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Vol-3, No.18, August 15, 2019 / NEW YORK | Weekly Edition - FREE

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PM Modi for democratic parleys on
'ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION'

Our freedoms are fragile, as we must remember on 73rd Independence Day and Sec 377 ruling anniversary



"The unlikeliest couples are often the sweetest," announces a full-page ad in the Sunday paper. The product being advertised is a piece of tableware called a cloche. This particular cloche — coupling in its unlikely way — is made of marble and glass. Both exquisite, exclusive materials; one humanly crafted, another a miracle of geology. One smooth and solid, full of heft and gravity; the other luminous, fragile, and airy. Opposites attract in tableware these days apparently.



Stephen Colbert Wouldn't Interview Trump Out Of Respect For The Presidency

Before announcement, PM Modi set ball rolling for CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF



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Chairman & founder and Managing
Director - Raj Dhingra
Published Weekly by Topline Group,
LLC, ISSN 2687-7635
2022 Hillside Ave, New Hyde Park, NY
11040, Ph. 516-216-4900

Display - Classified/Matrimonial
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Printing : Five Star Printing, NY

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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

Friday & Saturday

16-17 Aug, 2019

2:00 PM & 3:00PM



New York: The Wizard's Brunch & Dinner

Pier 60, Chelsea Piers, New York City, New York 10011

Saturday

17 Aug, 2019

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM



Rose All Day: Rosé Wine and Cheese Tasting

Murray's Cheese Shop, 254 Bleecker Street, New York, NY

Sunday

18 Aug, 2019

12:00 PM - 6:00 PM



Coney Island Brewery Community Market!

Coney Island Brewery, 1904 Surf Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11224

Sunday

18 Aug, 2019

3:00 PM - 9:00 PM



Tiki Throw Down Cocktail Event

Melrose Ballroom, 36-08 33rd Street, Queens, NY 11106

Wenesday

21 Aug, 2019

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM



Kitchen Witchcraft 101

Catland, 987 Flushing Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11206

Thursday

22 Aug, 2019

6:00 PM - 10:30 PM



Soul Train Tribute and Film Screening

Marcus Garvey Park, Amphitheater, 18 Mount Morris Park West Behind the Recreation Center, New York, NY

Friday

23 Aug, 2019

6:00 PM - 7:00PM



Celebration 73rd India Independence day

Cult Party, 53 Waterbury Street, Brooklyn, NY 11206

Friday

23 Aug, 2019

7:00 PM - 11:59 PM



Summer Exotica Surf Party

The Sultan Room at The Turk's Inn, 234 Starr Street Brooklyn, NY 11237

Saturday

24 Aug, 2019

12:00 PM



AFROPUNK FEST BROOKLYN 2019

Comodore Barry Park, Flushing Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Sunday

25 Aug, 2019

10:00 AM - 5:30 PM



Summer Brunch & Shop at the Bazaar

Grand Bazaar NYC, 100 West 77th Street, New York, NY 10024

Tuesday

27 Aug, 2019

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM



Jackrabbit FREE Weekly Runs

JackRabbit - Union Square, 42 West 14th Street, New York

Wednesday

28 Aug, 2019

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM



Healthy on the Hudson x lululemon

Pier 25 at Hudson River Park, West Street, New York, New York

Saturday

14 Sep, 2019

8:00 PM



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Hate-motivated mass shootings should be considered domestic terrorism under New York law, Cuomo says

ALBANY — Gov. Cuomo wants hate-motivated acts such as mass shootings to be labeled as domestic terrorism and perpetrators to face life in prison.

Cuomo unveiled his proposed "Hate Crimes Domestic Terrorism Act," which would codify "mass hate crimes" as acts of domestic terrorism, during a speech Thursday at the New York City Bar Association in Manhattan.

Cuomo said the bill is inspired by a recent wave of hate-fueled shootings across the country — including the El Paso, Texas, massacre in which a gunman targeting Latinos killed 22 people and wounded 24 others.

The law would ensure those who kill people in "a mass attack" based on their victims' race, age, religion or sexual orientation would face life in prison with no chance of parole.

"American citizens who are radicalized — not by a foreign ideology — but rather radicalized by hate for other Americans — are still terrorists," the governor said. "Today, our people are three times more likely to suffer a terrorist attack launched by an American

than one launched by a foreigner."

The measure, which in essence would merge the state's hate crime laws with its existing terrorism statutes, would apply to cases involving the murder of at least one person and the attempted murder of at least two additional people and would create a task force to study and recommend practices to prevent mass shootings.

Both Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie (D-Bronx) and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-Yonkers) said they will work with the governor's office on the proposal.

Gun control advocates praised the idea.

"When racism, xenophobia, homophobia and misogyny come armed with a gun, they are deadly," said June Rubin, a volunteer with the New York chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

Cuomo and others have repeatedly tied a recent rise in hate crimes by white nationalists to President Trump's racist rhetoric. Cuomo again again targeted



Trump during his speech on Thursday.

"The president's partisan political interest has trumped his responsibility to protect the public," the governor said.

He also called on Democrats to step up and act at the federal level, a week after challenging Democratic presidential candidates and members of Congress to back tough gun control measures to "end the carnage."

Democrats must "expose this president and the Republican senators as the political cowards they are and the lackeys for the gun industry that they serve," Cuomo said.

"This is no time for Democratic division or for legislative baby steps," Cuomo added.

New York wouldn't be the first state to codify domestic terrorism into law — Arizona, Georgia and Vermont already have such statutes on the books. But Cuomo's proposal would be the most sweeping such law.

Some said said New York could pave the way for national change.

"Now more than ever, the world needs to know what New York stands for," said Guillermo Chacon, the founder of the Hispanic Health Network. "As the cancer of hate spreads across our country, New York draws strength from its diversity and stands tall as a symbol for hope."

Source nydailynews.com

TRUMP BLAMES FAKE NEWS FOR TANKING THE ECONOMY - VOWS TO 'WIN BIG ON TRADE'

President Trump blamed recent economic bad news on hostile "Fake News" coverage — but insisted that the economy remains strong and vowed to win his crippling trade war with China. "They think that will be bad for me and my re-election," he wrote on Twitter.



Trump regularly blames the media for reporting news that reflects negatively on him.

But he's apparently been stung by this week's

stock market plunge, with the Dow barely breaking even Thursday after plunging by nearly 1,000 points the day before.

Analysts say markets fear an impending recession, which politicians say could kill Trump's chances of winning four more years.

Source nydailynews.com

STEPHEN COLBERT wouldn't interview trump out of respect for the presidency



Stephen Colbert says he wouldn't have Donald Trump back on "The Late Show" because he has respect for the oval office and the president does not.

The CBS funnyman, who had candidate Trump on his show in 2015, was asked by CNN's Anderson Cooper if he'd interview the president now. For the sake of the nation, Colbert said, he'd take a pass on the surefire ratings bonanza.

"No, because it would be hard for me to be properly respectful of the office

because I think that he is disrespectful to the office," Colbert said.

According to Colbert, Trump lives in a "fantasy world" that he's trying to draw the public into, and that's not deserving of reverence.

When Colbert hosted Trump in 2015, he thanked the reality TV star for seeking office and running an entertaining campaign. He also drew a comparison between Trump's rhetoric and that of the faux right wing talk show host Colbert played on Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report" from 2005 to 2014.

Source nydailynews.com

De Blasio slams councilman over 'disgusting' story about ThriveNYC mental health seminar amid rash of police suicides



Mayor de Blasio blasted a Staten Island councilman for his quotes in a "disgusting" and "irresponsible" front-page story about a mental health program run by the city's First Lady that pulled out of a seminar for first responders because a pro-cop group was involved in the event.

Republican Councilman Joe Borelli said that Chirlane McCray's controversial ThriveNYC program was supposed to staff a "mental health first aid training" event this coming Monday but rescinded an offer of psychological counselors upon learning Blue Lives Matter was co-sponsoring the seminar. The news came as another police officer committed suicide Wednesday - the ninth city cop to do so this year. "It is a lie it is a disgusting lie - it's entirely irresponsible starting with the councilman and going on to the editors at the [newspaper] who put that on the front page," de

Blasio said at an unrelated event in Brooklyn on Thursday. "We have been losing police officers. This should be a somber, serious discussion, not a politicized discussion, not a cheap shot, not personality assassination."

The reporter who wrote the story posted on Twitter that she asked the mayor's office repeatedly if Thrive cancelled the event because of Blue Lives Matter's involvement and officials refused to answer on the record. De Blasio still said the city would have a mental health seminar with "anyone" and "that was made abundantly clear to the councilman." The mayor also trashed the publication and the pol for taking a "cheap shot" when his wife "has been trying to help people get mental health care for years now." The mayor went on to say Borelli was a "liar." "Anyone serious, anyone not playing a political stunt, not playing games with people's lives would have said, 'Hey, how

do we resolve this?' and we would have resolved it readily," de Blasio said, adding the councilman has his phone number. Borelli posted screenshots of an aide arranging the event with the city weeks ago. The aide even told the city Blue Lives Matter would partner with the event. "They didn't want to be associated with Blue Lives Matter after being totally cool with being associated with Blue Lives Matter," Borelli told The Daily News. "We will have an event in the next few weeks with different mental health counselors and without the help of Thrive." He added on Twitter Thursday that "Thrive reached out to me personally after news of last night's suicide broke to tell me that the event was 'still on.'"

Source nydailynews.com

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'Love me or hate me' but vote for me Trump tells New Hampshire rallygoers

MANCHESTER, N.H. — President Trump sought to reassure his supporters about the state of the U.S. economy despite the stock market volatility and told rallygoers in New Hampshire, a state that he hopes to capture in 2020, that their financial security depends on his reelection.

"Whether you love me or hate me you have to vote for me," Trump said.

Speaking to a boisterous crowd at Southern New Hampshire University Arena, Trump dismissed the heightened fears about the U.S. economy and a 3% drop Wednesday in the Dow Jones Industrial Average, which was fueled by a slowing global economy and a development in the bond market that has predicted previous recessions. Avoiding an economic slump is critical to Trump's reelection hopes.

"The United States right now has the hottest economy anywhere in the world," Trump said.

Trump, who reached the White House by promising to bring about a historic economic boom, claimed, as he often does, that the markets would have crashed if he had lost his 2016 bid for



the presidency. And he warned that if he is defeated in 2020, Americans' 401(k) retirement accounts will go "down the tubes."

The Republican president also defended his tactics on trade with China. He has imposed 25% tariffs on \$250 billion of imports from China and has threatened to hit the remaining \$300 billion worth of Chinese imports with 10% tariffs. He has delayed that increase on about half of those items to avoid raising prices for U.S. holiday shoppers. He said China wants to make a trade deal with the U.S. because it's costing the country millions of jobs, but he claimed that the U.S. doesn't need to be in a hurry.

"I don't think we're ready to make a deal," Trump said. Trump's rally was the first since mass shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, killed 31 people and wounded dozens more. The shootings have reignited calls for Congress to take immediate action to reduce

gun violence. Trump said the U.S. can't make it more difficult for law-abiding citizens to protect themselves, but he advocated for expanding the number of facilities to house the mentally ill without saying how he would pay for it. "We will be taking mentally deranged and dangerous people off of the streets so we won't have to worry so much about them," Trump said. "We don't have those institutions anymore, and people can't get proper care. There are seriously ill people and they're on the streets."

Along with discussion of the economy and guns, Trump hit a number of other topics, accusing the European Union of being "worse than China, just smaller"; bragging about his 2016 electoral victories in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania; and calling it a "disgrace" that people were throwing water on police officers in New York.

The rally was interrupted about a half an hour in by a handful of protesters near the rafters of the arena. As the protesters were being led out, a Trump supporter wearing a "Trump 2020" shirt near them began enthusiastically shaking his fist in a sign of support for the president.

Source: nydailynews.com

Mayor de Blasio won't rule out hiring son Dante as White House adviser if he becomes president

Mayor de Blasio wouldn't rule out hiring his son Dante as an official White House adviser if he's ultimately elected president - just like President Trump's daughter and her husband Jared Kushner.

"I don't think there could be two more different people than the current president's daughter and my son Dante," de Blasio joked on Thursday when asked about the prospect.

De Blasio's quixotic presidential campaign hired Dante, a 21-year-old recent Yale grad, as a paid policy analyst last month. He's helping write a campaign platform and prepare his father for debates.

"He has really been a wonderful presence," de Blasio said at an unrelated press conference. "He's a guy who...worked very hard to get a great education, obviously knows a lot about debating from his very successful debate career and studied with some great folks in college and brings a lot to the table. He's been right in the middle of the research, the debate prep, a lot of things." De Blasio added: "I don't know what he would do in his future, but I hope he chooses public service because I

think he truly has a gift for it."

The mayor also said Thursday that his campaign hasn't yet met fundraising and polling thresholds to qualify for the next primary debates in September. Candidates must earn 2% in four separate national or early state polls, get 130,000 unique donors and 400 individual contributors across at least 20 states.

"We've been working and fighting to get into September, it's not there, I can be honest about that," he said. "We're going to keep working until the final hour because you never know what happens, a bunch of polls still could come in, and all sorts of things could happen online."

The mayor noted that if he doesn't make the September stage, he could meet the thresholds by the next debates in October, which have the same requirements. De Blasio wouldn't say whether he'd drop out of the race if he doesn't make the debates.

"I think this is a wide open are a part of the picture, a lot of other things too," he said.

Source: nydailynews.com



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The handover event was part of Independence Day celebrations in India House in London attended by several visitors from India who travelled by cars as part of a peace rally.

UK, US return rare stolen items to INDIA ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

The event in India House was preceded by a significant event in Bedford, 100 km north of London, where the India flag was hoisted in the Town Hall, home of the local council, where the flag will fly for 24 hours.

Two items with origins in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu stolen from India were on Thursday handed over to the Indian high commissioner Ruchi Ghanshyam on the occasion of Independence Day following a joint investigation by American and British agencies.

The two items - a limestone carved relief dating 1st century BC and 1st century AD, and a 17th century bronze figure of Navneetha Krishna - are linked to one of the most prolific art smugglers in the world, who was recently charged in New York, officials said. They were recovered with help of officials of the Scotland Yard.

Ghanshyam thanked officers of the Homeland Security Investigation (HSI) team and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office for recovering and returning the antiquities. She hoped that over 2000 such items would be returned to India when proceedings against those involved conclude.

"The cultural significance of artefacts looted from regions around the world extends beyond a monetary value. The pieces, like those recovered through this operation, are stolen fragments of history and it is a honour to return them to their rightful home country", said Peter C Fitzhugh, special agent in charge of HSI in New York.

The handover event was part of Independence Day celebrations in India House in London attended by several visitors from India who travelled by cars as part of a peace rally. The visitors included Pune-resident Nitin Sonawane, who has been on a walking tour across the globe since November 2016.

Sonawane, 28, has traversed across over 30 countries in south-east Asia, Africa and the US, spreading the message of Mahatma Gandhi's ideals for a non-violent world in local universities, schools, media and impromptu roadside gatherings.

"In some stretches, Buddhist monks and others joined me for days and months. I am an engineer but have given up much to spread Gandhi's message that is so needed in today's world. I have been working in the social sector with the Maharashtra Gandhi Smarak Nidhi", he said.

The event in India House was preceded by a significant event in Bedford, 100 km north of London, where the India flag was hoisted in the Town Hall, home of the local council, where the flag will fly for 24 hours, much to the delight of the local Indian communities. The event was opened by mayor Dave Hodgson and attended a large number of people, including leaders from local gurdwaras and other community centres.

Source hindustantimes.com

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NEW INDIA नया भारत in AMERICA

Monthly Magazine, New York

AUGUST 2019

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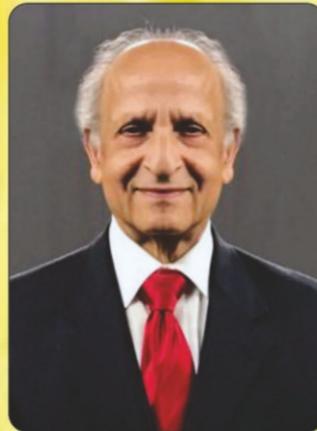
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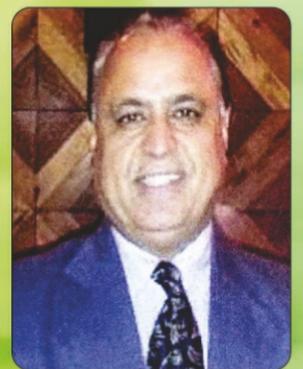
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President Rotary club of Hicksville South

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PM Modi for democratic parleys on 'ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION'



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday focused on the government's push for holding simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and assembly polls, contending in his address to the nation that the concept of "one nation, one election" will be good for India.

Speaking from the ramparts of the Red Fort, PM Modi said: "GST [Goods and Services Tax] achieved the dream of 'one nation, one tax'. We successfully attained 'one nation, one grid' in the power sector. We also developed 'one nation, one mobility card' system, and today there is a discussion in the country for 'one nation, one poll' and it should happen in a democratic manner."

The Prime Minister and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have been speaking of "one nation, one poll" as a measure that will save resources and allow time for governance instead of forever being in election mode. The Opposition, however, has been vehemently opposed to the plan, describing it as a threat to India's federal structure.

In June, soon after taking over as PM for the second time, Modi announced at an all-party meeting that a committee would be formed to examine the issue of "one country, one election" and give its suggestions in a timebound manner. The PM also pitched the idea of "one

nation, one poll" during his first term; a parliamentary standing committee, the Niti Aayog, and the Law Commission subsequently deliberated on the issue and submitted reports.

The Law Commission recommended holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies to save public money; and the NITI Aayog suggested synchronised polling in phases for Lok Sabha and assembly polls from 2024.

Addressing a Niti Aayog meeting in June, Modi called for widespread debate and consultations on simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and state assemblies, keeping in view aspects such as the resulting financial savings and better utilisation of resources.

The Election Commission of India, for its part, has said the proposal can be taken up only after political parties reach a consensus. But several parties, including the Congress and the Trinamool Congress, have refuted the BJP's stance that simultaneous elections can reduce expenditure, and help improve governance by insulating it from restrictions imposed by model code of conduct that is implemented during elections.

Source hindustantimes.com

The Indian Captain and three other Indian crew members aboard an Iranian oil supertanker were on Thursday released of all charges by authorities in Gibraltar, even as the US Department of Justice made a last-minute claim on the vessel.

"I am grateful and thankful for my release. And I am grateful to all who have facilitated my release in my legal team," the Indian Captain of the Grace 1 tanker said in a statement.

The arrested crew members – the Master, Chief Officer and two Second Mates – were aboard the Panama-flagged supertanker that was detained off Europa Point in Gibraltar, a British Overseas Territory on the Spanish coast, last month. A spokesman for Gibraltar's government also confirmed that police proceedings against four members of the crew had ended.

The Gibraltar authorities had said the vessel is loaded to capacity with crude oil enroute to Syria, in breach of European Union (EU) sanctions.

INDIAN CAPTAIN, crew aboard seized Iranian oil tanker released in Gibraltar



"The US Department of Justice has applied to seize the Grace 1 on a number of allegations which are now being considered. The matter will return to the Supreme Court of Gibraltar," said a statement from the government of Gibraltar, in reference to a hearing expected later on Thursday.

Source hindustantimes.com



Article 370, triple talaq, appointing CDS, population control: Narendra Modi conveys resolve to usher in radical reforms in 94-minute I-Day speech

Contrast the first Independence Day speech by Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister in 2014 with his Thursday's speech as his first from the rampart of the Red fort in his second stint as the country's top executive, you will know the difference. His first speech was less about future and much about the basic needs like Swachh Bharat (clean India). His speech today set the agenda for an aspirational India for the next five years.

The sheer range of the nearly 95-minute speech was so expansive that the every word he seemed to have a purpose. Take for the example the manner in which he invoked Mahatma Gandhi's austerity in public life and in the same breath exhorted people to aspire for a 5 trillion dollar economy. He found no contradiction in Gandhi's austerity and India and the average Indian acquiring economic muscle.

Except for the first ten odd minutes when he spoke of the politics of Article 370, Modi seemed to be assiduously setting the agenda for the future. Quite clearly he aligned his politics with the average citizens and sought their support to fulfil certain dreams. Far from being coy about the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A and division of Jammu and Kashmir, he threw gauntlets at his opponents by asking "Why, if Article 370 was so good for the country, did they not make a permanent feature in the Constitution in the past 70 years?". His conversation with the audience found traction.

But the fact that his mission has only begun was evident when he referred to the threat of population explosion. The moment he mentioned the issue, the audience applauded. Sanjay Gandhi's "forced sterilisation" campaign during the Emergency days had become such a taboo that no political party or leader dared to reopen the debate. No political party since 1975 ever dared take up this issue

for public debate. Modi cautiously, but deftly, flagged it as a national priority in the speech.

There will be an attempt to look at the issue from the prism of communalism. But that will certainly be the wrong interpretation. The increased fertility rate of certain backward regions of the country has become a huge drag on growth. Modi's reference to "population explosion" was in that context. But he is quite conscious of the fact that fundamentalists will tend to distort it to exploit religious sentiment. This is the precise reason why he interspersed his speech with several references to "mothers, sisters and daughters" among Muslims who feel empowered after the legislation against "triple talaq". "When we can abolish Sati, legislate against dowry and child marriage, why can't we bring law against triple talaq?" he had asked earlier explaining the legislative logic behind the law.

US President Ronal Reagan had said in the eighties that the most terrifying words in English were "I'm from the government and I'm here to help". Modi echoed this sentiment when he pointed out that the government should withdraw from people's life. Perhaps realising that the intrusion of government in people's life has diluted his message of "minimum government maximum governance", Modi promised to let the government play the role of an enabler not disruptor in people's life. Coming from the prime minister on Independence Day, this message conveyed his determination to usher in radical administrative reforms.

That he is determined to take his Swachh Bharat agenda to a logical end became evident when the prime minister announced the launch a social awareness campaign against "single-use plastic materials". While urging people to join the campaign to ban plastic completely, he pointed out a "business opportunity" for start-ups to recycle this

waste in an efficient manner. Realising that the country's burgeoning middle class is the biggest consumer of plastic, he sensitised them of its dangers for the future of the Earth. This social message was effectively delivered in a political occasion. Exhortations to farmers to reduce use of fertilisers, Indian tourists to visit 15 locations in India before 2022 and many other such initiatives that etch the citizen's role in the making of the nation were strewn all over his speech.

In the midst of economic and political messaging, the prime minister has not lost the sight of strategic issues as revealed by the institutionalisation of the post of chief of defence staff (CDS) to oversee coordination and modernisation of the Army, the Airforce and the Navy - a long long standing demand. The necessity for this post was emphasised in the K Subramaniam committee report after the Kargil war in 1991. But the issue was never attended to because of the bureaucratic resistance in defence ministry. The move is clearly aimed at streamlining and modernising the defence forces in tune with the developed nations and neighbouring China.

A string of announcements on huge public investments in making rural roads, medical colleges, creating infrastructure for transport at an unprecedented scale is an indication of the government's determination not to bank solely on private investment to speed up the economy. Aware of slowing down of the economy, Modi's announcements on taking up developmental projects seem to be intended to square up for lack of private investment in the country. In his lengthy address, he efficiently drew the picture of optimism for the future and delineated the path the government intends to traverse. For those who cared to listened to his speech Narendra Modi laid bare his agenda. It's all out there in the open.

Source firstpost.com

Narendra Modi's announces post of CDS on 73rd Independence Day: Officer must represent armed forces, not become Centre's mouthpiece



whole retinue working for him and has profound independence of thought and action. It is not window dressing and he has the clout. Even the president won't mess with the CDS.

There may be some passing concern that the CDS in India will be a teacher's pet and gradually shift from representing the forces and their priorities to being the voice of the government and imposing its will as well as keeping an eye on the frontline and forwarding recommendations based on his assessment. One has to understand that this officer will have nearly 40 years of service under his belt and will be thorough professional so the favoured son theory should be put on hold and this new rank is given a fair chance. The success will depend on the choice of this person. Whether it is done by seniority, is selected by rotation from the three services will be important because such a person must know the intricacies and special needs of each of the arms.

A good CDS listens to the three chiefs and then advises the government, not vice versa. Herein lies the rub and only time will tell how this otherwise pretty common upgrade in most armies works out in India. He must have stature, the goodwill of his forces, a reputation that is enviable and forged in a strong career, not a fawning lickspittle who echoes his master's voice and worries more about 'what after retirement', a sad trend that has taken root in the higher ranks of the services.

Also, it is not an appointment in isolation. The decision spawns a whole office and set up staffed by at least three or four support officers of the three and two-star rank as well as others of lower rank.

To that extent, it does open up more promotional opportunities in the bottleneck which exists at the top but the efficacy will depend on the government taking the

Source firstpost.com

The announcement of a Chief of Defence Staff by the prime minister is largely the addition of another step in the military hierarchy. Rather than be advised on matters in the armed forces by a civilian the prime minister has, as they do in the UK and US, elected to position a shepherd in uniform to oversee the three chiefs and co-ordinate the army, navy and air force, which sometimes tend to be engaged in inter-service rivalry. That is not a bad thing in itself since this rivalry keeps everyone on their toes but to be accountable to a peer with the power can and should be an effective relationship.

The official British diktat which moulded the current Indian Army culture says:

It is the duty and responsibility of the CDS to formulate and execute policies, programmes towards the highest attainment of National Security and operational competence of the Armed Forces namely; the Army, Navy and Air Force. The CDS is assisted by the other Service Chiefs.

“Such an officer is seen as the equivalent of the Chief of the Defence Staff is the British equivalent position of what in NATO and the European Union is known as the Chief of Defence.”

Clearly, for now, the CDS will be a four-star General, (or Admiral, Air Chief Marshal) his rank the same as the three chiefs who, however, will defer to him as do three-star Corps Commanders to the Army Commander who is also a three-star.

In the UK until 1997 there was a fifth star given to the CDS, among these luminaries Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir William Dickson GCB, KBE, DSO, AFC, Admiral of the Fleet, The Earl Mountbatten of Burma KG, GCB, GCSI, GCIE, GCVO, DSO and Field Marshal Sir Richard Hull. Now it is four-star General Sir Nicholas Carter. While India has given the fifth star to three officers but it was more ornamental and Field Marshals SHFJ Maneckshaw, Field Marshal KM Cariappa and Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh were not given any authority except an extra star on their cars and the singular honour. The US has a much sharper totem pole and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford is also a four-star. But he has a

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Before announcement, PM Modi set ball rolling for CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

Chief of Army Staff, General Bipin Rawat could be the first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) - the formation of which was announced by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the ramparts of the Red Fort in his address to the nation on 73rd Independence Day. A high-level "implementation committee" has been appointed to advise the government on the "modalities" of appointing a Chief of Defence Staff, senior officials who did not want to be named said.

The committee will give its report to the government in three months - November 2019.

The Implementation Committee comprises the Defence Secretary and the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee among others.

General Rawat, 26th Chief of Army Staff, retires in December 2019 will be the senior-most military commander and is therefore the most likely to be first CDS, officials aware of the details who did not want to be named said.

It is, however, not yet clear whether the CDS will have primacy over the three chiefs of staff or will equal in rank with the other three chiefs.

There are differing views within the government. Similarly, the tenure of the CDS is not clear.

"Issues like foreign cooperation, tasking and posting of defence attaché, training, managing of forces all of which are handled

separately by the three forces will surely come under the CDS. Managing and training for helicopters used by all three forces is also likely to come under the CDS," a second senior official said. "These issues will be addressed by the implantation committee and will be ultimately a political call," the former Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) Lieutenant General Satish Dua told Hindustan Times and added, "whether the CDS has a role in non-operational issues will depend on political leadership."

The CDS will be the single point of advice on military matters to the Government. "The three chiefs - Chief of Army, Navy and Air Force - will be responsible for operational preparedness whereas the CDS will be responsible for defence preparedness of the country," former Director-General of Military Operations, Lieutenant General Vinod Bhatia (ret'd) said.

"The Kargil Review Committee has deliberated and discussed for nearly two decades now. The appointment of the CDS with the requisite mandate will enhance the combat effectiveness of the armed forces, achieving better synergy and cost-effectiveness," he said. The current headquarter of the Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS), formed just after the 1999 Kargil War for the integration of policy, doctrine, war fighting and procurement, will be the secretariat of the CDS.

The current Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CoCS) - a stop-gap



measure that advises the Defence Minister and Union the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs on "all military matters which require ministerial consideration" is likely to be discontinued. "The post of the CoCS becomes redundant after the CDS is formed," a third defence ministry official who did not want to be named said. The former Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) Lieutenant General Satish Dua described the formation of the CDS as a "game-changer".

Despite being in uniform "there are competing demands, priorities" of each of the three forces and "there are areas of divergence," General Dua said explaining the importance of the CDS. The CDS will be able to bring more synergy and coordination within the three forces, he said, asserting that a CDS "will emerge as a force multiplier" because of improved synergy.

Source hindustantimes.com



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Focus on rural economy, investments to make India \$5 trillion economy in 5 years

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday reiterated his government's resolve to make India a \$5 trillion economy in the next five years through several initiatives, including Rs 100 lakh crore investment in infrastructure, making the policy environment more predictable, and pushing for "Make in India" with special emphasis on the rural economy, and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

"In the last 70 years, we became a \$2 trillion economy, but in the last five years, we added \$1 trillion to the economy. This gives me the confidence of becoming a \$5 trillion economy in the coming years," Modi said in his Independence Day speech.

The government announced its intent to make

explore trade with India. We are working to keep prices under check and increase development," he said.

He hinted at major economic reforms in the future based on global best practices to hasten growth. "India does not want incremental progress. A high jump is needed; our thought process has to be expanded. We have to keep in mind global best practices and build good systems," he said.

Modi stressed the need to boost exports by utilising local strengths. "The time has come to think about how we can boost exports. Each district of India has so much to offer. Let us make local products attractive," he said. He said that local strengths could be harnessed through export hubs.

creation is absolutely essential. Those who create wealth are India's wealth and we respect them."

But as the Indian economy expands, so do the aspirations of its people, Modi said.

If, for instance, a decision was taken to set up a railway station, people have begun to ask when the Vande Bharat Express would come to their area. People want not only a good railway station or a bus terminus, but a good airport as well.

"If we install an electricity tower, they ask when will we have 24-hour power?" the PM said.

Ranen Banerjee, leader-Public Finance and



India a \$5 trillion economy in the budget last month. "The Indian economy will grow to become a \$3 trillion economy in the current year. It is now the sixth largest in the world. Five years ago, it was at the 11th position," finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her budget speech.

The PM said the fundamentals of the Indian economy were "very strong", which gave him the confidence to achieve the target. "Today, the government in India is stable, policy regime is predictable... the world is eager to

Underscoring the importance of tourism in developing the local economy, he urged citizens to visit domestic tourist destinations. "I know people travel abroad for holidays but can we think of visiting at least 15 tourist destinations across India before 2022, when we mark 75 years of freedom?" he asked.

Recognising the importance of entrepreneurship, he said, "Wealth creation is a great national service. Let us never see wealth creators with suspicion. Only when wealth is created, wealth will be distributed. Wealth

Economics, PwC India, said: "Given the headwinds the economy is facing, including slowdown in Eurozone and concerns in US, there is an urgent need to pump prime the economy. The private sector investments will not pick up till there is a sentiment reversal. The starter of the economic engine has to be an infra push by the government. We can

Source hindustantimes.com

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There is Over 1.5 Million Vacant Homes in the U.S. in 2019

Representing 1.6 Percent of all Residential Properties in the U.S.

According to ATTOM Data Solutions newly released Q3 2019 Vacant Property and Zombie Foreclosure Report, there are over 1.5 million (1,530,563) U.S. single-family homes and condos vacant in the third quarter of 2019, representing 1.6 percent of all homes.

The report analyzes publicly recorded real estate data collected by ATTOM Data Solutions -- including foreclosure status, equity, and owner-occupancy status -- matched against monthly updated vacancy data.

During the third quarter of 2019, over 304,000 homes were in the process of foreclosure, with about 3.2 percent being "zombie" foreclosures. While the count of properties in the process of foreclosure is down by nearly 22 percent since ATTOM's last foreclosure vacancy report in the same period of 2016, the number that sits empty has dropped nearly in half.

"The blight of vacant, decaying properties facing foreclosure has declined dramatically across the United States - another good-news offshoot of the housing boom that's gone on for eight years," said Todd Teta, chief product officer with ATTOM Data Solutions. "A handful of areas still face notable problems with homes abandoned by owners after they get hit with foreclosure claims. But with the economy improving and the housing market still hot, an expanding number of neighborhoods across the country face little or no problem with these so-called zombie properties."

High-level findings include:

- A total of 9,612 properties facing possible foreclosure have been vacated by their owners nationwide. Washington, D.C. had the highest percentage of zombie

foreclosures (12.5 percent). States where the rates were above the national average of 3.2 percent included Oregon (8.8 percent), Maine (8.5 percent), Kansas (7.6 percent) and New Mexico (7.0 percent). The lowest rates - all less than 1.4 percent - were in New Hampshire, Idaho, Colorado, Connecticut and Delaware.

- New York had the highest actual number of zombie properties (2,428), followed by Florida (1,634), Illinois (985), Ohio (891) and New Jersey (463).
- Among metropolitan areas with at least 100,000 residential properties, Peoria, IL, had the highest percent of vacant foreclosures (zombies) at 16.5 percent, followed by Wichita, KS (9.5 percent), Syracuse, NY (9.3 percent), Honolulu, HI (8.5 percent) and Youngstown, OH (8.4 percent).
- Among zip codes with at least 100 properties in pre-foreclosure, the highest rates of owner-vacated properties were concentrated in New York, Florida, Ohio and Illinois. The zip codes with the top percentages were zip code 61605 in the Peoria, IL metropolitan statistical area with 48.6 percent, zip codes 44108 (26.0 percent), 44112 (23.0 percent), and 44105 (19.7 percent), all in the Cleveland, OH, area and rounding out the top five is zip code 14701 in Jamestown, NY with 19.6 percent.
- The top zombie foreclosure rates in counties with at least 500 properties in foreclosure included Peoria County, IL (21.9 percent); Baltimore City, MD (11.4 percent); Broome County, NY (11.1 percent); Onondaga County, NY (9.6 percent) and Madison County, IL (9.6 percent).
- The highest levels of vacant investor-owned properties were in Indiana (8.8 percent), Kansas (6.7 percent), Minnesota (6.0 percent), Ohio, (5.9 percent) and Rhode Island (5.8 percent).

Source worldpropertyjournal.com

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Janmashtami - Lord Krishna's Birthday



Janmashtami or Janamashtami, which is the birthday (janam-) of Lord Krishna is widely celebrated in all parts of India with great fervor and devotion on the eighth (-ashtami) day after the full moon in the shraavana month of the Hindu

Calendar(जन्मष्टमी). Lord Krishna is considered the ninth eighth (and complete) avatar (or incarnation) of Lord Vishnu. The significance of being a complete avatar is that all the qualities and powers of Lord Vishnu were integrated into Lord Krishna.

The birth of Lord Krishna was for the express purpose of re-establishing the fundamentals of faith within the hindu people. As spoken in the Bhagavad Gita by Krishna himself *yada yada hi dharmasya, glaanirbhavati bharata*, i.e. whenever faith is under attack in this world, I will re-appear to protect those who are devoted to me and to re-establish faith and order. The message of Vedanta preached to Arjuna through the Bhagavad Gita is perhaps the

seminal work and crown in the jewel of all Hindu texts.

*yada yada hi dharmasya
glaanirbhavati bharata.
Abhyutthanam.h adharmasya
tadaatmaanM sRRijaamyaham.h..*

*यदा यदा हि धर्मस्या, ग्लानिर्भवति
भारत । अभ्युत्थानम् अधर्मस्या,
तदात्मानं सृजाम्यहम् ॥*

Sri Krishna, the eighth incarnation of Lord Vishnu is the most popular avatar and is regarded as purna avataar(complete incarnation). All other deities are regarded as his manifestation. His story and his exploits(leela) are numerous and very well known. To the Hindu, he is the supreme statesman, warrior, hero, philosopher, teacher and God himself. He is the great exponent of Bhagavadgita, the "song celestial".

The Birth of Krishna

The festival of Janmashtami is observed as a day of fasting until midnight - which is the time at which Lord Krishna was born to his mother Devaki in a prison cell. The demonic king Kansa had put Devaki (his sister) into prison because he had been told by his advisers that the son of Devaki would be his nemesis. Kansa had planned to kill Krishna at birth, but as soon as he was born, the prison gates magically opened and his father smuggled him out to be raised by his adopted mother, Yashoda.

Sudama and Balarama were two of Lord Krishna's favorite companions during his childhood. The stories of Krishna's love for butter and milk products is legendary and woven into many poems, rituals and bhajans. He was always being scolded by his adopted mother Yashoda for doing all kinds of mischief as a young child.

The Divine Powers of Krishna the Child

At a young age, Lord Krishna and Balarama went to the court of King Kansa and challenged his wrestlers to



duel with them. After killing all his seemingly unconquerable wrestlers, King Kansa challenged Lord Krishna to a duel. Krishna simply assumed his supernatural powers and killed him easily. The people celebrated because they were forever rid of Kansa's evil rule.

In another instance, there was a great flood which was threatening to destroy the entire population of Krishna's village. Krishna showed his supernatural powers by lifting the entire village, including the govardhan mountain on his shoulders and thus saving them from the calamity of the flood.

Spiritual Significance of Janmashtami

Janmashtami is celebrated by some as the day on which the preacher of the highest philosophy, the Vedanta (the -

anta or "end" of the Vedas), was incarnated onto this earth. The message of the four paths to liberation as spoken by Lord Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita is perhaps the greatest spiritual gift of Janmashtami to the hindu thought process. In addition, the message of love - for one another, and for God - was also emphasized by Krishna. In fact, Lord Krishna said - those who do not follow any of the four paths and instead are simply devoted to me, will eventually come and join me in my abode. This simple message gave rise to the cult of Bhakti, or universal love, which is very popular in many parts of India. Many current practices in Hinduism are based on the concept of Bhakti.

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Taapsee Pannu on Kangana Ranaut: 'There are five women in Mission Mangal. Is she praising us?'



Actor Taapsee Pannu has fired back at Kangana Ranaut, talking about how she hasn't shown any support to her film Mission Mangal. Taapsee was taking a dig at Kangana's oft-quoted statement that women should support each other.

Mission Mangal is headlined by five female actors - Vidya Balan, Kriti Kulhari, Nithya Menon and Sonakshi Sinha, apart from Taapsee.

Kangana and her sister Rangoli Chandel had criticised Taapsee, calling her a 'sasti copy' of Kangana. They have also previously expressed disappointment at other Bollywood stars for not supporting Kangana's films.

Speaking with Mid Day in an interview, Taapsee said, "She (Kangana) has always spoken about how a woman should support another woman, but I did not hear any words of praise for my films. There are five women in Mission Mangal. Is she praising us? I am her junior and don't have [as vast] a filmography as her, but I have done a decent number of films for someone to be appreciative of it."

She added that she was disappointed when Kangana and her sister began criticising her. "It was a shock because it came from someone I always admired. I felt disappointed. When someone you had put on a pedestal does this, it makes you question if you were right in looking up to her. In my response, I said I am happy being a copy because she is a damn

good actress. I am sasta because she claims to be the highest paid [female actor]. I don't see it as derogatory. Just because she is saying it, doesn't mean it's the ultimate truth. She didn't expose me; she exposed herself. It's awkward but I won't hold it against her. I love her as a performer and will continue to do so."

Elaborating on why she thinks it all began, Taapsee said, "It was triggered because I said she needs double filter. Even Anurag [Kashyap] and I need that. How is that a negative thing? I saw her as an honest person. It's sad that she says a woman cannot call out another woman. I will call out people basis who is wrong and right, and not based on what gender they belong to. Feminism is about an equal platform."

Source hindustantimes.com

Amitabh Bachchan celebrates Raksha Bandhan with grandkids Aaradhya, Navya, Agatsya

Shweta Bachchan Nanda has shared several pictures from the Bachchan family's Raksha Bandhan celebrations on Thursday. Shweta, the daughter of actors Amitabh and Jaya Bachchan, took to Instagram to post four new pictures on the festival

The first picture shows her posing with brother Abhishek Bachchan. "Chaching," she captioned the picture, showing off the envelope of money she probably received from Abhishek. He wore a white kurta pyjama with a red jacket, while Shweta wore a pearl coloured salwar suit.

The second post is a group picture, in which Abhishek and Shweta are joined by their kids, Aaradhya, Navya and Agatsya, along with Naina Bachchan. "Brothers and sisters," Shweta captioned the picture, in which everyone is wearing traditional Indian

clothes. The third picture shows only Navya and Agatsya. Shweta captioned it, "Best behaviour," probably because of the serious expressions on the siblings' face.

The final picture is another group image. This one shows Amitabh and Jaya posing with their grandkids, Navya, Agatsya and Aaradhya.

Earlier in the day, Amitabh shared two black and white throwback pictures of Shweta and Abhishek. One photo shows him carrying Abhishek in his arms while Shweta plays on a scooter. The other picture shows his wife and veteran actor Jaya carrying Shweta in her arms while he carries Abhishek. "RakshaBandhan.. the love of the sister .. the protection of the brother .. the strong bond everlasting and sincere," he captioned his tweet.



Source hindustantimes.com

KHUSHI KAPOOR

twins with cousin Shanaya Kapoor at Bali wedding.

Late actor Sridevi and film producer Boney Kapoor's daughter Khushi Kapoor attended a luxury wedding at the tourist destination with her family and the her photos are going viral. Khushi twinned with her cousin Shanaya Kapoor at the wedding in a deep blue outfit.



The wedding was of Sridevi's friend Rakhee Punjabi's son. Boney Kapoor and his brother Sanjay Kapoor also attended the wedding. While Khushi was dressed in an off-shoulder top and colourful lehenga, Shanaya's lehenga was adorned with sequins.



The family also enjoyed a day out by the beach. Shanaya and Khushi was seen soaking up the sun and posing for pics. Sanjay Kapoor also put up a bright picture of himself, his wife and son from Bali. "The good bad and the ugly," he captioned the post. "Who's the Ugly???? Cartoon you are," Chunky Pandey's wife Deanne wrote in the comments.

Another picture posted on Sanjay's Instagram stories showed Khushi tying a rakhi on her cousin Jahaan's wrist on Raksha Bandhan. Jahaan was seen in a grey T-shirt while Khushi was seen in a white top and pink skirt.



A video from the wedding showed comedian and actor Sunil Grover dressed up as his The Kapil Sharma Show character, Rinku Devi, to entertain the guests. He sang his song Mere Husband Mujhko Pyaar Nahi Karte. Another video showed Shanaya tightening the rakhi around her brother's wrist when it came loose on the dance floor.

Khushi's sister and actor Janhvi Kapoor could not attend the wedding as she is currently shooting for her Gunjan Saxena biopic, Kargil Girl. She recently visited the Tirumala Tirupati Temple in Andhra Pradesh on Sridevi's birthday. She had shared a photo from the shrine in which she was dressed in a traditional south Indian attire and was joined by one of her friends.



Janhvi will soon be seen in Roohi Afza with Rajkumar Rao. She will also shoot for Karan Johar's multi-starrer Takht next year.

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Ranveer Singh can't resist commenting on Deepika Padukone's posts, even if it's just of plants.

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