



TAYLOR SWIFT PERFORMS SURPRISE SERENADE AT A COUPLE'S ENGAGEMENT PARTY AT A TAVERN IN LA

BLAKE LIVELY REVEALS SHE FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO INTERACT WITH PEOPLE AND MAKE FRIENDS



Monga, Mercury, Colman, Rel Ent: India's links to this year's Oscars

Blood Ties: Olivia Colman's Great-Great-Great Grandmother Was Born In Bihar In 1807 And Her Mother May Have Been An Indian

Mohua Das & Avijit Ghosh | TNN

India has four Oscars connections this year; some firm, others tenuous but all extremely fascinating. Guneet Monga is among the executive producers of "Period. End of Sentence", a 26-minute documentary set in Kathikeda, in western UP. In an Instagram post on Sunday Monga said, "Started with a small dream in the English department room of @melissa_berton with her school girls of @oakwoodstories for empowering and educating other young girls across the world for better menstruation hygiene. This started 7 years ago with raising money and donating one pad machine... then thought the team should make a movie for better awareness!" @actionindia76 from India helped on ground in putting a machine. @raykazand@samdavidp captured all of this so beautifully with @kakarmandakini producing for @sikhya. "The film's end credit also features Mandakini Kakar as executive producer. She worked for Sikhya Entertainment, founded by Monga in 2008.

"Green Book", which won four Academy Awards, including Best Picture, was co-produced by Participant Media and Dreamworks. Back in 2008, Anil Ambani's Reliance Big Entertainment and Steven Spielberg's Dream Works SKG had inked a \$1.5 billion deal to set up a joint venture named DreamWorks. In a press release Amitabh Jhunjhunwala, vice-chairman, Reliance Entertainment said, "We are incredibly proud to have partnered with Steven Spielberg and Participant Media in two of this year's Oscar winning movies, Green Book... and First Man..."

Rami Malek won Best Actor for "Bohemian Rhapsody", a biographical film on rocker Freddie Mercury, whose real name was Farrokh Bulsara. His parents were Parsis from India but he was born in Zanzibar. He briefly went to St Peter's, a boarding school in Panchgani, and played for a band named "The Hectics". India's most absorbing 2019 Oscar connection is that of Olivia Colman, who earned the Best Actress award for "The Favourite". Colman's great-great-great grandmother Harriot was born in Kishanganj (Bihar) in 1807 and Harriot's father William Slessor was an Englishman but her mother was most probably a local Indian woman. Early last year, Oli-

OSCAR'S HITS AND MISSES

NETFLIX'S HOPE TO WIN TOP PRIZE DASHED: In honouring "Green Book", academy members slowed the rise of Netflix, which had pushed "Roma" in the best-picture race. Netflix has posed an almost existential threat to movie houses. Netflix made significant inroads, however, with "Roma", about a domestic worker in 1970s-era Mexico, winning three Oscars



QUEEN OPENS THE SHOW: The first without a host in 30 years, Oscars took its lead from the Grammys, opening with a rowdy rendition of "We Will Rock You" by Queen

HISTORIC WINS FOR 'BLACK PANTHER': "Black Panther" crew members, (L) Hannah Beachler (production design) and Ruth E Carter (costumes), became the first African-Americans to receive Oscars in their categories



SLEEPING WITH HER OSCAR: Asked where she will keep her Oscar, best actress winner Olivia Colman replied: "In bed with me. Between me and my husband. He doesn't know yet. He won't mind"

MOST SURPRISING SNUB: Seven nominations later, Glenn Close remains Oscar-less, retaining her less-than-enviable title of most nominated living actor, male or female, without a win



DID YOU RECOGNISE THE DIAMOND? Lady Gaga wore the rock, known as the Tiffany Diamond, on the red carpet. It was worn by Audrey Hepburn in 1961 (in a different setting) for promotional shots for "Breakfast at Tiffany's". The gem, reported to be worth \$50 million, is a 128.54-carat yellow diamond and is thought to be one of the biggest in the world



BILLY PORTER SHINES IN A TUXEDO GOWN: Actor and musician Billy Porter defied fashion norms by stepping out onto the red carpet in a gown. A play on masculinity and femininity, the look challenged the rigid Hollywood dress code

and met historian-author Rudrangshu Mukherjee. Olivia was also able to read a will where Harriot's grandmother affectionately referred to her as "India Harriot". "I was very surprised at how much I ended up caring for her (Harriot)... to find out that her mum was local was the most exciting... I thought there was nobody exotic in my family ever. I was so wrong! Spread over the world—Portugal, India, France and St Helena. Now I've got to be braver and try not to let them down," she had said at the end of her journey. Olivia kept her word.



TRUMP VS SPIKE LEE: President Trump accused director Spike Lee of a "racist hit job" after he won his first competitive Oscar and urged voters to mobilize for next polls. Lee said, "Let's all be on the right side of history. Make the moral choice between love versus hate"

via embarked on a journey to trace her ancestry in India and one of her first stops was at the British club in Kishanganj, where she met retired history teacher Anuradha Chatterji. With Chatterji's help she found that in 1804 William Slessor had become a captain in the East India Company army and travelled widely. But when it came to trying to detect a marriage, there was little information. Harriot being born in Kishanganj—so far in the interiors of India—and the lack of official documents strongly pointed at the possibility that Harriot's

mother was not British, and more probably a local Indian. "I had no idea at the time about who she was. She came across as very warm, friendly and open," said Chatterji. Olivia learnt from a lawyer's letter that little Harriot, after her father's death in 1810, was sent from Kishanganj to England via Kolkata. Harriot returned to India when she was 24, this time to Kolkata, where she met both her husbands and had four children. Olivia travelled to Kolkata next, where she studied Harriot's shipping records, sailed up the Hooghly

final and fatal mission. Noor gave her life in the fight against fascism and her message of peace and tolerance of all religions is even more relevant today," said Shrabani Basu, Chair of the Noor Inayat Khan Memorial Trust. "The blue plaque will be a wonderful addition to the area that has a special association with Noor. It will be the first Blue Plaque for a woman of Indian-origin in Britain and is a real honour," said Basu, who has been campaigning for the plaque since 2006 as the author of "Spy Princess: The Life of Noor Inayat Khan". The Blue Plaque at her home is expected to be installed following building approval within the next few years. PTI

Spain named world's healthiest country

India Slips One Rank, Trails Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal



IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD	
COUNTRY	RANK
China	52
Sri Lanka	66
Bangladesh	91
Nepal	110
India	120
Pakistan	124
Afghanistan	153

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Spain and Italy have grabbed the two top spots in the list of the healthiest countries in the world. In South Asia, Sri Lanka at 66, Bangladesh at 91 and Nepal at 110 continued to rank well above India, out of the 169 countries that were evaluated. India slipped from 119 in the 2017 ranking to 120. China rose three places to 52nd. Life expectancy in China is on track to surpass the US by 2040, according to the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, stated the Bloomberg analysis. This was according to the 2019 edition of the Bloomberg Healthiest Country Index which ranked 169 economies according to factors that contribute to overall health, including traditional measures such as mortality by communicable and non-communicable diseases and life expectancy. US which spends the highest per person on health,

\$11,000, slipped by one rank to 35 and its life expectancy had been dipping the last three years, while UK which spends \$4,000 per person climbed from 23rd rank in 2017 to 19th this time. Cuba too improved it ranking from 31 to 30, well above the US and the only country not classified as "high income" by the World Bank to be ranked that high. The countries that have performed the best are those with universal healthcare where over 70% of healthcare spending is done by the government. These include Iceland, Japan, Switzerland, Sweden, Australia, Singapore and Norway in that order in the top ten. Japan improved its ranking from 7th to 4th while Singapore, the only other Asian nation in the top ten, dropped sharply from 4th rank to 8th. Spain and Italy spend much less on healthcare (roughly \$3500 per person) than many of the European countries and yet managed to top the list. India is estimated

to spend barely \$240 per person and most of it is spent by people from their own resources with little support from the government. Pakistan (124), Myanmar (129) and Afghanistan (153) are the only countries from this region with a lower ranking than India. Sri Lanka, facing increasing privatisation of healthcare and shrinking public spending on health slipped by one rank from 65 to 66. South Korea jumped seven places to 17th. Bangladesh improved its ranking by three spots while Nepal's rank has remained the same. At the bottom of the pile are mostly Sub-Saharan African countries, accounting for 27 of the 30 unhealthiest. Haiti, Afghanistan and Yemen were the others. Bloomberg evaluated health variables and risks ranging from those of behavioral nature to environmental characteristics. Final index only included nations with at least 0.3 million population and sufficient data.

US envoy meets with Taliban co-founder ahead of new talks

Doha: US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad met with the Taliban's top political leader in Doha on Monday, in what is believed to be the highest level engagement between the US and the Taliban since the months-long peace push began. Khalilzad tweeted that he and Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, a cofounder of the Islamic movement, had held a "working lunch" ahead of a fresh round of talks with the insurgent group as the US seeks a way out of its longest

war: The arrival in Qatar of Baradar, seen as close to Taliban leader Haibatullah Akhundzada, has helped fuel speculation of a breakthrough. Marathons talks last month saw the two sides walk away with a "draft framework" that included a Taliban vow to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a haven for international terror groups. However, there was no accord on a US withdrawal or a ceasefire, issues which have derailed attempts at peace talks in the past.

Meanwhile, the government in Kabul has voiced increasingly loud fears it was being sidelined from the talks. A statement released by the Taliban on Monday said their negotiating team would continue to be led by Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, while Baradar would be on hand to provide "instructions" when needed. Baradar is widely believed to be an influential leader carrying popular support across the Taliban's myriad factions. AFP

Britain must return Indian Ocean islands to Mauritius: World court

The Hague: The World Court on Monday told Britain to give up control over the Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean, and said it had wrongfully forced the population to leave in the 1970s to make way for a US air base. Britain split the archipelago off from its colonial island territory of Mauritius in 1965, three years before granting independence to Mauritius—minus the islands. In the early 1970s, it evicted almost 2,000 residents to Mauritius and the Seychelles to make way for a base which it then leased to the US

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quish control over the islands, which it calls the British Indian Ocean Territory. Although the court was not asked to issue an opinion on sovereignty, Monday's decision in effect urged Britain to hand the islands, which it has controlled since 1814, over to Mauritius. But presiding Judge Abdulqawi Yusuf said in a summary of the decision that Britain was "under obligation to bring to an end the administration of Cha-

gos Islands as rapidly as possible." For years Chagossians have lobbied London to let them return. In 2016, Britain extended the US' lease of Diego Garcia until 2036 and said expelled islanders could not go back. Mauritius PM Pravind Jugnauth said it was "a historic moment for Mauritius and all its people, including the Chagossians who were unconsciously removed from their homeland." REUTERS

Indian-origin woman spy to get British honour

London: Britain's World War II spy Noor Inayat Khan was on Monday confirmed as the first Indian-origin woman to be honoured with a Blue Plaque at her former London home. The Blue Plaque scheme run by English Heritage honours notable people who lived or worked in particular buildings across London. Khan's plaque is set to go up at 4 Tavistock Street in Bloomsbury, where she lived as a secret agent during the war. Khan, the daughter of Indian Sufi saint Hazrat Inayat Khan, was an agent for Britain's Special Operations Executive (SOE) during World War II and was captured and killed by the Nazis in 1944 at just 30 years of age. "It is from this house that she left on her

final and fatal mission. Noor gave her life in the fight against fascism and her message of peace and tolerance of all religions is even more relevant today," said Shrabani Basu, Chair of the Noor Inayat Khan Memorial Trust. "The blue plaque will be a wonderful addition to the area that has a special association with Noor. It will be the first Blue Plaque for a woman of Indian-origin in Britain and is a real honour," said Basu, who has been campaigning for the plaque since 2006 as the author of "Spy Princess: The Life of Noor Inayat Khan". The Blue Plaque at her home is expected to be installed following building approval within the next few years. PTI

Man gets \$21m after 39 yrs in jail for crimes he didn't commit

A California man who was wrongfully convicted for killing an ex-girlfriend and her son four decades ago has reached a \$21 million settlement with the city of Simi Valley, officials said. Craig Coley, 71, was sentenced to life in prison without parole for the 1978 murder of his former partner, Rhonda Wicht, and her 4-year-old son, Donald, at their apartment. He had always maintained his innocence, and was pardoned in 2017 by California's then-governor, Jerry Brown, based on exculpatory

DNA evidence found by investigators. "While no amount of money can make up for what happened to Mr. Coley, settling this case is the right thing to do for Mr. Coley and our community," Simi Valley City manager Eric Levitt said on Saturday in a statement. The 39 years Coley spent behind bars was the longest prison term ever overturned in California, the statement said. Since his release, Coley has spoken to law enforcement officials about evidence collection, and has met with parents of prisoners who maintain



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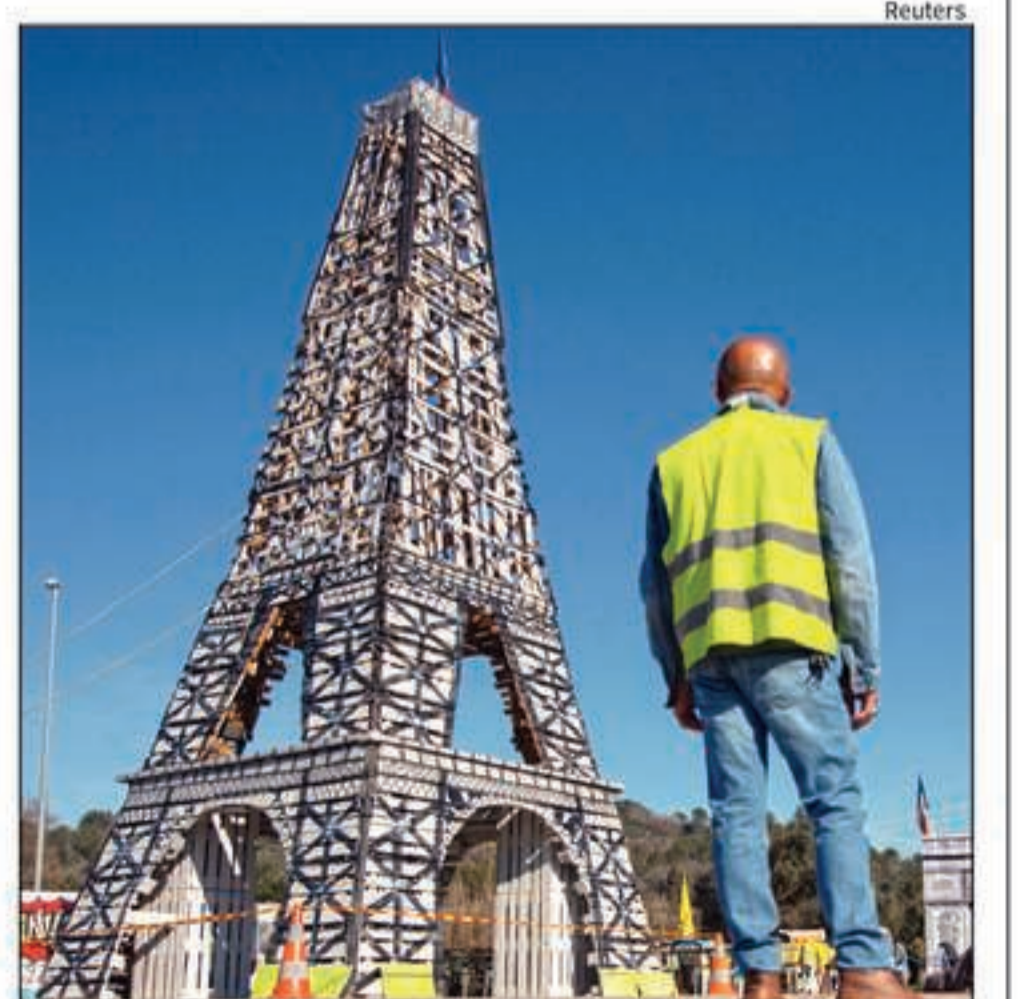
their innocence, according to Mike Bender, a close friend and former police detective in Simi Valley, a community just outside Los Angeles. Bender had pushed for Coley's release for nearly three decades after he became troubled by aspects of the case. "Craig's message is always don't give up," he said. More than 350 US inmates have been exonerated by DNA testing since 1989, according to New York-based the Innocence Project, which helps people who were wrongfully convicted. On average, convicts who were freed had served 14 years

in prison when exonerated. California authorities awarded Coley \$1.95 million last year—\$140 for each day he spent in prison. At the time, it was the largest payout for a wrongful conviction by the state's Victim Compensation Board. That money allowed Coley to buy a home. With the new settlement money, he will also be able to visit places on his bucket list and continue to help the wrongfully convicted, Bender said. "He's looking forward to being able to live his life," Bender said. "No one would want to trade places with him." REUTERS

AROUND THE WORLD

Man throws coins into plane engine for good luck

A man is being sued by a Chinese airline after throwing coins into the engine for "good luck". The perpetrator, identified only as Lu, admitted to tossing the coins when Lucky Air staff quizzed passengers after finding two one yuan coins on the ground near the left engine. The flight was grounded due to safety concerns. The 162 passengers were flown the next day following a full engine check. The budget carrier claims the flight cancellation cost in the region of 140,000 yuan (\$16,000), and announced legal action would be taken against the passenger. Lu, 28, said he'd thrown the coins while boarding as he thought it would bring good luck.



A group of Yellow Vest protesters have built a 11.5m-high replica of Eiffel Tower with 135 wood pallets in Le Luc in southeastern France. French President Macron has faced the biggest challenge to his authority from the protests, which started over the high cost of living but spread into a broader movement against the 41-year-old former investment banker and his pro-business reform drive

B'desh plane hijacker may have been carrying toy gun

Bangladesh's top civil aviation officials on Monday said that they are probing how a "hijacker" was able to bypass airport security with a "toy pistol". "We are still trying to understand the situation," state minister for civil aviation Mahubb Ali told reporters. The minister also said that authorities are yet to ascertain whether the suspected hijacker was carrying a "toy gun". The flight, en route Dubai, with 148 passengers on board was hijacked soon after it left Dhaka on Sunday. The pilot contacted Chattogram's Shah Amanat International Airport and made an emergency landing. Passengers were then

evacuated safely from the plane. Bangladesh Civil Aviation Authority chairman Air Vice Marshal Naim Hassan said sounds of gunshots were heard in the midair. "But it doesn't prove that it was a real pistol because, we are yet to find out bullet mark or shell," he said. A woman who opened her suitcase after flying home to Scotland from Australia was shocked to discover a snake hiding inside one of her shoes. Moira Boxall realised the spotted python had made the almost 16000km journey from

Queensland to Glasgow with her when she found it curled up in a slip-on sandal. Paul Airlie, Boxall's son-in-law, said she had initially assumed it was a toy snake put there as a prank until she prodded the serpent and it suddenly moved. Fugitive monkeys back at zoo, days after breakout A 17-year-old fugitive monkey has been reunited with her daughter at a Berlin zoo after being caught at a railway station in the city. Both the capuchin monkey and her 6-year-old daughter broke out of their redesigned enclosure at the Tierpark zoo on Thursday.