked player in the world is good for tennis, according to the only player who has beaten him this year.

Roger Federer said that Djokovic - whose record is 48-1 in 2011 - has earned his success.

"He deserves to become No 1 after an immense start to the year," said third-ranked Federer, who defeated the 24-year-old Serb in the French Open semifinals. "When you lose so rarely, your confidence carries you a long way."

The 29-year-old Federer said it wasn't a big surprise that Djokovic dethroned Rafael Nadal after having beaten the former top-ranked Spaniard in four previous finals in 2011.

"And he's proved before at Wimbledon that he can play on grass," Federer said ahead of this weekend's Switzerland's Davis Cup tie against Portugal. "It's



*Novak Djokovic with Wimbledon trophy.*

good for tennis that it happened."

Federer lost in the quarter-finals to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France. The five-set defeat was the first time he wasted a two-set lead in a Grand Slam singles match, and just the third such reverse in his career.



July 9-15, 2011

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

# Parsi community has created modern India: Amitav Ghosh

**New Delhi:** The Parsi community is an amazing pool of talent, having created modern India as we know it, says one of the country's foremost novelists and chronicler Amitav Ghosh, who tails his Parsi protagonist, Bombay merchant Bahramji Naurozji Modi to China in his new novel, "River of Smoke" - the second book in the Ibis trilogy.

The first book of the trilogy, "Sea of Poppies", a saga of migration of indentured laborers from Kolkata aboard the Ibis in the early 19th century and India's early opium trade, was shortlisted for the Man Booker prize in 2008.

"The number of Parsis in the country has dwindled and the reasons are perhaps well-known. But the Parsis continue to be one of the most illustrious communities in India.

After all, our ruling family is Parsi, some of the biggest industrial houses are Parsi, leading lawyers, doctors and professionals are Parsi. It is an amazing pool of talent," Ghosh said.

"They (Parsis) have essentially created modern India - as we know it. Who introduced cricket into India? The Parsis. Who invented the style of singing and dancing in India that is now Bollywood? It was the Parsis," the 55-year-old writer said.



Ghosh said, "To a quite significant degree, Mumbai was a Parsi city, formed and shaped with the Parsi world view which is reflected in the incredible number of philanthropic institutions in Mumbai".

"It is something we don't have in Kolkata," he said.

The writer, who has won the Sahitya Akademi award, is known for research-based fiction and non-fiction like "The Hungry Tide", "The Shadow Lines", "The Circle of Reason", "The Calcutta Chromosome" and "The Glass Palace".

He was honored with the Padma Shri in 2007.

Ghosh's novel, "River of

Smoke", which picks up its thread from his earlier book, "Sea of Poppies", is built around India's opium trade with China, the Opium wars, the fortunes of a medley of people who had boarded a ship, Ibis, carrying indentured laborers from Calcutta to Mauritius and a botanist in search of the elusive Golden Camellia blossom in China.

China is important in Ghosh's novel.

"I am following the life of a character like in the first book. Canton (Guangzhou) - is where he (Bahram) made so much money, came into his own and received his inspiration," he said.

"Exactly in this period of time I

*"The number of Parsis in the country may have dwindled but they continue to be one of the most illustrious communities in India. After all, our ruling family is Parsi, some of the biggest industrial houses are Parsi, leading lawyers, doctors and professionals are Parsi."*



—Amitav Ghosh, who tails his Parsi protagonist, Bahramji Naurozji Modi to China in his new novel, "River of Smoke"

described (1839) at least six or seven major Bombay merchants were traveling regularly to Canton. Their letters, public statements and many joint letters they signed are available - there is nothing obscure about it," Ghosh said.

The writer said in many ways, China was just like India.

"Wherever you see a banyan tree, someone will build a little shrine, every shop has a 'pooja ghar' (prayer room) - it is just like India," he said.

The writer said one of the most remarkable things in China "was the participation of women at every level of the labor force - as truck drivers, as taxi drivers, as

shopkeepers".

The writer, who shares a deep connect with Kolkata where he spent his holidays as a child, said the long reign of the CPI-M had put Kolkata behind on the progress map.

"Their approach was ham-fisted, antediluvian and in the end they ended up dividing the state and leading it with an incredible burden of debt. They did do a couple of good things like land reforms. But for the city (Kolkata), they had no vision, no interest," he said.

"Let us hope there is a fresh wind blowing through Kolkata. It won't be easy to change a place like Kolkata overnight," he said.

## Train to Pakistan - a journey not so pleasant

**Jodhpur:** It's Sunday morning. The Bhagat ki Kothi railway station here is ready to receive its weekly train from Pakistan. Stall owners outside are stocked with food and drinks of all hues and tints; they know the 250-odd passengers must be hungry and thirsty.

Unlike the better known Samjhauta Express that links Lahore and Delhi, the Thar Express — named after the vast expanse of desert on both sides of the frontier — is being termed a "torture train" by frequent travelers. Connecting the desert town of Jodhpur to Sindh province in Pakistan, thirst is not the only problem for the passengers here - the more pressing issue, they say, is harassment by customs officials.

There are two broad categories of people traveling to India from Pakistan. Those who come for pilgrimage and those on personal visits. It is generally the latter who are at the receiving end, they say, of the customs.

The journey itself is no easy one.

Leaving Karachi at 11 p.m. every Friday, the train's scheduled arrival in Jodhpur is 9.30 p.m. Saturday.

But thanks to marathon customs checks on both sides of the border (passengers say it is more intense in India), the train doesn't make it to Jodhpur before 7 a.m. Sunday - a good 10 hours late.

That makes it a 32-hour journey for a dis-



*Unlike the better known Samjhauta Express between Lahore and Delhi, the Thar Express — connecting Jodhpur to Sindh province in Pakistan— is being termed a "torture train" by frequent travelers.*

tance of no more than 700 km, which should not consume more than 12 hours normally.

Why the delay?

In the words of harried passengers, Indian officials strip open each and every bag "in search of articles on which custom duty could be levied".

Fateh Singh, half of whose family lives in Pakistan, describes one such incident on his recent return to India.

"There was a woman coming to India to get her three daughters married. The customs confiscated all their gift packs, saris, jewelry, gold and asked for a 35 percent tax to get it freed... How can you expect someone to pay

that kind of money?"

Added Raghvir Singh Sodha, who migrated to Jodhpur from Pakistan only a decade ago:

"Though the government gives visa extension to tourists for marriages, when they come here, they confiscate their wedding trousseau."

Rajputs often travel to India for bride/groom hunting as most Rajputs living in Pakistan are part of extended families — and they can't marry among themselves.

Sodha narrates another incident.

"A man was migrating to India after selling off his land in Pakistan. His Rs.8 lakh worth of gold was taken away at the customs and he got back gold worth only Rs.3.5 lakh after 35 percent custom duty and a penalty of 15 percent. Now, how will he start life anew?"

Then there's Khoob Chand who alleges that his relative's 'mangalsutra' was cut open to see if it was 24-carat gold.

"The tax is on the gold you carry, it is not to be applied on the jewelry you wear. Do they do the same thing at airports?" Khoob Chand rued "It's only because we are poor and helpless that they do this."

A journey from Jodhpur to Karachi costs around Rs.450. For six months, the Indian train crosses over the border and the Pakistani train does that for the other six months.

The train's scheduled departure from

Bhagat ki Kothi is Friday 10.30 p.m.; passengers are told to assemble at the station-turned fortress at 9 p.m, but the train rarely departs before 1.30 a.m.

There is no water or food supply in the train; the luggage is kept in a separate coach. After loading passengers from Jodhpur, the train does not make any single halt until Munabao, the Indian checkpost near the border. Though there are food stalls at the Munabao station, they run out of stock in no time.

Add to that the dry desert heat and the intense security checks and it is clear why the passengers feel violated. The immigration checks, the passengers say, are more orderly and efficient.

While these checks go on, the train changes platform for onward journey. Once in Pakistani territory, passengers from India shift to the Pakistani train.

The train service, suspended during the 1965 India-Pakistan war, reopened service in February 2006, making it the second bilateral rail link.

Passengers say the situation was not always like this. "It has worsened over the last one year," says Sodha. Some cases of smuggling of fake currency notes had been reported in the past.

*(Some names have been changed on request.)*



# Why Exercise Makes Us Feel Good

Why does exercise make us happy and calm? Almost everyone agrees that it generally does, a conclusion supported by research. A survey by Norwegian researchers published this month, for instance, found that those who engaged in any exercise, even a small amount, reported improved mental health compared with Norwegians who, despite the tempting nearness of mountains and fjords, never got out and exercised. A separate study, presented last month at the annual meeting of the American College of Sports Medicine, showed that six weeks of bicycle riding or weight training eased symptoms in women who'd received a diagnosis of anxiety disorder. The weight training was especially effective at reducing feelings of irritability. But just how, at a deep, cellular level, exercise affects anxiety and other moods has been difficult to pin down. The brain is physically inaccessible and dauntingly complex. But a recent animal study from researchers at the National Institute of Mental Health provides some intriguing new clues into how exercise intertwines with emotions, along with the soothing message that it may not require much physical activity to provide lasting emotional resilience.

For the experiment, researchers at the institute gathered two types of male mice. Some



were strong and aggressive; the others were less so. The alpha mice got private cages. Male mice in the wild are territorial loners. So when then the punier mice were later slipped into the same cages as the aggressive rodents, separated only by a clear partition, the big mice acted like thugs. They employed every animal intimidation technique and, during daily, five-minute periods when the partition was removed, had to be restrained from harming the smaller mice, which, in the face of such treatment, became predictably twitchy and submissive.

After two weeks of cohabitation, many of these weaker mice were nervous wrecks. When the researchers tested them in a series of stressful situations away from the cages, the mice responded with, as the scientists call it, "anxiety-like behavior." But that was not true for a subgroup of mice that had been allowed access to running wheels and nifty, exploratory tubes in their cages for several weeks before they were housed with the aggressive mice. These mice, although wisely submissive when confronted by the bullies, rallied nicely when away from them. They didn't freeze or cling to dark spaces in unfamiliar situations. They explored. They appeared to be, Dr. Lehmann said, "stress-resistant."

"In people, we know that repeated applications of stress can lead to anxiety disorders and depression," Dr. Lehmann said. "But one of the mysteries" of mental illness "is why some people respond pathologically to stress and some seem to be stress-resistant."

To discern what was different, physiologically, about the stress-resistant mice, the scientists looked at brain cells using stains and other techniques. They determined that neurons in part of the rodents' medial prefrontal cortex, an area of the brain involved in emotional processing in animals and people, had

been firing often and rapidly in recent weeks, as had neurons in other, linked parts of the brain, including the amygdala, which is known to handle feelings of fear and anxiety.

The animals that had not run before moving in with the mean mice showed much less neuronal activity in these portions of the brain.

Dr. Lehmann said that he believed that the running was key to the exercised animals' ability to bounce back from their unpleasant housing conditions.

Of course, as we all know, mice are not people. But the scientists believe that this particular experiment is a fair representation of human interpersonal relations.

Perhaps best of all, Dr. Lehmann does not believe that hours of daily exercise are needed or desirable to achieve emotional resilience. The mice in his lab ran only when and for as long as they wished, over the course of several weeks. Other animal experiments have intimated that too much exercise could contribute to anxiety, and Dr. Lehmann agrees that that outcome is possible. Moderate levels of exercise seem to provide the most stress-relieving benefits, he said. Dr. Lehmann does not have a car and walks everywhere, and although he lives in Washington, a cauldron of stress induction, he describes himself as a "pretty calm guy."

## How to get through the holidays without gaining weight

We all try to turn into creative geniuses around this time of year. That includes you if you can roll out a pie crust, coax ribbon into curlicues and juggle work, shopping, family obligations, cooking, decorating, cocktail parties and holiday buffets. Our gift to you? Seven creative ways to outsmart the deluge of button-popping, waistline-enlarging calories starting right now.

- Cross as much stress as you can off your to-do list. Ever rip into a box of cookies at 3 a.m. after busting your hump to hit a work deadline, then fighting traffic at the mall, then wrapping presents until the wee hours? Take a few minutes to insert more serenity in the season: Shop online instead of at the mall. Put together gift baskets of nuts, figs and fruit from the grocery instead of tins of homemade cookies. If you need to bring dessert to a party, buy one on the way so you can't eat any in advance. Oh, and try to pay



for everything in cash — you'll spend 12 to 18 per cent less, experts say.

- Create a kitchen safety zone. Piling up holiday baddies (we can't call 'em goodies because they're killers) in plain sight can prompt you to eat twice as much, twice as fast. Instead, keep the true goodies — juicy little Clementine oranges, ruby-red pomegranates, walnuts, pistachios, cinnamon-spice tea — in easy reach. Stash traditional temptations (waist-enlargers like leftover potato pancakes, gift boxes of candy and all those gingerbread men from the neighborhood cookie swap) far back in a cabinet or foil-wrapped in the freezer.

- Start some new traditions. Gathering together to eat when

the weather turns nippy may be hard-wired into the human genome, but it's not the healthiest or happiest tradition. Time spent with family or in spiritual pursuits nets the most holiday joy, say scientists who study these things. Get everybody together — away from the table — to hang decorations, take a walk, play board games and so on.

- Don't skip exercise. Just make it short and sweet. Take two 15-minute walks or three 10-minute ones a day. As long as it totals at least 30 minutes, you're good.

- Splurge a little at parties, then eat like your normal, healthy self the rest of the time. Get the skim-milk latte at your coffee shop, not the fancy holiday-spice coffee drink. Tote fruit and nuts, or veggies and hummus, to work for so it's easy to bypass the latest cookie mountain in the break room. With moves like these, you'll wake up after a vacation wearing the same size, or even one smaller—and a big smile.

## Supportive House Husbands

The proverb that behind every successful man is a woman may need to be reversed as there has been a rise of stay-at-home dads while their ambitious wives reach the top in their professions. Helena Morrissey, a successful businesswoman, said that women who want to reach the top need a husband who is prepared to stay at home and look after the children.

The mother-of-nine is reliant on her househusband Richard as he runs the family home and cares for their children, while she manages nearly 50 billion pounds as chief executive of Newton Investment Management.

Morrissey, who has set a target for the 100 biggest companies to ensure women hold 30 per cent of directorships by 2015, went on to say that women could not have it all. "The idea that a woman can



have a family and friends and hold down a difficult, high-octane job when both partners work full-time — that is a very tall order," the Daily Mail quoted her as saying.

Morrissey also urged any ambitious woman with her heart set on a directorship to discuss with her husband the prospect of him giving up or scaling back his career. And she claims she is just one of many high-powered women whose husbands

have agreed to take a back seat to their successful wives.

The husband of the world's most powerful businesswoman Indra Nooyi, chief executive of PepsiCo, left his full-time job and became a consultant so that he could care for the couple's children. When Burberry chief executive Angela Ahrendts needed to move to London to take up her post, her husband wound up his own business.



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## Humor with Melvin Durai

## Driving a stick shift isn't automatic

I tried to warn her. I tried to tell my wife, Malathi, that learning to drive a stick shift is much harder than an automatic, but did she listen? Nope, she was too busy drooling over the burgundy Subaru Legacy wagon in a dealer's lot, convinced that THIS was the car for her, never mind that it had an extra pedal and a gear stick that went in more directions than Don King's hair.

"Why is it called a manual transmission?" she asked, and I tried to think of a simple but effective explanation:

"Because every time you drive this car, you'll have to consult the manual. Now what do you say we look for an automatic?"

The salesman was no help. He told Malathi that he once taught a female customer to drive a stick shift in 10 minutes. Ten minutes? That's how long it took Malathi to realize she'd have to use both feet.

The salesman, of course, would have said just about anything to get Malathi to buy the car. Considering it had power locks and windows, I'm surprised he didn't call it a semiautomatic. That would have given me



a great way to get rid of telemarketers: "If you don't stop calling me at home, I'm going to send my wife over there with her semiautomatic.

It's got four cylinders!"

I tried to tell Malathi that it might take weeks, even months, for her to drive the car smoothly. "Stick shifts aren't easy," I said. But she had seen me handle a stick shift -- I've never owned an automatic -- and she thought, "If clumsy can do it, why can't I?"

She was soon signing the purchase agreement, beaming from ear to ear, almost as thrilled as the salesman. And so began one of the most frustrating periods of her life, as she attempted, bravely, to tame the stick-shift monster. "Go! Go! Go!" she would yell, as the car jerked and shook and stalled, unable to grasp

such simple instructions. I tried to help, of course: "It's a Japanese car. What's the Japanese word for 'go'?"

Growing weary of my snide remarks, she tried to hire a professional instructor, but couldn't find one who taught stick shift. She was stuck with me -- in a way that even those wedding vows couldn't have prepared her. I was ready to answer all her questions, even if I had to be blunt.

Malathi: "Why is the car making that awful grinding noise?"

Did I forget to do something?"

Me: "Yes. Clutch! Clutch! Clutch!"

Malathi (gripping steering wheel tightly): "I'm clutching!"

I'm clutching."

Actually, she wasn't quite that bad. I'm proud to say that my wife improved steadily, day by day, and in just two weeks, with a smile on her face, she was ready to try second gear.

It wasn't long before she was cruising down the road, switching gears with ease, wondering why her husband had made such a fuss. Then the inevitable happened: She spotted something red in the distance and

said, "Oh no, it's a stop sign. How do I stop this thing?"

I had to remind her that stick shifts, just like automatic cars, are equipped with brakes, saving her the

trouble of sticking her left foot out. But what she really wanted to know was which gear to stop in. She didn't care for my answer: "Any gear, dear. Just make sure you stop."

## Laughter is the Best Medicine



Of course... we will accept the gift, but don't expect from us  
"A thank you card", a phone call of "Appreciation" or  
"E thanks"! We don't believe in those formalities.

by Mahendra Shah

Mahendra Shah is an architect by education, entrepreneur by profession, artist and humorist, cartoonist and writer by hobby. He has been recording the plight of the immigrant Indians for the past many years in his cartoons. Hailing from Gujarat, he lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

## Tech Life

## Can the Internet help you lose weight?

**NEW YORK:** People tend to lose a little more weight with online help than with traditional weight loss programs, a Japanese study said -- but combining the Internet with in-person contact appears to be the most effective in keeping extra kilograms at bay.

With obesity on the rise, there have been many attempts to take advantage of the Internet to help people lose weight, mainly because it's thought to be easier and less expensive.

But while the study, which involved a review of 23 previous studies and was published in the International Journal of Obesity, did find a positive impact from online involvement, the overall effect was small.

"Web-based treatment programs are attractive in primary care because of their ability to reach numerous individuals at low cost," wrote the

researchers, headed by Hirohito Sone of the University of Tsukuba Institute of Clinical Medicine in Ibaraki, Japan.

Overall, patients involved in programs with a web component lost an average of 3.3 kg (1.5 lbs) more than participants in traditional weight-loss programs, the group found.

The Internet was used in a variety of ways in the weight control programs, including individualized instruction, communication with lifestyle instructors, counseling and keeping a record of food intake.

In addition, the programs varied in the how much the participants used the Internet.

But the researchers found that the most effective approaches were those that combined both Internet and more conventional in-person methods.

## Mobiles: New study finds no brain cancer risk

**LONDON:** Using mobile phones may not increase the risk of brain cancer, according to a new analysis of scientific evidence published a month after a World Health Organization agency said the technology may cause tumors.

Studies from several countries have failed to show an increase in brain tumors as many as 20 years after mobile phones were introduced and 10 years after the technology became widespread, the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection's committee on epidemiology wrote in Environmental Health Perspectives, a monthly journal of the US National Institute of Environmental Sciences.

The findings undermine those of an International Agency for Research on Cancer review. Concerns that the technology might be harmful to the health of the 4.6 billion people who use cell phones aren't likely to be put to rest soon, because data is limited and researchers can't prove the complete absence of an impact, the panel said.

"This is a really difficult issue to research," David Spiegelhalter, the University of Cambridge's Winton professor of the public understanding of risk, said in an e-mailed statement. "Even given the limitations of the evi-



dence, this report is clear that any risk appears to be so small that it is very hard to detect, even in the masses of people now using mobile phones."

The committee included scientists from the UK, Sweden, Australia and the U.S. The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection sets guidelines for exposure limits to radiation including radio-frequency fields emitted by mobile phones.

The panel reviewed all published studies that have examined the potential link between mobile-phone use and brain tumors, including the largest epidemiological study to date, known as Interphone. Anthony Swerdlow, a professor of epidemiology at the Institute of Cancer Research in London who led the review, also oversaw one of the UK teams involved in the Interphone study, which was published last year and failed to find a definite link between mobile-phone use and certain types of brain tumors.

Other studies in people and animals, along with trends in the incidence of brain tumors, suggest no increase in the risk, although the possibility can't be ruled out, Swerdlow said in a statement.

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- ✓ Had a dispute with a supplier, landlord, customer or employee?
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By Dr Prem Kumar Sharma

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## Stars Foretell: July 9-15, 2011

**Aries:** Be careful not to get roped into dubious financial deals. Family members would be upset with you because of your spend-thrift behaviour. Time spent with friends would be highly entertaining and filled with pleasure, don't reveal information that is personal and confidential. Travelling would be good for building new contacts and alliances. A friend might seek some financial help. New growth plans will take concrete shape. Keep exercising to stay physically fit.

**Taurus:** This week there would be an important development on your personal front, which will bring jubilation for you and your entire family. You will be highly impressive and your confidence will be at its peak. Spend some quality time with children and family members. Health related problems might cause some discomfort. Partnership opportunities look good, but put everything in black and white before you lay your money on the table.

**Gemini:** Your creativity will amaze people around you and win you immense appreciation. A week full of happiness when spouse or partner will make sincere efforts to bring you joy. Money gains are certain, but don't enter any agreement/contract in haste. Romance is in the air, just waiting to become a physical reality! So prepare yourself for some exciting moments. Sheer pleasure and enjoyment for you, as you set about to enjoy life to the fullest.

**Cancer:** Your high energy should be put to productive use, or frustrations would occur. Speculation will generate good profits, but you should be extra careful while carrying cash. Those traveling outstation need to be careful about their luggage and important documents. Not a very favourable week for making important decisions. Attend business-related seminars to collect the latest market information. Spiritual gains are certain for some.

**Leo:** This week your strong determination and willpower will impress seniors. Financial support will be extended towards your ongoing projects from banks and other institutions. Not a good period for investments, especially speculation. An unexpected message from a distant relative brings excitement for the complete family. Children need to concentrate more on studies and plan for the future. It will be beneficial but tiring week, so don't exhaust yourself beyond a point or minor health problems will set in.

**Virgo:** When it comes to doing important work, expenses would not bother you. Of course, the less you spend to achieve your results, the happier you would be. You should work on projects, which have long-term benefits. Your energy level and confidence would be high. You would generate new business opportunities, through old contacts. Romance is in the air, however be careful not to let this affect your work. Avoid discussing confidential matters with colleagues who could deceive at the last minute.

**Libra:** It's another high-energy week for lucky Libra! Unexpected gains are foreseen. An important message would bring in happiness for the entire family. Pleasure trips and social get-togethers would add to your joy. If you have been considering a job overseas, then this seems

to be a favorable period to send your resumes and appear for interviews. New business opportunities for some, but don't make any thoughtless or rash statements that could effect your relationship with others. A pleasure jaunt or outing with friends will do good to you.

**Scorpio:** Sudden problem on the work front may arise upsetting your entire week. Although financial gains through speculation and investment cannot be ruled out, but you need to curb your expenses. It would be a busy week, lots of social functions and events to attend to, but don't forget responsibilities towards family members. New ventures will be alluring, but invest after consulting experts. Auspicious week for housewarming or starting a new construction.

**Sagittarius:** This seems to be very active and highly social week for the dashing Sagittarius. People would look up to you for your advice and would simply agree with anything that comes out of your mouth. Your determination would set an example for others to follow. Good week for some serious planning and starting new ventures. Searching for the best real estate deal in the market would be worthwhile. Don't forget family obligations.

**Capricorn:** Your charms and generosity would bring new friends and romantic opportunities. However, your domestic life would suffer if you spend extra time at office. Investment in real estate and selective stocks would be beneficial. Travelling during this period would be fun and entertaining. A spiritual person showers blessings and brings peace of mind. Minor changes around the house would be undertaken to improve the look of it.

**Aquarius:** Don't evade important issues. You would be full of good ideas and your work would impress others. Relationship with your beloved would also improve. Stick to your goals for long term benefits. Renew old contacts and seek advice from friends if necessary. Don't sign up for too many activities or you'll have trouble fulfilling your obligation. Meeting with a very influential person would bring desired results.

**Pisces:** Your competitive nature would help you stay ahead of others. Social activities would be highly encouraging. Transfer and promotion for some employees cannot be ruled out. Business transactions need to be tackled very carefully. Stick to your budget to avoid financial constraints. The need is to be vigilant as someone at office might try to harm your interest or reputation. Call friends you haven't seen for a long time. Drive carefully, especially two wheelers.

## Before you consult...

- i) **Accurate Data:** Please make sure Date, Time and Place of birth is accurate.
- ii) **Careful:** Did you check background of the astrologer before disclosing your secrets.
- iii) **Fee:** Discuss the charges before, don't feel shy. It's his business.
- iv) **Expectation:** Expect the best, if the outcome is not as desired, never give up.
- v) **Consult:** Take second opinion before spending thousands on cure/remedies.

## Annual Predictions: For those born in this week

## July 09:

Ruled by number 9 and the planet Mars, you are active, aggressive, dashing and enthusiastic and trustworthy person. You are fond of reading and acquiring new skills and techniques, which you ultimately use to your benefit. You possess a charming and charismatic personality, but you loose many great opportunities due to your erratic and impatient behaviour. You could be very dissatisfied with your employer, but do not leave your present job till you have another one in hand. You need to remain very conservative, especially this year and try to save as much as possible. This year your romantic relationship would suffer because of your pre-occupation with other important work. Although you would spend little time with each other, but your understanding would strengthen and you would appreciate each other's concerns. Frequent travel would be undertaken by most of you, which would bring desired results. Good period for investment in real estate and selected stocks. The months of February, July and October would be highly eventful.

## July 10:

Ruled by number 1 and the Sun. You are independent, confident, intelligent and highly enthusiastic person. You have a knack for negotiating things to your advantage. People in your group consider you an asset, but you need to check your tendencies to behave, moody, extravagant and reckless at times. This year you would be opposing many of your employer's policies and methods. It would be extremely difficult for you to keep your thoughts to yourself, which would create problems for you at times. You need to behave in a very tactful manner to avoid arguments and confrontations. Your earnings would increase but you need to control your spending. You and your beloved would reach a new level of understanding. You would also accomplish a lot together which would bring happiness and peaceful atmosphere at home. Health of someone close in the family would be a matter of serious concern. The months of April, September and July would be productive.

## July 11:

Ruled by number 2 and the Moon, you are imaginative, warm-hearted, friendly and hard working person. You are of very fond of arts and artistic things and your talents usually bring you lot of appreciation and rewards, but you lose out the good opportunities because of your introvert and arrogant behavior at times. Businessmen would get new opportunities but they need to be extremely judicious while lending credit. New job opportunities for professionals would bring higher earnings and better working environment. Religious ceremonies and functions would be performed quite frequently. A sudden influence of a person from the opposite sex will give a new and interesting twist to your life. Do not share your business secrets with your colleagues or casual friends. Avoid lending and borrowing money. The months of January, April, August and September will prove to be highly significant.

## July 12:

Ruled by number 3, and the planet Jupiter, you are ambitious, dignified, philosophical, methodical and systematic person. You are very devoted to the one you love and you go out of your way to please and keep the person happy. You are smart and talented, but you need to check your tendency to behave jealous, extravagant and moody at times. Bad phase of your career seems to be getting over, but you are advised to take every step with extreme precaution. Some of you could also consider a change in job, later in the year. Financially this seems to be a very rewarding period and most of your investments would multiply and yield good profits. Romantic relationship would strengthen and mat-

rimonial alliances for some lovebirds seem certain towards the yearend. Businessmen would benefit from new contacts. Garment, hardware, provisions traders and suppliers would prosper. The months of March, June, October and November will prove highly significant.

## July 13:

Influenced by number 4 and the planet Uranus, you are energetic, creative, trustworthy, systematic, reliable and studious person. In school or at work, you always hold position of immense importance and responsibility, but you need to control your tendency to behave moody, stubborn and jealous at times. You would immensely enjoy the work you do this year, but your busy schedule would leave you with very less time for social activities. You would also plan new projects to increase your income, but it would not be possible to implement your plans without the support of others. You would develop new and trustworthy friendships that would provide financial and moral support at times of need. The latter half of the year could bring in opportunities for some of you to travel overseas for business or pleasure. Some good news can be expected from friend's circle towards the last quarter of the year. The months of February, April and August would prove to be highly significant.

## July 14:

Ruled by number 5 and the planet Mercury, you are active, energetic, honest, systematic and highly courageous person. You are true sportsman and you play every game in the right spirit. You have excellent leadership qualities, but you need to curb your tendency to behave vindictive, jealous and reckless at times. This year you would develop very strong opinions on how important work should be completed. Some of your supporters however would not agree to your methods of doing things. You should put your thoughts in front of them in a positive manner to win their confidence. You would also increase your income through work, which you would complete at home. New romance could develop for some during this period. Relationship with your spouse would be healthy and highly cordial. Some tension and anxiety due to health of your parents may mar the peace at home. Your brother or sister would be very helpful in finishing your pending tasks. The months January, May, October and November would be significant.

## July 15

Ruled by number 6 and the planet Venus, you are energetic, smart, attractive, accommodating, diplomatic & highly practical person. Your greatest assets are your confidence and determination. You do not shy away from challenges and fight till the end, but you need to control your tendency to behave outspoken and spend-thrift at times. This year your career seems to move towards some most unexpected direction. Although results would be slow but should prove beneficial in the long run. You would have new set of responsibilities. Your seniors would depend a lot on your performance and if you fail their expectations, things would prove difficult for you. Wonderful period to put efforts towards creative works. Your ideas will be helpful to those around you. The months of January, May and October would prove to be highly important.

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# Reality resides within



By Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj

When people face massive tragedies in life, they often turn their attention to the questions of why are we here, what is important in life, and where do we go when we die. People who have been intensely striving to make more money, to rise up the corporate ladder, to amass as much name and fame and wealth as they can, suddenly take a step back to see if those goals are truly important in life. When we witness mass tragedies either due to natural disasters or human-made disasters on this planet, in which suddenly thousands of people wake up to go to work only to find that it is their last day on earth, people

begin taking stock of what is truly important. People start to realize that the most important things in life are love of their family, love of their fellow beings, love of God, and one's spirituality. As a result, people begin to turn inward. They realize the value of faith in God, love and spiritual truths.

If we cling to the idea that we will live forever, we will not focus on what is important in life and we will be unprepared when our end comes. The nature of this world is to make us think it is real and permanent. This illusion has us believing that our body, our mind, and this world are permanent and real. Thus, we go after things that will not lead us to God but to deeper and deeper entanglement in the world.

There is a story that illustrates this. The name for India is Bharat, named for King Bharat. He was an ascetic who renounced the world to spend all his time in meditation. Although he lived in seclusion from people, he raised a small deer after its mother died. The deer stayed with King Bharat all the time.

As a result the king came to love the deer as a companion. He felt so much love for the deer that he thought of it all the time. One day, the deer disappeared. Bharat became deeply heartbroken from

the pangs of separation from the deer. The pain of his broken heart was so great that the king died shortly after. The attraction for the deer was so great that in his next life King Bharat reincarnated as a deer, known as Jar Bharata.

This story from the Indian tradition is a graphic example to show us that our love for an impermanent beauty is going to lead us nowhere. This story illustrates that we become so identified with things of the world that we do not discover our true essence, the soul. This fascination with the world's alluring beauties does not give us true and lasting love. Instead, it brings us back to the world again and again, life after life, until we learn the lesson of Truth and what is really lasting.

Trials and tribulations are a natural part of life. We cannot let them get us down to the point that we cannot function. Instead, through meditation on the Light and Sound, we can remain detached from the outer pains of life. When we rise above body-consciousness, our pain in the body is limited. When we see that this life is but a play or a drama, and the real life is that of our soul reunited with God, then the world does not have such a great effect on us. We are able to take what

happens to us with a grain of salt. We know that it is not the true reality. Then, we can focus within through meditation and find the true reality.

Thus, when we find that those things upon which we relied and set our hearts are taken from us, we won't be devastated. This realization that the permanency of life is but an illusion turns our attention to finding something that is lasting and permanent. Saints and mystics have been telling us for thousands of years that the only things that are lasting and permanent are God, the soul which is a part of God, and the holy Word of God. God is spirit and eternal.

God's Word is another name for the Light and Sound of God, two divine principles that emanated from God when God wanted to be many from One. The soul, being of the same essence as God, is also permanent and everlasting.

So, let us not be attracted to the alluring impermanence of this world. Let us instead focus our attention on what is real and lasting. We can do so by spending time daily in meditation. We can do so by developing love for God and our fellow beings.

Let us not be captivated by the colors of the setting sun. Let us instead look to the rising sun

*If we cling to the idea that we will live forever, we will not focus on what is important in life and we will be unprepared when our end comes*

within. Let us sit in meditation to see the various vistas of Light and Sound within. Let us soar on the wings of the Naam until we attain ultimate communion of our soul with God.

## The only support we need

By Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj

By contemplating God's Name or sitting in meditation, we come in contact with a divine Power that fills our soul with love and ecstasy. It is not a story of mechanical exercises; it is a story of love between the soul and God.

There is an account from India of two farmers named Machhar and Ramditta. They were both steeped in the love of their spiritual Master. They would not start their daily duties until they had sat in meditation for several hours and had seen the radiant form of the spiritual Master within. One day, their faith was tested.

It was the corn season. It was their turn as farmers to get their share of irrigation water. But on that particular day, they sat in meditation for a long time and were unable to see the radiant form of their spiritual Master within. As they kept sitting they felt pulled in two directions. One part of them said that they had to do their duty to collect the irrigation water, and the other part wanted to keep meditating until they had seen the radiant form.

They were in a bind as to what to do. As they sat, one of them quietly said, "Machhar, what should we do. I am not yet seeing the spiritual Master within today." The other replied, "I too am having trouble



seeing the spiritual Master within. I don't want to get up until we see the radiant form, but if we do not get the water our crops will die!" They sat silently for a moment wondering what to do, when Ramditta spoke out and said, "Then let the crops die, for they belong to our spiritual Master and God.

It is all in their hands." With this conviction

and faith in God, they returned to their meditation and suddenly, the radiant form of the spiritual Master appeared to both of them.

How many of us sit with such devotion, not wanting to leave off our meditations until we have achieved success? A professional athlete is continually aware of those actions that will help him or her win

the competition.

A businessperson is constantly aware of what moves will result in profit. A professional in any field is focused on doing what is necessary to achieve success in his or her field. Similarly, an awakened person is continually aware of what must be done to achieve spiritual attainment

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*By spending time daily in meditation, we will come in contact with spiritual realms of love, light, and peace within.*





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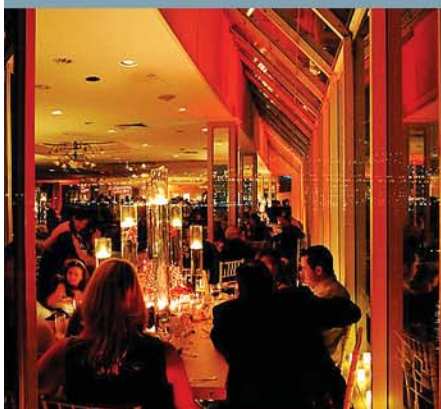
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