

BOSTON South Asian

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JANUARY 2012

2012 New Year Resolutions

Washington, Dec 25: Monday may indeed be the most conducted by FGI Research for The Monday Campaigns, most of



effective day to reach people with health messages, a new study has found.

According to a nationwide survey

the people see Monday as the day for a fresh start: it's when they're most likely to quit smoking, start a diet or begin an exercise regimen.

(Continued On Page 18)

South Asian Showdown

By Rohit, If you like South Asian Dance and want to see some of the most

and this year will be no different!!!

This competition is the first of



competitive dance teams in North America, don't miss South Asian Showdown! The last two years have sold out

its kind in North America with Bhangra teams vs Fusion/Hindi-Film teams vs Garba/Raas teams! (Continued On Page 19)

Evergreen Actor Dev Anand

Mumbai, Dec 4 Evergreen after a cardiac arrest in London. romantic star Dev Anand, who He was 88.



From the film fraternity to fans and political leaders, everyone mourned the death of the ageless actor with an indefatigable spirit.

M o h a n Churiwala, Dev Anand's manager, told

epitomised the debonair, urban gentleman on screen and gave classic hits like 'Guide' in his career as actor and filmmaker spanning over six decades, died

that the actor passed away in a London hotel where he was staying with his son, Sunil, a one-time actor.

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Bill Gates Rules Out Return To Helm Of Microsoft

Sydney, Dec 15

Bill Gates has ruled out the possibility of ever returning to the helm of Microsoft and dismissed harsh barbs aimed at him by his former rival Steve Jobs. According to a report by Fairfax Media, Microsoft founder contradicted rumours that he was considering a comeback and said he would instead concentrate full-time on philanthropic work with his Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"I'm part-time involved with Microsoft, including even being in touch this week to give some of my advice but that's not going to change –



the foundation requires all of my energy and we feel we're having a great impact. And that will be what I do the rest of my life," Gates said.

Gates responded to the harsh criticism leveled against his personal and professional life by Apple's late visionary co-founder, The Herald Sun reports.

Jobs once called Gates "unimaginative", who hadn't invented anything. He also said that "Gates would be a broader guy if he had dropped acid once or gone off to an ashram when he was younger". Gates said Jobs was wonderful competition, but that "Microsoft machines outsold his machines by a lot he was always kind of tough on Microsoft, but that's fine, he was a brilliant person".

"Our work at Microsoft was super successful for all good reasons but Steve made huge contributions and he actually in his last few years was a lot kinder than that but over the years he did say some tough things," Gates added. Jobs previously accused Gates of stealing the idea of a mouse-operated graphical user interface after seeing it on the original Macintosh.

However, Gates memorably responded to the accusation saying that he saw it differently. "We both had this rich neighbor named Xerox and I broke into his house to steal the TV set and found that you had already stolen it," he said.

Jobs Dodgy Deal Made Apple Co-Founder Wozniak Cry

London, Dec 15

A new documentary about Apple's visionary co-founder Steve Jobs has revealed that he reduced his business partner Steve Wozniak to tears by cleverly keeping most of the money paid to them for a computer code deal.

Wozniak told Evan Davis, who presents BBC Two documentary Steve Jobs: Billion Dollar Hippy, Steve Jobs had always wanted to run people and be seen as an important thinker, and developed a conservative streak as Apple's success grew.

"I was so close to Steve Jobs I could never really see the transition," Wozniak said.

"I just wanted to be in engineering only, I never wanted to run a company, never wanted to run things, step on other people, Steve



very clearly did, and wanted to be a top executive and a really important thinker in the world," he added.

According to the Telegraph, the comments align with the ruthless

image of Jobs presented in the TV documentary.

Jobs, for instance, tricked a young Wozniak into writing code for a computer game, but pocketed the majority of the payment for the project from Atari himself.

Wozniak admitted on the programme that he cried when he heard about Jobs's scam following the release of a book on Jobs.

"He was always focused on 'if you can build things and sell them you can have a company' and 'the way you make money and importance in the world is with companies.

He wanted to be one of those important people in the world." Wozniak added.

According to the report, in a recent interview with Radio4, Wozniak also acknowledged a lack of tolerance in the Apple culture.

"Apple does a lot of conservative things, we control things – and has very little tolerance...

Even if an engineer told a friend something and it got out... you're fired!" he said.

Flexible Workplaces Promote Better Health And Well-Being

Washington, Dec 7

Flexible workplaces improve employees' health and well-being, including an increase in the amount and quality of sleep, a new study has suggested. The study by University of Minnesota sociology professors Erin Kelly and Phyllis Moen used longitudinal data collected from 608 employees of a white-collar organization before and after a flexible workplace initiative was implemented. "Our study shows that moving from viewing time at the office as a sign of productivity, to emphasizing actual results can create a work environment that fosters healthy behaviour and well-being," said Moen. "This has important policy implications, suggesting that initiatives creating broad access to time flexibility encourage employees to take better care of themselves." The study examined changes in health-promoting behaviours and health outcomes among the employees participating in the initiative compared to those who did not participate.

Employees participating in the flexible workplace initiative reported getting almost an extra hour (52 minutes) of sleep on nights before work. They even managed their health differently as they less likely felt obligated to work when sick and more likely felt like going to a doctor when necessary, even when busy. The flexible workplace initiative increased employees' sense of schedule control and reduced their work-family conflict which, in turn, improved their sleep quality, energy levels, self-reported health, and sense of personal mastery while decreasing employees' emotional exhaustion and psychological distress. "Narrower flexibility policies allow some 'accommodations' for family needs, but are less likely to promote employee health and well-being or to be available to all employees," said Kelly. The study has been recently published in the Journal of Health and Social Behavior.

Indian Industry Leaders Express Concern Over Depreciation Of Rupee

New Delhi, Dec 14

Delegation from Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) expressed their concern over the depreciation of rupee, as it hit another record low.

taken to reduce the fiscal deficit. "Basically, we have asked for some broad themes, you know in terms of, can we actually use this budget as a way to make some big announcements to reduce the fiscal deficit.

It could be some privatisation of some industries,

CI be a partner with the Finance Ministry in arriving at some better propositions," he added.

Voicing concern over the depreciation in the value of the Indian rupee due to the global economic slowdown, Mariwala said: "It has happened without any expectation.

I think nobody in the world had expected rupee (Indian currency) to depreciate to this extent, so to that extent those corporates who have taken risk on rupee have suffered."

"I think the key thing to realise at the corporate level is to say that there are certain things that are difficult to predict for example crude prices that are difficult to predict. It is better to have a mechanism to de-risking yourself," he added.

Meanwhile, the Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of Bharti Enterprises, Rajan Bharti Mittal appealed to

the political leadership to collectively carve out a way to get out of this turmoil. "It is challenging time, it is worrying time we have to start thinking and I do appeal, and I have always appealed to the entire political leadership in this country including the government and ruling parties and the opposition that there is a need to come together for the interest of the nation" said Mittal.

The rupee on Wednesday touched a fresh all-time low of 53.71/72 against the dollar, amid continuing capital outflows and further appreciation of the US currency against its major rivals, particularly euro.



FICCI chief Harsh Mariwala along with other delegates met the officials of the Ministry of Finance on Wednesday and suggested measures that need to be

it could be some divestment of government assets, it could be some amnesty scheme to bring in some money from outside," said Mariwala.

"And these are the broad suggestions, that if FIC-

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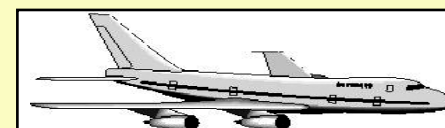
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Now, Air Passengers Can Use Social Media To Choose Their Seatmate!

Washington, Dec 14

You can select a seatmate of your choice using Facebook or LinkedIn if you are travelling in KLM Royal Dutch Airlines.

The Airlines is launching a “meet and seat” service early next year that will let passengers tap their social media accounts and pick seatmates based on similar interests, USA Today reported.



Travellers will be able to link Facebook and LinkedIn profiles to their check-in information.

KLM says the service will be available to all passengers checking in on-line, but travellers can choose whether or not

to make their profiles publicly available.

But Tnooz.com pointed out that it might make our journey horrible if we end up with someone who just wants to make a sales pitch.

“What has made KLM, already well-known for quirky social media campaigns, think this is something passengers really want as opposed to a service the airline believes they might want?” it said.

“Of course, passengers don’t have to link up their profiles if they’re not interested but what if they play along and end up with someone who just wants to make a sales pitch. You have to wonder how many people will be willing to take that chance,” it added.

Tnooz also revealed that Malaysia Airlines is also releasing a service on Facebook that lets passengers see which friends are taking the same flight or visiting a destination at the same time.

India, Pakistan Talks On Confidence Building Measures Begins In Islamabad

New Delhi, Dec 26:

The two-day talks between senior officials of India and Pakistan on conventional and nuclear Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) began in Islamabad today. The officials of the two neighbouring nations will focus on implementing the cross-Kashmir trade and travel CBMs during the talks. It may be recalled here that implementing the cross-Kashmir trade and travel CBMs were unveiled during the talks between the Foreign Ministers in July.

The two countries are also expected to discuss an agreement for removing weapons along the Line of Control (LoC) and exchange notes on their war doctrines. According to reports, issues relating to nuclear security and missile tests will also be discussed between the two nations on Tuesday. This happens to be the first formal engagement since the Prime Ministers of the two countries met in Maldives on the sidelines of the 17th SAARC Summit.

Its Official: Mr Perfect Does Not Exist!

London, Dec 15

Most women rank their partner as only 69 percent perfect, a new poll has found. According to the poll of 2,000 women commissioned by Remington, not even one woman was found to be completely happy with her man.

When asked what would make the perfect man, a good personality came top, followed by a sense of humour and looks. “The average guy may not be able to compete with the image of a David Beckham, but there are still a number of small changes they can do to make a big difference,” the Daily Mail quoted Nikki McReynolds, the marketing director for Remington as saying.

When asked about the imperfections in men, failing to make an effort with their partner’s friends, criticising their driving and the inability to multi-task were included in a list of 20 common shortfalls. Other male failings included leaving the toilet door open, watching too much sport and poor personal grooming.

“It seems women are quite realistic on what they look for from their partner. “While they might happily overlook a few common flaws, there are certain behaviours that men just won’t get away with,” she said.

Leaving out nail clippings, growing a scruffy beard or being too much of a mummy’s boy are other sure fire ways to guarantee ‘imperfection’.

The top 20 imperfections in men were:

Not getting on with her family, Using her toothbrush, Leaving the toilet dirty, Hating her friends, Not being good with children, Being lazy, Having a big bushy beard that you never shave, Leaves nail clippings out, Driving like a boy racer, Being grumpy, Being a mummy’s boy, Using the toilet with the door open, Leaving dirty washing on the floor, Unkempt facial hair, Criticising her driving, Burping or farting, Not liking dogs, Not helping with washing up, Watching too much sport, Not helping with the cooking

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Soon, Massive Plane To Carry Passengers To Space

Washington, Dec 14

The co-founder of Microsoft has announced his plans of building a massive space plane that will be able to fly cargo and eventually people into orbit.

Paul Allen plans to spend around 200 million dollars on the air-launched rocket, built by SpaceX, and reunite with prototype SpaceShipOne builder Burt Rutan on the new space venture.

The company, called Stratolaunch Systems, plans to build a massive airplane that can tote a rocket high into the atmosphere before it is dropped for an independent ride into space.

The new six-engine craft will be the largest ever flown, weighing more than 1.2 million pounds with a wingspan of 385 feet, longer than a football field. In contrast, the wingspan for WhiteKnightTwo, the carrier aircraft for Virgin Galactic's commercial spaceship, is 141 feet.

The system is similar, though much larger, to SpaceShipTwo, a commercial successor to SpaceShipOne, which clinched the 10 million-dollar Ansari X Prize in 2004 for the first non-government human spaceflights.

"It's a great honour for me to be back working with Burt Rutan," Discovery News quoted Allen as saying.

According to Mike Griffin, a former NASA administrator, Stratolaunch expects to be able to launch medium-weight satellites and eventually crews of about six people at a time.

The firm's aircraft will be manufactured and tested at Scaled's facility in Mojave. A launch site has not yet been selected.

"The beauty of large turboprop airplane is it really meets the definition of re-usability," Rutan said.

"A typical 747 aircraft throughout its entire life spends somewhere between 12 or 15 hours a day airborne," he added.

Working Moms Healthier Than Their Stay-At-Home Peers

Washington, Dec 13

Moms are less likely to be depressed and are healthier and happier compared to their counterparts, who prefer to stay at home when their kids are very young, a new study has suggested.

Researchers analysed National Institute for Child Health and Human Development Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development data, beginning in 1991 with interviews of 1,364 mothers shortly after their child's birth and including subsequent interviews and observations spanning more than 10 years.

"In all cases with significant differences in maternal well-being, such as conflict between work and family or parenting, the

that their employment supported family life, including their ability to be a better parent.

The analysis found that mothers employed part time were just as involved in their child's school as stay-at-home moms, and more involved than moms who worked full time.

In addition, mothers working part time appeared more sensitive with their pre-school children and they provided more learning opportunities for toddlers than stay-at-home moms and moms working full time.

Particularly in tough economic times, employers looking for cost savings hire part-time employees because they typically do

not receive the same level of benefits, such as health insurance, training and career advancement, the authors pointed out.

"Since part-time work seems to contribute to the strength and well-being of families, it would be beneficial to employers if they provide fringe



comparison favored part-time work over full-time or not working," said lead author Cheryl Buehler, PhD, professor of human development and family studies, at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

"However, in many cases the well-being of moms working part time was no different from moms working full time."

For example, mothers employed part time reported better overall health and fewer symptoms of depression than stay-at-home moms, while there were no reported differences in general health or depressive symptoms between moms employed part time and those who worked full time, the study said.

The part-time and full-time working moms also showed no significant differences when it came to the women's perception

benefits, at least proportionally, to part-time employees as well as offer them career ladders through training and promotion," said study co-author Marion O'Brien, PhD, professor of human development and family studies, also of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Mothers who participated in the study were from 10 locations across the U.S., and included 24 percent ethnic minorities, 1 percent without a high school degree, and 14 percent single parents.

The number of mothers employed part time was fairly consistent at about 25 percent of the total over the span of the study, although mothers moved in and out of part-time work. Part-time employment was defined as between one and 32 hours per week. The study has been recently published in APA's Journal of Family Psychology.

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HOW ANIMALS PREDICT IMPENDING EARTHQUAKE

London, Dec 1

Chemical changes in groundwater that occur when an earthquake is about to strike could be the cause behind the bizarre behaviour of animals during such calamities, a new study has suggested.

The team of researchers led by Friedemann Freund from NASA and Rachel Grant from the UK's Open University began to investigate these chemical effects after seeing a colony of toads abandon its pond in L'Aquila, Italy in 2009, days before a quake.

The researchers suggest that animal behaviour could be incorporated into earthquake forecasting.

"When you think of all of the many things that are happening to these rocks, it would be weird if the animals weren't affected in some way," the BBC quoted Grant as saying.

In the study, the researchers describe a mechanism whereby stressed rocks in the Earth's crust release charged particles that react with the groundwater.

Animals that live in or near groundwater are highly sensitive to any changes in its chemistry, so they might sense this days before the rocks finally "slip" and cause a quake.

The L'Aquila toads are not the first example of strange animal behaviour before a major seismic event.

There have been reports throughout history of reptiles,

amphibians and fish behaving in unusual ways just before an earthquake struck. "It was very dramatic. It went from 96 toads

changes that occur when rocks are under extreme stress. They wondered if these changes were linked to the mass exodus of the toads.

Their laboratory-based tests have now revealed, not only that these changes could be connected, but that the Earth's crust could directly affect the chemistry of the pond that the toads were living and breeding in at the time.

NASA geophysicist Friedemann Freund showed that, when rocks were under very high levels of stress, for example by the "gargantuan tectonic forces" just

before an earthquake, they release charged particles.

These charged particles can flow out into the surrounding rocks, and when they arrive at the Earth's surface they react with the air, converting air molecules into charged particles known as ions.

"Positive airborne ions are known in the medical community to cause headaches and nausea in humans and to increase the level of serotonin, a stress hormone, in the blood of animals," Freund said.

This chemical chain of events could affect the organic material dissolved in the pond water - turning harmless organic material into substances that are toxic to aquatic animals.

The study has been published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.



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Violent Video Games Disrupt Brain Functioning In Young Men

Washington, Dec 1 Playing violent video games can adversely affect brain functioning in young men, a new study has suggested. A functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) analysis of long-term effects of violent video game play on the brain has found changes in brain regions associated with cognitive function and emotional control in young adult men after one week of game play.

"For the first time, we have found activation in certain frontal brain said Yang Wang, assistant research at Indiana University School of controlling emotion and aggressive

For the study, 22 healthy adult were randomly assigned to two shooting video game for 10 hours

The second group did not play a 22 men underwent fMRI at the

During fMRI, the participants to the colour of visually presented violent action words. In addition,



that a sample of randomly assigned young adults showed less regions following a week of playing violent video games at home," professor in the Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences Medicine in Indianapolis. "These brain regions are important for behavior."

males, age 18 to 29, with low past exposure to violent video games groups of 11. Members of the first group were instructed to play a at home for one week and refrain from playing the following week.

violent video game at all during the two-week period. Each of the beginning of the study, with follow-up exams at one and two weeks.

completed an emotional interference task, pressing buttons according words. Words indicating violent actions were interspersed among non-the participants completed a cognitive inhibition counting task.

The results showed that after one week of violent game play, the video game group members showed less activation in the left inferior frontal lobe during the emotional task and less activation in the anterior cingulate cortex during the counting task, compared to their baseline results and the results of the control group after one week. After the second week without game play, the changes to the executive regions of the brain were diminished. "These findings indicate that violent video game play has a long-term effect on brain functioning," Dr. Wang added.

Protein-Rich Foods Protect Bones During Weight Loss

Washington, Dec 1 A calorie-restricted diet higher in protein, mostly from dairy foods, and lower in carbohydrates coupled with daily exercise has a major positive impact on bone health in overweight and obese young women, a new study has claimed.

The study, conducted by Andrea Josse and her team from the Department of Kinesiology at McMaster, found that bone health improvements were particularly evident due to the high density of bone-supporting nutrients such as calcium, vitamin D and dairy-based protein.

For 16 weeks, three groups of overweight and obese, but otherwise healthy, premenopausal women each consumed either low, medium or high amounts of dairy foods coupled with higher or lower amounts of protein and carbohydrates.

Calcium and vitamin D levels were also graded from low to high

across the groups in conjunction with the dairy foods they consumed.

The women exercised seven days per week, a routine that included aerobic exercise every day and two additional workouts of circuit weightlifting per week.

“Our findings demonstrate the importance of diet composition to the maintenance of bone health status during weight loss,” Josse said.

“Our data clearly show dairy-source protein is important when aiming to avoid harmful consequences such as accelerated bone loss during weight loss. In our view, young women attempting to lose weight should

consume a diet higher in dairy-source protein,” she said.



A previous study from the same team in the same subjects showed that there were identical total weight losses across the groups, but very different results for body composition change with the higher-protein, high-dairy group experiencing greater whole-body fat and abdomen fat losses and greater lean mass gains.

The same subjects consuming higher-protein and high-dairy diets for this study also showed

the greatest improvements in markers of bone formation, no change in bone loss, an increase in circulating vitamin D levels, and a decrease in levels of parathyroid hormone, which when elevated is typically associated with

bone loss.

Maintaining or even improving bone health in young women, particularly in those trying to lose weight, is important for overall health, and may have great implications for decreasing the risk of diseases like osteoporosis later in life, say the researchers.

“Our data provide further rationale to recommend consumption of dairy foods to aid in ‘high quality’ weight loss, which we defined as loss of fat and sparing of muscle, and the promotion of bone health in young women,” Stuart Phillips, senior author of the study, said.

“These women are not only at the age when achieving and maintaining peak bone mass is of great importance, but in whom adequate dairy consumption would offset sub-optimal intakes of calcium and vitamin D,” he said.

Subjects undergoing weight loss while consuming marginally adequate protein without dairy foods showed markedly elevated levels of markers of bone loss indicating that following such a diet in the long-run would weaken bones.

The study has been published online in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism.

Now, Wikileaks Founder Assange Exposes Global Surveillance Industry

London, Dec.2:

Whistle blowing website WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has revealed the activities of about 160 companies in 25 countries that develop technologies to allow the tracking and monitoring of individuals by their mobile phones, email accounts and internet browsing histories.

“Today (Thursday), we release over 287 files documenting the reality of the international mass surveillance industry - an industry which now sells

equipment to dictators and democracies alike in order to intercept entire populations,” Assange said.

it had grown from a covert industry that primarily supplied government intelligence agencies such as the NSA in the United States and Britain’s GCHQ, to a huge transnational business.



Assange has been in Britain for the past year fighting extradition to Sweden for questioning on allegations of rape and sexual assault, living under tight bail conditions. His case is due to come up again on

He said that in the past 10 years December 5.

Artificial Leaf Could Open New Era Of ‘Fast Food Energy’

Washington, Dec 1

Technology employed for creating an ‘artificial leaf’ could soon be used for generating ‘fast food energy’, debuting an era where people will be able to produce their own electricity at home using low cost equipments. The technology will be perfect for the 3 billion people living in developing countries and even homeowners in the United States.

That is among the prospects emerging from research on a new genre of ‘electrofuels’, made by using energy from the sun and renewable ingredients like water and carbon dioxide. C and EN Senior Correspondent Stephen K. Ritter in the study has described the artificial leaf is one of the electrofuels technologies. Made of inexpensive materials, the leaf breaks down ordinary water into the oxygen and hydrogen that can power an electricity-producing fuel cell.

Just drop the credit-card-sized device into a bucket of water and expose it to sunlight. With the cost-conscious technology, one door-sized solar cell and three gallons of water could produce a day’s worth of electricity for a typical American home. The study has also described a range of other electrofuel technologies, including ones based on engineered microbes, being developed in the quest for new ways of making fuels. The study has been published in the Chemical & Engineering News, the American Chemical Society’s weekly newsmagazine.

Global Carbon Emissions Rose To 10 Billion Tonnes In 2010 For First Time

Washington, Dec 5

Global carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion, cement production, deforestation and other land use emissions reached 10 billion tonnes of carbon in 2010 for the first time, a new research has shown.

India, China, the United States, the Russian Federation and the European Union contributed significantly to emissions in 2010.

According to the University of East Anglia (UEA) Tyndall Cen-

tre for Climate Change Research, fossil fuel emissions increased by 5.9 percent in 2010, and by 49 percent since 1990.

year between 2000 and 2010, and predicted that they would continue increasing by 3.1 percent in 2011.



According to the report, half of the emissions remained in the atmosphere, increasing carbon dioxide concentration to 389.6 parts per million and the remaining emissions were absorbed by the ocean and land reservoirs.

"Many saw the global financial crisis as an

opportunity to move the global economy away from persistent and high emissions growth, but the return to emissions growth

in 2010 suggests the opportunity was not exploited," lead author of the study, and Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research Professor Dr Glen Peters said.

"Global CO2 emissions since 2000 are tracking the high end of the projections used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which far exceed two degrees warming by 2100," Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research Director and co-author of the study Professor Corinne Le said.

"Yet governments have pledged to keep warming below two degrees to avoid the most dangerous aspects of climate change such as widespread water stress and sea level rise, and increases in extreme climatic events. Taking action to reverse current trends is urgent," he added.

The report, which is published in the journal Nature Climate Change, said fossil fuel emissions increased by 3.1 percent every

Global Warming Not Slowing Down

Washington, Dec 6:

Global warming is showing no signs of slowing down, and will



decades, a new study has warned.

The findings come in the wake of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Durban.

The Tempo Analytics and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research study said three factors - El Niño, volcanic eruptions and variations in the Sun's brightness- led to short-term fluctuations in global temperature.

El Niño is a natural warming of surface ocean waters in the eastern tropical Pacific, while solar variation is the change in the amount of radiation emitted by the sun, dominated by an approximately 11-year-long cycle.

Volcanic eruptions have a cooling effect due to very tiny erupted particles and droplets shielding light from hitting the earth.

According to the study, global temperature has increased by

0.5°C in the past 30 years, and 2010 was the hottest year.

"The unabated warming is powerful evidence that we can expect further temperature increase in the next few decades, emphasizing the urgency of confronting the human influence on the climate," lead author of the study, Grant Foster said.

The study sought to remove discrepancies by examining leading global temperature data sets from the period between 1979 and 2010, including three surface records-

NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Hadley Centre/Climate Research Unit in the UK, and two lower troposphere records based on satellite microwave sensors.

The study is published the 6 December issue of a journal, Environmental Research Letters.

increase further in the next few

HAPPY

Jan 01 New Year

Jan 05 Guru Govind

Singh Jayanti

Jan 13 Lohri

Jan 15 Makar Sankranti

/ Pongal

Jan 23 Mauni Amavasya

Jan 23 Chinese New Year

Jan 26 Republic Day

Jan 28 Vasant Panchami

SWEARING CAN HELP YOU EASE PAIN OF INJURY

London, Dec 1

Scientists from Keele University have found that swearing after hurting yourself can help numb the pain of an injury. They discovered that letting forth a volley of foul language could have a powerful painkilling effect, especially for people who do not normally use expletives, reports the Telegraph.

In the study, student volunteers placed their hands in a bucket of ice cold water while swearing repeatedly. They then repeated the exercise but, instead of swearing, used a harmless phrase instead.

Researchers found that the students were able to keep their hands submerged in the icy water for longer when repeating the swear word, establishing a link between swearing and an increase in pain tolerance.

They also found that the pain-numbing effect was four times more likely to work in the volunteers who did not normally use bad language. The team believes the pain-lesening effect occurs because swearing triggers the fight or flight response. Swearing has been around for centuries and is an almost universal human linguistic phenomenon, said Richard Stephens, who worked on the project.

It taps into emotional brain centres and appears to arise in the right brain, whereas most language production occurs in the left cerebral hemisphere of the brain. Our research shows one potential reason why swearing developed and why it persists, he added.

Earth Flips Its Polarity After Every 200,000 To 300,000 Years

Washington, Dec 1

Magnetic pole reversal is a common phenomenon, which occurs on Earth, gradually over the millennia.

According to the scientists, reversals are the rule, not the exception.

Earth has settled in the last 20 million years into a pattern of a pole reversal about every 200,000 to 300,000 years, although it has been more than twice that long since the last reversal. A reversal happens over hundreds or thousands of years, and it is not exactly a clean back flip.

Magnetic fields morph and push and pull at one another, with multiple poles emerging at odd latitudes throughout the process.

Scientists estimate reversals have happened at least hundreds of times over the past three billion years.

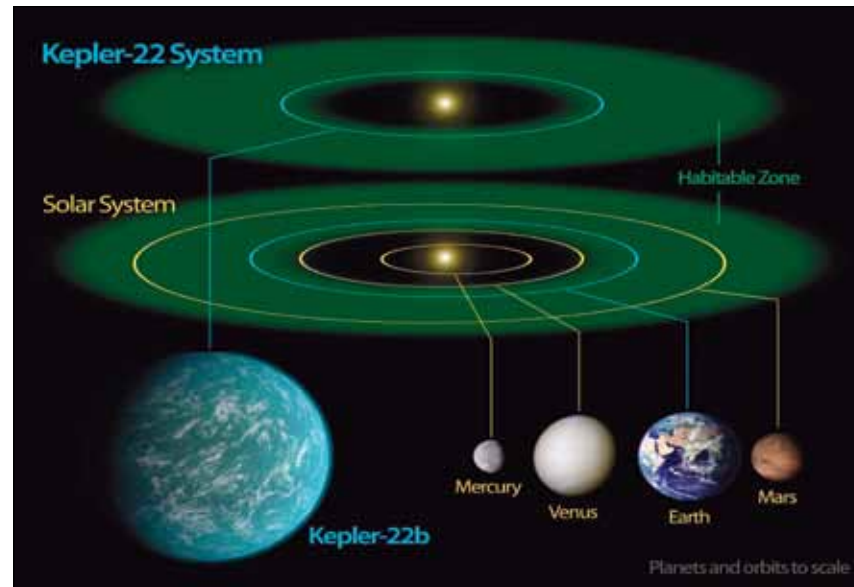
And while reversals have hap-

pened more frequently in 'recent' years, when dinosaurs walked Earth a reversal was more likely

providing a direct link between magnetic field activity and the fossil record.

and European continental plates are spreading apart.

based on the amount of oxygen isotopes in the cores.



As the lava solidifies, it creates a record of the orientation of past magnetic fields much like a tape recorder records sound.

The last time that Earth's poles flipped in a major reversal was about 780,000 years ago, in what scientists call the Brunhes-Matuyama reversal.

The fossil record shows no drastic changes in plant or animal life. Deep ocean sediment cores from this period also indicate no changes in glacial activity,

This is also proof that a polarity reversal would not affect the rotation axis of Earth, as the planet's rotation axis tilt has a significant effect on climate and glaciation and any change would be evident in the glacial record.

The science shows that while the conditions that cause polarity reversals are not entirely predictable, the north pole's movement could subtly change direction, for instance – there is nothing in the millions of years of geologic record to suggest that any of the 2012 doomsday scenarios connected to a pole reversal should be taken seriously.

to happen only about every one million years.

Sediment cores taken from deep ocean floors can tell scientists about magnetic polarity shifts,

The Earth's magnetic field determines the magnetization of lava as it is laid down on the ocean floor on either side of the Mid-Atlantic Rift where the North American

WOMEN GET CHRISTMAS GIFTS WORTH 50PC MORE THAN MEN

London, Dec 10 Women have nearly 50 per cent more money spent on them for Christmas gifts than men do, according to a new study. The study commissioned by Me to You also revealed that one in ten couples would argue over disappointing gifts this year. The researchers found men expect their other halves to spend

around 144 pounds on their gifts but will only actually receive presents worth just 99 pounds.

But women will have almost 150 pounds splashed out on them by their other half as they embrace the season of goodwill, despite only anticipating a spend of up to 114 pounds. "Married couples of course have certain expectations when it comes to receiving presents from each other," the Daily Mail quoted Caroline Weaver of Me to You as saying.

"But at the end of the day, it is great to see that as the old saying goes it really is the thought that counts when it comes to gift



buying," she stated. It also emerged more than one in 20 men claim they would consider leaving their missus if she fails to deliver the goods. Luckily, 41 per cent of couples said they weren't too worried about the amount spent on presents as long as they were thoughtful. While the survey shows couples like the idea of their partner spending a decent amount of money on them, thoughtfulness is the most important thing for 38 per cent of people. When it comes to present buying, 10 per cent want something BIG, while 11 per cent want something "expensive". Four in ten people would like a present that shows their partner knows them inside out, while 36 per cent want proof that their partner cares.

YOUTUBE UNVEILS NEW DESIGN 'TO MARRY THE BEST OF TV WITH THE BEST OF ONLINE'

San Bruno (California), Dec 2: YouTube, the world's most popular video-sharing website, has unveiled the biggest change in its history. According to the Daily Express, the website's new design will direct visitors to 'channels' of content instead of individual clips.

"We are trying hard to marry the best of TV with the best of online - so you get regular programming and come back often," product development chief Shishir Mehrotra said. "The new homepage ensures you can take channels you care about and interact with them in ways you couldn't do on TV," he added.

Currently, people spend on average just 20 minutes watching online video every day, compared to five hours watching television. YouTube hope that by making their service more 'TV like', they can change people's viewing habits and generate more revenue.

The website, which has 800 million users, displays a wide variety of user-generated video content, including movie clips, TV clips, and music videos, as well as amateur content such as video blogging and short original videos.

Most of the content has been uploaded by individuals, although media corporations including CBS, BBC, VEVO, Hulu, and other organizations offer some of their material via the site, as part of the YouTube partnership program.

Unregistered users may watch videos, and registered users may upload an unlimited number of videos. Videos that are considered to contain potentially offensive content are available only to registered users 18 years old and older. YouTube was bought by Google Inc in November 2006 for 1.65 billion dollars, and now operates as a subsidiary of Google.

Good Maternal Care Boosts Healthy Development In Kids

Washington, Dec 8

Experts have revealed that intensive maternal care during infancy promotes the effect of Neuropeptide Y (NPY) in the brain, which is involved in various processes including stress management, the development of anxiety behaviour and body weight regulation.

Neuropeptide Y (NPY) is the most abundant peptide hormone of the central nervous system.

As a result of receiving such care, the animals were also less anxious in adulthood and weighed more than their counterparts who had received less affection.

The research group was able to show that the effect is explained by the maternal care, which stimulated the persistent formation of certain NPY receptors in the forebrain.

Neuropeptide Y (NPY) assumes several key roles in the brain's complex control circuits. The messenger substance not only influences body weight but also controls, among other things, the development of anxiety and stress responses.

The study on mice carried out by Rolf Sprengel from the Max Planck Institute for Medical Research and his colleagues in Italy have shown that the effect of NPY depends on how much care and attention the young animals experienced in the first three weeks of life.



Mice who had received little care from their mothers were more anxious adults than their counterparts who had received intensive attention in their early weeks of life.

They also remained slimmer throughout their lives.

As the researchers discovered, the maternal behaviour

influenced the formation of NPY1 receptors in the limbic system – the area of the brain responsible for the processing of emotions.

“We were able to show that the expression of the NPY1 receptor in the young animals’ limbic system is increased by good maternal care,” explained Rolf Sprengel. “This ensures their healthy development in the long term,” he said

All Pregnant Women ‘Must’ Take Vitamin D

London, Dec 13

A coroner in London has called for all pregnant and breastfeeding women to take vitamin D. Coroner Andrew Walker wrote a letter to Health Secretary Andrew Lansley after he held an inquest last week into the death of a three-month-old boy.

In his letter, Walker said that the boy, Milind Agarwal, was taken to the doctor in July with symptoms of a probable viral infection. He was sent home with saline nasal drops. A later telephone consultation with another doctor led to his parents being advised to give him paracetamol. But his mother and father still had concerns and

called an ambulance. Their son was taken to Northwick Park Hospital in north London “where it was recognised he was seriously unwell”. Later, the baby died from septic inflammation of the heart against a background of an abnormal aortic heart valve.

A consultant paediatric pathologist told the coroner’s court that vitamin D deficiency played a role in progression of the infection and suggested all pregnant and breastfeeding women be prescribed vitamin D daily.

In his letter, Walker told Lansley that consideration should be given ‘to increasing public awareness of

vitamin D deficiency’, the Telegraph reported. In particular all pregnant and breastfeeding mothers should receive 10mcg of Vitamin D every day, he said.

Research has previously found that pregnant women and those trying to conceive are lacking vitamin D. Vitamin D is found in small quantities in a few foods such as oily fish, eggs and liver, and in fortified foods such as margarine, breakfast cereals and powdered milk.

But pregnant women are advised to avoid liver and liver products, raw or under-cooked eggs and to limit their intake of certain fish such as tuna.

Why An Apple A Day Can Keep The Doctor Away

Washington, Dec 1

Antioxidants found in apple peels may lead to new treatments and therapies for people suffering from bowel inflammation disorders, according to a new research. Oral ingestion of apple polyphenols can suppress T cell activation and improve experimental colitis in mice, the report said. T cells are a type of blood cells, which play a key role in cell-mediated immunity and helps the body fight against diseases or harmful substances.

This study is the first to show a role for T cells in polyphenol-mediated protection against an autoimmune disease and could lead to new therapies and treatments for people with disorders related to bowel inflammation, such as ulcerative colitis, Crohn’s disease and colitis-associated colorectal cancer.

“Many people with colitis use some form of dietary supplement to complement conventional therapies, but most of the information on the health effects of complementary medicine remains anecdotal,” said David W. Pascual, Ph.D., a researcher involved in the work from the Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana.

“Also, little is known about exactly how these therapies work, if they work at all.” “Our results show that a natural product found in apple peels can suppress colonic inflammation by antagonizing inflammatory T cells to enhance resistance against autoimmune disease.”

To make this discovery, scientists used a chemically induced model of colitis with Dextran sulfate sodium (DSS), researchers administered an oral placebo to one group of mice, and the other group of mice was given an oral dose of apple polyphenols every day during the course of the disease.

Results showed that mice treated orally with apple polyphenols were protected from colitis. Importantly, scientists also found that the treated mice had fewer activated T cells in their colons.

In mice lacking T cells, apple polyphenols were unable to protect against colitis or suppress proinflammatory cytokine expression, indicating apple polyphenols protect against colitis via the suppression of T cell activation and/or recruitment. The study has been published in the Journal of Leukocyte Biology.



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How To Make Bitter Sensitive Kids Eat Their Veggies

Washington, Dec 3:

Most children, who are sensitive to bitterness, often run away from eating greens but adding a small amount of dip to their serving of vegetables can tempt them to eating more of them, a new study has revealed.

Research has found that sensitivity to bitterness could be one of the reasons why kids do not eat their vegetable and the reason is fairly common among children – about 70 percent have it.

A new study led by Jennifer Orlet Fisher, director of the Family Eating Laboratory at Temple's Center for Obesity Research and Education,

took into consideration 152 pre-school aged children in the Head Start program who were served

broccoli at snack time over a 7-week period.

The study found that offering 2.5 ounces of ranch dressing as a dip increased broccoli consumption by 80 percent among bitter-sensitive children.

Low-fat and regular versions were tested, and both were equally effective.

"We know that children can learn to like vegetables if they are offered frequently, without prodding and prompting," said Fisher.

"Children with sensitivity to bitterness may avoid certain vegetables, but offering a low-fat dip could make it easier for those foods to become an accepted part of children's diet."

She added that parents do not necessarily need to stick to dressings

high in fat and salt to see a positive effect.

"Try apple-sauce, hummus, or a low-fat yogurt-based dip for more calcium," she said.

Dislike of the bitterness in some foods may stem from the 'TAS2R38' gene, which influences how we perceive bitter tastes.

To determine which chil-

dren in the study had this sensitivity, researchers offered each child a cup with increasing amounts of a bitter-tasting compound common in green vegetables.

After each cup, the child was asked whether the fluid tasted like water, or was 'bitter or yucky'. About 70 percent of the children responded in the latter.

"Parents and caregivers do not make laboratory measurements of children's bitter sensitivity, but most will know if their child is wary of vegetables."

"Our research shows that offering dip is another tool that parents can use to help children learn to eat their vegetables," Fisher added.

The study has been recently published in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association.



Community Calendar

JANUARY 2012 Community Calendar and Listing

Schedule:

**January 07, Saturday,
11:00 AM,**

Big Help ForEducation hosts Pongal-Republic Day Celebration 2012 at Canton High School, 900 Washington Street, Canton, MA 02021. For more information, contact 781-962-7399.

**January 07, Saturday,
04:30 PM – 06:00 PM,**

Know your Teeth-Dental Seminar is at ShriDwarkamaiVidyapeeth, 267 Boston Road Suite 9 Billerica, MA 01862. No entry fee. For further details call 978-276-9724 or email at mailbox@dwarkamai.org.

**January 07, Saturday,
05:30 PM – 07:00 PM,**

Dance Auditions for Interlochen Center for the Arts (grades 6-12) is at Boston Ballet School, 19 Clarendon Street, Boston, Mas-

sachusetts. Auditions will include ballet, pointe and modern technique. Participating students will be considered for admission to Interlochen's world-renowned summer arts program or fine arts boarding high school.

Required audition dress for girls is black leotards and pink tights. Boys should wear white t-shirts and black tights. (TBD) Registration starts at 5:00 p.m. and auditions will be held from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

**June 08, Sunday,
03:00 PM,**

Heroic Krishna in Epic Mahabharata, Lecture by Dr. Kevin McGrath, Hall A, Science Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, followed by Q & A. Free entry. For more information, contact Dr. B. Misraat 617-864-5121.

**January 14, Saturday,
04:30 PM,**

Isaimazhai 2012, organized by ISHA FOUNDATION is at Ashland High School, Ashland, MA.

The entry fee for this is \$15 for Adults, Kids under 12yrs free. Excellent South Indian Cuisine is provided at a nominal cost. For more information, contact Priya at 978.458.3510, 978.328.4890 or email at priya@rajpriya.com.

**January 21, Saturday,
04:00 PM,**

Association of Greater Boston hosts IAGB Republic Day Celebration at Burlington High School, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, MA 01803. For more information, contact 781-325-8171.

**January 28, Saturday,
01:00 PM,**

SankranthiSambaralu 2012 is at Littleton Highschool 56 king st, Littleton, MA 01460.

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Depression Drives Teenage Girls To Overeat

Washington, Dec 19

Teenage girls who feel depressed are twice as likely to start binge eating as compared to their counterparts, a new study has found. According to the new nationwide study, the reverse is also true, as, girls who engage in regular binge eating have double the normal risk of symptoms of depression.

The study, conducted by Alison Field and his team of researchers from Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health, is the largest to look at the relationship between binge eating and depression during adolescence, when most eating disorders surface.

The study authors defined binge eating as eating a large amount of food in a short amount of time and feeling a lack of control over eating during the episode. It also labelled girls who ate large amounts of food but did not feel out of control "overeaters".

The findings of the study rely on surveys conducted as part of the nationwide Growing Up Today Study. The authors focused on girls because eating disorders and depression are more common in females than in males. The researchers analysed data from nearly 5,000 girls aged 12 to 18 who answered questions in 1999, with follow-up surveys in 2001 and 2003.

Teens and young women who reported in the first survey that they always or usually felt "down in the dumps" or "depressed" were about twice as likely as others were to start overeating or binge eating during the following two years. "The most common approach to obesity has been to focus on eating better and exercising more, but many pathways can lead to being overweight," Marian Tanofsky-Kraff, a clinical psychologist at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Maryland, said. "There is a group of people where it may be more psychologically driven. Targeting some of these psychological factors might help prevent obesity," Tanofsky-Kraff added.

MARCH 2012 ISSUE HEALTH SPECIAL

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FEBRUARY 2012 ISSUE LEGAL SPECIAL

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Evergreen Actor Dev Anand Dies In London

(Continued From Page 1)

According to Churiwala, Sunil found that Dev Anand was not responding and called the doctor. 'The doctor said that he had a heart attack. He died at 10 on Saturday night in London,' he said. The Padma Bhushan awardee is survived by his wife, former actress Kalpana Karthik, Sunil and a daughter.

According to Churiwala, the cremation will be held next week in London. 'He will be cremated in London only after Tuesday. Cremation cannot take place till his daughter reaches there. His body is kept in a hospital,' he said.

Dev Anand, who started his career in the black and white era with 1946 film 'Hum Ek Hain', spent 65 years under the arc lights as an actor and filmmaker.

Known as Mr. Charming and the Adonis of Indian cinema, the Dada Saheb Phalke award winner worked tirelessly, coming up with new films after short intervals. He never hung his boots or sat on his laurels. In fact, just before his death, he was planning another movie. His latest film 'Chargesheet', which he acted and directed and was released this year, became his swan song.

His nephew and acclaimed filmmaker Shekhar Kapur summed up his journey in showbiz aptly by saying: 'Dev Anand lived and died at his own terms. He was working one minute. Sat down and smiled. And was gone the next. So much to learn.'

From colleagues to fans - everyone woke up to a rude Sunday morning shock as the news of the legendary actor's passing away in London unfolded here.

Actress Preity Zinta tweeted: 'Woke up to the sad News of Dev Saheb's demise ! May God give peace to his soul! He inspired us all by living his life to the fullest. R.I.P'.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and yesteryears actress J. Jayalalitha consoled the death of Dev Anand, saying India has lost 'a great actor, an illustrious son and a true patriot'.

Expressing grief, Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan said: 'The country has lost an iconic film personality who gave immense joy to millions of movie buffs and his admirers and will be remembered for his varied roles in memorable movies over the decades.'

Prem Dube, Dev Anand's driver for the last 22 years, said: 'I have been praying why God did not take me away instead of Dev Anand? He had given his entire life to the industry and they needed him... He was himself a God.'

A close aide of the deceased actor, Chandra Shekhar, (himself 89), said he was 'shaken' when he heard the news from a friend, the first thing this morning. 'I only wish that this time the news should be wrong... Dev saab had given his soul to the industry and now his life... I personally feel that he could not accept the fate of his latest movie,' Shekhar told.

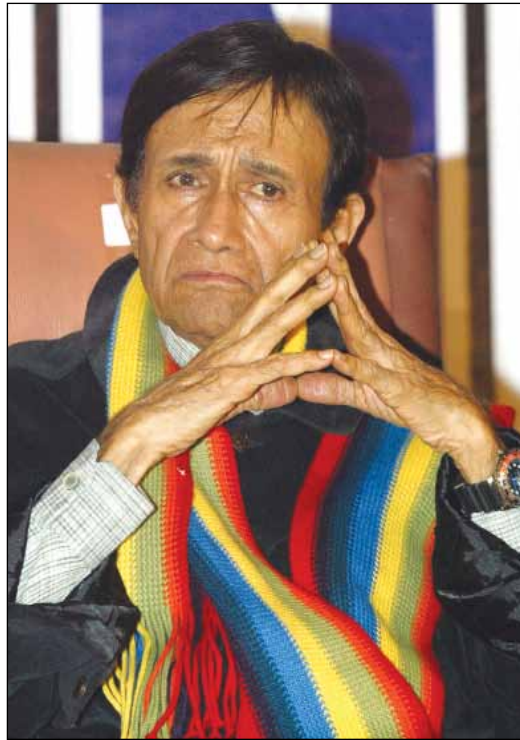
Dev Anand seemed to have adopted the philosophy of the song 'Main Zindagi ka saath nibhata chala gaya' from 'Hum Dono', in real life too. His body of work speaks volumes about the man who was not only a great actor, but multi-tasker and a trendsetter.

If as an actor he proved his versatility with hits like 'Tere Ghar Ke Samne', 'Jewel Thief' and 'Guide', as a director he made a 'zara hatke' movie 'Hare Rama Hare Krishna' that also gave Bollywood its first anglicised glamour icon in Zeenat Aman.

He was also instrumental in bringing Tina Munim, Richa Sharma, Jackie Shroff and Tabu

into the glamour world.

He played a



long innings in film, but his never-say-die spirit reigned supreme.

All this is encapsulated in his autobiography 'Romancing with Life'.

Sehwag Overtakes Tendulkar To Become Highest Scorer In Odis

Indore, Dec 8

Stand-in-Indian captain Virender Sehwag today set a new record for the highest individual score in one-day internationals with 219 in the fourth match against West Indies at Indore.

Sachin Tendulkar, rested from this series, previously held the record



of 200 not out off 147 balls against South Africa in Gwalior last year. Sehwag, captaining in the absence of the rested M.S. Dhoni, reached his 200 in 140 balls. During the 149 balls innings, the right-handed batsman smashed an incredible 25 fours and seven sixes.

Sehwag's previous top score was 175 against Bangladesh in Dhaka earlier this year. The 33-year-old later said that the Holkar Cricket Stadium had a true batting wicket.

"I think everyone was expecting me to get 200, but I was not expecting it. It was a true batting wicket, and when I was hitting the ball into the gaps, it was going for four," Sehwag said.

"I was playing my shots throughout the innings, but I started thinking about 200 in the batting powerplay, and when Sammy dropped the catch I thought 'God is with me'," he added. India finished on 418-5 from their 50 overs - the joint fourth highest total in ODI history.

Miracle Cat Survives 200-Mile Ride Under Car Hood

London, Dec 23:

In a miraculous incident, a cat survived a four-hour, 200-mile ride under the hood of a car. The feline survived the trek from Xenia, southwest Ohio to Cleveland with only burns on his right side.

According to local reports, the driver, who was not the cat's owner, had left it on his drive before beginning his journey, and stopped at a rest area south of his destination when he smelled something.

A state trooper then found the man with the hood of his vehicle up and the large black and white cat in the engine compartment. It was taken to a nearby animal hospital where it was declared fine after examination.

Book Review: Begin Different – Author Rajiv Malhotra

Reviewer: John M. Hobson, author of *The Eurocentric Conception of World Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2012) and Professor of Politics and International Relations at the University of Sheffield, UK.

What has the insight of a seemingly obscure agglomeration of religions (obscure to us in the West) that reside under the umbrella term known as the 'dharmic tradition' got to do with the major problems that haunt world politics today? And what has any of this got to do with us here in the West? Everything.

Just over three decades ago Edward Said's challenging text, *Orientalism*, burst onto the scene and delivered a revolutionary impact on much of the social sciences.

But what the book did not do is tell us is how the 'Orient' thinks. The downside of the legacy of Said's book is that the Orient appears as a passive region that cannot represent itself.

What was missing from that great work was something that could tell us not only something about how the conglomerate known as the Orient thinks, but how its own philosophy and weltanschauungs could tell us new things about the ideational self-conception of the West and of the accompanying conceptions of the world that flow from this. Said's great lacuna, I believe, has been overcome in magnificent and equally challenging form by Rajiv Malhotra's epic intellectual journey into the world of dharmic thought.

As Malhotra puts it, in exploring the world of dharmic religious thought we can 'reverse the gaze' and look deeply into the very structures of thought that define Western civilization. Malhotra also adds a crucial dimension concerning the identity of the West – namely its Christian religion.

This remarkable and highly original book is itself an exercise in being different, insofar as it constitutes not a nihilistic critique

of all that is wrong with the West but offers constructive – dare I say 'healing' – powers that can offer ways out of the impasse concerning one of the defining features of Western civilization – its self-belief that what is Western is truly and inherently universal. It is this very existential conflation, Malhotra argues, that lies at the heart of the world's problems today.

The solution lies not with the denial or destruction of Western civilization, but rather with the need for it to humbly transcend this great conflation and learn not to 'tolerate' other civilizations and cultures but to embrace a mutual respect for them.

It could also benefit from a healthy dose of humility by recognising the many debts that the West owes the East in general, and India in particular, concerning various pioneering inventions that found their way across to help nurture the rise of the West (Indian mathematical break-throughs is a case in point).

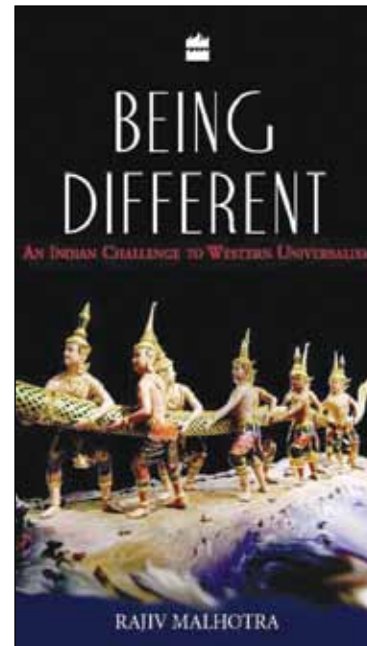
Being Different is written in a refreshingly direct and highly accessible form that is so often not the case with works located in this genre. Its effectiveness is also marvelously portrayed by ideas that are sometimes so simple that one wonders why many of us had not come up with them before.

The example of his fascinating story concerning his critique of the word 'tolerance' is a marvelous case in point. His argument here is disarmingly simple but is a product of his poignant analysis of the exclusivist tendencies that lie at the base of Western civilization; tendencies that are not always recognised as such by Westerners given that they are camouflaged in 'nice-sounding' but ultimately self-deluding rhetoric.

Whether his message is ultimately capable of transcending this exclusivism is, of course, another matter. But the challenge lies surely with those of us in the West who dress such exclusivism up in the ideational garments of human rights, tolerance, and the central

notion of making the world a better place through culturally converting Others to Western civilization.

This is a big book on a massive topic that speaks directly to the



central concerns of us in the West as well as how we think and act in the world, as much as it does to the many more people who reside outside of the West.

All in all, *Being Different* is a fitting and major response to Samuel Huntington's position on 'who are we?' as the West; one that can perhaps best be provided by someone reversing the gaze on the West through a non-Western lens. This could, and in my view deserves to, be one of the defining books of the age.

Reviewer: Rita D. Sherma, Executive Director, Confluence School of Faith Studies; co-editor *Hermeneutics and Hindu Thought: Towards a Fusion of Horizons*

Being Different makes it astoundingly clear that the 'global' civilization today is actually nothing of the kind. It is not an integrative fusion of beneficial ideas and perspectives from every civilization across the globe.

It is, instead, a swallowing up of all human endeavor and culture for the nourishment of a madly materialistic,

ultimately unsustainable, wildly destructive credo of monolithic cultural, political and religious imperialism.

Rajiv Malhotra maintains that this is nowhere more clearly manifest than in the case of the centuries-long Western appropriation, re-mapping, and eradication of the sources of the native traditions, sciences, and spiritual practices of India.

Being Different boldly deconstructs the ubiquitously lauded tenet of 'religious tolerance,' so widely celebrated by diverse groups, and reminds us that none of us would want to be merely tolerated in any other situation and that mutual respect is what we should be aiming at.

But it is made clear that this is a very difficult proposition because mutual respect in the realm of religion entails the affirmation of other faiths and their modes of worship as equally valid spiritual paths. This would mean the complete overturning, at the deepest level, of foundational dogmas of strict exclusivism that underlie historically orthodox Western theologies (an occurrence that liberal theologians would applaud).

The volume similarly unpacks the far more insidious dangers of the seemingly innocuous idea of 'universalism' and delineates the difference between 'universalism'

in Dharma-based civilizations and in its Western iteration.

It does so by clarifying how 'universalism,' from the perspective of Hindu or Buddhist Dharma (through their own respective doctrines), is supported by concepts that acknowledge unity through its manifestation as diversity.

In contradistinction, Western concepts of universalism carry critical dangers for non-dominant cultures because it confuses Universalization with Westernization, the expansion of which has involved the digestion of 'useable' elements from alternate civilizations.

The volume warns that when such a confusion of categories is imbibed by non-Western peoples, it turns them into prey for the ascendant culture. While the book focuses on India and its intellectual and spiritual traditions, the same warning holds for all existentially struggling civilizations.

In *Being Different*, Rajiv Malhotra unapologetically holds up a mirror to dominant models of Western secular and religious culture and, perhaps most importantly, provokes introspection for those whose spiritual heritage lies—whether by ancestry or adoption—in the vast and diverse civilizational spheres birthed in the pluralistic environment of the Dharma traditions.

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TAX SPECIAL

Green Card Holders And US Taxation

By Hanishi Ali

This article provides an overview about the connection between immigration and taxes for a lawful permanent resident (LPRs). LPRs, popularly known as green-card holders, are typically concerned about how their immigration status will affect their taxes.

This concern is particularly important for those that have either newly acquired a green card, have moved abroad for short-term work or have retired to their native country.

There is a common misconception amongst many LPRs that you become tax residents only if you spend at least 183 days in the United States. To clarify, the 183

day rule is only applicable to non-immigrant visa holders.

a US tax resident and all green-card holders, like US citizens, are required to report worldwide

income by filing a federal income tax return each year (IRS Form 1040) by April 15th. Therefore, under the relevant regulations, you must file an annual tax return unless (a) the LPR status has been revoked or (b) if it has been administratively or judicially determined to have been abandoned or (c) the US residence status is affected by an international income tax treaty so that you are not subject to double taxation.

However, in practice these regulations may create seemingly inconsistent situations between U.S. Immigration law, U.S. tax law and income tax treaties.

For instance, consider a situation where an LPR is absent from the US for a long time, and on their return a determination is made by the USCIS that the LPR has not maintained his/her green card status and thereby abandoned the U.S. as his/her permanent residence. Until that determination has actually

been made, the income tax filing requirement and any tax obligations will continue for that LPR.

The USCIS does not know an LPR's status until s/he tries to return to the United States after a length of time. Therefore, although an LPR's green card may be invalid upon entry into the United States and his/her

status considered abandoned, the individual must continue to file tax returns until a final determination of revocation or abandonment has been made by the USCIS. A final determination

of abandonment may not take place many years after the actual act of abandonment.

For sake of completeness, it should be mentioned that failure to file US taxes can not only hurt an individual's chances of seeking US citizenship but may also be a criminal offense which could result in loss of green card and eventual deportation from the country.

This is a complicated area of law and if you are seeking further advice about your specific situation, it is recommended that you discuss your circumstances with an experienced attorney or CPA who can guide you about your best options.

Hanishi Ali is an international business and immigration attorney at Mithras Law Group, based in Westborough, MA which focuses on US and UK based Immigration law.

Hanishi can be reached at 617-500-3233 or at www.mithraslaw.com. Firm Blog at: <http://immigrationinfo.wordpress.com/>



As soon you acquire a green card, you are automatically classified as

income by filing a federal income tax return each year (IRS Form 1040) by April 15th.

So, whether you live or work outside the United States you continue to be treated as a resident for U.S. tax purposes



and are obligated report your world-wide income to the IRS and this reporting requirement applies irrespective of whether the income was earned within the country or internationally.

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Monday May Help You Stick To Your New Year Health Resolutions

(Continued From Page 1)

The Monday Campaigns is a nonprofit initiative in association with Johns Hopkins, Columbia and Syracuse Universities.

"We think of Monday as the January of the week," Newsweek quoted Sid Lerner, founder and chairman of The Monday Campaigns as saying.

"It's a call to action built into every calendar, giving you 52 chances for success," Lerner said.

Monday Campaigns' public health researcher Morgan Johnson also noticed a "Monday surge" in behaviours such as calling tobacco-quit lines and searching for health-related information on the Internet. Johnson concludes "people are clearly open to engaging in healthy behaviours on Monday, so it makes a good nudge day to help people stay on track."

Starting each week with a reminder may offer an added boost for healthy behaviour. A literature review conducted by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health found that weekly messaging can help change behaviours like diet and physical activity.

In addition, the FGI survey indicates that 74 percent of people thought a Monday start would help them follow through on their health intentions for the week.

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CEO Bishnujee Singh Awarded Of Chartered Management Institute, Uk

CEO Bishnujee Singh, Cayley Aerospace Inc has been conferred with Fellowship of the Chartered management Institute on 24 Nov 2011. The professional managers UK & Globally and further recognizes this accolade is the ultimate benchmark for practicing. The Fellow Award is CMI's highest and most prestigious individual honor.

It is presented to members who have made a sustained and significant contribution to CMI and to the Strategic management profession, advancing the state-of-the-art and promoting professionalism.

The award highlights the importance of strong management and leadership skills within all sectors. The Fellow Award recognizes individual's commitment to leadership development at a time of intense change in the sector.

Mr. Singh has been conferred with numerous Awards in Aerospace Engineering sector. He was conferred with Modern Day Technology Leader Award by Black Engineer of the Year CCG Group in USA on Feb 2011. Mr. Singh was Honored with Legacy Award MIRS WOC CCG Group in July 2011 at Orlando, Florida. Earlier Mr. Singh has been honored with Fellow of Engineers Australia for contribution toward Engineering Profession in Australia and outstanding contribution towards Aerospace Industry.

Mr. Singh was the First Indian Engineer to be awarded with European Engineer Award from FEANI, Brussels earlier in the year and First Ever Aerospace Engineer to be conferred with Chartered Mathematician with Institute of Mathematics & its Application, UK. Mr. Singh is Associate Fellow of Canadian Aeronautics & Space Institute for his outstanding Achievement in Aerospace Profession.

Mr. Singh is also the First Aeronautical Engineer to be conferred with Chartered Scientist with Science Council-UK in association with Royal Aeronautical Society, London and Institute of Mathematics, UK. Mr. Singh is Chartered Engineer in Aerospace with Engineering Council-UK and Chartered Professional Engineer with Engineers Australia and Professional Engineer in Aerospace discipline on National

Professional Engineer Register. Mr. Singh is the First Ever




Aeronautical Engineer to be awarded with APEC Engineer and

International Professional Engineer (Aerospace) in Aviation history..

Mr. Singh is also First Aerospace Engineer to be conferred with Chartered Physicist Award from Institute of Physics, UK.


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South Asian Showdown!

(Continued From Page 1)

These different dance forms make up some of the most popu-

lar dance forms in India and if you want to see which dance style wins, come check out the competition on Saturday, February 11th, 2012 at the John Hancock Theatre in Boston!



lar dance forms in India and if you want to see which dance style wins, come check out the competition on Saturday, February 11th, 2012 at the John Hancock Theatre in Boston!

The concept of Showdown is to put the best dance teams from each South Asian genre against one an-

other to see who wins! Bhangra is a folk dance from the Punjab region of India. Fusion/Hindi-Film is a conglomeration of all South Asian dance and any other dance form that the team chooses to use that may incorporate a story line.

Garba/Raas is a folk dance from

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the Gujrat region of India. Bring all of these dance forms together and have them all compete against one another will show everyone attending just how talented and unique South Asian dance truly is.

South Asian Showdown, SAS for short, will have teams from all over North America competing to be crowned the Showdown Champion.

Teams from California, Maryland, Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Boston will all show the Boston audience some of the best dances they have seen all year!

Date: Saturday, February 11th, 2012

Time: 6 PM Sharp

Location: John Hancock Hall

India Celebrate Christmas

Kochi/Manali, Dec 25:

Festive fever gripped India as people enthusiastically participated in Christmas celebrations and rejoiced by singing Christmas carols and exchanging gifts with each other. People from all over India congregated in Himachal Pradesh's Manali town to enjoy the festive season, which is set to continue till New Year.

"It's our first trip to Manali and it is extra special because it is



Christmas time. And the fever and spirit of Christmas in Manali is spectacular with the snow and the lights and all the tourists. It's very festive," said Mala Makhan, a tourist from Cape Town.

Amidst enthusiasm, the tourists said that the town is in full mood of Christmas celebrations. "We have come here for Christmas celebrations. Christmas celebrations are going too good. Weather is too cool here and we are really enjoying," said Pooja, a tourist from Delhi.

A mesmerizing scenario was also witnessed in Kerala's Kochi city, as the Christians were seen singing and enjoying Christmas carols on the streets.

"The whole world is celebrating the birth of Jesus. We are also celebrating the birth of Jesus in our own way. All children have gathered here," said reverend father Mathew D. Cunhah, chief priest of St. John church. Small girls were seen dressed as fairies and boys dressed as Santa Claus - in his trademark red dress, with long, white beard. Marking the birth of Jesus Christ, Christmas is celebrated across the world on December 25.

World's Oldest Living Dog Dies At 26

London, Dec 7 The world's oldest living dog has died in Japan at the age of 26, which is equivalent to more than 125 human years. Pusuke, a male cross breed, died peacefully on Monday afternoon at Sakura in Tochigi prefecture. His owner, Yumiko Shinohara, said her beloved pet had been showing a good appetite and had kept up with his two strolls a day until Monday morning. But he suddenly refused to eat and had problems breathing and died in the afternoon just five minutes after Ms Shinohara had returned home from a walk. "I think (Pusuke) waited for me to come home," the Daily Mail quoted Shinohara as telling MSN India. Pusuke was born in March 1985 and was recognised by the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest living dog on the planet in December 2010.



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2012 ASTROLOGY PREDICTIONS By Pandit Parashar

ARIES (March 21 to April 20): Jupiter will transit first house till



May 18th and second for remainder of 2012. Saturn will stay in seventh throughout 2012.

Ketu will transit second and Rahu will stay in eighth. This year will bring prosperity in your life. Planets will cause expansion in career as well as the size of family. A new member will be added in the family this year. As Mars will stay very strong in first half, you will be more confident and take few courageous initiatives. Results will be positive and almost instant. You will have complete satisfaction on children side also. Spouse will also do better as planet Saturn will bring some very positive changes in career. If in business there is a strong chance that you may open another location or buy another one this year. You will reap rich rewards for your efforts when Jupiter moves into second house after May 18th. Be careful in between June 22nd and Aug 16th when Mars transit sixth house. You may have to face some challenging situation during this period. You will also make some long term investment or put some money away in savings this year. In second half of 2012 you will be spending lots of money on a family member and for good reason only. You will become very health conscious this year and achieve your goals. Time is very good for all financial matters right after March 29th. You will definitely lay your hands on some real easy money in 2012. All your plans will go through with the help of Jupiter in first and you will also find easy solutions for all obstacles.

TAURUS (April 21 to May 20): Exalted Saturn will transit sixth



house this whole year. Ketu will stay in first and Rahu in seventh. Jupiter will transit twelfth house till May 18th and first house there after. Strong Saturn in sixth will bring major changes in career this year. Once again you will start to feel lucky as most of your major plans will

go through without any difficulty. You will overcome all earlier difficulties and have the edge over your opponents and competition. Product will be better than earlier expected. People who are self employed will see few of their major competition quitting making room for more progress in life. When Jupiter transit first house after May 18th, You may have to deal with some health issues also this year but you will be cured completely. Bachelors may have some difficult time this year as Rahu's presence in seventh can cause frustration in area of relationships. Saturn's transit in sixth will involve you in legal battle in some way and the good thing is that decision will be in your favor only. June 5th to June 22nd and Sept 14th to Oct 22nd are very favorable for money matters. You could hit some kind of financial jackpot during these times. Presence of Mars in fourth till June 22nd is slightly disturbing as far as partnerships are concerned whether its domestic or business. You will need lots of patience and self control. You will be taking few important trips to distant places in 2012. Any venture started this year will be long lasting and beneficial.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Saturn will stay strong in fifth



house. Jupiter will transit eleventh house till May 18th and twelfth there after. Ketu will stay in twelfth and Rahu will be in sixth this year. It will be a better year by all means. Expect some major changes in career this year. Business will multiply or you may start another location. Your plans will get implemented successfully and results will make every body at home happy. A child may leave home and move away for educational purpose in 2012. And of course there is no escape from hard work but it will be rewarding. If you don't waste your time and stay focused, 2012 should turn out to be another turning point in your life as far as career is concerned. Luck is definitely on your side this year. Since Jupiter lord of seventh is in house of gains till May 18th, it can start new association, part-

nerships and marriage for bachelors is also not out of question. You may find some one who is born outside the country you are living in right now. This person will come from a very good family and will be well educated. A business venture in Partnership with some like minded people also possible in first half of 2012. You will receive help and support from some one much older. Opportunities will come by themselves this year. Money wise you will do a lot better as income will multiply. You will be doing lots of religious and charity work and work towards salvation, thanks to Ketu in twelfth house. You will upgrade your home this summer when Mars transit fourth after June 22nd.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Saturn will transit fourth house.



Jupiter will stay in tenth till May 18th and move into eleventh there after. Mars will stay strong in second till June 22nd. Saturn will keep half of your attention towards immediate family. You will be busy resolving one issue or another involving family members this year. Some money will need to be spend on getting some work done in and around the home you live in. Jupiter in tenth will definitely cause big changes in career before May 18th and for most it will be a turning point, of course you will go through some learning process. These changes will open new doors and lead you to a totally unexplored territory in career. You will benefit from these changes right after May 18th when Jupiter starts transit in house of gains. Mars in second till June 22nd will keep you on the edge as far as money is concerned but you will meet all financial commitments on time and discharge all liabilities gracefully. Do not buy any old vehicle or too old property as long as Saturn is transiting fourth house and keep your eye on the road when driving any vehicle. Worshipping Lord Shiva, wearing a blue sapphire and donating black color objects will be helpful. You will be traveling to a nice place with family during summer this

year. If you keep your emotions aside and stay focused on career, this year will turn out fruitful. Health will improve and you will be able to shed off some weight also with the change of diet only. You will become more social and make new friends in 2012.

LEO (July 23 to August 22): Jupiter will stay in house of luck till



May 18th before moving into house of career. Saturn will stay in third throughout 2012.

Mars will stay strong in first till June 22nd especially. Planets are in right order to bring much needed boost in life. Chances are you will get lots of money through legal channels this year. Things stuck in the past will start moving again. You will not feel restricted and will use your talent and expertise to full advantage in 2012. Mars will keep the energy level on peak. You will accomplish a lot this year. Income will multiply as business will grow. People in jobs will be moved to couple of levels up. You will be travelling more during the 2012. Strong Mars will help you accumulate more assets and you may buy some property for yourself or for investment purpose this year. Now Jupiter's transit in tenth after May 18th will cause some fortunate changes in career. A dream job will become reality. Any issues pending with government will also get cleared favorably. Lots of struggle of past will come to an end and projects not doing so well in the past will start making profit this year. Jupiter in ninth improves your chances of having an addition in the family before May 18th. Living, working and financial conditions will improve a lot as you are completely out of Saturn's 7 1/2 year cycle. Expect some positive changes in career between March 29th and August 1st. Some of you will be moving to better place with lots of greenery around. You will go on couple of important trips in 2012.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22): Saturn will be in second or completing last leg of 7 1/2 year cycle. Jupiter will be in eighth

till May 18th before moving into ninth there after. Mars will transit twelfth house till



June 22nd. Planets will continue to test your patience, self confidence and faith in God. Things stuck

in the past will keep rolling from Jan 22nd and onwards. Running around will increase but will pay off. There will be big changes in partnership. You may get rid of old one and start your search for replacement which will become possible right after May 18th, when Jupiter enters your house of luck. Projects started last year will turn profitable in 2012. You may have to travel more frequently for longer stretch of time in this year. You may be able to dispose off some property also at some loss in early months of 2012 but will again end up investing on a nice piece of property after May 18th. You will also replace one of your vehicle in 2012. Bachelors will be successful in finding the right soul mate during Jupiter's transit in ninth right after May 18th. You will become more religious and may start paying visit to a holy place on regular basis. You may have to deal with some health issues during June 22nd and August 16th. Financial pressure will increase in the month of August and September. Try to stay away from involving your self in unnecessary litigation and go for a settlement only. You will be spending more money on a child this year. Faith and self confidence will help you make it a better year.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22): Saturn will transit in



first house and Jupiter will stay in seventh house till May before moving into eighth. This Saturn

will bring all round prosperity in life. Struggle of past will be over and new opportunities will knock at your door. This year is the perfect time to make your move and take any chance. Saturn will bring lots of stability in life. Some of you may even join a short term program to enhance and update your knowledge. You may (Continued on page 21)

2012 ASTROLOGY PREDICTIONS By Pandit Parashar

(Continued from page 20) also buy a beautiful house and replace one of your vehicle with luxury model this year. Legal matters started last year will come to a favorable end this year and you will be served full justice. You will continue to receive valuable advice and leads from a matured person. Bachelors will ultimately find some one who will be intelligent and a great planner. You may also discard few friends from your list and maintain relations only with humble and nice people. Expect big growth as far as finances are concerned. You will be making more money and business will do better. You may start another big project and manufacture product that can be used by common masses. This will be a very good year for people in gas, oils, minerals and metal industry. You may also purchase a property for investment purpose and this deal will be profitable from day one. Strong Mars in eleventh will keep you financially strong and all loan applications will be accepted in first shot. You will make couple of trips in west direction and those trips will be very lucky.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 22): Saturn will transit twelfth house or the house of expenses and losses. Jupiter will stay in sixth till May 18th and will stay in seventh there after. Mars will stay strong in house of career till June 22nd. Rahu will stay in first and Ketu will be in seventh in 2012. Finances will pick up only after May 18th when Jupiter enters seventh house before that you will need to do lots of juggling in order to keep your commitments. Spending too much money on advertising will not be helpful before May 18th. Saturn's transit in twelfth is the beginning of Saturn's 7 1/2 year cycle. You will need to be careful and listen to your instincts rather than believing any outsider too quick. Do not fall for too good to be true schemes. It will be better to compromise and settle rather than getting involved in litigation as the results will not be favorable and you will end up spending a lot

on legal fees alone. Your expenses towards vehicles will increase in 2012 in shape of increased insurance or frequent repairs. Professionally you will continue to well. Number of clients will grow but will be hard to save any till May 18th. Projects started in early part will become profitable towards the second half only. It will be better to seek second opinion before you make any big move this year as Saturn will throw bait and you may end up investing heavily in a bad project. Avoid buying any property for investment purpose and especially an old one. People prone to litigations will have to be very careful in 2012.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 to December 22): Saturn will transit house of gains and Jupiter will stay in fifth till May 18th before moving into sixth for remainder of year. Mars will stay strong for most of the time in 2012. Rahu will be in twelfth and Ketu will stay in sixth. Planet Saturn will get you large chunk of money through legal procedure. All trips and journeys will be fruitful. You may finally lay your hands on a real nice piece of property. The deal will be good. Chances of a change in career or job are strong in month of June and then again in September. You will travel overseas with family to attend an important event and will take more than one short vacation in year 2012. You will be more confident and successfully launch your project before May 18th. You will get some kind of training or attend a short term program to improve your chances in this challenging world. The knowledge will come really handy when you apply for a better position. New addition in the family this year will bring lots of good luck for you too. All issues involving a child will get settled to every one's satisfaction. Any attempts you make before May 18th should go through in first shot. Some of you may for the first time start a business of your own. Money wise you will make more and spend less and at the end of year

you will be happy with the bank balance. Spouse will continue to give good ideas and will encourage you. Some of you may buy a rental property for investment purpose this year.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19): Saturn will transit house of career and Jupiter will transit fourth house, the house of residence till May 18th before moving into fifth. Mars will stay in eighth house till June 22nd. Exalted Saturn will help you make lots of extra money in 2012. There is a strong chance of big chunk of money through legal channels. Your pending appeals will get accepted and you will be off the hook. There will be few positive changes in career and you will be moved at least couple of levels up. Business will be better and new product will be an instant hit in the market. Time from April and onwards is great to make any moves in career. You will be spending some money on your home also. You may renovate or add more space or rooms to it before summer. You may need minor surgery also to cure some health issue that crops up every now and then. Month of September will prove to be a turning point this year. What ever happens in September will not be any less than a jackpot in your life. You will be travelling to west coast and the trip will be very beneficial. Jupiter's transit in fifth after May 18th will bring large gains from distant places and overseas. You will gain knowledge and wisdom. There is a strong chance of addition of a new member in the family towards the end of 2012. You will receive valuable advice and guidance from a matured person who will steer you in the right direction. Stocks purchased in early part of 2012 will turn profitable after August. Strong Saturn will bring confidence back and it will make you more popular in the social circle.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18): Saturn will transit ninth or the house of luck this year. Jupiter will be in third till May 18th

and in fourth house for rest of 2012. Mars will continue to occupy seventh house till June 22nd. You will be slightly restless in the beginning of new year but after February you will be completely charged. You will gain from overseas projects and may have to travel frequently to distant places this year. Confidence level will be on the peak and you will make more and will be able to save lot in 2012. It will be a better year for people in sales, marketing and people connected with the communication industry. The chances of moving to better location becomes very strong after May 18th when Jupiter moves into your fourth house. Mars in seventh may create some tension with life or business partner till June 22nd. You will need lots of patience in that area if you wish to maintain things at it is. You will become more humble and will help many needy people in 2012 and develop interest in philosophy and spirituality. You may make some generous donations to a worthy cause in 2012. Do not take any impulsive decisions about career and grab second opinion before you make any move, it will help you go for better deal. You will be getting some construction work done in or around your home this summer and may replace one of your vehicle also. Your image in social circle will improve and you may be appointed to some important post in an organization. Just stay calm with partners and you will make it a very fruitful year.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20): Jupiter will transit second house till May 18th before moving into third. Saturn will transit eighth house this year. Mars will stay in sixth house till June 22nd. Money wise the second half of 2012 is better. There will be changes in career this year and you may leave the company you had been working for a long time and join a start up. Some of you may be appearing for some kind of competitive exam to improve your prospects. People in

business will continue to face stiff competition but will survive. You may be successful in recovering some money but only a part of the total amount. You may be offered a new partnership or business when Jupiter enters third house. People in sales and marketing will also benefit from this transit. Money will come and disappear fast as usual in first half but you will definitely see your bank balance grow in second half. You may get some money out of an insurance claim in month of August. An old friend will help you a lot with advice and even financial support. Your expenses on children will increase and you may move to a better place or buy your own place for the first time around summer this year. Jupiter's transit in third can hook you up with a nice person and the relationship can turn into permanent before December. You will have visitors at your place in month of July. Financially you will do very well after September and may even make money through stocks or other investments. Spouse will have better health and will make lots of progress in career this year.



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DON 2 - Priyanka Chopra

How is your role in DON 2 different from your role in DON 1?
Don 2 is a cool role for me. It's an

you can't mess with. Don is cold blooded and such people are really dangerous to deal with. Roma



action film of another level in Bollywood. I am more angrier in this one. I've done a lot of fist fighting that I didn't do too much of in the earlier Don. I went through intense rehearsals for my action with guidance from Farhan and Shahrukh who often pulled my leg. I don't play a damsel in distress and so missed all the dance and frolic I've been doing in my other movies. Don 2 is one of those rare movies where I have to be serious all the time. I can't even sport my foot long smile. But that's what's good about Don 2. It makes me do things I've never done. That's one advantage of playing a cop but it's got disadvantages also as I've mentioned in the start of the answer.

What is your relationship like with Don?

Don cannot be predictable. By that I mean Don as a person. You can never tell what his next move is going to be. He is one bad guy

has such a relationship with him, hot and cold as she is hell bent on taking her revenge and wants Don at any cost. It's a cat and mouse chase.

What is DON 2's unique selling point?

Don 2 has redefined slick in Bollywood. It's suspense to another level too. Music is also rich but the film is so huge in itself that music will stand out once the movie is released. You will get to the groove of the songs once you see the film. Don 2 is Farhan's best work I have seen.

What sets Shahrukh Khan apart from any other star?

Shahrukh Khan can live up to anything. He is a man who believes in challenges at this point in his career. He puts in more than one needs to put in his movies. There are very few actors who are like that. Don 2 is SRK's best action movie of 2011 I feel.

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Ajay's Return From Son Of Sardar To Speed Up Tezz

It's confirmed - Ajay Devgn won't be taking on HrithikRoshan at the box office in January 2011. Though it was almost confirmed till a few days ago that his Tezz would be clashing with Agneepath on Republic Day, Ajay's current engagement with Son Of Sardar means that Hrithik would be now arriving solo.

"Tezz is almost complete with just a 10 day shoot left that also includes a song. It requires Ajay's dates and though the actor has no qualms of hopping over to Mumbai and wrapping it all up, there is a slight hitch.

He has grown a beard for Son Of Sardar whereas in Tezz, he is required to be clean shaven. This makes it virtually impossible for director Priyadarshan to shoot with him.

Now everyone is waiting for the current schedule of Son Of Sardar to wrap up so that Ajay can be back in town and get rid of his bearded look", says an insider.

This is indeed a blessing in disguise for the audience as well as industry in general since the clash of two biggies like Agneepath and Tezz would have been counter productive.

There is big money riding (over Rs. 50 crore each) on both the films and while both Karan Johar and Ratan Jain (producers of the respective films) would have possibly suffered some level of monetary losses had the clash occurred, even for the cine-goers it would have been a precarious situation to pick and choose.



On the other hand, though the makers of Tezz are disappointed that they won't be able to make it to the 26th January slot despite blocking the date first, there is no bad blood between them and Ajay. "Everyone tried their best but such things happen in filmmaking.

Ajay would be back soon and we would be shooting the balance portions of Tezz in January now", says Ratan Jain whose last film was the biggie multi starrer De Dana Dan, "The film will now release in the month of March for sure. That's confirmed."

Mankatha- 7th Most Searched Film On Google!

Ajith's Mankatha has ranked 7th of 2011 through Google. It is a



only Tamil film in the list to have reached the Google Zeitgeist top 10. DhayanidhiAlagiri and his Cloud Nine Movies are producers of Mankathadirected by VenkatPrabhu.

Ajith, Arjun, Trisha along with others are in the cast of the film which has music by Yuvan Shankar Raja.

The movies that have made it to this list are Bodyguard (Rank 1), RA One (Rank2), Harry Potter (Rank 3), Delhi Belly (Rank 4), Singham (Hindi- Rank 5), Ready (Rank 6), Mankatha (Rank 7), Transformers 3 (Rank 8), Dooku-du (Rank 9) and ZindagiNaMilegiDobara (Rank 10)

in the top 10 most searched films major achievement, as it is the

Freida, Kalki, Anurag&Amittrivedi Part Of Trishna

Hollywood director Michael Winterbottom's fascination with India continues.



various locations of India.

Trishna stars Freida Pinto (in the title role) who plays a girl who wishes to rise in life despite her humble roots. The film is based on Thomas Hardy's Tess of the D'Urbervilles and has Riz Ahmad as Freida's co-star.

What's interesting to note is the fact that the film has been co-produced by Anurag Kashyap and Sunil Bohra while the music has been composed by Amit Trivedi.

Kashyap, Trivedi and actress Kalki Koechlin also feature in the movie playing themselves. The film has been shot in and around Jaipur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and even Mumbai.

After shooting the Angelina Jolie starrer A Mighty Heart in and around Pune, Michael has now filmed his latest project Trishna at

While the film has been shown at various international film festivals, it's slated to officially release in March 2012.

SPB Turns Director

Veteran playback singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam, popularly called SPB, is making his debut as a director with a Telugu film, which is under pre-production. "Script for the movie is getting



ready and I will reveal the details soon," the singer said while talking to reporters during the inauguration of a private hospital in Kakinada on Monday. SPB also claimed that his upcoming Telugu film Gopuram, in which he is playing a key role would make Telugus all over the world feel great.

Prakashjha To Direct Ko Hindi Version?

Nothing can stop K.V. Anand's Ko's from creating records! The film has already turned out to be one of the biggest blockbusters in Tamil this year.

This is definitely Jiiva's most successful film till date and the actor

is truly on Cloud Nine. K.V. Anand's racy screenplay, Anthony's sleek editing, Harris' mesmerizing music and the stylish costumes of Jiiva were the major highlights of Ko.



According to latest reports, Ko will

go to Bollywood soon! Well-known filmmaker Prakash Jha (of Rajneeti fame) is likely to direct the Hindi version.

Reportedly Akshay Kumar, who is known for his action thrillers, is highly impressed with the script and is keen on buying the remake rights of the film. Either Akshay Kumar or Ranbir Kapoor are likely to play the lead role.

Prithviraj In Kochadaiyaan?

Well, that is the latest buzz in M town today! Sources reveal that Bollywood star Prithviraj may play a prominent role Superstar's much awaited Kochadaiyaan, directed by his daughter Soundarya Rajinikanth.

Kochadaiyaan is India's first 3D film with



motion capture technology and director K.S.

Ravikumar has penned the story, screenplay and dialogues for this film.

The film is produced jointly by Eros International and Media One Global Entertainment Limited.

Meanwhile, the hunt for the heroine is on. It is rumoured that names like Anushka Shetty, Asin and Vidya Balan are being considered.

Dhanush's Flash Mob In Mumbai

Looks like Flash Mobs are the latest craze in India today! Kolaveri star Dhanush recently lead a Flash Mob at the crowded Churchgate station in Mumbai to promote his upcoming flick 3.



The Flash Mob was organised by a media house as a part of the Kolaveri rage across the country. College students, office-goers and even housewives participated in the flash mob. So far the Kolaveri song has 26,182,262 views in YouTube.

Sarathi 100 Days

Crazy Star Ravichandran and Karnataka State Janata Dal President and Member of Parliament H.D. Kumara Swamy are the chief guests of the 100 day celebration function of Challenging Star Darshan's hugely successful film Saarathee.

The function is now being held on the second Sunday, the January 8, at the Bunts Marriage Hall in the morning. Incidentally Darshan is also taking a break from the shooting of Kranti Veera Sangolli Raayanna to be part of the function organised by the "Mysore Gopalakara Sangha" for which he is a member. (He runs a milk dairy sourced from his own



Cows. A competition to select a cow which yields the highest milk will be held on January 1. On January 2, Darshan will be attending the audio release function of his forthcoming release "Chingaari" directed by Harsha which will be held in a Hotel in Bengaluru.

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