

BOSTON South Asian

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September 2012

Ganesh Chaturthi

Ganesh Chaturthi starts with the installation of these Ganesh statues in colorfully decorated homes and specially erected temporary structures mandapas (pandals) in every locality.



The pandals are erected by the people or a specific society or locality or group by collecting monetary contributions.

The pandals are decorated specially for the festival, either by using decorative items like flower garlands, lights, etc. or are theme based decorations, which depict religious themes or current events.

(Continued On Page 10)

American Sikh

American Sikh Political Action Committee - Reacts to Milwaukee Area Sikh Temple Tragedy WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (8/5/12) – “Sikhs across the country today mourn with the families that have lost loved ones in the Milwaukee area Sikh Temple tragedy,” said Amar Shergill,



local attorney and spokesperson for the American Sikh Political Action Committee. (Continued On Page 12)

i nside

Twitter Co-Founders....02
Steve Jobs' Gadget.....02
Samsung Launches.....03
English Language.....04
Angry Birds Space.....04
Fresh Water From.....05
Financial Review.....06
Red wine compound...07
Birth Defects.....08
South Ind Ian RIce.....08
'Self-Aware' Robot....09

OCTOBER 2012 HOME SPEICAL

info@Boston-southasian.com

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6 Tips To Make.....10
Planet Formation.....10
Green Power.....11
Musical Training.....11
Consuming Cocoa.....12
Eating Grapes Good...13
Sunflowers Inspire.....13
More Kids Gramping...14
Sea Life 'Facing.....15
Why The Sun's Shape.16
NASA's Mars Rover.....17
African Grey Parrots....18
Elephants & Humans..19
Community Caledar....19
London Olympics.....20
Palm Trees.....21
PREDICTIONS.....21
Entertainment.....22,23

Curiosity Rover

London, August 25

NASA has finally started revealing the secrets it hid in engineers in the Curiosity rover, which is currently driving on the surface of Mars.



Engineers at the space agency have admitted that they used special coded tyre tracks on the rover.

They use morse code to spell out JPL (Jet Propulsion Lab), the lab where the rover was put together.(Continued On Page 7)

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Internet-Addicts Challenged To 'Log-Off' From Tech Devices For 24 Hrs To 'Enjoy Real World'

Washington, Aug 28

In an effort to encourage tech addicts and social-networking savvy people to let go of their obsession

world in its true sense. Under the challenge being extended by 'Reconnect Project', it tests whether Internet addicts can let go of their



with Internet through smartphones and laptops, a challenge has been put forward to them to see if they can stay 'logged-off' for 24 hours and enjoy the real

'constant' connectivity with the web for 24 hours and experience the real world.

"We issue you the challenge...an online blackout - no Facebook, no twitter. Log off and start creating," the New York Daily News quoted a video created to promote the project, as stating.

The challenge that will take place on Sunday, September 2, 2012, encourages people to take a day off from their devices, and then upload what they've done with their unplugged time on the next day, September 3.

"It's not a festival, there's nothing to win, but lots to gain," the project states on its Facebook page, where the creators are also fielding creative suggestions and answering skeptics.

"We would just like to see the project be successful - we don't stand to gain anything as such, as unbelievable as that may be - altruism does still exist," an administrator for the project told a commenter on the page.

The idea of 'unplugging' has been gathering attention lately, as some studies suggest people are overly attached to their Internet connections.

A recent poll also found that about 84 percent of people couldn't pass a single day without their mobile device in hand, the report said.

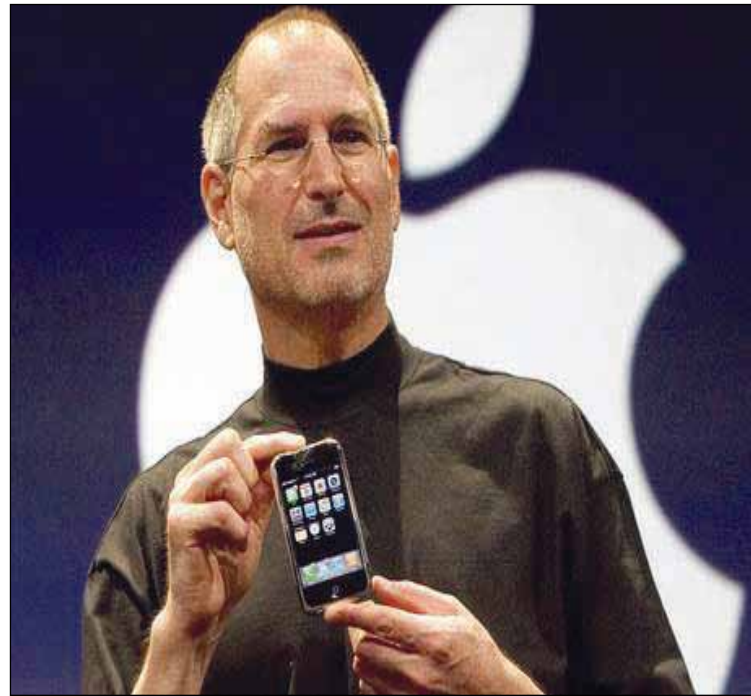
How Steve Jobs' Gadget Helped Track Down His Home Burglary Suspect

Sydney, Aug 16

A burglar who broke into Steve

Jobs' house in the U.S. and stole late Apple co-founder's personal gadgets was caught shortly after he switched one of them on.

ed on August 2 and charged with residential burglary and selling stolen property from Jobs' home in California.



renovation, the Herald Sun reports. McFarlin brought himself undone when he turned on one of Jobs' personal iOS devices. The device, likely to have been an iPhone or iPad, then 'phoned home,' the report said. Apple were able to trace the user's IP address, and forwarded details to police.

The details of the July 17 theft, and the suspect's alleged confession, were reported Tuesday by the San Jose Mercury News.

According to the police report, McFarlin even stole suitcases in order to carry out the Apple gadgets and jewellery he had collected.

The burglar allegedly also made off with the Apple co-founder's wallet with a dollar inside and his driver's license.

The report said that McFarlin acknowledged to police that he broke into other homes and also wrote an apology letter to Jobs' widow.

Kariem McFarlin, 35, was arrested

According to police, McFarlin, targeted Jobs' unoccupied Palo Alto home because it was under

Twitter Co-Founders Launch New Publishing Platform 'Medium'

London, Aug 16

Evan Williams and Biz Stone, the co-founders of popular micro blogging site Twitter, have

Williams described Medium as a "new publishing platform" saying "we haven't even scratched the

most of the planet might enable".

According to The Telegraph, Medium is being compared to Blogger,



a more simplified platform that allows people to curate and collect collections of quotes, images and other pieces of content.

The site is invite-only at the moment, the report said.

It is the second creation unveiled by the duo since they left the running of Twitter to the other co-founder Jack Dorsey and its chief executive Dick Costolo.

launched a new publishing platform named 'Medium'.

surface of what our smart devices and our networks that connect

Dorsey and its chief executive Dick Costolo.

Boston South Asian

Editor: Bala Kumar

Operations:

Ram Ramaswamy

Jyothi K. Mariswaran

Manimekalai

Marketing:

Aparna Radhakrishnan

Jayachitra Vijay

Publisher: Vidya Kumar

Design/Layout

/Marketing/Distribution:

Palepages llc

Tel: 206-501-2254

Fax: 512-685-2324

info@sacramento-southasian.com

www.sacramento-southasian.com

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History Of Climatic Change Over The Last 1.5 Million Years Revealed

Washington, August 10: Scientists have made a major breakthrough in understanding the Earth's climate machine by reconstructing highly accurate records of changes in ice volume

became much longer, regularly taking 100,000 years.

The second pattern of climate cycles is the one we are in now. Interestingly, this change occurred

"The calculation tells us the difference between what water temperature was doing and what the ice sheets were doing across a 1.5 million year period," Professor Harry Elderfield, who led the research team, explained.

The resulting picture shows that ice volume has changed much more dramatically than ocean temperatures in response to changes in orbital geometry.

Glacial periods during the 100,000-year cycles



and deep-ocean temperatures over the last 1.5 million years.

The study, carried out by researchers in the University of Cambridge Department of Earth Sciences, offers new insights into a decades-long debate about how the shifts in the Earth's orbit relative to the sun have taken the Earth into and out of an ice-age climate.

Being able to reconstruct ancient climate change is a critical part of understanding why the climate behaves the way it does. It also helps us to predict how the planet might respond to man-made changes, such as the injection of large quantities of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, in the future.

Included in this is a much fuller representation of what happened during the "Mid-Pleistocene Transition" (MPT) - a major change in the Earth's climate system, which took place sometime between 1.25 million and 600 thousand years ago.

Before the MPT, the alternation between glacial periods of extreme cold, and warmer interglacials, happened at intervals of approximately 41,000 years.

After the MPT, the major cycles

with little or no orbital forcing.

Researchers have developed more than 30 different models for how these features of the climate might have changed in the past, in the course of a debate, which has endured for more than 60 years since pioneering work by Nobel Laureate Harold Urey in 1946.

The new study helps resolve these problems by introducing a new dataset to the picture - the ratio of magnesium (Mg) to calcium (Ca) in foraminifera.

Because it is easier for magnesium to be incorporated at higher temperatures, larger quantities of magnesium in the tiny marine fossils imply that the deep sea temperature was higher at that point in geological time.

The Mg/Ca dataset was taken from the fossil record contained in cores drilled on the Chatham Rise, an area of ocean east of New Zealand.

It allowed the Cambridge team to map ocean temperature change over time.

Once this had been done, they were able to subtract that information from the oxygen isotopic record.

have been characterised by a very slow build-up of ice which took thousands of years, the result of ice volume responding to orbital change far more slowly than the ocean temperatures reacted.

Ocean temperature change, however, reached a lower limit, probably because the freezing point of sea water put a restriction on how cold the deep ocean could get.

In addition, the record shows that the transition from 41,000-year cycles to 100,000-year cycles, the characteristic changeover of the MPT, was not as gradual as previously thought.

In fact, the build-up of larger ice sheets, associated with longer glacials, appears to have begun quite suddenly, around 900,000 years ago.

The pattern of the Earth's response to orbital forcing changed dramatically during this "900,000 year event", as the paper puts it.

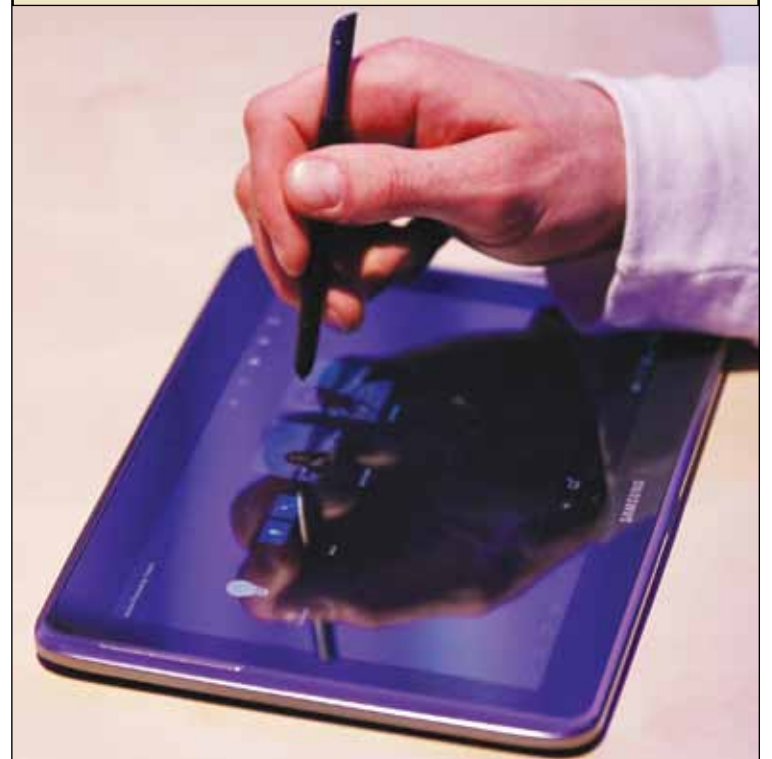
The research team now plan to apply their method to the study of deep-sea temperatures elsewhere to investigate how orbital changes affected the climate in different parts of the world. The research has been reported in the journal Science.

Samsung Launches Galaxy Note 10.1

Amidst Ongoing Patent Trial With Apple

London, Aug 16

South Korean mobile maker Samsung has launched a new tablet, the Galaxy Note 10.1, even as it battles a 2.5 billion dollar patent trial against tech giant Apple.



The patent trail involves both Apple and Samsung, accusing each of copying its technology and designs.

Samsung's new Android tablet distinguishes itself from the iPad by featuring a stylus and a screen, which can measure 24 levels of pressure sensitivity.

According to the BBC, Galaxy 10.1 also allows a split-screen mode in which two apps can be used at once.

In addition, Samsung has opted to retain a look, which it introduced in 2011 placing wider bezels along two of the device's sides.

The feature was created after a German court temporarily banned earlier models for infringing Apple's tablet design, the report said.

The iPhone-maker had reportedly accused Samsung of "slavishly" copying its iPhone and iPad designs, while the latter responded by filing a suit, accusing Apple of unlawfully using the 3G technologies patented by it.

Apple is also claiming a total of 2.5 billion dollars in damages and royalty fees for seven patent breaches, in addition to other trade violations, by Samsung.

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Angry Birds Space Update To Educate Kids About NASA's Mars Missions

Washington, August 24

Pigs and birds will explore the Martian terrain and shed light on NASA's missions to the Red

Planet. "Rovio is teaching huge new audiences about NASA's missions to Mars thanks to this collaboration," said David Weaver, associ-

ate administrator for communications at NASA Headquarters in Washington.

The game will include links to NASA web content about Mars exploration and NASA missions that are represented in the game.

"We're huge NASA fans, and we were all cheering the Mars Curiosity rover as it touched down," said Peter Vesterbacka, chief marketing officer of Rovio Entertainment.

"So, working together on the Mars update was a perfect fit, especially since we got such an amazing response to our previous collaboration, the 'Angry Birds Space: NASA announcement' video, which quickly surged to the top of 2012's viral video charts.

We're thrilled to continue working with NASA. Stay tuned for even more great fun and educational content coming up," Vesterbacka stated.



Planet in the latest update to the game Angry Birds Space.

Rovio Entertainment, creator of Angry Birds, announced the update Thursday, complete with a cast of agency rovers and landers.

Earlier this year, millions of gamers were introduced to concepts of microgravity in Angry Birds Space, which was supported through a partnership with NASA and includes links to a variety of education information.

"It's a great way to introduce both kids and adults to the wonders of the planet in a fun and entertaining way," he added.

NASA participated with Rovio on Angry Birds Space under a Space Act Agreement to share the excitement of space with the Angry Birds community, educate players about agency projects and programs, and collaboratively

English Language 'Took Birth' In Ancient Turkey

London, August 24

English has descended from a language that emerged about 8,000 and 9,500 years ago in Turkey, a new study has revealed.

Scientists from New Zealand, have traced the origin of languages classed as Indo-European to Anatolia, an ancient region of western Asia, which now covers most of the modern Turkey, the Daily Mail reported.

English is a part of the Indo-European language family, which includes more than 400 languages and dialects like German, French, Spanish, Russian, Polish, Persian, Hindi and ancient Greek, and all of them are said to have evolved from a common ancestor.

Experts have said that Indo-European languages spread out from

the Middle East along with the agriculture. Scientists led by Remco

Bouckaert, from the University of Auckland, traced the origins of

the Indo-European languages using a method that they borrowed

from evolutionary biologists.

Instead of comparing DNA from different species, the researchers looked at 'cognates' - which are words that have a common origin.

One example is "mother," which is called "mutter" in Germany and in Spanish is equivalent to "madre."

The words are so similar that there must have been a link in the language's history rather than the comparison occurring by chance.

By modelling how hundreds of words evolved through time, the researchers have been able to pinpoint the languages birthplace in what is now modern Turkey.

The research has been published in the journal 'Science.'



Social Networking Sites Provide Equality, Acceptance To ‘Homeless’ People

Washington, Aug 17
Many have argued that the Marxist theory of a classless society died with the collapse of the Soviet Union and a faltering Cuba, but a University of Dayton study has found out that Facebook and other social networking sites are some of the places where such approaches still survive.

University of Dayton sociologist and criminologist Art Jipson found out in his most recent research that the homeless, along with everyone else, are turning to social media, and that social media sites are turning into places where all people are truly equal.

“People think of Facebook as this billion-dollar entity with stock offerings that sell gobs of advertising. But, on Facebook, the “least of our brothers,” as it says in the Bible, have equal access to all of Facebook’s offerings, and establish a sense of belonging that is based on more than possessions,” Jipson said.

“In a sense, it’s a very Catholic way of looking at how we interact with one another. Catholic social teaching expresses a concern about “a communal, social nature” where “we are called to reach out and build relationships of love and justice,” he added.

Through his interviews, Jipson found that the homeless use social media not only to build support networks, but to solve practical issues, such as where to find their next meal, where to find safe and warm places to sleep, and where to find various social services. “Why can’t I be on Facebook?,” asked one of Jipson’s subjects in the study.

“I have as much right to that as anyone else. Just because I am homeless, does not mean that I don’t care about this stuff, you know?”

My family is on Facebook. My friends are on Facebook. People who care about me are on Facebook,” the subject added.

Another interviewee said: “No one on the ‘net cares if I didn’t get a shower yesterday or smell some. They don’t judge me, you know? ... I feel accepted. I am accepted.”

Us Man Wins World Air Guitar Championship

London, August 26
A man from US, known as “Nordic Thunder”, gave an “energetic” performance to win the 17th annual Air Guitar World Championship held in northern Finland.

Dressed in a leather Viking outfit, Justin Howard narrowly beat his rival “Aristotle,” or Matt Burns from New York, the BBC reported.

Theun de Jong from Holland finished third in the competition, which has been held in the Finnish city of Oulu since 1996. The 18 finalists in the competition included participants from Japan, Britain, Russia, Czech Republic and Estonia. In the finals, Howard slid across the stage bare-legged, and won with a total of 34.6 points to Burns’ 34.4.

Air guitarists usually perform a 60-second solo performance with an imaginary guitar-like instrument, and are marked on their technical prowess and stage presence, with competitors jumping, sliding and crowd diving to impress the judges.

Fresh Water From Rivers And Rain Can Intensify Hurricanes By 50 Pc

Washington, August 14
When hurricanes blow over ocean regions swamped by fresh water, the conditions can unexpectedly intensify the storm, according to an analysis of tropical cyclones. Although the probability that hurricanes will hit such conditions is small, ranging from 10 to 23 percent, the effect is potentially large: Hurricanes can become 50 percent more intense, the researchers said.

These results might help improve predictions of a hurricane’s power in certain regions. Such conditions occur where large river systems pour fresh water into the ocean, such as by the Amazon River system, the Ganges River system, or where tropical storms rain considerably, as in the western Pacific Ocean.



“Sixty percent of the world’s population lives in areas affected by tropical cyclones,” said ocean scientist Karthik Balaguru at the Department of Energy’s Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

“Cyclone Nargis killed more than one hundred and thirty eight thousand people in Burma in 2008.

We can predict the paths cyclones take, but we need to predict their intensity better to protect people susceptible to their destructive power,” said Balaguru.

Most hurricanes passing over the ocean lessen in strength as the ocean water cools off due to mixing by the strong winds under the cyclone: this pumps less heat into them.

However, Balaguru, his PNNL colleagues and researchers led by Ping Chang at Texas and M University and Ocean University of China in Qingdao, China found that when enough fresh water pours into the ocean to form what they call a barrier layer, typically about 50 meters below the surface, the ocean water can’t cool as much and continues to pump heat into the cyclone. Instead of dying out, the storms grow in intensity by 50 percent on average.

“A 50 percent increase in intensity can result in a much larger amount of destruction and death,” said Balaguru.

Balaguru and colleagues examined 587 tropical storms and cyclones between 1998 and 2007 in the western tropical Atlantic, the western Pacific and the northern Indian Oceans.

They found that the tropical storms over thick barrier layers cooled off 36 percent less than storms over areas lacking barrier layers, and barrier layer storms drew 7 percent more heat from the ocean than other storms. That translated into 50 percent more intense hurricanes on average.

The barrier layer has this effect on storms, Balaguru said, because it insulates the surface layer from the colder water below, preventing the storm’s access to cooling water.

When fresh water dumps into the salty ocean, it makes the surface layer less salty, creating the barrier layer below it. When a passing storm causes the surface layer to pull up water from below, the water comes from the barrier layer rather than the much colder water beneath.

The team supported their observational analysis with a computer model, comparing tropical cyclones over regions with and without barrier layers.

The model found a similar decrease in cooling by the barrier layer storms, more heat transferred from the ocean to the storm, and a similar intensification.

This work addressed what happens to hurricanes now, under current climate conditions. Scientists predict that global warming will have an effect on the ocean water cycle.

Future research could explore how the distribution of the barrier layers changes in a warmer world. The finding will appear this week in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Early Edition.

Financial Review – An Annual Affair!

By Varsha Grogan

I am sure you would agree that, “Nobody plans to fail”– but failing to plan can have dire consequences! Having No Plan is a Plan! If you have a plan it is important to review it.

Just like
Making a new year resolution
Celebrating your birthday
Setting up annual budgets
Filing your tax return
Planning family vacations

It is also important to review your financial plan annually! Reviewing the plan should include reviewing its components to evaluate if you are on track or need to tweak it to achieve the goals you set for your family and yourself.

Financial review should include wills, trusts, bank accounts, life insurance policies, IRA's, 401K, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and all other assets.

Beneficiary Review:

It is an easy vital process to identify current beneficiary designations and other methods

of property disposition, matching those against your disposition objectives and if necessary completing the changes to align them with your desires.

No matter what financial account, assets, retirement or savings vehicle you choose, it is important to check the beneficiary designations of all of your accounts to avoid costly mistakes and delays your loved ones can face in receiving the assets at death.

Best intentions are not enough! Reviewing beneficiaries of your existing insurance policies will ensure that the money gets paid

to all your most current and intended heirs.

Life Insurance Policy Review:

It is important to review your

These in addition to any other life changes will change your family's needs.

Over the years the cost of

been reviewed in the last three years.

2. Financial goals may have changed

3. Life insurance needs have increased or decreased

4. Ownership structure has changed

5. Beneficiary designations might have changed

6. Family or business situation has changed

7. Lifestyle or health has changed (May qualify for a better rating/ Table shaving programs)

8. The policy purchased did not perform as well as it was originally illustrated?

9. Loans, withdrawals, or other policy changes have affected the policy's performance

10. Payment of premiums have been inconsistent September is Life Insurance Awareness month! Reach out to your agent to review your policies today!



life insurance policies especially if you have added new family members, a new career, any health changes, quit smoking or lost weight.

insurance has changed as companies use newer mortality tables with improved longevity and come out with newer more current products.

1. Insurance policy has not

Here's How Long A Happy Long Life Is

London, August 22

More than half of people from Britain think that anything beyond the age of 83 is a 'bonus', a new study has found.

Six out of ten said they would rather die than be left alone in old age or be a burden due to illness.

Remarkably, one in six would be happy just to reach the age of 70, while only a quarter want to live to the grand old age of 100.

The study of 2,000 participants by healthcare group Benenden also found seven in ten think the way they live their life will have a severe impact on them in old age.

Lack of exercise was a big worry, while four in 10 think their diet will cause problems and a quarter expect to pay later in life for the amount of alcohol they drink.

Two thirds don't think the elderly are treated well in the UK and 70 percent thought old age was less appealing due to the cost of care.

"The UK has an ageing population and successive generations are getting larger.

This means that the issue of care for the elderly is a real ticking time-bomb as public funding for care becomes increasingly restricted," the Daily Mail quoted Nick Breton, Head of Research

for Benenden, as saying.

"It's perhaps no surprise then to see that most of us would rather pass away before becoming a burden on others, which is a sad state of affairs.

"Attitudes to health and wellbeing in the elderly are changing and we're seeing improved approaches to maintaining fitness well into later life.

"Of course, a huge range of factors can influence longevity of life and we can't always prevent the unexpected. But giving yourself a good base in your approach to health and wellbeing can help towards ensuring a 'good innings'," he said.

Getting married and having children and grandchildren were the obvious milestones of any life; however they deemed 'being respected' as the most important thing to achieve in the time we have.

Many thought a life well lived meant travelling to at least five countries, while one in four people think a good innings isn't complete without making some really big mistakes along the way.

While early eighties is the age most would want to bow out at, the average person from Britain reckons they will only make it to 75.

An adamant six in ten people stated they would rather go before their health or mobility deteriorated too seriously.

However, there are perks to old age and people from Britain are looking forward to not having to worry about what's 'cool' or what other people think of them the most.

While being more relaxed about their own image and body weight, skipping queues and being able to get out of things by saying

"I'm tired" were other common plusses.

But they aren't letting the worry take over - four in ten say it's all out of their hands and the important thing is to enjoy it.

"It's good to see that 4-in-10 have a 'c'est la vie' approach to life and will enjoy themselves no matter what. A fifth are also making those important decisions which will make old age more manageable," Breton said.

"We are, however, seeing worries around exercise, diet and consumption of alcohol and the impact they could potentially have on longevity.

"83 years of age is above the national average for both men and women, so giving yourself the best opportunity of achieving a good innings can be kick-started with an improved approach to maintaining a healthy lifestyle," he added.

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NASA Reveals Secrets

(Continued From Page 1)

The track pattern — dot-dash-dash-dash, dot-dash-dash-dot, dot-dash-dot-dot (“’--- .-. .-.”) — spells out ‘JPL’ in Morse code, which translates letters and numbers into a series of short (“dot”) and long (“dash”) signals.

“We have intentionally put holes in the wheels to leave a unique track on Mars,” the Daily Mail quoted lead rover planner Matthew Heverly, of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, as saying.

“So if we are in sand dunes where we don’t have lots of rock features around us, we can use those patterns to do our visual odometry,” he said,

In addition to the Morse code

JPL, Curiosity’s wheels also feature a zigzag cleat pattern.

Codes on the rover will be used by a smartphone app.

The includes a code on the rover that, at some point in the future, NASA will be using a special smartphone app to give space fans information.

However, it has so far refused to give any more information on the codes, other than saying the tags will “allow the public to have an immersive experience of discovery as it happens”.

Fiduciary marks on the rover are used to checks its parts haven’t moved.

Several are dotted over its sur-

face, looking like small targets.

The rover’s cameras image the small icons — which look like circles sliced into quarters — before and after a move.

This way, engineers can compare how much Curiosity’s arm has shifted to the left or how far its wrist has twisted clockwise.

They can they use the data to build a 3-D dataset of all the rover’s moving pieces.

Curiosity also carries a Martian sundial so that operators can keep track of the sun’s position and even that has a hidden message, saying ‘TO MARS TO EXPLORE’

Curiosity’s sundial has the word

for Mars written in 16 languages on it.

It is also used to calibrate Curiosity’s high-resolution 3-D color MastCams with red, blue, yellow, and green bands on the sundial help the cameras attune to their surroundings.

The sundial also carries an inscription that will serve as a monument once the rover has finally ended its mission.

“To Mars, To Explore,” it reads. “For millennia, Mars has stimulated our imaginations. First, we saw Mars as a wandering star, a bringer of war from the abode of the gods.

In recent centuries, the planet’s changing appearance in tele-

scopes caused us to think that Mars had a climate like the Earth’s. Our first space age views revealed only a cratered, Moon-like world, but later missions showed that Mars once had abundant liquid water.

“Through it all, we have wondered: Has there been life on Mars?

To those taking the next steps to find out, we wish a safe journey and the joy of discovery,” it reads.

A tiny chip on the rover carries the names of 1.24 million people who signed up via Nasa’s website

A lucky penny is used to calibrate Curiosity’s camera system, and Curiosity is also said to be carrying cash.

Red Wine Compound ‘May Help Improve Mobility In Seniors’

Washington, August 20

Resveratrol – the so-called “miracle molecule” found in red wine, might help improve mobility and prevent life-threatening falls among older people, researchers say. According to the researchers of the study, this report — based on studies of laboratory mice — could lead to the development of natural products designed to help older Americans live safer and more productive lives.

“Our study suggests that a natural compound like resveratrol, which can be obtained either through dietary supplementation or diet itself, could actually decrease some of the motor deficiencies that are seen in our aging population,” Jane E. Cavanaugh, leader of the research team from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, said. “And that would, therefore, increase an aging person’s quality of life and decrease their risk of hospitalization due to slips and falls,” she said.

Cavanaugh notes that falls become more common with advancing age and are the leading cause of injury-related death among people older than 65.

In addition, about one in three older Americans have difficulty with balance or walking, according to the American Geriatrics Society.

These mobility problems are particularly common among older people who have Parkinson’s disease and other age-related neurological disorders, Cavanagh said.

However, while drugs can help alleviate some of the motor-related problems in Parkinson’s disease, Cavanaugh points out that there are no comparable treatments for balance and walking problems in otherwise healthy older adults.

She and her colleagues set out to rectify that, focusing on natural chemical compounds such as resveratrol. Previous studies have shown that resveratrol — an antioxidant found in red wine and dark-skinned fruits — might help reduce inflammation, lower cholesterol, slash the risk of heart disease and certain cancers and, perhaps, have some anti-aging effects in the body.

Resveratrol is available as a dietary supplement and is abundant in foods such as red grapes, blueberries and nuts. To determine its effects on balance and mobility, Cavanaugh, Erika N. Allen and colleagues fed young and old laboratory mice a diet containing resveratrol for eight weeks.

They periodically tested the rodents’ ability to navigate a steel mesh balance beam, counting the number of times that each mouse took a misstep. Initially, the older mice had more difficulty manoeuvring on the obstacle. By week four, the older mice made far fewer missteps and were on par with the young mice.

While it is unclear how resveratrol works in the body, Cavanagh’s team found some clues. In laboratory experiments, they exposed neural cells to a neurotransmitter called dopamine, which in large amounts can induce cell death. However, neurons treated with resveratrol before being exposed to dopamine survived.

On closer examination, the researchers found that resveratrol mitigated the damage done by oxygen free radicals, generated by the breakdown of the dopamine, and activated protein signalling pathways that appeared to promote cell survival. The findings of the study have been recently presented at the 244th National Meeting and Exposition of the American Chemical Society.



Alcohol Causes 'More Than One Pattern Of Birth Defects'

Washington, August 23

In a new study, researchers have tried to shed light on alcohol-related birth defects.

The project, which is a collaborative effort by scientists at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Duke University, and University College of London in the UK, led by Kathleen K. Sulik could help enhance how doctors diagnose birth defects caused by alcohol exposure in the womb.

The findings of the new study also illustrate how the precise timing of that exposure could determine the specific kinds of defects.

"We now know that maternal alcohol use is the leading known and preventable cause of birth defects and mental disability in the United States," Sulik said.

"Alcohol's effects can cause a range of cognitive, developmental and behavioural problems that typically become evident during childhood, and last a lifetime," she said.

Fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) is

at the severe end of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD).

First described in 1972, FAS is recognized by a specific pattern of facial features: small eyelid openings, a smooth ridge on the upper lip (absence of a central

Johnson has developed new imaging tools with spatial resolution up to a million times higher than clinical magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

These include small bore tools suitable for imaging fetal mice



groove, or philtrum), and a thin upper lip border.

In their animal-based studies, Sulik's lab team collaborated with co-author G. Allan Johnson and his group at Duke University's Center for In Vivo Microscopy.

that are only 15 mm long.

To quantify facial shape from MRI data, the study team turned to co-author Peter Hammond, a professor of computational biology at UCL's Institute of Child Health, in London.

Hammond invented powerful new techniques for 3D shape analysis that have already proven successful in objectively defining facial shape changes in humans.

In the study, Lipinski and Sulik treated one group of mice with alcohol on their seventh day of pregnancy, a time corresponding to the third week of pregnancy in humans.

A second group of mice was treated just 36 hours later, approximating the fourth week of human pregnancy.

The amount of alcohol given was large, "high doses that most women wouldn't achieve unless they were alcoholic and had a tolerance for alcohol," Sulik said.

Near the end of pregnancy, the fetuses were then imaged at Duke University. These 3D data sets showed individual brain regions, as well as accurate and detailed facial surfaces, from which Hammond and research assistant and co-author Michael Suttie performed shape analyses.

The team found that the earlier

alcohol exposure time elicited the classic FAS facial features, including characteristic abnormalities of the upper lip and eyes. What they observed in foetuses exposed just 36 hours later, however, was a surprise.

These mice exhibited unique and in some cases opposing facial patterns, such as shortened upper lip, a present philtrum, and the brain, instead of appearing too narrow in the front, appeared wide.

"Overall, the results of our studies show that alcohol can cause more than one pattern of birth defects, and that the type and extent of brain abnormalities—which are the most devastating manifestation of prenatal alcohol exposure—in some cases may be predicted by specific facial features," Sulik said.

"And, importantly, alcohol can cause tremendously devastating and permanent damage at a time in development when most women don't recognize that they're pregnant," she added. The study has been published online in the journal PLOS ONE.

SOUTH INDIAN RICE VARIETY GENE INCREASES GRAIN PRODUCTION

London, August 23

Researchers have discovered a gene from wild Indian rice plants that can help in significantly raising the yield of common varieties in soils that are poor in nutrients. Scientists from the International Rice Research Institute (Irri) identified a gene that helps uptake of phosphorus, nitrogen and potassium, and transferred it into commercial strains.

They found that their yield was about 60 percent above normal in phosphorus-poor soils.

The gene was found in a variety called Kasalath, which is native to nutrient-poor soils of eastern India.

Almost 10 years ago, scientists had deduced that Kalasath contained one or more genes that allowed it to grow successfully in low-phosphorus conditions.

It took the Irri team three years

to identify the gene, which they "We got the [DNA] sequence of and what is not," the BBC quoted



have named PSTOL1, responsible.

this region, but the region is very complex and it was very difficult to identify what is an actual gene

lead researcher Sigrid Heuer as saying.

"There's so much work being done on phosphorus pathways and we could never find the genes and the mechanisms, and actually it's very simple - the gene promotes larger root growth, so the plant takes up nutrients more easily," Heuer said.

Although the researchers focussed on just one key nutrient, they found that the faster root growth also helped uptake of nitrogen and potassium, which are also vital for the development of plants.

Later, they used genetic engineering to transfer PSTOL1 into plants from two main rice lineages - indica and japonica.

When they were raised in phosphorus-poor soils, their yields were about 60 percent higher than un-modified plants. The study has been published in the journal Nature.

Greenland’s Ice Sheet Melts In spurts

Washington, August 3
Loss of ice from Greenland’s vast sheet may occur mainly in short

Reporting in the journal Science, the scientists revealed that most of the ice loss happened in two from Greenland ice melt until these patterns are deciphered.



bursts, suggest Danish scientists who used aerial photos dating back to the 1980s to plot shrinking of glaciers around the island’s northwest coast.

periods - 1985-1993 and 2005-10 - with relative stability in between.

According to them, it would be hard to project sea level changes

A complete melt of the ice sheet would raise sea levels globally by about 7m, but it could take centuries for this to occur.

The last global climate assess-

ment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007 said that “dynamic” melting - where ice loss suddenly accelerates, for example because sea temperatures rise - was too poorly understood to be accurately modelled.

The new Danish study is one of a number that have emerged since in an attempt to improve understanding.

In recent years, satellites have found fast rates of retreat in a number of Greenlandic glaciers, as well as an overall loss of mass as measured by the Grace mission, which detects minuscule changes in the Earth’s gravitational field. But other studies suggested the rapid retreat was not consistent.

With the two most important satellite missions - Grace and ICESat - dating back less than a decade, there is obviously a danger that scientists will decipher accurately what is happening now and assume this is a constant pattern.

The Danish team realised they could effectively extend the measurement record back in time, by using images obtained during

aerial survey missions to compile a model of how the coastal region of the ice sheet behaved over time.

“We’ve used a combination of old aerial photographs from the 1980s to construct a digital elevation map, and recent satellite data.

In this way we’ve been able to gain an overview of the thinning of the ice sheet over the last 30 years in northwestern Greenland,” the BBC quoted Shfaqat Abbas Khan of the Technical University of Denmark, one of the project team, as saying.

The overall trend is a “pronounced” thinning - by 100-150m in most of the glacier outlets, by much less in between them.

About three-quarters of the ice mass lost across the northwest region during the second period of rapid decline - 2005-10 - occurred in the coastal zone.

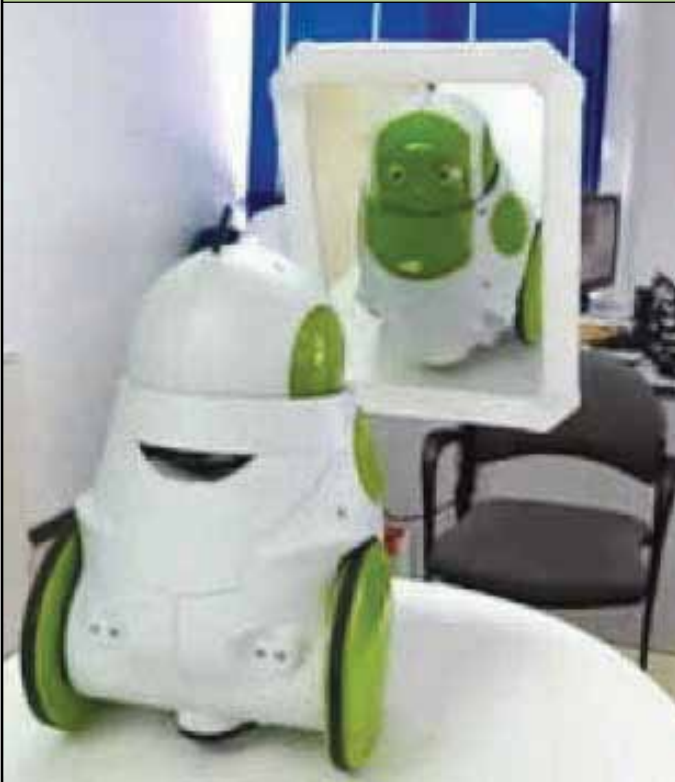
The researchers were able to show that there was a relatively stable spell in between the two periods of rapid loss, and suggest that this part of Greenland may be entering another stable interlude.

Until the long-term pattern is resolved, they suggested, it would not be possible to forecast sea level rise from Greenland’s water store with any accuracy.

‘Self-Aware’ Robot To Soon Recognise Itself In The Mirror

London, August 23

Researchers have developed a humanoid robot that can recognise its own reflection in the mirror – a huge leap on the path of true self-awareness. Nico can identify almost exactly where its arm is in space based on the mirror image.



Yale University’s Justin Hart and Brian Scassellati have taught Nico to recognise its arm’s location and orientation down to accuracy of 2 centimetres in any dimension.

This is a feat of spatial reasoning that no robot has ever accomplished before, New Scientist reported.

Nico is at the centrepiece of a unique experiment to see whether a robot can tackle a classic test of self-awareness called the mirror test.

To pass the test an animal has to recognise that a mark on the body it sees in the mirror is in fact on its own body.

Only dolphins, orcas, elephants, magpies, humans and a few other apes have passed the test so far.

If Nico is to get to grips with the mirror test, it will have to get a precise recognition of where its body is in space, which by its nature is performed in 3D.

Mary-Anne Williams of the University of Technology Sydney, Australia, points out that robotic self-awareness is crucial if robots are ever going to work safely alongside humans. The work was presented last month at the Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Toronto, Canada.

“These variations in the amount of thinning that we are able to document since the 1980s make it difficult to predict how much the world’s oceans will rise over a longer period of time - a century for instance - as a result of Greenland glacial melt-water runoff,” said study leader Prof Kurt Kjaer of the University of Copenhagen.

“However, it is certain that many of the present calculations and computer models of ice sheet conditions that built upon a short range of years since 2000 must be reassessed.

“It is too early to proclaim the ‘ice sheet’s future doom’ and subsequent contribution to serious water problems for the world,” they said.

However, they concluded that it is likely that the Greenland ice is “becoming more sensitive” to rises in air temperature.

Exoplanet-Hosting Stars Give Key Insights On Planet Formation

Washington, August 17

An international team of researchers has proposed that metals like magnesium might have an important role in the formation of low mass planets.

The team, lead by EXOEarths researcher (Centro de Astrofísica da Universidade do Porto, CAUP) Vardan Zh. Adibekyan, analyzed high resolution spectra of 1,111 Sun-like stars, obtained by the HARPS spectrograph (ESO).

Of these stars, 109 are known to harbour high mass (Jupiter-like) planets, and 26 have Neptune-like planetary companions.

For the study, the team focused especially on studying the abundance of alpha elements in these stars, like magnesium (Mg), silicon (Si) or titanium (Ti).

The research found that the ratio of these, compared with the

with the greatest discrepancy observed for Mg.



amount of iron (Fe), was consistently higher in stars with planets,

“These findings indicate that some metals other than iron are

involved in the process of planet formation, especially when the amount of iron is lower than solar.

These results may provide strong constraints for the models of planet formation, especially for planets with low mass,” Adibekyan, lead author of the paper, said.

The leading theories of planet formation suggest that planets form by clumping smaller particles of heavy elements (metals), into larger and larger bodies.

The results put forward by the present study suggest that planets need a minimum amount of “metals” to be formed.

The formation of planets, even the lowest mass ones, is dependent on the dust content of the cloud that gave origin to the star and planetary system.

6 Tips To Make Your Resume Click!

Washington, August 7

An American career expert has revealed six magical tips to overhaul one's resume to bag the much-wanted job.

Ellen Gordon Reeves, author of ‘Can I Wear My Nosing to the Interview’, insists that its important to get rid of certain useless phrases to make sure that the resume is more frequently picked up.

Reeves suggests that information

like ‘skills’ should either be incorporated into the resume itself or backed-up with specifics.

She also says that it can go into a cover letter, CBS news reported. “Create a resume format that works for you.

Don’t feel tied to the traditional functional or chronological structure for resumes.

New times call for new forms,” Reeves said.

She insists that job seeker’s goal is to show off their skills to best advantage. In the next tip she advises that however you choose to organize your resume, stay away from the phrases like “Professional Experience.”

Instead, pick up a more specific title like “Human Resource Experience.”

“Because it will likely be in a larger, bolder font on your resume, the section header always catches an employer’s eye,” Reeves explained.

“Professional Experience” doesn’t tell the hiring manager what kind of job you want, or what kind of job you’re looking for.

In another tip she insists on keeping away from the use of self-assessing language.

“As an employer I’m thinking ‘I’ll be the judge of that, don’t tell me what to think of your skills,’” she said.

“I’ll know by seeing what you’ve actually done and by calling your references.

So don’t waste any time on that sort of stuff.

Reeves also points out that it’s important to highlight proper names.

“People respond to proper names -- they jump out,” Reeves said.

“When I scan a resume, I should easily see where you worked.”

She also explains that paying attention to seemingly small items can count against the job seeker in a big way.

Paying particular attention to getting these things right has bigger payoffs.

For example try avoiding numbers in the email address that is mentioned in the resume.

According to Reeves, it can be distracting.

Besides this, include only one phone number on your resume.

Don’t make an employer guess which of two numbers to call, she points.

Lastly she advises that if your home phone is your office phone, an outgoing message featuring your kids may be cute, but it’s not professional.

Ganesh Chaturthi

(Continued From Page 1)

The priest, usually clad in red or white dhoti and uttariyam (Shawl), then symbolically invokes life into the statue by chanting mantras. This ritual is the Pranapratishttha. After this the ritual called as Shhodashopachara (16 ways of paying tribute) follows. Coconut, jaggery, 21 modakas, 21 durva (trefoil) blades of grass and red flowers are offered. The statue is anointed with red unguent, typically made of kumkum and sandalwood paste. Throughout the ceremony, Vedic hymns from the Rig Veda, the Ganapati Atharva Shirsha Upanishad, and the Ganesha stotra from the Narada Purana are chanted.

Ganesha is worshiped for 10 days from Bhadrapada Shudha Chaturthi to the Ananta Chaturdashi. On the 11th day, the statue is taken through the streets in a procession accompanied with dancing, singing, and fanfare to be immersed in a river or the sea symbolizing a ritual see-off of the Lord in his journey towards his abode in Kailash while taking away with him the misfortunes of his devotees. [citation needed] This is the ritual known as Ganesha Visarjane in Kannada, Ganesh Visarjan in Marathi and Vinayaka Nimarjana or Vinayaka Nimajjanam in Telugu. At individual homes the Visarjan/Nimajjanam is also done on 3rd, 5th or 7th day as per the family tradition. All join in this final procession shouting “Ganapati Bappa Morya, Pudhachya Varshi Laukar ya” (O lord Ganesha, come again early next year) in Maharashtra and “Ganesh Maha Raj ki, Jai” (lord Ganesha, victory is yours) in Andhra Pradesh. After the final offering of coconuts, flowers and camphor is made, people carry the idols to the river to immerse it. The main sweet dish during the festival is the modak (modak in Marathi, modakam/kudumu in Telugu, modaka in Kannada and modagam in Tamil). A modak is a dumpling made from rice flour/wheat flour with a stuffing of fresh or dry-grated coconut, jaggery, dry fruits and some other condiments. It is either steam-cooked or fried. Another popular sweet dish is the karanji (karjikai in Kannada) which is similar to the modak in composition and taste but has a semicircular shape.

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Musical Training In Childhood Makes For Better Listeners Later In Life

Washington, August 22

Practicing music for only few years in childhood may help improve brain functions in adulthood particularly when it comes to listening and the complex processing of sound, according to a new Northwestern University study.

The impact of music on the brain has been a hot topic in science in the past decade.

Now Northwestern researchers for the first time have directly examined what happens after children stop playing a musical instrument after only a few years -- a common childhood experience.

Compared to peers with no musical training, adults with one to five years of musical training as children had enhanced brain re-

sponses to complex sounds, making them more effective at pulling out the fundamental frequency of the sound signal.

sound, is crucial for speech and music perception, allowing recognition of sounds in complex and noisy auditory environments.

life," said Nina Kraus, the Hugh Knowles Professor of Neurobiology, Physiology and Communication Sciences at Northwestern.

shape the brain," she said, "the study suggests that short-term music lessons may enhance life-long listening and learning."

A running theme in Kraus' research is "your past shapes your present."

"The way you hear sound today is dictated by the experiences with sound you've had up until today. This new finding is a clear embodiment of this theme," she said.

In past research, Kraus and her team examined how bilingual upbringing and long-term music lessons affect the auditory brain and how the brain changes after a few weeks of intensive auditory experiences, such as computerized training.

Their current research is investigating the impact of socio-economic hardships on adolescent brain function.

"We hope to use this new finding, in combination with past discoveries, to understand the type of education and remediation strategies, such as music classes and auditory-based training that might be most effective in combating the negative impact of poverty," she said.

By understanding the brain's capacity to change and then maintain these changes, the research can inform the development of effective and long-lasting auditory-based educational and rehabilitative programs. The study will be published in the Journal of Neuroscience.



The fundamental frequency, which is the lowest frequency in

"Thus, musical training as children makes better listeners later in

"Based on what we already know about the ways that music helps

U.S. Scientists Trying To Produce Green Power From Ocean Wave Energy

Washington, Aug. 6

Although ocean wave technology still has a long way to go, U.S. scientists are now seeking ways to make ocean wave energy the nation's newest source of green power, local media reported on Sunday.

U.S. aerospace engineers are using Texas A&M University's wave tank to test the idea of applying the physics of wind turbines to the sea as they believe that if air can produce affordable electricity, so can ocean water, according to reports posted on the website of local newspaper The Houston Chronicle.



Stefan Siegel, who led the testing at the university, said that ocean wave energy is decades behind wind, but with all the resource in the ocean, it's much more attractive.

"The wind doesn't always blow. The sun doesn't always shine. But ocean waves, they are always there," said Siegel, whose Colorado-based startup Atargis Energy Corp. developed a device using components similar to airplane wings or wind turbine blades.

According to the reports, incoming waves rotate the two wings around a central axis, and the movement activates generators connected to the device, transforming the mechanical energy into electricity.

The prototype, about one-tenth the size of a full-scale device, produced 370 watts during testing at

the university, and with design improvements, a full-scale version will churn out 5 megawatts in the ocean, enough to power 3,000 to 4,000 homes in the country.

The rotating blades now can capture about 95 percent of a wave's energy, and the device operates just below the water's surface, partially shielding it from violent storms, the reports said.

The wave tank, one of the world's oldest and largest, tests offshore oil and gas platforms. The tank, which opened in 1991 but did not get its first renewable ocean energy trial until 2003, is about half the size of a football field and simulates various ocean conditions.

Based on the results of the testing, the Atargis team plans to make design improvements in a larger model, and hopes to test in the open ocean by 2014, the reports said.

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American Sikh Political Action Committee - Reacts to Milwaukee Area Sikh Temple Tragedy

(Continued From Page 1)

"This is not the first time that our community has been forced to deal with assaults and murderous attacks, particularly since 9-11.

After the murder of two Sikh grandfathers in Elk Grove, we were blessed to receive support from many local religious communities and the community at large.

We know that this latest tragedy is not representative of the true nature of our country."

American Sikh PAC is a state-registered political action committee. The PAC encourages Sikhs to take an active role in the public and civic affairs of California.

An immediate goal is to ensure bi-partisan support of AB1964, prohibiting employers from discriminating against Sikhs.

Long term goals are to ensure that the collective Sikh voice is heard by elected officials when establishing governmental policy and educational curriculum.

Consuming Cocoa May Boost Brain Function In Elderly

Washington, August 14

Eating cocoa flavanols daily may help improve mild cognitive impairment, a new study has revealed.

Each year, more than six percent of people aged 70 years or older develop mild cognitive impairment, a condition involving memory loss that can progress to dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Flavanols can be found in tea, grapes, red wine, apples and cocoa products and have been associated with a decreased risk of dementia.

(high), 520 mg (intermediate) or 45 mg (low) of a dairy-based cocoa flavanol drink for eight weeks.

The diet was restricted to eliminate other sources of flavanols

Giovambattista Desideri, M.D., study lead author and director of Geriatric Division, Department of Life, Health and Environmental Sciences, University of L'Aquila in Italy.



They may act on the brain structure and function directly by protecting neurons from injury, improving metabolism and their interaction with the molecular structure responsible for memory researchers said. Indirectly, flavanols may help by improving brain blood flow.

In this study, 90 elderly participants with mild cognitive impairment were randomized to drink daily either 990 milligrams

from foods and beverages other than the dairy-based cocoa drink. Cognitive function was examined by neuro-psychological tests of executive function, working memory, short-term memory, long-term episodic memory, processing speed and global cognition.

Researchers found that scores significantly improved in the ability to relate visual stimuli to motor responses, working memory, task-switching and verbal memory for those drinking the high and intermediate flavanol drinks.

Participants drinking daily higher levels of flavanol drinks had significantly higher overall cognitive scores than those participants drinking lower-levels.

Insulin resistance, blood pressure and oxidative stress also decreased in those drinking high and intermediate levels of flavanols daily.

Changes in insulin resistance explained about 40 percent of the composite scores for improvements in cognitive functioning.

"This study provides encouraging evidence that consuming cocoa flavanols, as a part of a calorie-controlled and nutritionally-balanced diet, could improve cognitive function," said

"The positive effect on cognitive function may be mainly mediated by an improvement in insulin sensitivity.

It is yet unclear whether these benefits in cognition are a direct consequence of cocoa flavanols or a secondary effect of general improvements in cardiovascular function."

The study population was generally in good health without known cardiovascular disease.

Thus, it would not be completely representative of all mild cognitive impairment patients. In addition, only some clinical features of mild cognitive impairment were explored in the study.

"Given the global rise in cognitive disorders, which have a true impact on an individual's quality of life, the role of cocoa flavanols in preventing or slowing the progression of mild cognitive impairment to dementia warrants further research," Desideri said.

"Larger studies are needed to validate the findings, figure out how long the positive effects will last and determine the levels of cocoa flavanols required for benefit," Desideri added.

The study was recently published in the American Heart Association's journal Hypertension.

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BostonSikh Community Reacts To Milwaukee Area Sikh Temple Tragedy

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (8/5/12) –

"The BostonSikh Community, like our brother and sisters across the country, is dismayed to learn of the horrible tragedy unfolding in the Milwaukee area today," said Darshan Mundy, BostonSikh Temple Public Information Officer.



"The Sikh community has been the subject of many attacks over the years and since 9-11.

At times like this, we must rely on our faith and join as a community to deal with this tragedy."

For more information regarding the BostonSikh Temple, visit www.sikhtemple.org

Sunflowers Inspire More Futuristic And Efficient Solar Power Systems

Washington, August 20

An electrical and computer engineer has been inspired by the natural engineering of the sunflower – slowly rotating from east to west during the course of a sunny day seeking out as much sunlight as possible – for use in the next crop of solar power systems.

Unlike other “active” solar systems that track the sun’s position with GPS and reposition panels with motors, Hongrui Jiang’s concept inspired by passive heliotropism seen in sunflowers, leverages the properties of unique materials in concert to create a passive method of re-orienting solar panels in the direction of the most direct sunlight.

His design employs a combination of liquid crystalline elastomer (LCE), which goes through a phase change and contracts in the presence of heat, with carbon nanotubes, which can absorb a wide range of light wavelengths.

“Carbon nanotubes have a very wide range of absorption, visible light all the way to infrared,” Jiang said.

“That is something we can take

advantage of, since it is possible to use sunlight to drive it directly,” he said.



to use sunlight to drive it directly,” he said.

Direct sunlight hits a mirror beneath the solar panel, focused onto one of multiple actuators composed of LCE laced with carbon nanotubes. The carbon nanotubes heat up as they absorb light, and the heat differential between the environment and inside the actuator causes the LCE to shrink. This causes the entire assembly to bow in the direction of the stron-

gest sunlight. As the sun moves cool and re-expand, and new ones

panel over the 180 degrees of sky that the sun covers in the course of the day. “The idea is that wherever the sun goes, it will follow,” he said. In Jiang’s tests, the system improved the efficiency of solar panels by 10 percent, an enormous increase considering material improvements in the solar panels themselves only net increases of a few percent on average. And a passive system means there are no motors and circuits to eat into increased energy harvest.

“The whole point of solar tracking is to increase the electricity output of the system,” Jiang said. The study has been published in Advanced Functional Materials and recently highlighted in Nature.

Eating Grapes Good For Heart Health Of Men With Metabolic Syndrome

Washington, August 10

Consuming grapes may help protect heart health in people with metabolic syndrome, a new study has revealed. Researchers observed a reduction in key risk factors for heart disease in men with metabolic syndrome: reduced blood pressure, improved blood flow and reduced inflammation. Natural components found in grapes, known as polyphenols, are thought to be responsible for these beneficial effects. The randomized, placebo-controlled, crossover study, led by principal investigator Dr. Maria Luz Fernandez and Jacqueline Barona, a PhD student in Dr. Fernandez’ lab at the Department of Nutritional Sciences of the University of Connecticut, recruited men between 30 and 70 years of age with metabolic syndrome. The study is believed to be the first to look at the impact of grapes on metabolic syndrome.

Metabolic syndrome is a cluster of conditions that occur together – increased blood pressure, a high blood sugar level, excess body fat around the waist or low HDL (the good cholesterol) and increased blood triglycerides – significantly increasing the risk for heart disease, stroke and diabetes. Metabolic syndrome is a major public health concern, and is on the rise in the U.S.

In this study, participants were randomly assigned to consume grapes, in the form of a freeze-dried whole grape powder, or a placebo powder, for four weeks. Then, following a 3-week “washout” period where neither grapes nor placebo were consumed, individuals were allocated to the alternate treatment.



This powerful study design allowed investigators to compare the response of each individual to consumption of both the placebo and grapes. The study results showed that for each of the study’s subjects, grape consumption resulted in significant decreases in blood pressure, improved blood flow (greater vasodilation), and decreases in a compound associated with inflammation. “These results suggest that consuming grapes can improve important risk factors associated with heart disease, in a population that is already at higher risk,” Fernandez said. “This further supports the accumulating evidence that grapes can positively influence heart health, and extends it to men with metabolic syndrome,” Fernandez added. The study was recently published in the Journal of Nutrition.

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More Kids 'Gramping' With Grandparents During Summer Hols

London, August 22

One in four grandparents are taking their grandchildren on holiday to give busy parents a break in a new "Gramping" trend. Over a third of the 1,000 families questioned in a survey admitted

the results pointed to a new phenomenon dubbed 'gramping' – when grandparents go camping.

The survey's authors said that as well as helping out their hard-pressed children, grandparents

nostalgic memories of camping trips when they were growing up so it's natural that grandparents want to pass on the enjoyment of a holiday under canvas to their grandchildren," the Daily Mail quoted Paul McClenaghan,



they depend on grandparents to look after youngsters in the school holidays to save on the cost of childcare.

are also looking to relive their own childhood holidays and rekindle fond memories with the next generation.

Halfords commercial director, as saying.

"Camping is also great value and an ideal way to occupy children and give them an active break," he added.

The researchers said that "We know that many people have

Nail Paint Is Secret To Looking Good

London, August 20

In these times of recession one beauty pick-me-up that is bucking the trend is nail varnish. Since 2010, sales of these little pots of paint have risen by 14 percent to 179 million pounds.

"During a recession we experience what we call 'the lipstick factor', where women indulge in expensive lipstick as an affordable treat. However in 2012 it's become the nail factor instead," the Daily Express quoted Mintel's head of beauty research Vivienne Rudd as saying.

Those women who want to remain stylish only need to buy a bold new colour or invest in a manicure now. It is far cheaper than buying a whole new wardrobe.

"As soon as women grow bored of a shade or texture there are more coming through, such as matte finishes, suede effects or nail stickers,"



Vivienne said. L'Oreal Paris's nail expert Lorraine Griffin agrees.

"Years ago I'd mix my own colours to create blue or yellow. To see them readily available on the high street shows how far the industry has come in the past few years," Griffin said.

Blocking Protein Prevents Weight Gain In Mice

Washington, Aug 3

Researchers have identified a potential target for treating diabetes and obesity. Studying mice the scientists, at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, found that when the target protein was disabled, the animals became more sensitive to insulin and were less likely to get fat even when they ate a high-fat diet that caused their littermates to become obese. The researchers studied how the body manufactures fat from dietary sources such as carbohydrates. That process requires an enzyme called fatty acid synthase (FAS). Mice engineered so that they don't make FAS in their fat cells can eat a high-fat diet without becoming obese. "Mice without FAS were significantly more resistant to obesity than their wild-type littermates," first author Irfan J. Lodhi, PhD, said. "And it wasn't because they ate less. The mice ate just as much fatty food, but they metabolized more of the fat and released it as heat," he said.

To understand why that happened, Lodhi, a research instructor in medicine, analyzed their fat cells. Mice have two types of fat: white fat and brown fat. White fat stores excess calories and contributes to obesity. Brown fat helps burn calories and protects against obesity. In mice genetically blocked from making fatty acid synthase in fat cells, Lodhi and his colleagues noticed that the animals' white fat was transformed into tissue that resembled brown fat. "These cells are 'brite' cells, brown fat found where white fat cells should be," Lodhi said. "They had the genetic signature of brown fat cells and acted like brown fat cells. Because the mice were resistant to obesity, it appears that fatty acid synthase may control a switch between white fat and brown fat. When we removed FAS from the equation, white fat transformed into brite cells that burned more energy." Determining whether humans also have brown fat has been somewhat controversial throughout the years, but recent studies elsewhere have confirmed that people have it.

"It definitely exists, and perhaps the next strategy we'll use for treating people with diabetes and obesity will be to try to reverse their problems by activating these brown fat cells," senior investigator Clay F. Semenkovich, MD, said. Semenkovich, the Herbert S. Gasser Professor of Medicine, professor of cell biology and physiology and director of the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Lipid Research, said that the new work is exciting because FAS provides a target that may be able to activate brown fat cells to treat obesity and diabetes. But even better, he says it may be possible to target a protein downstream from FAS to lower the risk for potential side effects from the therapy. Lodhi and Semenkovich noticed that in mice without FAS in their fat cells, activity of PPAR-alpha (the fat burner) was increased, while PPAR-gamma (the fat builder) activity decreased. "There was decreased fat when we blocked PexRAP," Lodhi said. "Those mice also had improved glucose metabolism, so we think that inhibiting either fatty acid synthase or PexRAP might be good strategies for treating obesity and diabetes," he added. The findings are published online in the journal Cell Metabolism.

Sea Life 'Facing Greater Risk Of Large-Scale Extinctions

Washington, August 22

A team of the world's leading marine scientists has warned that life in the world's oceans faces far greater change and risk of large-scale extinctions today than at any previous time in human history.

The researchers from Australia, the US, Canada, Germany, Panama, Norway and the UK have compared events which drove massive extinctions of sea life in the past with what is observed to be taking place in the seas and oceans globally today.

Three of the five largest extinctions of the past 500 million years were associated with global

main causes of previous marine extinctions – and the risk of their recurring today.

Marine extinction events vary greatly. In the 'Great Death' of the Permian 250 million years ago, for example, an estimated 95 per cent of marine species died out due to a combination of warming, acidification, loss of oxygen and habitat.

Scientists have traced the tragedy in the chemistry of ocean sediments laid down at the time, and abrupt loss of many sea animals from the fossil record.

"We are seeing the signature of all those drivers today – plus the added drivers of human



warming and acidification of the oceans – trends which also apply today, the scientists said.

Other extinctions were driven by loss of oxygen from seawaters, pollution, habitat loss and pressure from human hunting and fishing – or a combination of these factors.

"Currently, the Earth is again in a period of increased extinctions and extinction risks, this time mainly caused by human factors," the scientists stated.

While the data is harder to collect at sea than on land, the evidence points strongly to similar pressures now being felt by sea life as for land animals and plants.

The researchers conducted an extensive search of the historical and fossil records to establish the

overexploitation and pollution from chemicals, plastics and nutrients," said co-author Professor John Pandolfi, of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies and The University of Queensland, an authority on the fate of coral reefs in previous mass extinction events.

The researchers wrote the paper out of their concern that the oceans appear to be on the brink of another major extinction event.

"There may be still time to act. If we understand what drives ocean extinction, we can also understand what we need to do to prevent or minimise it," Prof. Pandolfi added.

Their findings appeared in the online edition of Trends in Ecology and Evolution (TREE).

Arctic Sea Ice On Course For 'Record' Melt

London, August 22

The area of the Arctic Ocean covered by floating sea ice is likely to hit a record low next week, with the melting due to continue well into September, researchers monitoring the region by satellite have revealed.

Arctic sea ice partially melts each summer and reforms again in the winter, but over the past 35 years of satellite readings the summer retreat has been getting significantly greater, with a record summer minimum recorded in September 2007.

However, scientists at the US National Snow and Ice Data Centre (NSIDC) in

Boulder, Colorado, said that this summer's melt season in the Arctic has been so rapid and extensive that 2012 will almost certainly see sea ice coverage reach a new low.

"A new daily record... would be likely by the end of August... Chances are it will cross the previous record while we're still in sea ice retreat," the Independent quoted Ted Scambos, a sea-ice specialist at the centre, as saying.

"What you're seeing is more open ocean than you're seeing ice... It just simply doesn't look like what a polar scientist expects the Arctic to look like. It's wide open and the [ice] cap is very small," he said.

According to scientists, the Arctic has seen some of the greatest increases in average temperatures over recent decades due to global warming, resulting in a significant retreat of the sea ice both in terms of surface area and ice thickness.

"Everything about this points in the same direction – we've made the Earth warmer," Dr Scambos said.

Computer models initially suggested that the Arctic could be completely ice free in summer by the end of the 21st century, but more recent studies suggest that ice-free summers could occur as early as 2035, and possibly even within the next 10 years.

The satellite data analysed by NSIDC looked only at surface area coverage, rather than ice thickness, and the scientists judge that an area is "ice free" when the coverage of the sea surface falls below 15 percent.

However, other satellite studies using data from the European Cryosat-2, which is able to measure sea ice thickness, have found that the loss of sea ice volume in the Arctic may be 50 percent greater than previously suspected.

Apple's Ipad Grabs 68 Percent Of Global Sales In Q2

Sydney, Aug. 3

Apple's iPad has grabbed 68 percent of global sales in the second quarter of 2012, according to a survey. According to The Sydney Morning Herald, Apple has again dominated the sizzling tablet computer market. The preliminary report released in the U.S. by International Data Corporation (IDC) showed global tablet sales of 25 million, up by 33.6 percent from the first quarter and 66.1 percent year-over-year. Apple got a boost from the release of its newest version of the iPad, and sold 17 million tablets in the second quarter.

"Apple built upon its strong March iPad launch and ended the quarter with its best-ever shipment total for the iPad, outrunning even the impressive shipment record it set in the fourth quarter of last year," Tom Mainelli, an IDC analyst, said. "The vast majority of consumers continue to favor the iPad over competitors," the paper quoted Mainelli, as saying.

"Demand is increasingly strong in sectors such as education", Mainelli said. Samsung jumped into second place with sales of nearly 2.4 million, up by 117 percent from a year earlier. The IDC said that it expects competition in the tablet market to continue to heat up in the second half of 2012 with new product launches from Amazon, probably Apple, and an influx of Microsoft Windows 8 and Windows RT-based tablets.

Why The Sun's Shape Is Almost Perfectly Round

Washington, August 17
Researchers have used the Helioseismic and Magnetic Imager (HMI) onboard the Solar Dynamics Observatory satellite to obtain what they believe is the definitive and baffling answer

The Sun rotates every 28 days, and because it doesn't have a solid surface, it should be slightly flattened.

This tiny flattening has been

measure the solar shape with unprecedented accuracy. The results of the study conducted by Jeff Kuhn and Isabelle Scholl (Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawaii at Manoa), Rock Bush (Stanford



about the slightly flattened surface of the sun.

The Sun is nearly the roundest object ever measured. If scaled to the size of a beach ball, it would be so round that the difference between the widest and narrow diameters would be much less than the width of a human hair.

studied with many instruments for almost 50 years to learn about the Sun's rotation, especially the rotation below its surface, which we can't see directly.

Since there is no atmosphere in space to distort the solar image, they were able to use HMI's exquisite image sensitivity to

University), and Marcelo Emilio (Universidade Estadual de Ponta Grossa, Brazil) indicate that if the Sun were shrunk to a ball one meter in diameter, its equatorial diameter would be only 17 millionths of a meter larger than the diameter through its north-south pole, which is its rotation axis.

They also found that the solar flattening is remarkably constant over time and too small to agree with that predicted from its surface rotation.

This suggests that other subsurface forces, like solar magnetism or turbulence, may be a more powerful influence than expected.

"For years we've believed our fluctuating measurements were telling us that the Sun varies, but these new results say something different.

While just about everything else in the Sun changes along with its 11-year sunspot cycle, the shape doesn't," Kuhn said. The study has been recently published in Science Express.

Brushing Teeth Regularly Could Help Keep Memory Sharp Later In Life

London, August 22

Those who look after their teeth and gums may have lower risk of developing dementia, according to a new study from the University of California.

Researchers found that elderly women who brushed their teeth less than once a day were up to 65 per cent more likely to develop dementia than those who brushed three times a day.

"Not only does the state of your mind predict what kind of oral health habits you practise, it may be that your oral health habits influence whether or not you get dementia," the Daily Mail quoted Annlia Paganini-Hill, the study's lead author, as saying.

The study, published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, tracked the health of almost 5,500 residents at a Californian retirement community from 1992 to 2010.

Some 18 years later, 1,145 of the original group had signs of dementia. Of 78 women who brushed their teeth less than once a day in 1992, 21 had dementia by 2010, about one case per 3.7 women.



In comparison, among those who brushed at least once a day, closer to one in every 4.5 women developed dementia – a 65 per cent greater chance of the disease.

The University of California researchers said that while they hadn't proved dental decay could fuel dementia, the topic warrants more research.

PAMV
is about telling children that consumption of violent content in media can have adverse health impacts. Join the Parent group today.
www.PAMV.org
info@pamv.org
281-381-0744

MEN CAN COOK!

Email your recipe with your photos
and see yourself in print

Info@sacramentosouthasian.com

Simple Test Identifies Fake Tablets In Minutes

Washington, August 20 leader of the research team at Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Ind., said that ersatz Panadol and other counterfeit brand-name acetaminophen products are the tip of the iceberg in a wider problem of fake drugs sold in developing countries.

The test consists of chemically treated paper the size of a business card.



could use to identify counterfeit versions of one of the most-frequently faked medicines in the world.

Their inexpensive test to identify fake tablets of Panadol is part of a movement to combat against the major problem of counterfeit medicines sold in developing countries, which causes thousands of illnesses and deaths annually Panadol is one of multiple brand names used abroad for the pain-and-fever-reliever acetaminophen, most familiar in the U.S. as Tylenol.

The scientists emphasized that no such problem exists with Tylenol or other acetaminophen products marketed in the U.S.

However, Toni L. O. Barstis, Ph.D., a chemistry professor and

To check for counterfeit ingredients, a person simply swipes the pill over the paper and dips the paper in water. Colour changes on the paper indicate suspicious ingredients.

Barstis validated the test on 570 pills, including many with fake ingredients added by researchers. The College has applied for a patent for the test.

Barstis' team now is developing a similar test to identify counterfeit antibiotics, anti-malaria drugs, and Tamiflu, the influenza medication.

The development was presented at the 244th National Meeting and Exposition of the American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society.

Global Tablet Sales To Exceed 100 Mln In 2012

Sydney, Aug 24

Global tablet computers sales are likely top 100 million in 2012, a research has firm said. According to ABI Research, the April-June quarter set a new record for tablet shipments of nearly 25 million units, up 36 per cent from the prior quarter and 77 per cent year-over-year. Preliminary assessment by ABI revealed that Apple iPad shipments represented nearly 69 per cent of the total.

"Most impressive about Apple's 17 million tablet shipments in the second quarter was it nearly matched 2010 total worldwide shipments of 17.3 million for all vendors," the Daily Telegraph quoted Jeff Orr, an ABI analyst, as saying.

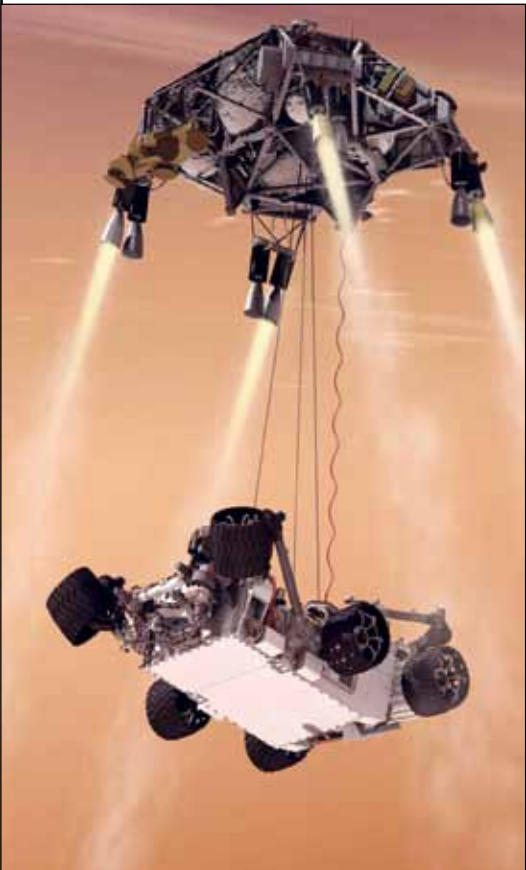
ABI said that with new tablets hitting the market from Google and Microsoft, it expects growth trends to continue. "The tablet market is on track for 102 to 110 million shipments worldwide for full-year 2012," Orr said.

NASA's Mars Rover Curiosity Spoof Video Goes Viral

New York, Aug 17

A Seattle-based comedy group has paid a hilarious tribute to NASA's Mars rover Curiosity team in the wake of the country's obsession with its landing on August 5.

Using the beat from LMFAO's 'I'm Sexy and I Know It', the group parodied everything from the space agency's blue polo shirts to the Curiosity's landing, the New York Daily News reported. The spoof video shows a group of "NASA" members hard at work on landing the Mars rover, touting their space skills in rap form.



"I got stars on my 'hawk and I ain't afraid to show it," sings a spiky-haired impersonator of NASA's leading heartthrob, Bobak Ferdowsi, who shot to nationwide fame after video of him the night of the landing lit up the Internet.

The chorus of the catchy tune, of course, is, "We're NASA and we know it." In the video, the group — suited up in NASA-esque blue polo shirts and sitting in a dummy control room dance through the streets and rap their space terms alongside the beat. "This is

how I rove, bakin' red rocks in my nuclear stove," one lyric goes, accompanied by cute animations.

The group also show off some synchronized dance moves, featuring a woman in an American flag bikini and a man in an astronaut-style orange jumpsuit. The video was put together by Seattle-based comedy group Satire, with the role of Bobak played by web video comedian David Hudson.

It got a stamp of approval from both NASA's official Twitter account and the verified account for the rover itself, which both retweeted the link to the legions of space fans who have been extremely vocal in their passion for all things Curiosity since the Mars landing.

"This fan-made video is AWESOME (and I know it.)" the rover tweeted, adding the hashtag "#wiggle #wiggle #wiggle as another nod to the LMFAO song. The real Bobak Ferdowsi, also gave the video a thumbs up. "Well played!" Ferdowsi tweeted.

"Video is hilarious and awesome, but don't know that we can dance like that (see high5s for ref)," he added, poking fun at himself and his team for their well-chronicled awkward high-fives the night of the Rover landing.

African Grey Parrots `Cleverer Than 2-Year-Old Kids`

London, August 8

No other animals apart from great apes match the African grey During a series of experiments, the birds were asked to choose “Even from the very first trial, our subjects could also use the



parrots’ ability to understand noise-related causal connections, scientists say.

These birds not only learn to talk, but outperform human two-year-olds in a test of intelligent reasoning.

Human children only do as well as the parrots from about the age of three.

For the study, researchers tested six African greys housed in a parrot rescue centre in Vienna, Austria.

between two closed boxes, one of which held a piece of walnut and rattled when shaken.

The other empty container could be shaken without making a noise.

The birds showed they knew how to detect hidden food rattling in a shaken box.

But much more impressively they also worked out - almost instantly - that if a box was shaken and made no noise, the food must be in the other container.

Choices were made by a parrot walking over to a box and turning it over with its beak.

In similar tests, most animals - and even small children - get confused about the way shaking and noise relate to the presence or absence of a hidden reward.

“We found compelling evidence for the ability of African grey parrots to use noise created during the shaking of containers to detect hidden food,” the Mirror quoted the scientists, led by Dr Christian Schloegl, from the University of Vienna, as writing.

absence of noise in a shaken container to infer that food must be in the other, non-shaken container.

“Such behaviour has so far been shown only in the great apes, but not in any other non-human animal.

“Human children solve this task from an age of three to four years, and the birds’ success rate was comparable to those of the three-year-olds.

“The parrots’ near-perfect first-trial performances as well as the results of our control experiments suggest that an understanding of the causal properties underlying the task is the most likely explanation for the birds’ performance,” they added.

The researchers said that the parrots could not be tricked by playing them recorded sounds of a box rattling. If a box was not shaken at the same time, it was ignored.

The study has been published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences.

Akhtar Ready To Become Pakistan’s Next Bowling Coach If PCB Gives Nod

Islamabad, Aug 17

Former Pakistan bowler Shoaib Akhtar has said he is ready to serve as the bowling coach of the national cricket team provided the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) agrees.

Pakistan have been hunting for a bowling coach since appointing Australian Dav Whatmore as head coach in March, with former Essex pace man Ian Pont the leading contender.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has set up a three-man committee to find a suitable candidate, but so far nothing has been finalised.

“I am ready to be the bowling coach for Pakistan. If the PCB contacts me, then I will offer my services,” the Dawn newspaper quoted Akhtar, as saying.



Akhtar’s career was plagued by fitness and discipline problems, and he retired from cricket after last year’s World Cup.

Akhtar took 178 wickets in 46 Tests and 247 in 163 one-day internationals.

“It’s an honour to serve the country, and, it can be done by helping up coming bowlers. It will give me a chance to pay back what the

country has given me,” said Akhtar.

HAPPY

Sep 05 Teachers Day

Sep 09 Grandparents Day

Sep 19 Ganesh Chaturathi

OCTOBER 2012 ISSUE

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Community Calendar

September 2012 Community Calendar and Listing

Schedule:

**September 16, Sunday,
11:30 AM,**

New England Tamil Church invites to join for a time of praise and worship at Greenwood Union Church. For more information, contact Pastor Earl Jeyaraj at 781-354-9109 or mail at pastorearl@gmail.com or visit www.boston-netc.org

**September 16, Sunday,
Noon,**

ISKCON BOSTON organizes SRI JAGANNATH RATHA YATRA at Boston Commons. For more information, visit WWW.ISKCONBOSTON.ORG or mail at mahavisnudas@gmail.com.

**September 29, Saturday,
All Day,**

Auditions for Boston Sargam:

2012 Bollywood Music & Dance Competition & Grand Mela is at Double Tree by Hilton, 5400 Computer Drive, Westborough, MA, 01581. For more information, contact Swathi Subramanian at 617.905.4305 OR Anil Chawla at 508.981.0124 or visit www.bostonsargam.org or email at bollywood@bostonsargam.org
September 29, Saturday,
08:30 AM,

Yoga Variations organizes YOGA DAY at SADHU VASWANI CENTER, 1827 Bridge Street, Dracut, MA 01826.
Donation: \$50 (\$65 after September 22, 2012). Vegetarian Brunch and Tea will be served. For registration, call Vijay Chitra at 603.557.8813 or E-mail info@yogavariations.com or visit www.yogavariations.com

**September 29, Saturday,
11:00 AM,**

Biennial Elections to the IANH Executive Committee for 2012-2014 term is at Nashua Public Library Theater, Nashua, NH. For more information, contact 603-668-9028 or email at secretary@ianh.org.

Make A Difference – Teaching Kids Time Management

By Vidya Kumar,

Now that the schools have started the schedule is tight for the parents whose kids are going to school. I truly appreciate parents who are working and have school going kids. It is difficult to be a parent now-a-days since there are so many assignments that the kids have to complete and parents help the kids in completing the assignments even when they are holding full time jobs and are being active in the community. My co-worker has three kids and it is amazing how she is able to manage full time demanding job and at the same time help her kids in completing the assignments.

The school to which one of her kids is attending is observing the 09/11 by having assignment for that day and show casing it to the community at large. That means the kids have to do assignment on each victim of 09/11. Extensive research on the internet has to be done and making a presentation on each of the victims. It is definitely not possible for a fifth grade kid to do the assignment on his own so she has to jump in and do the research and also the last minute purchasing the project materials and help in completing the project. I understand that most of the parents also have to go through the same intense involvement with the kids' education and at the same time holding on to a full time job which has become demanding because of the extensive down sizing in all the companies.

Teaching kids the value of time in their life will help them in the long run. Maybe, small steps can be taken to let children know that they can help in the kitchen in the morning or the previous night by packing their own lunch boxes. Also, deciding what clothes that they want to wear for the school next day the previous evening before going to bed will save precious time in the morning.

Both Elephants And Humans Rely On Same Mechanism To Produce Sounds

Washington, August 4

A new study has shown that elephants rely on the same mechanism that produces speech in humans and the vocalizations of many other mammals.

Christian Herbst from the University of Vienna, along with colleagues from Germany, Austria and the United States, used the larynx of a recently deceased elephant to recreate some elephant infrasounds in a laboratory.

"These vocalizations are called infrasounds because their fundamental frequency is below the range of human hearing," explained Herbst.

"We only hear the harmonics of such sounds, or multiples of that fundamental frequency. If an elephant's vocal folds were to clap together at 10 Hertz, for example, we would perceive some energy in that sound at 20, 40, 40 Hertz and so on.

But these higher overtones are usually weaker in amplitude," the researcher said.

Until now, researchers have wondered whether these low, rumbling elephant infrasounds

were created by intermittent muscle contractions, as a cat's purr is, or by flow-induced vocal fold vibrations, fuelled by air from the lungs, as is a human's voice.

But, the natural death of an elephant at a zoo in Berlin gave Herbst and his colleagues a somewhat serendipitous chance to study the mechanism firsthand.

The researchers removed the elephant's larynx and froze it within a few hours of the animal's death.

They then took it over to the larynx laboratory in the Department of Cognitive Biology at the University of Vienna, where Tecumseh Fitch, a senior author of the Science paper, studied it in depth.

Herbst and the other researchers imitated the elephant's lungs

by blowing controlled streams of warm, humid air through the excised larynx while adjusting

periodic, low-frequency vibration that matched an elephant's infrasound in every detail.

five orders of magnitude across a wide range of body sizes and sonic frequencies.



The fact that they were able to duplicate the elephant's infrasounds in a laboratory demonstrated that the animals rely on a myoelastic-aerodynamic, or "flow-driven," mode of speech to communicate in the wild.

The elephant's brain would have been required to recurrently tense and relax the vocal muscles if the other mechanism, which produces a cat's purr, was involved, they said.

This flow-induced mechanism demonstrated by the researchers is likely to be employed by a wide range of mammals.

From echolocating bats with their incredibly high vocalizations to African elephants and their extremely low-pitched infrasounds, this mode of voice production seems to span four to

The researchers also saw some interesting "nonlinear phenomena" in the way the elephant vocal folds vibrated.

These mostly irregular patterns of vibration occur when babies cry or heavy metal singers scream and the physical mechanism that elephants use is again identical to that seen in humans, they say.

"If I scream, it's no longer a periodic vibration. It becomes chaotic and you can hear a certain degree of roughness.

This can also be observed in young elephants, in situations of high excitement," said Herbst.

Herbst said that the findings were only made possible by a collaborative effort between voice scientists and biologists, and that voice science is an essential aspect of our social and economic lives.

Their findings are published in the 4 August issue of the journal Science, which is published by AAAS, the nonprofit science society.

London 2012 Voted Best Olympics Ever

London, August 6

Foreign journalists have voted London 2012 as the best Olympics they have ever seen. They are praising the friendliness of the people in Britain.



"You walk past someone and they say hi, which is not something you associate with the reserved English," the Daily Star quoted one journalist as saying.

Gary Lemke, of the South African Media Organisation, said: "It is my fifth Olympics and the best I've been to."

Roger McMillan, from Australian Sailing magazine,

added: "The thing I've been impressed with is the friendliness. Everyone's happy and getting involved in the spirit of the Games."

Harry Potter Fan Uncovers How Wizard Genes Work

Melbourne, August 3

A diehard Harry Potter fan and biology student may have found the scientific explanation for how children of 'muggles' are born with magical abilities.

Andrea Klenotiz from the University of Delaware has sent JK Rowling a six-page thesis explaining how she thinks the "wizarding gene" works in the famous fictitious world.

"Mrs Rowling, I read your statement that the wizarding gene is dominant. I have heard criticism that this does not explain muggle-borns, squibs, or the steady inheritance pattern of magical abilities; but I got your back," News.com.au quoted her as writing in the letter.

"Magical ability could be explained by a single autosomal dominant gene if it is caused by an expansion of trinucleotide repeats with non-Mendelian ratios of inheritance," she wrote.

According to her theory, the first "pure blood" wizard might have been born of muggle parents "whose muggle inheritance would be forgotten by subsequent generations".

A more powerful wizard is likely to come from a longer bloodline than more newly formed wizard families.

On being asked about Hermione she said because of the "random" nature of the mutations, genetic mutation could still explain why two muggles can give birth to a powerful wizard like Hermione.

"Muggle borns are caused by spontaneous mutations," Klenotiz wrote. Her theory also explains why two wizards could have a child that has no magical abilities (depending on how many mutated genes were inherited). This would explain Filch, the creepy groundskeeper with no magical abilities

Fewer Fans Watch Car Races For Crashes

Washington, August 3

Many car race fans do, indeed, watch NASCAR races because they want to see car wrecks, but more of them have been tuning in to see who actually wins the race since the circuit adopted its Chase for the Cup championship series in 2004, a University of Iowa economist has found.

John Solow, a professor of economics in the Tippie College of Business, and co-author Peter Von Allmen of Skidmore College, looked at 135 NASCAR races between 2001 and 2009.

They used a formula that measured the impact on each race's television ratings by incorporating a dozen statistics,

ranging from track length to the closeness of the Sprint Cup championship standings to whether there was an NFL game on another network.

Solow found that, indeed, the likelihood of a car wreck did increase viewership, as each additional crash per race increased the audience by about 6 percent in the pre-Chase era.

Viewership didn't seem to be affected, he found, by how close the drivers were in the overall point standings for the Sprint Cup championship.

But Solow found significant differences in the results before and after 2004, the year NASCAR adopted its version of a year-end tournament to determine who wins the Sprint Cup.

Before the Chase for the Cup was implemented, drivers were awarded points based on their finish in each race through the 26-race season and the driver with the most points at the end was awarded the Cup.

But that often meant some races had little drama because, as the season wore on, one or two drivers separated themselves so that the Cup winner was often a foregone conclusion.

So to build year-end excitement, N A S C A R adopted a new system in 2004 in which the top ten drivers had their points re-set with only those ten were eligible for the championship.

Solow said creating this

Chase for the Cup essentially brought NASCAR the excitement of a "second season," similar to year-end playoffs in other sports, and renewed interest to what had been irrelevant races.

Since the Chase for the Cup was adopted, and later expanded to 12 drivers, the uncertainty factor in Solow's formula that represents the Sprint Cup point standings became a much more significant factor in determining TV ratings. Moreover, that impact was greater the tighter the Chase standings.

For instance, a 50-point reduction in the overall points differential with 20 races to go in the season produces a 4 percent increase in the viewing audience. Another 50-point reduction with only 13 races remaining produces a 6.1 percent increase. While crashes still made up an important part of the TV rating, Solow said the Chase diminished their importance relative to the overall point standings.



PREDICTIONS By Pandit Parashar

ARIES (March 21 to April 20): People in business will do well



this month. Money wise you will stay comfortable. Some one lot younger will try to create some problems at work but will not succeed. You will do some work in and around the house and get rid of things piling dust. You may call an old friend to seek his advice. A business trip is also in the air.

TAURUS (April 21 to May 20): Unnecessary stress can cause



loss of appetite and upset stomach. Business will continue to grow and you will keep marching towards your professional goals and may even finish project before deadline. Try to relax in spare time and go for a walk if possible. Spouse will give you few very practical and great ideas.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You will continue to work on a



very good idea and keep looking for right partners. You will be invited to couple of parties in September. You will try to take

time out of busy schedule and help your child with home work. People seeking a change will be called for second interview and receive the assurance.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This may not be the right time to



look for a change in career. Money wise you will continue to do well and receive some kind of refund also. Value of stocks will appreciate and you may dispose off some and pocket the profit. People in business will experience better sales. Issue involving a child will be resolved favorably.

LEO (July 23 to August 22): Just be careful with all financial trans-



actions and do not stretch your limits. People in business should keep an eye on employees. Business will be better and you will take few sound decisions in career. Do not make any commitments in a hurry. You may start working on a short vacation with family towards the end of September.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22): Take advice and second

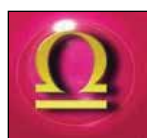
opinion before you make any



big moves. Legal matters will take a favorable turn and victory is within reach. Relation-

ship will keep getting stronger and commitment is not far off. You may dispose off recently purchased stocks and pocket the money. Keep an eye on an important mail.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22): Planets are favorable for all



financial matters. You may hit some kind of jackpot, don't forget to try your hands at lottery also. There

will be slight change in travel plans. You will try your best to maintain a balance between family and professional life. Deal you had been working on, can be finalized.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 22): Planets will make



things happen quick. You will not only regain confidence but hit your professional goal also. Your image

in social circle will improve and you will be invited to a big gath-

ering. You may meet an interesting personality during the course of a trip. You will make few more important clients this month.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 to December 22): If you keep your



emotions under check, you are a guaranteed winner. Transiting Venus will bring fresh opportunity to make

fast bucks. Try to be calm when on phone and use soft language when writing any important mail if you really want to get the job done. You may be thinking of traveling long distance.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19): Strong Venus will



give you many reasons to celebrate. Roadblocks will be lifted and you will achieve your goals. Some of

you will be offered a lucrative job also. Strong chances that a new member will be added to family. You may spend some money on electronic gadgets or do some repairs in or around your home.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18): You may be in touch with some wise people to seek

advice on how to deal with some



important issues or headache. Watch out for people trying to flirt. No harm in enjoying life but do not take them seriously or will get hurt later. Some one with honey colored eyes or going little bald will be very helpful.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20): Help will come from totally



unexpected places. You will be calling overseas more frequently and may travel on short notice. You will be

still aiming for long term goals and not on short ones. Health will get better with minor change in diet. You may recover lots of money and may even receive a big check from insurance in September. It will take some more time to find a better and ideal place to move.



Pandit Parashar
parashar@parashar.com
www.parashar.com
925-833-7170

Palm Trees Once Grew On Antarctica

London, August 2
Antarctica had a subtropical climate, suggest scientists who have

early Eocene period, about 53 million years ago.

The study published in Nature suggests Antarctic winter temperatures exceeded 10C, while summers may have reached 25C.



"There are two ways of looking at where we're going in the future. One is using physics-based climate models; but increasingly we're using this 'back to the future' approach where we look through periods in the geological past that are similar to where we may be going

in 10 years, or 20, or several hundred," James Bendle of the University of Glasgow, a co-author of the study, told BBC News.

Drilling research carried out in re-

cent years showed that the Arctic must have had a subtropical climate.

But looking for similar evidence in Antarctic has been a challenge. Glaciation 34 million years ago wiped out much of the sediment that would give clues to past climate, and left kilometres of ice on top of what remains.

Now, the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) has literally got to the bottom of what the Eocene Antarctic was like, dropping a drilling rig through 4km of water off Wilkes Land on Antarctica's eastern coast.

The rig then drilled through 1km of sediment to return samples from the Eocene. With the sediment came pollen grains from palm trees and relatives of the modern baobab and macadamia.

Crucially, they contained also the remnants of tiny single-celled

organisms called Archaea. The creatures' cell walls show subtle molecular changes that depend on the temperature of the soil surrounding them when they were alive.

The structures are faithfully preserved after they die. They are, in essence, tiny buried thermometers from 53 million years ago.

Together, the data suggest that even in the darkest period of Antarctic winter, the temperature did not drop below 10C; and summer daytime temperatures were in the 20Cs.

The lowland coastal region sported palm trees, while slightly inland, hills were populated with beech trees and conifers.

Better knowledge of past "greenhouse" conditions will enhance guesses about the effects of increasing CO2 today, according to the researchers.

pulled up proof that palm trees once grew there.

Study of pollen and spores and the remains of tiny creatures have given a climatic picture of the

The early Eocene was a period of atmospheric CO2 concentrations higher than the current 390 parts per million (ppm) - reaching at least 600ppm and possibly far higher.

Cinemax To Release “In The Name Of Tai”

In a bid to promote independent cinema, Cinemax has joined hands with the makers to ensure a smooth release.

Finally the music created Real

on a slain activist's life. Producer/Director UjjwalThengdi (who has totally handled 14 segments of the film)" known for his award winning film -Vazir is back with a powerful subject.



The Film will be released on 12 th October and acting talents like Dr. Nishigandha Wad, Dr. Vilas Ujawane, Mahesh Thakur, Asrani and the director himself - UjjwalThengdi.

Throughout the film "TAI", UjjwalThengdi has kept the essence of the village, simultaneously focusing on the outstanding commercial values.

The screenplay, dialogues are bold, effective and befitting the story.

life personalities and hard-hitting incidents always inspire our film-makers.

"In The Name of Tai ...Tai Ke-Naam", is one such film based

This is politically motivated and emotionally charged burning topic essentially based on present day scenario of corrupt system and high handed politicians dealings with villagers' lands.

Suriya Denies 'Maatraan' As Vinayagarchathurthi Release

Even as it was announced and it went viral that SuriyaSivakumar's biggie, 'Maatraan' will see



light of the day on September 19 as a VinayagarChathurthi special, Suriya and the makers have ruled this out. "I'm not on any social networking pages, please don't be misled by my fake profiles on Facebook or Twitter", said Suriya. His fake profiles had spread the rumors that the film will release on September 19.

When contacted by IG, the official makers had denied the news as well. Helmed by blockbuster specialist, KV Anand, the film stars Suriya and KajalAggarwal in the lead roles and sees Suriya as conjoined twins in some parts of the film... Music by Harris Jayaraj has already been declared as the biggest hit of the year.

Himmatwala Remake Sets A New Record!

Already garnering buzz for its innovative first look and colourful posters, Director Sajid Khan's film 'Himmatwala' remake produced by UTV Motion Pictures

involved with the movie right from its first shot by means of a live digital telecast!

The Mahurat Shot had Ajay



and VashuBhagnani (Puja Entertainment India Ltd) has set a new record altogether in the Indian Film Industry today!

The team streamed the Mahurat Shot live on Youtube today afternoon, all the way from the iconic Ramoji Studios in Hyderabad!

This is the first time for any film in B-town that the audience is in-

Devgn delivering the very famous power packed dialogue "Na main dilliwalla, namein CBI wala, ekbehenkabhaihu, ekmaaka beta.. Himmatwala!...

ZareenaWahab&LeenaJumani who playDevgn's mother and sister respectively along with Mahesh Manjrekar were also a part of the scene.

"Sajid wanted everything to go perfect in the very first take as he is a little superstitious about the Mahurat shot and wanted to incorporate it in the film as it is without any edits or retakes!

And much to everyone's excitement, everything went off as it was planned as this was the 1st time that a Mahurat Shot was broadcasted live on such a humongous platform" quipped a source on the sets.

The telecast also had Sajid introducing the audiences to the crew which was present on the sets including producer VashuBhagnani, dialogue writers Sajid-Farhad, Ace Hairstylist Hakim Aalim, costume stylist Naveen Shetty and others.

King Of Romance Yash Chopra Meets Queen Of Silver Screen Sridevi



It was charm everywhere at Yash raj studio when the King of Bollywood romantic films Yash Chopra met his 'Chandini' the queen of silver screen of her times - 'Sridevi'.

Needless to add the 'Lamhe' was full of nostalgia and sweet memories..as you see in one of the file pics during the shoot of Lamhe where Yashchopra is discussing a scene witSridevi has always been one of the favorite leading lady of Producer director Yash Chopra.

When Yashji learnt that Sridevi was shooting at Yash raj studios itself for her upcoming movie English Vinglish, the veteran Filmmaker personally dropped by on the sets of English Vinglish to see her.

The two shared their warm greetings and also chit chatted about the olden days refreshing the olden memories.

Yashji and Sridevi have known each other since Chandani (1989) the film in which he directed her.

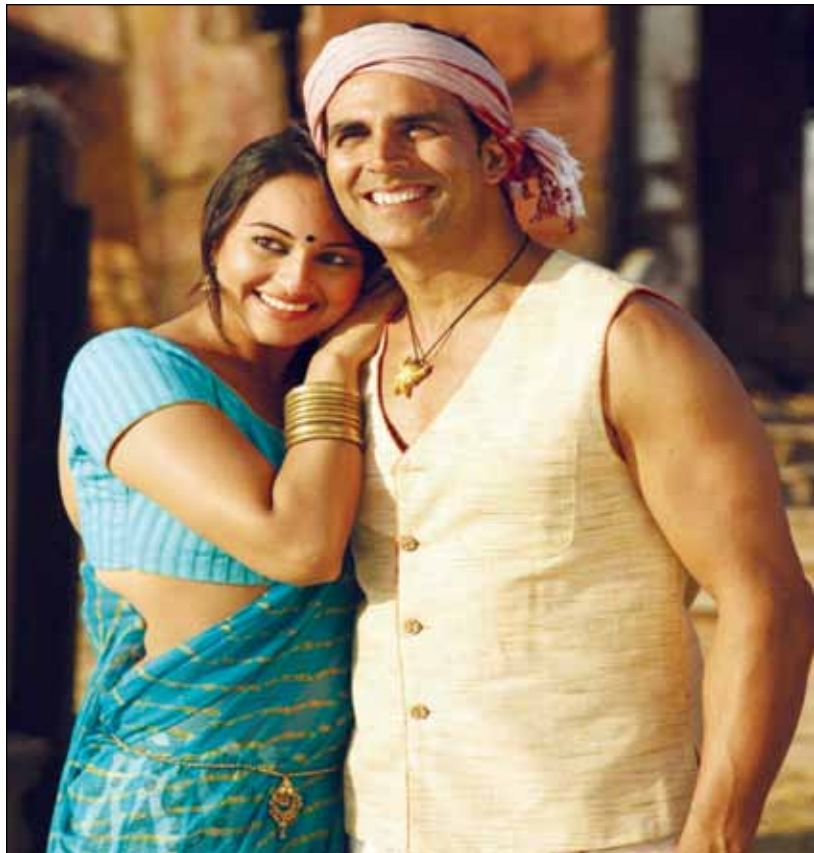
Yashji even congratulated her on her comeback film English Vinglish, Sridevi indeed was immensely touched by this gesture and was very happy to see him after a long time.

English Vinglish is set to release on 5 October. Though the film is based in America, except for the outdoor scenes, everything else has been shot at Yash Raj studios.

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Joker Would Be Refreshing For Everyone - Akshay Kumar

Close to 100 days after the release of their last blockbuster success 'Rowdy Rathore', Akshay Kumar and Sonakshi Sinha are back with 'Joker'.



While Akshay's 'Housefull 2' and 'Rowdy Rathore' were aimed at families and youth respectively, it now seems that 'Joker' also has that special something for children in particular.

"Absolutely", immediately says Akshay, "It's very much a film for the young ones with a tad of entertainment for adults of course."

Basically it was made for anyone with a vivid imagination and a passion for sci-fi fiction.

It's definitely not your average Hindi film concept so it will be refreshing for everyone."

He goes on to add, "Also, since it has been so long since I have dedicated a film to the

younger generation, 'Joker' fits the bill because it is smashingly full of young ideas and the kind of talent to suit its attempted audience." We look forward to the experience once the film releases all over on 31st August.

Now It's Left For RBR

As the Ramzan releases have failed to keep the Box Office roaring, all eyes are now on the other big releases to come 'Run Baby Run'.

This Mohanlal starrer directed by Joshy is scripted by Sachi and is expected to be a solace to film viewers, who couldn't find any speciality in other three releases.



Moreover, the theatre fare of other three movies also depends on the performance of RBR' which is expected to be on theatres for this 29th for Onam.

Though Lijin Jose's 'Friday' has got the best

of the opinions, the movie is not getting the needed word of mouth to propel it as an Onam winner. May be with its release in multiplexes soon, the movie may find better audiences.

Mammootty's 'Thappana' is opined as a better movie than the superstar's other recent releases, but the regular kind of one-liners and low brow humour, coupled with the non-realistic, Tamil type fights also mar the interests on the film, which may end up as an average earner, unless promoted vigorously.

Dileep's 'MrMarumakan' is a film which is another 'old wine in a new bottle'. Though the collections are not that supportive for a better hit, the movie may end as an earner in the long run.

Paagan Aims At September Release

S Madhan of Vendhar Movies has bagged the release rights of Srikanth - Janani Iyer starrer Paagan for an undisclosed price. The makers are now readying the film for a September release.

Helmed by Aslam, 'Paagan' is an out and out laugh riot with Srikanth trying his hands at comedy in few scenes. Parotta Suri plays a crucial role along with Paandi, Kovai Sarala and A Venkatesh. Suri has ren-



dered a song in James Vasanthan music. Viswas U Lad and V Purushothaman have produced the movie under their banner VP productions.

Multiplex Headaches

Seems like new and fresh problems are being created in Bollywood industry, which is of no use to the makers or exhibitors in Bollywood. The latest of the issues is around the release of Mammootty's 'Thappana' in one of the multiplexes in Kochi.

For our reader's information, there is a problem running in-between



the distributors of Bollywood movies and other owners of multiplexes regarding the revenue sharing of the income generated through the ticket sales of Bollywood films. The multiplexes have recently increased their share on the ticket sales and hence the new issue.

And so the distributors have decided not to release any of the new films in multiplexes. (Bollywood also faced a similar issue years ago, which was then sorted out amicably, but in favour of multiplex owners) But producer Milan Jaleel has gone beyond this stipulations and has released his 'Thappana' in a Kochi multiplex.

While other recent movies like 'Friday' and 'MrMarumakan' were not given to multiplexes, the release of 'Thappana' is sure to be another case for fight among the distributors.

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