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A potpourri of contestants to fight Narendra Modi in Varanasi: Ex-judge, former jawan, a Kashi high priest, and a PM lookalike

All South Asian Countries, Except Afghanistan, Are Happier than India; Finland Tops the List, US Ranked # 19



EKAL VIDYALAYA



AIA, NY Chapter
The Association of
Indians in America, Inc.

**Welcome To the Inauguration of
Mr. Harish Thakkar
as the President of AIA
and other Executive Members
for 2019-2021 term.**



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UPCOMING EVENTS IN NYC AREA

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| Wednesday
May 01, 2019
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM |  | Magnolia Cupcake Decorating Class
Magnolia Bakery UWS, 200 Columbus Avenue,
at 69th Street New York, NY 10020 |
| Thursday
May 02, 2019
06:00 PM |  | The Other Art Fair Brooklyn
Brooklyn Expo Center, 72 Noble Street, Brooklyn, NY |
| Saturday
May 04, 2019
12:00 PM |  | NY Beer Fest
Citi Field, 123-01 Roosevelt Avenue, Queens, NY 11368 |
| Saturday
May 04, 2019
5:00 PM-6:00 PM |  | Gujarati Lok Sangeet- Smt. Maniben Mistri Sabhagrih
Smt. Maniben Mistri Sabhagrih
173-15 horace Harding Expy, Fresh Meadows, NY 11365 |
| Sunday
May 05, 2019
4:00 PM - 10:00 PM |  | Cinco De Mayo Rooftop Fiesta
Secret Location, Manhattan, New York, New York 10001 |
| Monday
May 06, 2019
5:45 PM - 7:00 PM |  | Sputnik Yoga & Cocktails
COCO-MAT, 49 Mercer Street, New York, NY 10013 |
| Tuesday
May 07, 2019
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM |  | Queens Taste 2019
New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th Street, Corona, NY |
| Wednesday
May 08, 2019
8:30 PM - 11:00 PM |  | Comedians You Should Know
The Gutter, 200 North 14th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11211 |
| Saturday
May 11, 2019
10:00 AM |  | A Current Affair: Pop Up Vintage Marketplace in Brooklyn Spring 2019
Industry City, 268 36th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11232 |
| Sunday
May 12, 2019
10:00 AM |  | NY Handmade Collective's Spring Pop-Up 2019
Grand Bazaar NYC, 100 West 77th Street, New York, NY |
| Sunday
May 12, 2019
1:00 PM |  | Mother's Day Brunch in the Garden
Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY |
| Wednesday
May 15, 2019
10:00 PM |  | House of Vogue
House of Yes, 2 Wyckoff Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237 |
| Saturday
May 18, 2019
6:30 PM |  | EKAL VIDYALAYA - long island chapter
345 Hicksville Rd Bethpage, NY 11714 |

To announce your Events here, Email event details at
Editorial@IndiaRepublicNews.com

HARISH THAKKAR newly elected President, The Association of Indians in America (AIA), NY

The Association of Indians in America (AIA), New York Chapter held an Inauguration / Oath Ceremony of the newly elected President, Harish Thakkar and his Executive Committee at the Consulate General of India, here in NYC.

The ceremony was attended by the Chief Guest Consul General of India, Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, Deputy Consul General Shatrughna Sinha, Congresswoman Grace Meng, New York State Senator John Liu and Air India Regional Manager, Bhuvna Rao besides Past Presidents of AIA, National Chapter Presidents, community leaders, Media and prominent guests from the tristate area.

Ceremony was invoked with the Ganesh Vandana performed by Anandita Guha, also an energizing performance by students of Arya Dance Academy and an 5 years old Angel Shah stunned everyone with amazing Rajasthani dance performance. Lastly, Smita Guha sang wonderful Bollywood song. Smita is playback singer with Bappi Lahiri.

The newly elected President, Harish Thakkar and the Executive Committee was sworn in.

Congresswoman Grace Meng congratulated the team, and reinforced her support to the Indian community. New York State Senator John Liu, gave a proclamation to Harish and also congratulated him and said he will support upcoming AIA events.

Harish Thakkar, the new president laid down his vision to enhance educational based projects on AI (artificial intelligence) which will help young girls in our community.

Harish Thakkar extended special thanks to NY Senator John Liu for agreeing to host a AIA Diwali event at Albany, NY's capital. We will arrange to celebrate this special event there with help of my committee.

Desi Next is AIA's young chapter of young adults who are bringing the next generation together. They have done programs for Valentine's day and New Year's eve. We would like to do more events for Desi Next such as Cultural and sports events.

AIA will organize health related lectures and Seminars in the community. We have tremendous support from Physicians of AAPI community.

AIA has been doing kids Diwali celebration in Queens public library for last 8 years. Our vision is to expand this kids Diwali event in Nassau County too.

AIA Diwali at South Street Seaport which is our flagship event, that defines AIA, NY, where thousands of people come to witness this biggest Diwali Festival in US and outside of India.

Harish Thakkar wants to be instrumental in bringing our community together through AIA, and pass the legacy of our culture and heritage and projects we undertake in the future. The new President, Harish Thakkar has for long



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been associated with AIA for past 14 years and The BAPS Sanstha, which is a spiritual, volunteer-driven organization dedicated to improving society through individual growth by fostering the Hindu ideals of faith, unity, and selfless service.

About AIA

The New York Chapter of AIA was established in 1968 and is well known for its social, cultural and educational activities. Among its various activities, celebrating Diwali at South Street Seaport in New York City has become one of its Flagship event since 1987. AIA organizes Diwali celebrations on a grand scale, where more than 100,000 New Yorkers from all walks of life turn up to watch the splendor and glory of a showcase of Indian culture, arts and crafts, jewelry, Indian traditional clothes and a taste of Indian dishes from various regions of India. Political Dignitaries, senators, members of US Congress and Indian Diplomats are invited as Guest of honor at this function to promote better understanding between US and India. Topping it all, the program closes with a spectacular display of fireworks in the east river leading to a grand finale, watched by over a million New Yorkers and folks from NJ and Connecticut.





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Gopio NY organized health and wellness symposium with LILC, IDPUSA, IAF & Alliance of Global Sindhi Associations partnership on April 20 at kerala center in elmont. Health Is Wealth and community needs educational health seminars. GOPIO president Beena Kothari deserve appreciation.. Due to bad weather still people came and free healthy breakfast & lunch was provided. Program had Dr Prachi Dua (Ophthalmology), Dr Jag Kalra (Oncologist), Dr Parinda Dave (Dentist), Dr Ketan G Lund (Ophthalmologist) and Dr Michael Posner (Chiropractor) Dr Syed was moderator and question answer session was very helpful. Thomas Abraham is founder of GOPIO and it was founded in 1989. Beena Kothari ji gave special thanks to Jyoti Gupta & Sonia Anand From media we had Jasbir Singh from Hum Hindustani and **Raj Dhingra from India Republic News** present.



Sawao First Outdoor Holi



April 6 2019 Holi Celebration of South Asian Women Activities Organization (SAWAO) founded by Suhag Mehta at YMCA New York.All had lot's of Fun and it was well Planned with awesome & perfect weather.



Holi is a popular ancient Hindu festival, Holi marks the beginning of spring, and is usually celebrated at the end of February or march



All Sawao members came it was great holi event, loads of fun and colors and Thandai



Magic Masti Music all was present there.It was whole day event so people kept coming going whole day.



Attended by lots of community leaders and special thanks to Detective Cooper,Dilip Chouhan .

Cultural Angel shah danced and thanks to India Republic News



EKAL VIDYALAYA

Ekal is the largest village development movement with a tangible presence in more than 85,000 remote rural villages across India and Nepal. Through its single teacher schools that run on a dollar a day, Ekal provides free education to 2.3 million children every year and is proud to say, the number is growing. Ekal's mission is Holistic development of villages through empowerment of tribal (vanvasi) and rural communities in India with basic education, digital literacy, skill development, health awareness, learning modern and productive agricultural practices and rural entrepreneurship.

Ekal Abhiyan's vision is to facilitate the process of empowering rural and tribal communities based on the concept of social, economic and gender equality. Its mission is Holistic development of the Nation through empowerment of tribal and rural communities with education and skills, health agriculture and rural entrepreneurship.

Every year, Ekal USA organizes a series of musical events to raise funds for the education program. This year our performing celebrities are the accomplished singers, Dipayan Banerjee and Madhuraa Bhattacharya of Sa Re Ga Ma Pa fame. Ekal USA's Long Island chapter is hosting the event on **Saturday, May 18th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.** at The Sterling, 345 Hicksville Road, Bethpage, NY 11714.



A unique aspect of the Ekal movement is its very large volunteer base that allows it to keep costs very low ensure that over 90% of the donations go to actual implementation of the programs.

Education-The Foundation of the Ekal Movement : Ekal Vidyalaya primary schools located in the village provides education to children between the ages of 6-14. Local youth are trained to be teachers. The curriculum is designed specifically to teach rural youth who may be first generation learners and motivate them to continue their education. The impact of Ekal Schools is widespread. Over 10 million children educated over the years. Girls in rural remote villages get access to education. Alumni Pinky Karmakar from Assam carried the Olympic torch during the London Olympics. Alumni

Kalpna Mahato from Jharkhand is doing her undergraduate degree in Electronics and Telecommunication. \$365 provides education for one school for one full year.

Digital Literacy : Reducing the Digital Divide is key to empowering people in the 21st century. Bringing digital literacy to the Rural areas is a great challenge. Ekal has a unique Ekal on Wheels, a mobile computer lab that travels to villages and teaches basic digital literacy to the villagers. In addition tablets are used in the Ekal schools to enable children to be digitally literate. The tablets also allow us to increase the breadth and the depth of the curriculum offered to the students. The impact of this program is that Youth feel empowered to be part of the Digital economy. Children enjoy learning using tablets

Health and Hygiene : Health and hygiene is key to rural development. A health resource center is established at the center of 30 villages. Ekal hires local youth and trains them to be health care workers. The workers organize village gatherings and provide information about health and hygiene. Ekal teaches women the importance of making a kitchen garden growing and eating vegetables and fruits. Women are tested for Anemia, provided intervention and provided home remedies for simple ailments. Ekal runs health camps run by doctors who volunteer their time. Ekal is currently experimenting with Telemedicine. In the Hygiene program, Ekal advertises cleanliness and other healthy practices through messages written on walls in the villages. It works with villagers to create Soak Pits to prevent stagnant water pools, which is breeding ground for Malarial Mosquitoes, Waste Pits to ensure proper disposal of compostable waste. It also encourages villagers to build and use toilets in their homes.

The impact of these activities is significant reduction in Anemia and Malaria in villages. Also significant increase in toilet use and safe waste disposal has been found. Ekal runs Health camps that provide Eye, Dental and other health services

Skill and Entrepreneurship Training : Youth in rural areas do not have access to skill training. Villagers do not have access to skilled labor to help provide services in the village. Women particularly

lack skills to bring economic opportunity.

Village Development Resource Center : At the center of 100 Ekal villages, Village Development Resource Centers serve a business promotion center. The center offers a variety of skill training courses. In addition the center has a production and marketing center where villagers can package and sell their products. The products can be shipped to other areas as well. The center works to create Self Help Groups in the villages. Entrepreneurship training is also provided.

Tailoring Training Center : Ekal has successfully implemented Tailoring training in several states. Women who take the training are able to establish small tailoring shop and earn Rs. 3,000 – 5,000 per month. The income they earn increases their value at home. Many women are able to postpone their marriage.

Digital Literacy Training Center : Ekal has successful implemented Digital literacy training in several states. Graduates earn over Rs. 10,000 per month.

Ekal Vidyalaya would like all of you to come and enjoy a musical evening and support this noble cause. The event is on **Saturday, May 18th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.** at The Sterling, 345 Hicksville Road, Bethpage, NY 11714.

EKAL VIDYALAYA
Long Island Chapter

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Ekal Supports
Ekal runs 81,000+ schools
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A potpourri of contestants to fight Narendra Modi in Varanasi: Ex-judge, former jawan, a Kashi high priest, and a PM lookalike

In the key electoral battles lined up this poll season, Prime Minister Narendra Modi certainly wins the title of leading the most interesting one. In fray is the most eclectic array of candidates -- from a sacked BSF jawan, to 111 protesting farmers, to PM's lookalike, who claimed they will contest against Modi from Varanasi, which goes to poll in the last phase, on 19 May.

At the top of the list is, Tej Bahadur Yadav, a sacked Border Security Force (BSF) constable, because being the Uttar Pradesh gathbandhan candidate, his candidature is expected to be taken most seriously. He will also have the army of

Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party cadres to campaign for him, at least in theory. Yadav was last in news for kicking up a storm by alleging on social media that the senior officials illegally sold off the food supplies meant for the troopers and were serving substandard meal to the jawans. He was later removed from service. He alleged that he was persecuted by the forces for exposing the corruption and had even requested Prime Minister Modi to intervene. However, upset over lack of support, Yadav announced his candidature in March 2019, stating that to contest the elections to eliminate corruption in the armed forces.



the senior officials illegally sold off the food supplies meant for the troopers and were serving substandard meal to the jawans.

He was later removed from service. He alleged that he was persecuted by the forces for exposing the corruption and had even requested Prime Minister Modi to intervene. However, upset over lack of support, Yadav announced his candidature in March 2019, stating that to contest the elections to eliminate corruption in the armed forces.

"I had raised the issue of corruption but I was sacked. My first objective will be to strengthen and eliminate corruption in the forces," he said.

On Monday, he was officially fielded as the SP-BSP-RLD alliance candidate to take on Modi.

Apart from Yadav, former Madras High Court judge, Justice CS Karnan who was the first sitting judge to have been sentenced to prison, also said he will contest elections against Modi from Varanasi. He also contested from Chennai.

Source : firstpost.com

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April 18th, 2019

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1 718 961 3956

LONG ISLAND LADIES CIRCLE

LILC historical Oath ceremony On April 25, 2019 at Legislative Chambers. We had Richard Nicoello Presiding Officer, Laura Schaefer (Legislator), Rose Marie Walker (Legislator) & Nassau County legislator Tom McKeVitt to do oath ceremony. Thanks to senator Anna Kaplan office for the citations. Thanks to Farrah Mozawalla & Sunita Manjrer for the county citations from Nassau County Chief Laura Curran. Jay Singh & Zahid Syed handled Event the best. LILC is the biggest then one can think.

We started in Dec 2017 with 50 ladies at hilton and after that every month did events and celebrated festivals and its now. We are registered and county also recognised us. Jyoti Gupta & Pinki Jaggi worked hard to make it big. And now we have team to make it the biggest our 5 officers Jyoti Gupta & Pinki Jaggi both Presidents Sonia Anand vice president Sanju Sharma Secretary Arti Majithia Treasurer We have 13 trustees and 23 commitee members and 4 advisors. We had more then 250 people. LILC is the biggest then one can think.

Congratulations the team and keep doing selfless work for the community. Our special thanks to our advisors Zahid Syed & Jasbir Singh Ji and all the community leaders present there. Also thanks to media Hum Hindustani ,India Republic News, Ashok Vyas (iTV), Jus Punjabi, Jus Hindi, TV Asia, PTC Punjabi & South Asian Insider Media.



2007 Foreclosure Crisis Still Negatively Impacting Black and Hispanic Communities

According to a new Zillow analysis and data, millions of homeowners across the country lost their homes in the 2007 to 2015 foreclosure crisis, missing out on the opportunity to regain and grow their net wealth as the housing market recovered. But in black and Hispanic communities the foreclosure crisis hit especially hard, and foreclosed homes in those areas have yet to fully recover.

When the housing market crashed, many homes lost a significant share of their value, especially among homes that were ultimately foreclosed. In Hispanic and black communities, foreclosed home values fell by more than 50 percent. As the market recovered and home values rebounded, foreclosed homes saw strong appreciation -

equity growth that the former owners couldn't access. Foreclosed homes in black and Hispanic communities have more than doubled in value since reaching their lowest point, though they remain 4.7 percent and 9.5 percent below their peaks.

Not only did the foreclosure crisis have a sharper impact on people's ability to gain wealth in black and Hispanic communities, it also had a broader reach into those areas. Nationally, 19.4 percent of all foreclosures between 2007 and 2015 were in Hispanic communities - but only 9.6 percent of homes are in those same areas. Similarly, 12.7 percent of foreclosures occurred in black communities, while 7.7 percent of all homes are in black communities. In Atlanta, 30.5 percent of all

homes are in black communities, but more than half of all foreclosed homes are in those communities. Just 44.2 percent of foreclosed Atlanta homes are in white communities, compared with the overall 65.1 percent of homes in white communities.

Losing a home to foreclosure is especially impactful for Hispanic and black homeowners, who historically have held the majority of their net worth in their homes. Near the height of the housing bubble in 2007, Hispanic and black homeowners had 73.1 percent and 61.8 percent of their net worth tied up in their homes. For white homeowners, that number was only 46.5 percent.

Source : worldpropertyjournal.com

Dubai Home Prices Continue to Implode in 2019

Down 12 Percent Annually in March

According to the Property Monitor's latest Dubai House Price Index, the average annual house price in Dubai decreased by 12% in March 2019, with some communities registering even higher price declines.

Arabian Ranches, Emirates Living, Dubai Silicon Oasis, Jumeirah Islands and Dubai Sports City were some of the communities that registered price declines of more than 12% on average.

Month-on-month, the price decline for March was 1.7% compared to 1.8% in February. House prices in the three months up to March were 5.1% lower than in the previous quarter. Overall, the average house price in Dubai decreased to under AED 2.6 million (AED 2.58 million).

The rate of off-plan apartment transfers remained high in March, as has been the case over the past 12 months. However, the total volume of residential transactions



over Q1 2019 was 3% lower than the same period in 2018. Meanwhile, the volume of apartment transfers over Q1 2019 decreased by nearly 14% compared to the same period in the past year.

According to the House Price Index for March 2019, the average apartment price remained relatively stable at AED 1.8 million, with only a marginal change from February, while the average villa/townhouse price decreased to AED 4.5 million. In September 2015, the prices for apartments and villas/townhouses were AED 2.1 million and AED 5.6 million respectively, indicating a decline of 17% and 19%.

Source : worldpropertyjournal.com

Shah Rukh Khan's film starring Bobby Deol gets a title, to be named Class of 83



Actor Shah Rukh Khan is a successful producer and his latest production *Badla* went to become a super hit at the box office. After the debacle of *Zero*, the actor may not be signing new films at present but has a few very interesting projects coming up on the streaming platform, Netflix. The actor is now set to make a film starring Bobby Deol for Netflix which has now got a title, *Class of 83*.

The makers have, however, made it clear that film does not hold any similarities with Ranveer Singh's upcoming film, '83. A few reports suggest that the film may revolve around a reunion in 1983. A source told Bollywood Hungama in a report, "Shah Rukh Khan and Bobby Deol have shared a great friendship since quite some time now. Bobby is keen on trying out something new and Shah Rukh Khan has always been interested in exploring the

web platform further. Having them collaborate for *Class of '83* is definitely something to look out for." "The Netflix film is currently under the initial stages. The casting is just being finalized. The process has just kick started. So it is too soon to comment on the same," the source added.

The Raees actor is also working on a web series titled *Bard of Blood* for Netflix. It will star Emraan Hashmi in the lead role. Shah Rukh had told *Economic Times* in an interview last year, "It gives an opportunity to a lot of youngsters who didn't know where to take their small films. So my deal with Netflix CEO Reed Hastings and chief content officer Ted Sarandos is not just on paper. I'll try and make stuff for you for which I can't find a theatre and I am non-self-obsessed to know that certain films don't need to be in the theatre. Theatres will also change. It will perhaps be more like Broadway where movies will play for six months."

Shah Rukh's last film *Zero*, that starred him as a dwarf named Bauaa, turned out to be a huge disappointment at the box office. It was directed by Anand L Rai of *Tanu Weds Manu* fame and also starred Anushka Sharma and Katrina Kaif as female leads.

Source : hindustantimes.com

Nawazuddin Siddiqui was told he has left all the Bollywood Khans behind. This was his reaction

Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui has joined the likes of Kareena Kapoor, Varun Dhawan and Sunny Leone by becoming the latest guest on Arbaaz Khan's online chat show, *Pinch*. The teaser of the next episode is out and shows the actor in his Ganesh Gaitonde look with a thick moustache.

As per the theme of the show, Arbaaz shows him a negative tweet by one of the Twitter users who has abused him and claimed to hate him for playing a particular character. He can be seen replying to the social media user unabashedly, "I am an actor and I will play each role. I won't leave my profession."

Nawazuddin can also be seen leading a direct attack on self-appointed critics and says in the teaser, "They say 'I am giving this film two stars'. Who are you? Who have asked you that you are giving the film two stars? Who are you after all?"

The teaser also shows a glimpse of how the Thackeray actor is unable to handle praise. Arbaaz shows him a fan tweet that reads, "Sabhi Khan ko piche chod dia aapne toh (you have left all the Khans behind)," to which he replies blushing, "Bhai mujhe kaam karne do mera. (Please let me do my work)," and hides his face with his hand.

Nawazuddin will now return as the lead antagonist in the second season of the hit Netflix Original, *Sacred Games*. He has just wrapped up the shooting of Honey Trehan's directorial *Raat Akeli Hai* and has confirmed starring in Bangladeshi filmmaker Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's English language film, *No Land's Man*.



The actor is also playing the titular role in comedy film, *Ghoomketu* besides pairing up with Mouni Roy as the male lead in *Bole Chudiyan*. This year, the actor was seen in Rajinikanth's Tamil film *Petta* and along with Sanya Malhotra in Bollywood film, *Photograph*.

Source : hindustantimes.com

Sri Lanka Bans All Facial Covering From April 29 In The Wake Of Serial Blasts

Hack:

Defence sources said that a number of female accomplices of incidents in Dematagoda too had escaped wearing burqas, the report said. Forty suspects, including the driver of a van allegedly used by the suicide bombers, have been arrested in connection with the multiple attack.

In the aftermath of eight string of blasts that shook Sri Lanka's Colombo, the country has called to ban all facial coverings, that comes into effect from Monday.

The decision was taken after citing burqas to be a 'security risk and a flag of fundamentalism'

"President Maithripala Sirisena took this decision to further support the ongoing security and help the armed forces to easily identify the identity of any wanted perpetrators," according to a press note from the Sri Lankan president's office.



"The government, he said (source), is planning to implement the move in consultation with the mosque authorities and on Monday several ministers had spoken to President Maithripala Sirisena on the matter," the paper reported the source as saying.

It has been pointed out that burqa and niqab were never part of the traditional attire of Muslim women in Sri Lanka until the Gulf War in the early 1990s which saw extremist elements introducing the garb to Muslim women.

Defence sources said that a number of female accomplices of incidents in Dematagoda too had escaped wearing burqas, the report said.

A string of powerful blasts, suspected to be carried on by National Thowheed Jamath (NTJ) jihadist group, ripped through three churches and as many luxury hotels frequented by foreigners in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday, killing 253 people and injuring more than 500 others, shattering a decade of peace in the country following the end of the brutal civil war with the LTTE.

The bombs tore through three five-star hotels in Colombo: the Cinnamon Grand, the Shangri La and the Kingsbury. At least 38 foreigners, including 10 Indian nationals, have died in the attacks.

Forty suspects, including the driver of a van allegedly used by the suicide bombers, have been arrested in connection with the multiple attack.

Sri Lanka adopting the burqa ban, now joins the group of nations in Asia, Africa, and Europe that have done so in the interest of preventing terrorists from using the burqa to evade police or hide explosives.

Among the nations that have enacted a ban on the item are Chad, Cameroon, Gabon, Morocco, Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Belgium, and Xinjiang, a Muslim-majority province in northwestern China, the paper reported.

FROM : PUBLISHED : 29 Apr, 2019 9:55AM P1



මාධ්‍ය නිවේදනය
PRESS RELEASE
කොළඹ බෙහෙවි

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 මාධ්‍ය නිවේදන කොටුව, ප්‍රසාදන අමාත්‍යාංශය, කොළඹ 01
 Media Centre, Ministry of Information, Colombo 01
 President's Media Centre, President's Office, Colombo 01

මෙරට තුළ ජනතාවගේ අනන්‍යතාවය තහවුරු කර ගැනීමට බාධාවක් වන ලෙස මුහුණ ආවරණය කිරීම හෙට සිට තහනම් කිරීමට පියවර.

ජාතික හා මහජන ආරක්ෂාවට තර්ජනයක් විය හැකි මෙරට තුළ ජනතාවගේ අනන්‍යතාවය තහවුරු කර ගැනීමට බාධාවක් වන සියළුම ආවරණයේ මුහුණ ආවරණ භාවිතය වහාම ත්‍රිකුණාමලයේ පරිදි හෙට (2019.04.29) සිට හදිසි අවස්ථා නියෝග යටතේ තහනම් කිරීමට ජනාධිපති ගරු මෛත්‍රීපාල සිරිසේන මහතා පියවර ගෙන තිබේ.

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රටේ ජාතික ආරක්ෂාව මෙන්ම නිසි ජන කොටසක් අපහසුතාවයට පත් නොවන සාමාන්‍ය සහ සහජීවනයෙන් යුත් සමාජයක් ඇති කිරීම වෙනුවෙන් ජනාධිපතිවරයා විසින් මෙම තීරණයට එළඹ ඇත.

ජනාධිපති මාධ්‍ය අංශය
2019.04.28

The country remains on high alert following the terror attack It was reported on April 23 that the Sri Lankan government is planning to implement the move in consultation with the mosque authorities, the Daily Mirror reported quoting sources.

All South Asian Countries, Except Afghanistan, Are Happier than India; Finland Tops the List, US Ranked # 19

All South Asian countries, except Afghanistan, are happier than India, according to the World Happiest Report 2019. India ranked # 140th happiest country, as compared with Pakistan as the 67th happiest country in the world; Bhutan #95; Nepal # 100; Bangladesh # 125; Sri Lanka # 130; and Afghanistan # 154. Maldives was not included in the report.

“When you factor in population growth, world happiness has fallen in recent years, driven by the sustained downward trend in India,” according to a statement by the World Happiest Report 2019. “As for emotions, there has been a widespread recent upward trend in negative affect, comprising worry, sadness and anger, especially marked in Asia and Africa, and more recently elsewhere.” As in 2018, Finland again took the top spot as the happiest country in the world according to three years of surveys taken by Gallup from 2016-2018. Rounding out the rest of the top ten are countries that have consistently ranked among the happiest. They are in order: Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, New Zealand, Canada and Austria. The US ranked 19th dropping one spot from last year.

This year, the Report analyzes how life evaluations and emotions, both positive and negative, have evolved over the whole run of the Gallup World Poll, starting in 2005-2006. For life evaluations at the national level, there have been more gainers than losers. Among the 20 top gainers in life evaluations from 2005-2008 to 2016-2018, 10 are in Central and Eastern Europe, five are in sub-Saharan Africa, and three in Latin America. The 10 countries with the largest declines in average life evaluations typically suffered some combination of economic, political, and social stresses. The five largest drops since 2005-2008 were in Yemen, India, Syria, Botswana and Venezuela.

This year’s happiness report focuses on happiness and the community: how happiness has evolved over the past dozen years, with a focus on the technologies, social norms, conflicts and government policies that have driven those changes. Special chapters focus on generosity and prosocial behaviour, the effects of happiness on voting behavior, big data, and the happiness effects of internet use and

addictions, according to the statement. “The world is a rapidly changing place,” said Professor John Helliwell, co-editor of the report. “How communities interact with each other whether in schools, workplaces, neighborhoods or on social media has profound effects on world happiness.”

The World Happiness Report 2019, which ranks 156 countries by how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be, according to their evaluations of their own lives, was launched today at the United Nations. The report was produced in partnership with The Ernesto Illy Foundation. “We are living a moment of transition to a new age and this generates a sense of uncertainty,” said Andrea Illy, Chairman of illycaffè and Member of the Board of Fondazione Ernesto Illy. “Social happiness is therefore even more relevant, in order to give a positive perspective and outlook for the present and for the future.”



The chapter by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network focuses on the epidemic of addictions and unhappiness in America, a rich country yet one where happiness has been declining rather than rising. “This year’s report provides sobering evidence of how addictions are causing considerable unhappiness and depression in the US,” Sachs said. “Addictions come in many forms, from substance abuse to gambling to digital media. The compulsive pursuit of substance abuse and addictive behaviors is causing severe unhappiness. Government, business, and communities should use these indicators to set new policies aimed at overcoming these sources of unhappiness.”

The report, produced by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) with the support of the Ernesto Illy Foundation, is edited by Professor John F. Helliwell of the University of British Columbia and the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research; Professor Richard Layard, co-director of the Well-Being Programme at LSE’s Centre for Economic Performance; and Professor Sachs, director of SDSN and the Earth Institute’s Center on Sustainable Development. Policy applications of happiness research are collected in a companion SDSN publication Global Happiness Policy Report 2019.

According to Professor Sachs, “The World Happiness Report, together with the Global Happiness and Policy Report offer the world’s governments and individuals the opportunity to rethink public policies as well as individual life choices, to raise happiness and wellbeing. We are in an era of rising tensions and negative emotions (as shown in Chapter 2) and these findings point to underlying challenges that need to be addressed.” The World Happiness Report 2019 includes the following chapters: Chapter 2 Changing World Happiness: by John Helliwell, Haifang Huang and Shun Wang, presents the usual national rankings of

life evaluations, supplemented by global data on how life evaluations, positive affect and negative affect have evolved on an annual basis since 2006, and how the quality of government and various forms of conflict have influenced those evaluations.

Chapter 3 Happiness and Voting Behaviour: by George Ward, considers whether a happier population is any more likely to vote, to support governing parties, or support populist authoritarian candidates.

Chapter 4 Happiness and Prosocial Behavior: An Evaluation of the Evidence by Lara Aknin, Ashley Whillans, Michael Norton and Elizabeth Dunn, shows that engaging in prosocial behavior generally promotes happiness, and identifies the conditions under which these benefits are most likely to emerge.

Chapter 5 The Sad State of US Happiness and the Role of Digital Media: by Jean Twenge, documents the increasing amount of time US adolescents spend interacting with electronic devices, and presents evidence that it may have displaced time once spent on more beneficial activities, contributing to increased anxiety and declines in happiness.

Chapter 6 Big Data and Well-Being: by Paul Frijters and Clément Bellet, asks big questions about big data. Is it good or bad, old or new, is it useful for predicting happiness, and what regulation is needed to achieve benefits and reduce risks?

Chapter 7 Addiction and Unhappiness in America: by Jeffrey Sachs, surveys a number of theories of addiction, presents evidence of rising US prevalence of several addictive behaviours, and considers a variety of possible causes and cures.

In presenting these results at the launch, coeditor John Helliwell noted that “over the seven years of World Happiness Reports, there has been a steady increase in the level and sophistication of reader interest. At first, readers mainly wanted to see how countries ranked. Now we see ever-increasing interest in using the happiness lens to help understand what makes for happier homes, schools, workplaces, and communities, and to use these findings to help make lives better everywhere.”

Ramayana is real, say experts

■ Indians' ancestors can be traced back to tribes mentioned in the epic

AMAR TEJASWI | DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 17

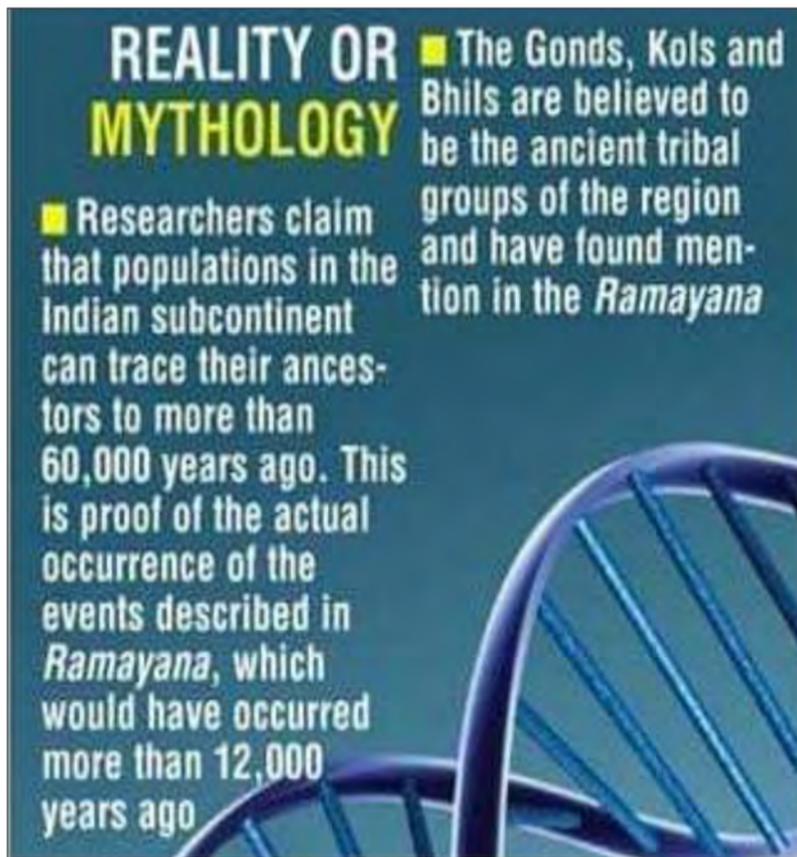
New research carried out by anthropological scientists from the Estonian Biocentre and the University of Delhi claims that events of the mythological epic Ramayana occurred in reality thousands of years ago. Scientists say that results of their genetic studies, with existing data, show genetic signatures of tribal groups features in the Ramayana such as the Gonds, Kols and Bhils, Gonds are a prominent group in Adilabad district of Telangana.

Researchers claimed that populations in the Indian subcontinent can trace their ancestors to more than 60,000 years back, Scientists say that this is proof of the authenticity and actual occurrence of the events described in Ramayana, which would have occurred more the 12,000 years ago.

The Gonds, Kols and Bhils are believed to be the ancient tribal groups of the region and have found mention in the Ramayana.

Authenticity of the mythological text has been questioned several times. While there have been voices proclaiming the authenticity of the Ramayana, research to prove it has increased in recent times.

Dr. Vadlamudi Ragh-



Definitely, the events in Ramayana occurred in real. Our research has showed close genetic affinity of these tribes to other ethnic groups

-DR VADLAMUDI RAGHAVENDRA RAO.
Author of the study

vendra Rao, professor of anthropology, University of Delhi, and one of the authors of the study, said "Definitely, the events described in Ramayana occurred in real, Our research has showed close genetic affinity of these tribes to other ethnic groups. We have shown that there is continuity in the populations groups living here. Other researchers are working to prove other angles of this."

The study was carried out by Estonian Biocentre researcher Gyaneshwar Chaubey, Institute of

Scientific Research on Vedas, Dr Saroj Bala and Dr Raghvendra Rao.

The Bhil, Kol and Gond are three major Indian tribes that have been widely acknowledged in the epic Ramayana, particularly in the chapters Ayodhakanda. Aranyakanda and Kishkindhakanda. Gonds are prominently found in Adilabad district and other states and number about 40 lakh.

The research study says since these tribes are inhabitants of the country since the Stone Age, their genetic affinity to existing populations show the authenticity of the Ramayana.

Researchers said these tribal groups form a closed cluster with Dravidian groups, known as inhabitants of South India.

Aryan migration theory rejected

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 17

Research on three ancient tribal populations of the Indian subcontinent has once again brought to fore the Indo-Aryan migration debate.

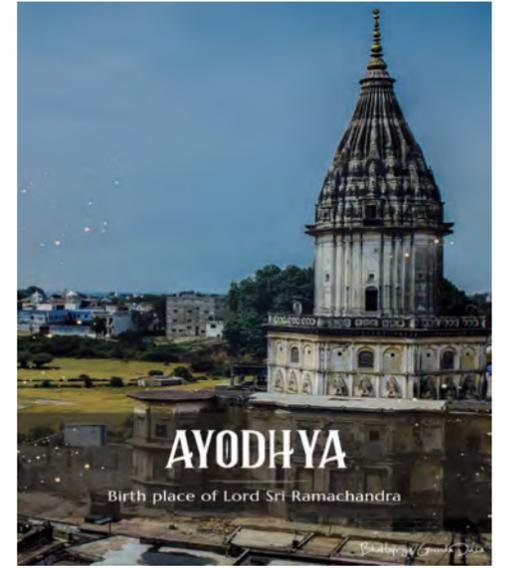
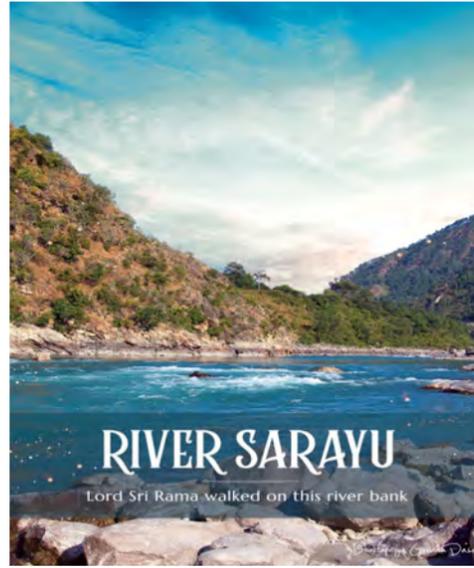
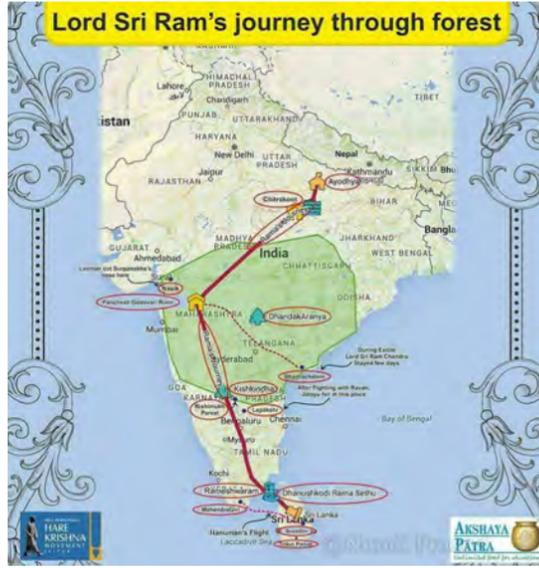
The study has rejected any migration into the Indian subcontinent in the last 12,000 years thereby rejecting the Aryan invasion theory.

Anthropological scientists said there has been continuity in lineage since the Neolithic period, rejecting the conventional theory of the influx of the Indo-Aryan populations. The research study carried out by Estonian Biocentre and University of Delhi, concluded: "Our high-resolution analysis portraying the three ancient tribal populations strongly rejects any incoming genetic signal of large-scale, recent (during the post-Neolithic) migration either of the present Dravidian or the Indo-European speaking populations to the subcontinent."

Dr Vadlamudi Raghavendra Rao, one of the authors of the study, said "DNA evidence is direct evidence and DNA dating is also possible in studies. Our results show continuity in the lineages and we would like to say there is a lot of sharing and the genetic footprint of these tribal groups is being shared by other ethnic populations."

Scientists claimed that absence of any migration into the India subcontinent shows the flaws in the Indo-Aryan theory, which suggests that humans migrated from Africa to the Mediterranean region and then to the Indian subcontinent through the northwestern part of the present day country.

This latest study, however, claims migration occurred from the Indian subcontinent to the European region. Other Scientists have also corroborated this theory that has come up in recent times. Critics say that the propagation of the Indo-Aryan theory is a "saffronisation" of history.



When Ram, Sita and Lakshman went into exile, they set up a hut in Panchavati, which is an actual area near Nashik. Tapovan, a nearby spot, is where Lakshman encountered Surpanakha.



Ram, accompanied by Hanuman, met the dying Jatayu. Ram helped him attain moksha by uttering the words " Le Pakshi ", which is Telugu for "Rise, bird". Hence the name, Lepakshi. There's also a large footprint in that area which is said to be that of Hanuman's.



When they say "Hanuman set Lanka on fire" what they actually mean is he set fire to certain parts of Raavan's palace. The ground here is said to be somewhat black which is nothing like the surrounding area. The picture below is from Ussangoda, which according to mythology was the landing strip for Raavan's Pushpak Vimaan .



Ram Sethu , the bridge made of stones built by Ram's army that connected the mainland to the island kingdom of Lanka, actually exists, albeit now, it's underwater.



When Hanuman reached Ashok Vatika , he is said to have come in the form of a giant. There are giant imprints on one side of the lake there which are said to be Hanuman's footprints, formed when he landed.



When Sita was abducted by Raavan, they bumped into Jatayu, a demi-god in vulture form, who tried his best to stop Raavan. Lepakshi, in Andhra Pradesh, is said to be the place where Jatayu fell.



Here's the part of the temple where Raavan has been idolized. While having 10 heads is an exaggeration, the idea is based on the fact that Raavan ruled 10 kingdoms which meant that he had 10 different crowns.



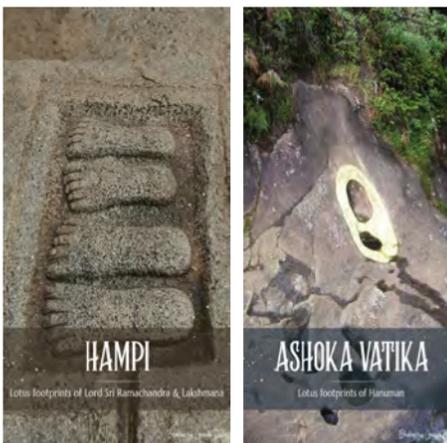
One Of The Floating Stones Which Was Used To Build Ram Setu Bridge...



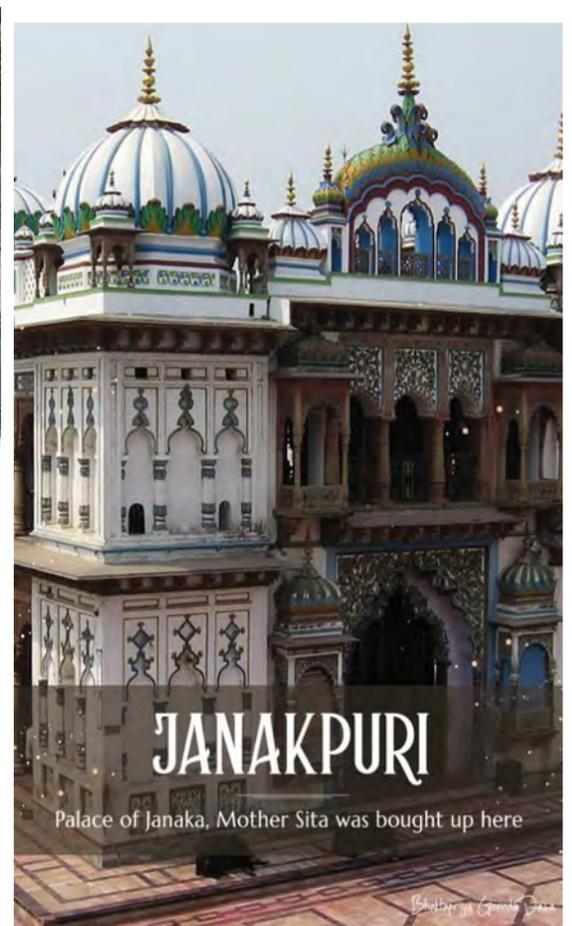
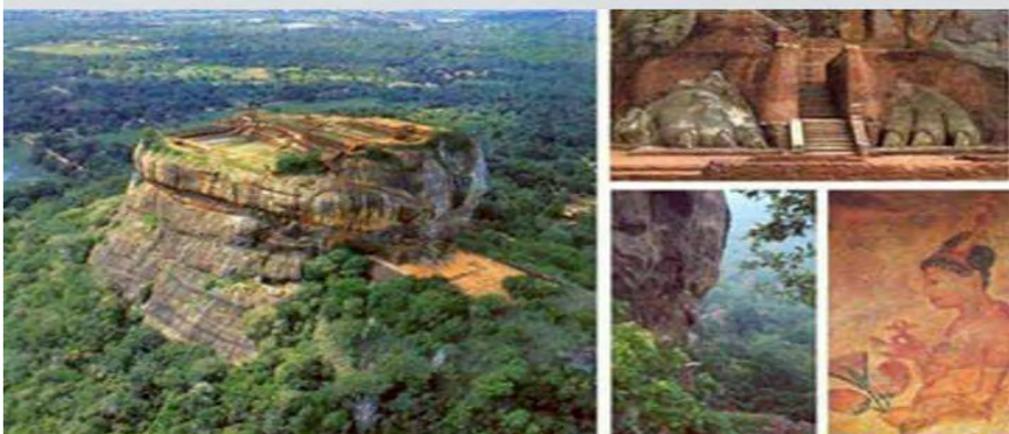
There's an actual Janki Temple in Janakpur in Nepal. Janki, as we know, is another name for Sita, Janaka's daughter.



When Raavan brought Mother Sita to Lanka, he first took her to this place called Sita Kotuwa, which is now a tourist spot in Sri Lanka.



HAMPI Lotus footprints of Lord Sri Ramachandra & Lakshmana
ASHOKA VATIKA Lotus footprints of Hanuman



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