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**Trump accuses Ilhan Omar of supporting Al Qaeda, sends more tweets about Ocasio-Cortez, other progressives**



**Narendra Modi cautions Union ministers against skipping Parliament roster duties during BJP meeting**

**Ex-PM Chandra Shekhar's son Neeraj Shekhar joins BJP, says LS poll results convinced him to work under Narendra Modi**

New Delhi: Neeraj Shekhar, son of former prime minister Chandra Shekhar, joined the BJP Tuesday, asserting that the recent Lok Sabha election results convinced him to work under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party president Amit Shah for contributing to the nation.



Neeraj, who had resigned from Samajwadi Party and as Rajya Sabha member on Monday, met Modi and Shah before he was inducted into the BJP in the presence of its general secretaries Bhupender Yadav and Anil Jain besides its media head Anil Baluni.

It was on an SP ticket that he won the Lok Sabha election from Ballia in 2007, which was held after his father the sitting MP died, and again in 2009. After he lost in 2014, the SP sent him to Rajya Sabha and his term was to end in 2020. He was not fielded by the party in the recent Lok Sabha poll.

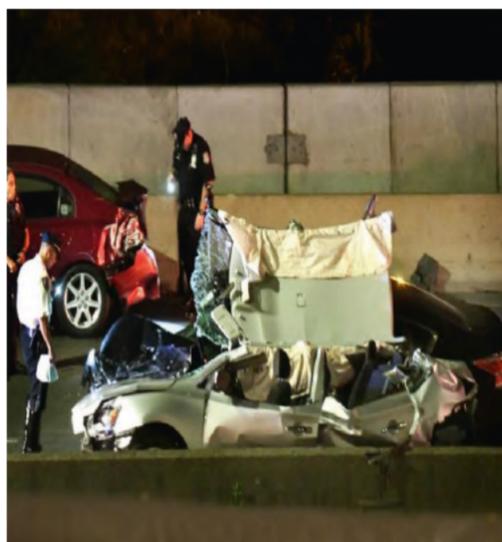
It was becoming difficult for him to continue working in the Samajwadi Party, he told reporters, without elaborating.

"The support the prime minister received in the general election convinced me that if I have to work in national interest, then I should work under him and Amit Shah. The country is convinced that it is safe under them," Neeraj said.

Source : nydailynews.com



**Shivraj Singh Chouhan slams MP govt over proposed Sita temple in Sri Lanka, says it is 'checking for facts' instead of executing proposal**



**Cars significantly more dangerous than guns in New York, new data shows**

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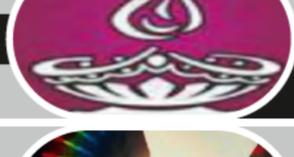
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Population Control Law must implement in India. Family of two children pay taxes while family of eight children get subsidies. This Must Stop. All Families, All Religions should get equal subsidies.

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN NYC AREA

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Tuesday</b><br><b>16 July, 2019</b><br>7:00 PM – 9:00 PM          |    | <b>Make Pizza, Drink (Bottomless) Wine: Manhattan</b><br>Kesté Fulton, 77 Fulton Street, New York, NY 10038        |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br><b>17 July, 2019</b><br>1:00 PM – 3:00 PM        |    | <b>Historic Cemetery Trolley Tour</b><br>Green-Wood, 500 25th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11232                           |
| <b>Thursday</b><br><b>18 July, 2019</b><br>6:00 PM – 7:00 PM         |    | <b>Free Rooftop Yoga and Froze</b><br>Pod Brooklyn Hotel, 247 Metropolitan Avenue, Brooklyn, NY                    |
| <b>Friday</b><br><b>19 July, 2019</b><br>4:00 PM                     |   | <b>NY Empire State Tattoo Expo 2019</b><br>New York Hilton Midtown, 1335 Avenue of the Americas, NY                |
| <b>Sunday</b><br><b>21 July, 2019</b><br>10:00 AM – 5:30 PM          |  | <b>NYC Summer Ice Cream Blizzard</b><br>Grand Bazaar NYC, 100 West 77th Street, New York, NY 10024                 |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br><b>23 July, 2019</b><br>6:00 PM – 10:00 PM         |  | <b>Aquaman Free Screening</b><br>Hecksher Community Garden, 134 Scholes Street, Brooklyn, NY                       |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br><b>24 July, 2019</b><br>6:30 PM – 7:30 PM        |  | <b>Healthy on the Hudson x lululemon</b><br>Pier 25 at Hudson River Park, West Street, New York, NY 10013          |
| <b>Thursday</b><br><b>25 July, 2019</b><br>6:30 PM – 7:30 PM         |  | <b>Core Fusion: Total Body Conditioning Class</b><br>Cosmic Fit Club, 21-36 44th Road, 1st Floor, Queens, NY 11101 |
| <b>Saturday</b><br><b>27 July, 2019</b><br>8:30 PM                   |  | <b>Rock the Yacht: Saturday Night Party Cruise</b><br>Pier 15, 78 South Street, New York, NY 10038                 |
| <b>Sunday</b><br><b>28 July, 2019</b><br>10:00 AM - 1:00 PM          |  | <b>Akhil Vishwa Hindi Samiti, New York</b><br>Hindu Center 45-52 Kissena Blvd, Flushing, NY 11355                  |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br><b>31 July, 2019</b><br>7:00 PM – 8:00 PM        |  | <b>Yoga for Witches</b><br>Catland, 987 Flushing Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11206   |
| <b>Friday-Saturday</b><br><b>2-3 Aug, 2019</b><br>6:00 PM & 11AM-1PM |  | <b>Satsang And Pravachan</b> with Param Pujya Sadhvi Rithambara Ji<br>11 Deforest CT, West Nyack 10994             |
| <b>Sunday</b><br><b>11 Aug, 2019</b><br>1 PM - 8 PM                  |  | <b>4th Queens India Day Parade and Cultural Mela</b><br>263rd Street/Hillside Ave, New York                        |

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

# RCHS celebrates 10th anniversary, Mukesh Modi gets the gavel

**Hicksville, NY:** The Rotary Club of Hicksville South (RCHS) held their 10th Anniversary and Appreciation Gala at Antun's on June 23 where key supporters and community leaders were honored and Mukesh Modi took over as the 11th President for 2019-20.

The event was attended by several dignitaries including Indian Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty, Rotary District Governor Shawn Weis, Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph S. Saladino's representative, eminent Jain Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni and Past District Governors Ravi Bhooplapur and Kamlesh C. Mehta.

Kamlesh C. Mehta, Past District Governor and Charter President of the club, welcomed the guests and related how RCHS was started 10 years ago by a group of like-minded friends with over 100 charter members, a record for Rotary International's 105 years of history in the US.

PDG Ravi Bhooplapur who had inspired the formation of RCHS, lauded the fact that in the last decade RCHS managed to raise \$800,000 for club initiated projects and produced a District Governor, and a few Assistant District Governors.

Outgoing President Roopam Maini, Branch Manager BCB Indus American Bank, thanked her executive team for a successful year and related the accomplishments made during her term. She recognized and honored Aleya Jung, Shashi Jhamb and Arjen Bathija for their support.

The high point of the evening came when Roopam Maini handed the gavel to incoming President, Mukesh Modi, an entrepreneur, community leader and philanthropist. Modi said in his acceptance speech that it was an honor to lead the club and he would like to take a quantum leap in the activities of the club during his term.

Modi's team includes Nilima Madan (President Elect), Vice Presidents Shashi Jhamb and Kalpana Patel, General Secretary Shashi Malik, Treasurer Arjen Bathija and Jt Secretary Anu Gulati. Over a score new members were also inducted into the club, including Dr. Pravin Pandhi, Past President of FIA.

Honorees included Dr Raj Bhayani, eminent ENT surgeon, and Jasbir 'Jay'

Singh, Editor-Publisher of Hum Hindustani paper and President of India Day Parade of Long Island this year.

HAB Bank, the premier community bank, were recognized and honored with Lifetime Appreciations Award for their generous contributions for the Club's humanitarian projects over the past 10 years.

PDG Ravi Bhooplapur was honored with Lifetime Appreciations Award for his continued guidance and mentoring the club since its inception.

The Bansi Shah Memorial Award for highest donation to RCHS's project in a Rotary year was presented to Subin Varghese of Mekkatti Graphics. He donated over \$25,000 for Kerala flood relief.

Rotary International's highest award, Paul Harris Honor of Medal was conferred on Amb. Chakravorty by PDG Ravi Bhooplapur. The Consul General was also accorded Honorary Membership of RCHS.

In its 10th anniversary year, RCHS inducted into its Hall of Fame, Past Presidents Dave Vyas Sharma and Quddus Mohammed (Asstt. District Governor 2014-17) for their continued support and exemplary leadership to the club. "Home-Cooking: Recipes for Multicultural Gatherings", a coffee table book written by Quddus Mohammed and published by RCHS, was released at the event. All proceeds of the book will be used for charitable projects of RCHS.

Dr. Urmilesh Arya, Nilima Madan and Roopam Maini received a plaque from Fire Medics, presented to RCHS in appreciation for the support for a Stretcher.

Outgoing President Roopam Maini told the gathering of over 200 that in 2018-19 RCHS donated \$10,500 for the Kerala flood relief fund; distributed 700 backpacks with school supplies for students; contributed 500 winter coats, 250 blankets for the needy, and garments worth \$3,500 for veteran families.

Serving Food for Hunger project in collaboration with United Methodist Church of Hempstead was continued where 125 people each month are served food and fruits. Ms. Angel Shah



mesmerized over 250 attendees with her dance performance.

There are over 32,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas, giving rise to a global network of 1.2 million business and professional leaders, all volunteering their time and talents to serve their communities and the world.

# 22 millennia-old urns discovered off coast of Albania

Huge urns believed to be over 2,500 years old have been discovered off the Albanian coast.

In all, 22 containers have been discovered in the Ionian Sea, reported The Associated Press on Saturday.

The underwater endeavor is the co-project of Albanian and American archaeologists, who believe the startling find might yield evidence an ancient shipwreck.

“If the remains of a wreck can be found, it will put this discovery as the earliest ship ever to be sailing along the Albanian coast,” said archaeologist Mateusz Polakowski, who believes the amphorae date from between the 7th century B.C. and 5th century B.C.

On Friday, members of the research vessel Hercules confirmed it had located the amphorae, which are large, two-handled jars with narrow necks often used for oil or wine.

Archaeologists claimed the urns were about 150 feet deep and scattered on the seabed near the shores of the Karaburun



Peninsula. Albanian excavator Neritan Ceka said similar urns of Corinthian and Kerkira origin have been found in Durres and Apolonia, which points to trading during the second half of the 7th century B.C.

Several amphorae mounds as well as 28 wreck sites have been discovered recently in Albania.

“If confirmed, this shipwreck can be associated with the foundation of two major cities (on the) Albanian

coastline, Dyrrachium and Apolonia, both the gates of Via Egnatia, the ancient road to the Eastern trade,” said Auron Tare, the UNESCO head of Scientific and Technical Committee for World Underwater Heritage.

Source : nydailynews.com

# Cars significantly more dangerous than guns in New York, new data shows

New York is the safest big city in the country — unless you’re near a car..

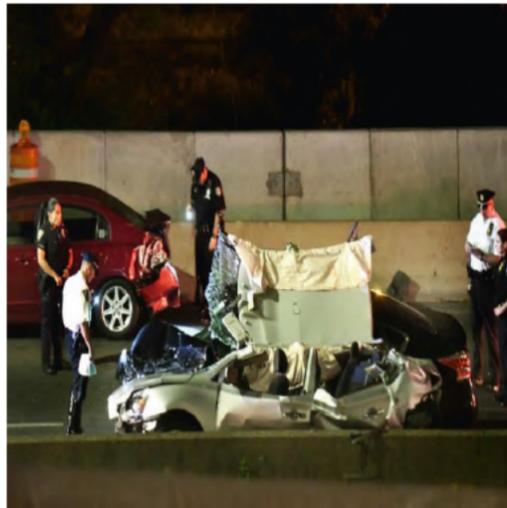
Motor vehicles are significantly deadlier than guns in New York, new NYPD data shows.

Crashes involving cars, vans, trucks and buses killed 111 people on city streets during the first six months of 2019, public data shows.

During the same period, 61 people died in shootings, the NYPD says. Those shootings account for 45% of the city’s 135 homicides during 2019’s first half. Police say the city is on a path to have the lowest number of murders since 1950, and that gun deaths over the full year will be 25% down from 2018.

Motor vehicles are also deadlier than guns in car-loving major metros like Los Angeles, Houston and San Diego, data shows.

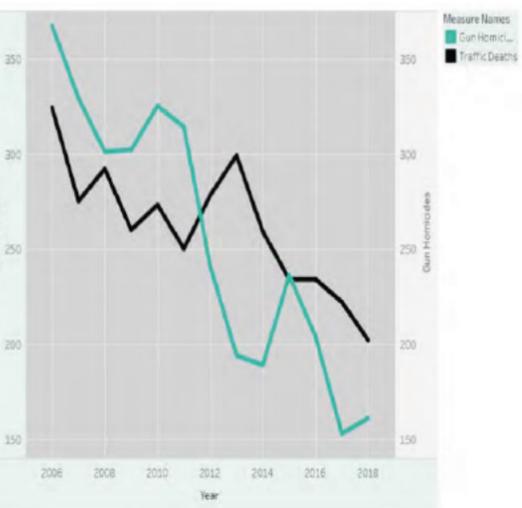
But in New York, where only one in four residents commute via motor vehicle, data shows that the city has



done a much better job of curbing gun violence in recent years than traffic deaths.

For decades, bullets killed more New Yorkers than traffic crashes. Just a decade ago — in 2009 — bullets killed 367 New Yorkers, and motor vehicle crashes killed 324.

But that dynamic flipped in 2012 when the city saw a 22% drop in gun-related homicides. That year, 241 people were killed by bullets, and 278 in traffic crashes. Since then, 2015 was the only year in which more New Yorkers killed



each other with guns than motor vehicles — but it was close: 236 people were killed by guns, and 234 by traffic crashes.

Mayor de Blasio’s administration has presided over historic lows for both homicides and traffic deaths.

Still, as fatal crashes have risen this year — including 15 cyclist deaths to date — street safety advocates have pressured de Blasio to treat car-related deaths as a public health crisis.

Some argue that the mayor’s Vision Zero program, which aims to curb traffic

fatalities, is falling flat.

“The safety improvements we’ve seen during the first five years of Vision Zero, while impressive, were achieved without disrupting the car-dominant status quo on our streets,” said Joe Cutrufo, spokesman for street safety group Transportation Alternatives.

“Decades of bad decisions have left us with a stubborn and unfortunate car culture that yields four traffic deaths every single week,” Cutrufo said. “Enough is enough. We can have safer streets if we want them, but it’s going to require bold leadership and the resolve to put the automobile in its proper place.”

De Blasio has repeatedly defended his record on improving traffic safety and curbing crime, but many critics have chided him for kowtowing to community groups who do not want to give up parking spots for street redesigns.

“One death — no matter the cause — is always one too many,” said de Blasio spokeswoman Freddi Goldstein. “As the mayor has said repeatedly, we won’t stop until we have reached Vision Zero on our streets.”

Source : nydailynews.com

Amidst a huge gathering, His Holiness Sri Dr. Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji of Mysore, India performed 'Raga Maya Raga Sagara,' a Meditation and Healing Concert at the John F Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington DC on July 6, 2019.

At the concert, Swami Chidatmananda of Chinmaya Mission offered a garland to Sri Swamiji.

Special invitees, Ambassador P K Kapur, former Indian Ambassador to Chile, and Cambodia, honored Sri Swamiji with a Vastram, and Rajan Natarajan, Transportation Commissioner, and former Deputy Secretary of State for the State of Maryland, presented a memento to Sri Swamiji from the State of Maryland. Another special invitee Shambhu Hakki, First Secretary and Spokesperson for the Indian Embassy in Washington DC, who represented the Indian Ambassador to the US, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, honored internationally acclaimed violinist Dr. L. Subramaniam, who played alongside Sri Swamiji at the concert.

At the press conference, prior to the concert, in the Kennedy Center, Sri Swamiji said that he was happy to be performing at the Kennedy Center, and talked about the importance and benefits of attending the Music for Meditation and Healing concerts.

Soon after the concert Sri Swamiji conveyed that the Kennedy Center concert had been planned for a long time but finally the star, date and time aligned and the concert happened.



He played two new ragas, Chandika and Kamavardhini and their combination turned out very well. He appreciated special guest, violinist Dr. L. Subramaniam for an excellent performance, and the overall troupe for their musical support.

The main raga, Kamavardhini, a very powerful healing raga, played during the concert, worked on the entire body, all chakras, all zodiac signs, and all five elements. Sri Swamiji also played Rushyaketupriya, Kapi, Mohana, Chandika, Kamavardhini, Madhuvarshini, and Sama ragas.

The ragas played during the concert are helpful in Cervical Spondylosis, Computer Related Stress, Thyroid diseases, Laryngeal Disorders, Hyperacidity, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Arthritis, High Blood Pressure, and Insomnia to name a few. Regularly listening to these ragas help relax persons with such ailments. During the concert, Sri Swamiji walked amidst the audience with a crystal rod and identified people with chronic diseases and channeled healing energy and vibrations, stated a press release issued by media coordinator Vishnudatta Jayaraman.

At the concert, artists Jaitra Varanasi (Violin), Shankar Ramesh (Mridangam), Mahesh Bhatt (Tabla), and Mani (Keyboard), and Jaya Datta (Cymbals) from Sri Swamiji's Celestial Message Troupe accompanied Sri Swamiji.

The event was jointly organized by Datta Yoga Center, DC Chapter and Yoga Sangeeta, Sri Swamiji's non-profit organization based in New Jersey. This concert was part of the US and Switzerland concert tour 2019. Thus far, Sri Swamiji has performed in Houston, and Washington DC. Other concerts are planned in Atlanta, Chicago, Seattle, and Davos, Switzerland.

## A MISSILE, GUNS AND NAZI PARAPHERNALIA WERE CONFISCATED BY ITALIAN POLICE AFTER ARREST



Italian police confiscated an arsenal including an air-to-air missile during an arrest of three men, one of whom was a former neo-fascist political candidate. Cops in Turin found dozens of hunting rifles, assault weapons and pistols in the home of former Forza Nuova party

candidate Fabio Del Bergiolo, according to CBS News. Nazi paraphernalia was also collected from the 50-year-old right-winger's home, the report said. Del Bergiolo once worked as a customs agent.

Police also picked up Alessandro Monti, 42, and Fabio Bernardi, 51, in connection with the French-made missile they discovered in an airport hangar.

They believe the men were hoping to sell the weapon. Authorities posted a photo of their menacing haul on Twitter along with the claim they'd "revealed a negotiation" involving the deadly projectile.

The investigation leading to the three arrests was reportedly connected to a crackdown of far-right extremists with ties to Russia's aggression toward Ukraine.

Source : nydailynews.com

## 1 dead, 15 injured after California house explosion



A crew from SoCalGas was fixing a natural gas line that was damaged by a contractor who had been working on the home earlier Monday.

"We are deeply saddened to learn of today's incident which took the life of one of our employees, injured firefighters, and impacted others," SoCalGas said in a statement. "Our focus now is on working with first responders to make the area safe, and supporting all those involved. We will continue to work with first responders to determine what caused the accident. Our sympathies and thoughts are with the individuals and families of those impacted."

Three of the injured were later confirmed to be firefighters but their conditions were unknown.

Source : nydailynews.com

Long Island Ladies Circle(LILC) picnic Sunday July 7 at Eisonhover Park brought happiness to more than 90 people all enjoyed food and took part in Bingo,Parcel game and Karaoke singing & Badminton.So it was funfilled afternoon and memorable.Both presidents of LILC Pinki Jaggi & Jyoti Gupta need round of applause with their team .LILC rocked in all the events they do.This year was their second picnic We had around 90 people and we all enjoyed from 1 to 5 pm.Everyone was busy doing something.Very well organized impressive picnic with great love and hospitality.Winners of Bingo and pass the parcel game were given prizes by Jay Singh ,Zahid Syed & Sharanjit Thind. sponsored by Jyoti Fupta,Sonia Anand,Pinki Jaggi,Arti Majithia and Sanju Sharma all officers of LILC.



## CALIFORNIA WOMAN WHO WAS RESCUED AFTER GOING MISSING AT REMOTE CAMPSITE SAYS SHE WAS CHASED BY MAN WITH KNIFE



A 60-year-old woman found safe on Monday after going missing from a remote California campsite three days before had been chased by a man with a knife.

Sheryl Powell was taking her dog for a walk at the Grandview Campground when she was pursued by the assailant.

"I took off with my dog and we just ran in a different direction than I knew my husband was, because the guy was between me and my husband, so I went the other way," she told ABC's "Good Morning America" in an interview that aired Tuesday. "I did what I had to."

Her husband Joe was moving their Jeep at the time, and was only away from her for several minutes.

"They liked to camp away from other people — that's nothing new," son Greg Powell told ABC News. "They had gone just under a mile on this dirt road past the main camp site, found a really nice site off the road there that they liked. So they pulled in front, facing forward to check it out. Both got out of the car, decided they really loved the campsite.

"And then they — my mom and our dog Miley — got out of the car to stand in the shade and my dad went down the hill, did a

five-point turn and came up backwards on the hill so they could facilitate unloading the vehicle," he continued. "When (his father) came back, they were gone without a trace."

Sheryl Powell said that the man with the knife "had been observing" her and the dog.

"If we made noise, if we yelled out, he was going to use [the knife] on us," she told ABC.

Both Sheryl Powell and her little dog were found "alive and well" on Monday, according

to the Inyo County Sheriff's Office. She was able to survive the ordeal by drinking water and eating cactus, according to ABC News.

"Every day that went on got harder and harder," daughter Farrah told ABC. "Each day, our hope was kind of dwindling and we tried to stay strong, but it was a very concerning situation."

Investigators are looking into the circumstances of Sheryl's disappearance.

Source : nydailynews.com

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# TRUMP ACCUSES ILHAN OMAR OF SUPPORTING AL QAEDA, SENDS MORE TWEETS ABOUT OCASIO-CORTEZ, OTHER PROGRESSIVES

President Trump is ratcheting up the racism and Republican leaders aren't saying a peep.

Trump on Monday falsely accused Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar of being an Al Qaeda supporter while repeating and expanding on his shocking claims that she and three other women of color in Congress should "go back" to their own countries.

"We're at war with Al Qaeda, and she's somebody talking about how great Al Qaeda is," Trump said during an event at the White House that was supposed to focus on promoting American manufacturers. "That was Omar. How great Al Qaeda is...She said you can hold their chest out, you can, 'When I think of America, huh. When I think of Al Qaeda, I can hold my chest out.'"

The Minnesota congresswoman who's one of only two Muslims in Congress has never voiced support for Al Qaeda, despite Trump's claims.

The president's baseless comments came one day after he tweeted that Omar and the three other members of a progressive group of House Democrats known as the "Squad" all of whom are U.S. citizens should "go back" to the "totally broken and crime infested" countries "from which they came."

After making the false assertion about Al Qaeda, Trump defended his Twitter claims about Omar and fellow left-leaning Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan.

"All they do is complain. All I'm saying, if they want to leave, they can leave," Trump said. "If they are not happy here, they can leave. They can leave, and you know what? I'm sure there will be many people that wouldn't miss them."

Meanwhile, the two top Republicans in Congress Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy stayed silent, declining repeated requests for comment on Trump's remarks.

Eighteen other Republican lawmakers issued some criticism of Trump on Monday ranging from sharp to muted.

Long Island Rep. Pete King called the president's tweets "very inappropriate and wrong," but refused to use the term racist to describe Trump's comments.

"I don't think he's a racist, but I think the comments can be interpreted in a very negative way. They could inflame racist tendencies that people



may have," King told the Daily News. "You have to be careful with what you say."

Other Republicans came out in full support of Trump.

Rep. Lee Zeldin, another Republican from Long Island, put blame squarely on the "Squad" and tweeted that "anyone in the US with a blame America 1st mentality for everything needs to do

some serious self reflection, especially if they are a Member of Congress."

Along with Zeldin, upstate Rep. Chris Collins was the only Republican in the New York congressional delegation to fail to condemn Trump and instead accused Democrats of "deflection." The other Republicans from the Empire State

Reps. Tom Reed, John Katko and Elise Stefanik issued generic statements criticizing the president.

Source : nydailynews.com

## Ginormica the Florida python weighs 200 pounds, stretches more than 20 feet and could break records



A Florida python fittingly named Ginormica is on course to be the largest snake on record as it hits the 200-pound mark and reaches more than 20 feet in length. The 6-year-old serpent, who is still growing, is also an excellent swimmer likely to live nearly 70 more years, according to the Tampa Bay Times.

Ginormica resides at Emerald Coast Zoo in Crestview, Fla., under the care of Rick de Ridder, who sees to it the big girl's diet of frozen goats and pigs is satisfied. "We feed her 20 to 30 pounds animals every two

weeks," de Ridder said. "A snake this size, you would never want to teach 'em how to kill anything."

He believes the imposing reptile is already large enough to kill a smaller human.

According to de Ridder, Ginormica is likely the longest snake in Florida and one of the five biggest on Earth. He expects her to break the record set at 25 feet in length in the next two years.

Source : nydailynews.com

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**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday cautioned Union ministers against skipping their roster duties in Parliament and said that he should be given names of all absentee ministers the same evening, sources said.



## NARENDRA MODI cautions Union ministers against skipping Parliament roster duties during BJP meeting

Modi's displeasure over the issue of absence of ministers came at a BJP's parliamentary party meeting, where he has in the past often pulled up MPs for absenteeism when it is in session. This is the second time in the month, Modi has expressed unhappiness over the issue of absence of lawmakers in Parliament. Opposition members have at times raised the issue of absence of ministers. BJP sources said there have been instances when Cabinet ministers or their deputies scheduled to be present in either Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha were absent.

being asked to be present for the session same evening, sources said.

During the meeting, Modi also said the ongoing session can be extended, if required, to pass the government's legislative agenda, sources added.

In a briefing after the meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi told reporters that Modi asked BJP MPs to nurse their constituencies by playing a leading role in its development and advised them to take up a cause of human sensitivity like eradication of leprosy or tuberculosis and water conservation. 'First

impression is often the last impression', Modi told the party MPs, a large number of them first-timers, as he asked them to work passionately for the development of their areas.

The prime minister also told parliamentarians that they should take up a social cause or an issue of human sensitivity as a "mission" apart from carrying out their duties as MPs so that they are remembered for their work.

Modi also asked them to help in eradicating disease like leprosy and TB while referring to work done by Mahatma Gandhi in this area.

Asked to inaugurate a hospital for lepers, Gandhi had said that he would rather be invited to put a lock on it, Modi noted. Joshi said the Prime Minister also noted that India has fixed a deadline of 2025 for eradicating TB against the global deadline of 2030. Modi also asked them to work with local authorities for the development of their constituencies. He referred to "aspirational" districts, an official term for underdeveloped districts, and asked them to coordinate with authorities to boost their progress. There is a "healthy competition" among authorities for developing these districts and MPs should work with officials to ensure development, Modi said.

The prime minister said MPs can also associate themselves with animal welfare. Many countries have successfully controlled foot and mouth disease but it remains an issue in India, he added.

During the meeting, BJP working president JP Nadda briefed about the party's ongoing membership drive, with Modi asking MPs to join the campaign which, he added, has received good response from people.

Source : firstpost.com

## Ahead of 2020 Delhi Vidhan Sabha elections, BJP's in-house dynast Parvesh Verma uses mosque politics to stay relevant

Member of Parliament from West Delhi, Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma has submitted a list of 54 mosques, mazhaars, madrasas and graveyards constructed illegally in Delhi to Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal. Months before the Vidhan Sabha election, Verma's decision to rake up the issue of illegally constructed mosques suggests that the leader, who is a Lok Sabha MP, is trying to stay relevant in state politics.

Aadmi Party and it can attack this move as an attempt at polarising the voters.

These mosques were constructed in the 70s and 80s on DDA land which later came under the jurisdiction of the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board and the Waqf board. Two committees are investigating illegally-constructed religious structures (not just mosques), one set up by the Minorities Commission and another by LG Anil Baijal. According to Verma, these structures were built over a period of 20 years. Verma has also stated that these structures have been built on such lands belonging to the MCD, DDA, Gram Sabha,



flood department and DUSIB, on which public toilets, community centres and parks were supposed to be built.

On Verma's insistence, the issue is being raked up. In 2014, a year before the vidhan sabha elections, in East Delhi's Trilokpuri, a brawl between Balmikis and Muslims on Diwali night escalated into riots and at least 17 people were injured and two shops were burnt. The news of an alleged communal tension surfaced in Hauz Qazi some days ago. Now, an issue like illegally constructed mosques is going to be viewed as just another attempt to polarise, even though the committees will look into the legality of such structures.

Source : firstpost.com

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# Shivraj Singh Chouhan slams MP govt over proposed Sita temple in Sri Lanka, says it is 'checking for facts' instead of executing proposal

**Bhopal:** BJP leader Shivraj Singh Chouhan alleged on Tuesday that the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh was "checking the facts" instead of executing his proposal to build a temple to Sita at Divurumpola in Sri Lanka.

The government retorted that it was an empty promise made by the former chief minister as nothing was formalised. "The entire country and the world know that Sita was kept in Ashok Vatika in Sri Lanka, where she had to go through 'Agni Pariksha' (ordeal by fire).

"When I visited Sri Lanka, it occurred to me that a grand temple should be built at this site. I am surprised that this Kamal Nath government is talking about checking the facts," Chouhan tweeted in Hindi.

In a video tagged with the tweet, the former chief minister claimed that necessary approvals had been secured for the temple from the Sri Lankan government as well as the Centre.

Accusing the Nath government of discontinuing several works initiated by his government, Chouhan also demanded that it undertake other projects including installation of a Shankaracharya statue (at Omkareshwar on the Narmada).

Asked about Chouhan's claim, Minister for Religious Trust and Endowments PC Sharma told reporters, "There was nothing on paper (about the proposed temple). We dug into the files to see if anything concrete was put on paper by the Chouhan government but found nothing."



"Whatever we do will be concrete unlike empty promises of Shivraj Singh Chouhan," the minister added. Chouhan had mooted the Sita temple in September 2012 when then Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa visited Sanchi in Madhya Pradesh to inaugurate the University of Buddhist-Indic Studies.

The temple was proposed to come up at Divurumpola in the island nation where Sita is supposed to have undergone an ordeal by fire as per the epic Ramayana.

The BJP government had also promised to develop 'Ram Van Gaman Path', the route taken by Lord Ram on his way to the 14-year exile as per the mythology, but did nothing, Sharma alleged. "We had promised to develop this path in our manifesto and we are going ahead on this issue by making provision in the recent budget," the minister added.

Source : firstpost.com

## HD Kumaraswamy fights losing battle to save Congress-JD(S) govt in Karnataka; all eyes on SC order tomorrow

In the year 1573, the British city of Chester was blessed with a Mayor called Aldersey, who was like Karnataka chief minister HD Kumaraswamy.

One fine day, or one fine night, Aldersey's daughter Ellen eloped through what was called Peppergate on the east of the city. Only after that, Aldersey ordered the gate shut. This led to the proverb about "shutting Peppergate after the daughter has gone".

A similar, but more popular proverb is: "Locking the stable after the horse has bolted". This is equally true of what the Janata Dal (Secular) chief minister is doing, except that, not one but 18 horses have bolted in his case. We are, of course, talking about 18 MLAs—13 of the Congress, three of the JD(S) and two Independents.

After they dumped the Congress-JD(S) coalition, troubleshooters of the two parties are trying to keep their flock together, while offering those who have gone away a variety of temptations to return. But the rebels have found a more promising stable. A few might come back if Kumaraswamy is lucky, but that would hardly make his government stable.

Of the 18 rebels, 16 have submitted resignations from the Assembly, reducing the government to a minority, while the two Independents have quit as ministers and announced support for the BJP. Assembly Speaker KR Ramesh Kumar, a



Congress appointee, thought he could stave off a crisis with the mind-bogglingly simplistic methodology of rejecting the 16 resignations.

Wednesday's SC ruling crucial

Of them, 15 moved the Supreme Court seeking direction to Kumar to accept the resignations.

At first, the Speaker had said the resignations had not been submitted to him personally in the prescribed form. So 11 of them did the needful, but he is still not accepting their letters.

The Speaker also claims he needs to be sure the MLAs had resigned voluntarily and not under duress. How he can be sure of that without an investigation is anybody's guess.

Source : firstpost.com

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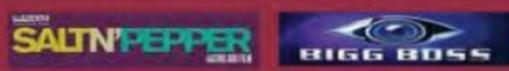
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# श्रीमद् भगवद् गीता

65. Even among those who meditate, that man or woman who worships me with perfect faith, completely absorbed in me, is the most firmly established in yoga.

66. With your mind intent on me, Arjuna, discipline yourself with the practice of yoga. Depend on me completely. Listen, and I will dispel all your doubts; you will come to know me fully and be united with me.

69. My eternal seed, Arjuna, is to be found in every creature. I am the power of discrimination in those who are intelligent, and the glory of the noble. In those who are strong, I am strength, free from passion and selfish attachment. I am desire itself, if that desire is in harmony with the purpose of life.

70. The states of sattva, rajas, and tamas come from me, but I am not in them.

me, seeing me everywhere and in everything. Such great souls are very rare.

74. The world, deluded, does not know that I am without birth and changeless. I know everything about the past, the present, and the future, Arjuna; but there is no one who knows me completely.

75. Delusion arises from the duality of



67. The birth and dissolution of the cosmos itself take place in me. There is nothing that exists separate from me, Arjuna. The entire universe is suspended from me as my necklace of jewels.

68. Arjuna, I am the taste of pure water and the radiance of the sun and moon. I am the sacred word and the sound heard in air, and the courage of human beings. I am the sweet fragrance in the earth and the radiance of fire; I am the life in every creature and the striving of the spiritual aspirant.

71. The three gunas make up my divine maya, difficult to overcome. But they cross over this maya who take refuge in me.

72. Some come to the spiritual life because of suffering, some in order to understand life; some come through a desire to achieve life's purpose, and some come who are men and women of wisdom. Unwavering in devotion, always united with me, the man or woman of wisdom surpasses all the others.

73. After many births the wise seek refuge in

attraction and aversion, Arjuna; every creature is deluded by these from birth.

76. Those who see me ruling the cosmos, who see me in the adhibhuta, the adhidaiva, and the adhiyajna, are conscious of me even at the time of death.

77. The Lord is the supreme poet, the first cause, the sovereign ruler, subtler than the tiniest particle, the support of all, inconceivable, bright as the sun, beyond darkness.



sacred scriptures, the Rig, Yajur, and Sama Vedas.

85. I am the goal of life, the Lord and support of all, the inner witness, the abode of all. I am the only refuge, the one true friend; I am the beginning, the staying, and the end of creation; I am the womb and the eternal seed.

86. Those who follow the rituals given in the Vedas, who offer sacrifices and take soma, free themselves from evil and attain the vast heaven of the gods, where they enjoy celestial pleasures. When they have enjoyed these fully, their merit is exhausted and they return to this land of death. Thus observing Vedic rituals but caught in an endless chain of desires, they come and go.

87. Those who worship me and meditate on me constantly, without any other thought - I will provide for all their needs.

88. Those who worship the devas will go to the realm of the devas; those who worship their ancestors will be united with them after death. Those who worship phantoms will become phantoms; but my devotees will come to me. Those who worship the devas will go to the realm of the devas; those who worship their ancestors will be united with them after death. Those who worship phantoms will become phantoms; but my devotees will come to me.

89. Fill your mind with me; love me; serve me; worship me always. Seeking me in your heart, you will at last be united with me.

90. All the scriptures lead to me; I am their author and their wisdom.

91. Bhishma, Drona, Jayadratha, Karna, and many others are already slain. Kill those whom I have killed. Do not hesitate. Fight in this battle and you will conquer your enemies.

92. Not by knowledge of the Vedas, nor sacrifice, nor charity, nor rituals, nor even by severe asceticism has any other mortal seen what you have seen, O heroic Arjuna.

93. Better indeed is knowledge than mechanical practice. Better than knowledge is meditation. But better still is surrender of

attachment to results, because there follows immediate peace.

94. Some realize the Self within them through the practice of meditation, some by the path of wisdom, and others by selfless service. Others may not know these paths; but hearing and following the instructions of an illumined teacher, they too go beyond death.

95. The brightness of the sun, which lights up the world, the brightness of the moon and of fire - these are my glory.

96. Calmness, gentleness, silence, self-restraint, and purity: these are the disciplines of the mind.

97. To refrain from selfish acts is one kind of renunciation, called sannyasa; to renounce the fruit of action is another, called tyaga.

98. By serving me with steadfast love, a man or woman goes beyond the gunas. Such a one is fit for union with Brahman.

99. When they see the variety of creation rooted in that unity and growing out of it, they attain fulfillment in Brahman.

100. I have shared this profound truth with you, Arjuna. Those who understand it will attain wisdom; they will have done that which has to be done.

101. I give you these precious words of wisdom; reflect on them and then do as you choose.

\*\*\*\*

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Actor Kriti Sanon, who is promoting her upcoming film Arjun Patiala, visited Dance Deewane and got a chance to meet her idol, Madhuri Dixit. She even got to dance with the diva on her 90s hit song Ankhiya Milaun. As pictures and videos from the sets go viral online, Kriti, too has expressed her happiness.

Kriti told Madhuri how, as a child, she practised Madhuri's dialogues in front of the mirror and danced to her song Ankhiya Milaun from Sanjay Kapoor-starrer Raja. When she expressed her desire to dance with Madhuri, the latter happily obliged. Pictures from the sets show Kriti and her Arjun Patiala co-star Diljit Dosanjh enjoying themselves on Dance Deewane sets.

A Mumbai Mirror report quoted Kriti as saying, "It was a surreal experience. I have seen this dance on TV and now performing with Madhuri on the same song feels like an achievement. I don't wish for anything else, I have fulfilled my ultimate dream."

Recently, Kriti completed five years in Bollywood and talking about her journey, she told Hindustan Times, "I feel a lot more comfortable, a lot more at home now. Feels like these five years just flew by quickly. At times, I still feel like a newcomer. It's my good fortune that I got the right kind of opportunities, met the right people and reached where I am today."

# KRITI SANON

has a fangirl moment as she grooves to Ankhiya Milaun with Madhuri Dixit



Further, talking about her success in the industry, she said, "It's because of their (audience's) unconditional love and support, not just on social media but also in real life, that made me work harder, gave me this

standing...I couldn't imagine this journey being so great without them in my life." Kriti will next be seen in Akshay Kumar's Housefull 4 and Arjun Kapoor's Panipat.

Source : hindustantimes.com

# KHANDAANI SHAFAKHANA

## scene where I advertise a sex clinic was most difficult shot of my life: Sonakshi Sinha

Sonakshi Sinha claims she shot the most difficult scene of her career for Khandaani Shafakhana when she was supposed to advertise her sex clinic in a market for the movie. Read for more details.

Actor Sonakshi Sinha has said she shot the most difficult sequence of her career in her upcoming film Khandaani Shafakhana - it was a scene where she advertises her sex clinic in a market. Directed by Shilpi Dasgupta, Khandaani Shafakhana is a quirky take on how our society considers sex as a taboo topic. Starring Varun Sharma alongside Sonakshi, the film marks the Bollywood acting debut of Punjabi rapper Badshah.

Talking to Indian Express, Sonakshi said, "I shot the most difficult sequence of my career in this film, where I am shown advertising the clinic in a live market. So, I was on this cycle rickshaw and behind me was a huge banner, which had 'sex' written on it. I had to say the names of all the sex-related illnesses and I was really shy before doing it. Shilpi gave me the confidence to do it. That's precisely what the film talks about, that there should be no hesitation in the first place, even if I have to talk about it in front of 1000 people." Sonakshi plays a young, bubbly girl taking over her uncle's 'sex clinic' after his demise. The film is set to hit theatres on August 2.

"Making the film became easier because the director is female. I don't think a man could have treated this film as sensitively as Shilpi has. I became very comfortable having her around me. I felt like I was working with an elder sister," she added.

Reacting to reports that she is playing Paralympic silver medallist Deepa Malik in a biopic on her, Sonakshi told Asian Age, "It is



speculation for now. I don't like to talk about things until I sign on the dotted lines, so let it be speculation for now. But I promise you henceforth the scripts that I will choose will be very interesting." Deepa, who was honoured

with Arjuna award in 2012, is the first Indian woman to win a medal at the Paralympics. She was also felicitated with the prestigious Padma Shri award in 2017.

Source : hindustantimes.com

# KOENA MITRA ON NORA FATEHI'S O SAKI SAKI : 'It was too early to kill the original with an average recreation'

These are the times when old superhit numbers are being 'recreated' almost every single day. The latest is Saki Saki, from Musafir (2004), which became a chartbuster following its release 15 years ago and also made Koena Mitra an overnight star.

The new version, sung by Neha Kakkar and Tulsi Kumar, has been performed by Nora Fatehi in the upcoming Batla House. But it has left Koena unimpressed who took to Twitter to say the new version "is a mess".

"Saki was a cult. I remember we had travelled to Dubai to promote Musafir, and I was thrilled to get that kind of response. People called it a winning horse. It was not just my work. Sanjay Dutt's presence in it... director Sanjay Gupta shot it well, Bosco-Caesar choreographed it well. A lot of blood and sweat went in to shoot it. Vishal-Shekhar wonderfully composed the song with Sunidhi and Sukhwinder singing it," she



says. After watching the full song that was released online yesterday, Koena adds: "Nora has got good skills, she's a lovely dancer. What I didn't understand is what they (makers) have done to our song. I honestly didn't like the soundtrack, not even the visuals. They could have shot it in a better way, the way Sanjay had shot

the video. It's still fresh in our memory, it's not yet an old song. It was too early to kill this song with an average song (recreation). I know my statement is going to be criticised by their team. I am not trying to attack them just because it's my first film and hit. I feel that nowadays people should just stick to originals, and stop recreating cults. A lot of good songs are dying because of this... They should have approached Vishal-Shekhar and the original singers only."

We reached out to Bhushan Kumar, the co-producer of Batla House and owner of the music label which has recreated the song, for his response. "The song came years back and Koena performed brilliantly in it. But it's the era of recreations... Vishal-Shekhar are still involved, we credited them as composers, and the lyricist too has been credited. Everybody has their point of view, and everything has been done according to the law," he says..

Source : hindustantimes.com

# KATRINA KAIF shares birthday pic in swimsuit from Mexico, Arjun Kapoor jokes she's 'basically gone for photoshoot'

Actor Katrina Kaif is celebrating her birthday in Mexico with her friends and family. The actor, who turns 36 on Tuesday, shared yet another sun kissed picture from the beach destination.

Katrina's birthday click shows her posing in front of the deep blue sea in a white bikini and sarong with tassels. The sunlight falls lightly on her face as she strikes a sultry expression. She captioned the picture with a cake emoji, the Mexican national flag and a yellow heart emoji.

Her many colleagues from Bollywood wished her on her birthday in the comments but it was Arjun Kapoor's comments that stood out. "U've basically gone for a photoshoot," he commented on the picture. However, he quickly realised that maybe he should be kinder to Katrina on her birthday. "Ok on ur birthday I shall be nice Katrina. Have a super birthday ur a mad kind goofy soul and I love u because of ur nonsense not despite it," he wrote in another comment.

Shweta Bachchan wrote, "Happy days always gorgeous". Fashion designer Manish Malhotra wrote, "Gorgeous and super hot .. happy birthday." Rapper Badshah and singer Guru Randhawa also wished Katrina. Actor Alia Bhatt shared a picture of the two on her Instagram Stories to wish her. "Happiest birthday dearest Katy! May you laugh and dance all day...shine and smile all year and give us body goals your whole life," she wrote with the picture.

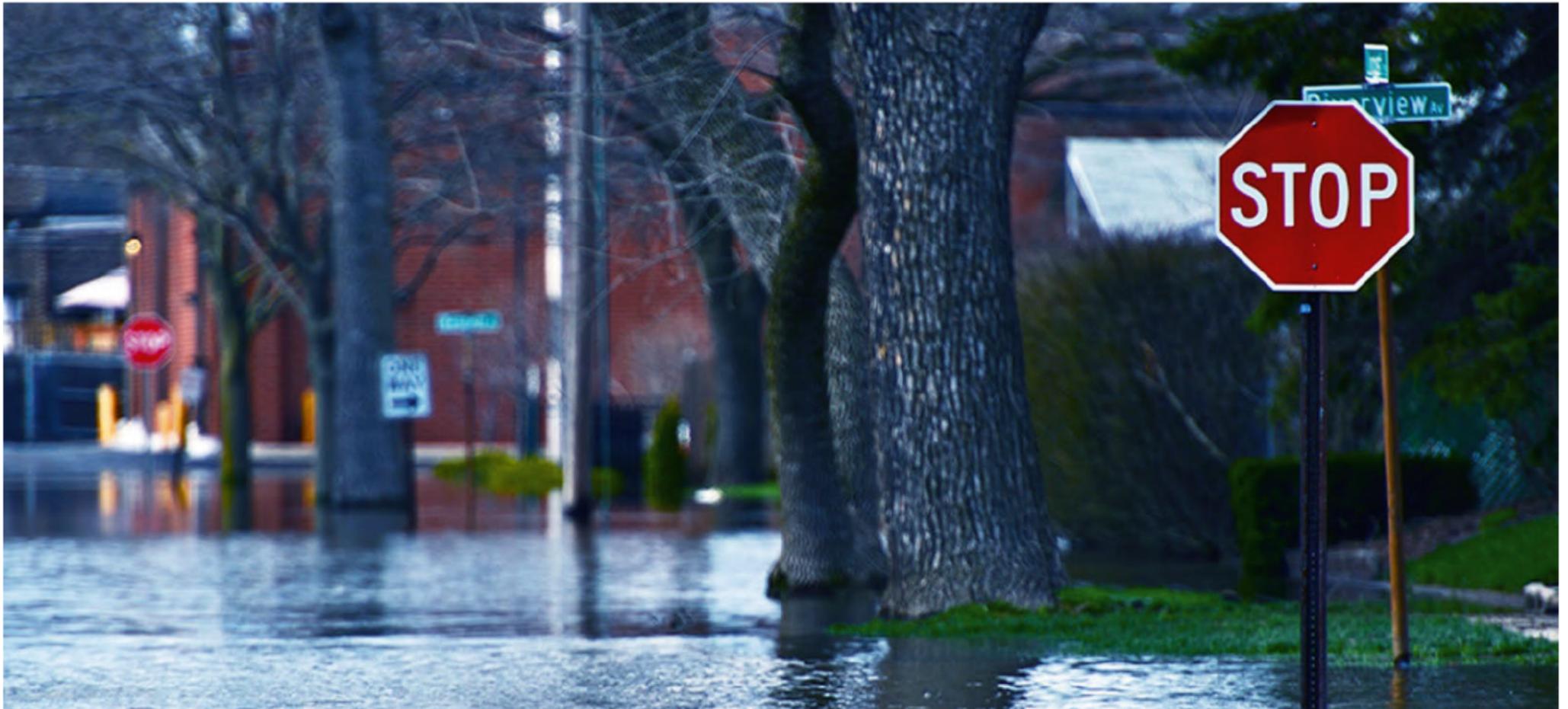
Katrina is on a four day vacation in Mexico. She had earlier shared two more pictures from her holiday on Instagram. One picture showed her posing next to a pillar in a swimsuit. Arjun commented, "Watch where you going girl! Hope you didn't walk into the pillar while posing. "I'll be careful," Katrina replied.

Katrina is currently working on Rohit Shetty's Sooryavanshi with Akshay Kumar. She was last seen in Salman Khan's Bharat and the film registered good collections at the box office.



Source : hindustantimes.com

# Hurricane Barry Threatens 339,480 Louisiana Homes with Flash Floods, Storm Surge



According to real estate database company CoreLogic, approximately 339,480 homes in Louisiana are at moderate-to-extreme risk of tropical storm-driven flash flood damage from Hurricane Barry. Within the likely impacted metropolitan and micropolitan areas of Louisiana, 32.6% of homes are located within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Homeowners are required to purchase

flood insurance in these designated areas when their mortgages are backed by the federal government. CoreLogic hydrological analysis of flash flood risk in the likely impacted areas estimates that 26% of the homes have moderate-to-extreme flash flood risk.

In this analysis, CoreLogic data includes only single-family residential properties likely to be impacted by a

lower category storm. Based on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) forecast, Hurricane Barry is expected to make landfall sometime Saturday as a strong tropical storm or a weak Category 1 hurricane. While Hurricane Barry has not intensified into a hurricane yet, the focus of this analysis is centered around the rainfall and flooding component, which is expected to be the largest

contributor to property loss. CoreLogic further states that areas along the Mississippi River, where concern is highest, appears to be able to withstand the amount of flooding expected. After Hurricane Katrina, \$14 billion of levee and pumping capability improvements were made along the river; this event is not expected to cause catastrophic problems given these enhancements.

Source : worldpropertyjournal.com



According to new research from commercial property consultant CBRE, the global search for yield and portfolio diversification is driving more foreign investors to the U.S. net-lease real estate market.

Foreign investment in net-lease assets--comprising office, industrial and retail properties--reached \$1.9 billion in Q1 2019, up by 6.6% from Q1 2018's total. International investors accounted for an even

larger share of net-lease investment (15.1%) in Q1 2019 than the same period last year (12.9%). Global investment in net-lease properties has averaged more than \$8 billion annually over the past four years from approximately \$3 billion annually between 2011 and 2014.

"Foreign investors' appetite for U.S. net-lease properties has increased more than any other investor group, adding nearly \$21 billion to their

## Foreign Property Investors Target U.S. Net Lease Assets in Greater Scale

New York City, San Francisco, Boston, Dallas, Columbus and Los Angeles receiving the most foreign capital in 2019

holdings since 2014. This is further evidence that global capital flows prioritize the risk adjusted returns of the net lease sector and will continue to invest in the asset class," said Will Pike, vice chairman of Net Lease Properties for Capital Markets. International buyers increased investment in U.S. net-lease properties by \$8.8 billion in 2018--a 30.1% increase from the previous year and the second-highest level on record. New York City, San Francisco, Boston, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Columbus and Los Angeles received the most foreign capital.

The top countries of origin for foreign investment in U.S. net-lease properties from 2016 to 2018 were Canada (\$5.55 billion), South Korea (\$3.28 billion) and China (\$3.22 billion). These three

countries accounted for more than half of all foreign investment in the U.S. net-lease market over this period. Canadian and Chinese investors primarily targeted industrial properties, while South Korean investors overwhelmingly preferred office product. U.S. net-lease transaction volume is expected to remain elevated in 2019, with increasing investor demand for net-lease office and industrial assets. Rising demand for U.S. net-lease real estate led to \$68.3 billion in investment volume in 2018--the highest annual total since CBRE began tracking the market in 2002. Net-lease acquisitions' share of overall commercial real estate volume has been in the 11%-to-12% range since 2012, suggesting sustained strong investor demand in the sector.

Source : worldpropertyjournal.com

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