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KEEP SAFE

- Follow President Trump's Guidelines on Coronavirus
- Observe Social Distancing
- Wash Hands Frequently
- No Panic Buying
- No Price Gouging

KEEP AMERICA SAFE

Trump admin urges U.S. court not to block work permits to spouses of H1B visa-holders

WASHINGTON (TIP): In a major development, the Trump administration has urged a federal district court not to block an Obama-era rule allowing certain categories of spouses of H-1B visa-holders to work in the United States. In a submission before the U.S. District Court, District Washington this week, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) argued that the American technology workers, who had challenged the 2015 ruling on giving work permits to H-4 visa-holders, have not been irreparably harmed by such work authorization.

An H-4 visa is issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to the immediate family members

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DOJ drops charges against former Trump advisor Michael Flynn

I.S. SALUJA

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Justice Department took its boldest step yet to cast doubt on the legitimacy of Mueller's investigation when on May 7, it dropped its case against Michael Flynn, the retired Army general and a former national security advisor to Trump.

When Flynn first acknowledged lying to the FBI more than two years ago, he nearly brought the investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election to the doorstep of the White House and President Donald Trump's inner circle.

While he was then the fourth ex-Trump aide to face criminal charges in special counsel Robert Mueller's inquiry, the former national security adviser was the first to be prosecuted for

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The Justice Department called the FBI's counterintelligence investigation into Flynn for his contacts with Russia "a no longer justifiably predicated investigation," according to the Thursday, May 7th filing.

COVID-19 Cases may peak in India in June-July: AIIMS

NEW DELHI (TIP): After a dip on May 6, India again witnessed a surge of 3,561 Covid infections in the past 24 hours, taking the total count to close to 57,00 and the death toll to nearly 1900.

Stressing that the surge in new cases could be linked to aggressive testing, AIIMS Director RandeepGuleria said: "As a percentage of tests, India's total Covid positivity rate is still between 4 per cent and 4.5 per cent. Most cases are

restricted to a few areas. Management must involve reducing numbers in these areas and preventing unaffected areas from getting the disease."

Asked about the peak, Guleria, a top public health expert guiding India's Covid response, said: "The disease will peak at some point but we can't say what its size would be. Based on projections by experts, the peak is likely

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Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has asked the states to ensure all cases of severe pneumonia and influenza like illnesses in unaffected districts were found and tested for Covid.

Trump says U.S. has flattened coronavirus curve



WASHINGTON (TIP): "Thanks to the profound commitment of our citizens, we have flattened the curve and countless American lives have been saved. Our country is now in the next stage of the battle. A very safe, phased and gradual reopening of our country," Trump said in his remarks at Honeywell International in Phoenix.

According to the John Hopkins University, which tracks coronavirus patients, by Tuesday, more than 71,000 Americans had died due to the deadly virus and over 1.2 million had tested positive.

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Asserting that the United States has flattened the curve on coronavirus, President Donald Trump said on May 5 the country is now in the next stage of the battle, which is a "very safe phased and gradual reopening".



Andy Singh

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U.S. Senators urge Trump to temporarily suspend H-1B, other guest workers visas



The unemployment figures in the U.S. have

reached an all-time high due to the coronavirus pandemic.

WASHINGTON (TIP): Top Republican senators urged U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday to

suspend all new guest worker visas for 60 days and certain categories of new guest worker visas, including H-1B, for at least a year or until unemployment figures return to normal levels.

The unemployment figures in the U.S. have reached an all-time high due to the coronavirus pandemic. The letter has been signed by Senators Ted Cruz, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley and Josh Hawley.

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BLOOD THINNERS MAY BOOST SURVIVAL RATES OF COVID-19 INFECTED PATIENTS: REPORT

WASHINGTON (TIP): Treating coronavirus patients with blood thinners may help in boosting their prospects for survival, according to preliminary findings from physicians at New York City's largest hospital system that offers another source of hope in treating the deadly infection.

The Washington Post reported that the results of the analysis, conducted over 2,733 patients, were published on Wednesday in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology.

In an interview to the newspaper, Valentin Fuster, a physician in chief at Mount Sinai Hospital and one of the study's authors, said that the observations were based only on a review of medical records and that more rigorous and randomised studies are needed to draw broader conclusions.

But the results have been promising, he said.

"My opinion is cautious, but I must tell you I think this is going to help. This is the opening of the door for what drugs to use and what questions to answer," the physician further stated.

Since March, when coronavirus hit Europe and the United States, doctors have been reporting mysterious blood clots, which can be gel-like or even semisolid, in a significant subset of coronavirus patients. Autopsies of patients who died of respiratory arrest have shown that some had unusual micro clots in their lungs rather than the typical damage expected.

Covid-19 transmission risk via sewage must not be neglected

LONDON (TIP): Environmental scientists have warned that the potential spread of Covid-19 via sewage "must not be neglected" since the viruses shed from the digestive system of infected individuals tend to last longer than those from the respiratory tract.

The research, published in the journal Environmental International, noted that while response to pandemic is focused on preventing person-to-person transmission, the virus might also spread in wastewater.

"It has recently been confirmed that the virus can also be found in human faeces -- up to 33 days after the patient has tested negative for the respiratory symptoms of Covid-19," said Richard Quilliam, study co-author from the University of Stirling in Scotland.

Based on their new findings, the scientists warned that the sewerage system itself may pose a transmission risk.

They said the structural makeup of SARS-CoV-2, specifically its lipid envelope covering, suggests that it will behave differently in aqueous environments, compared to other viruses typically found in the intestine. There is currently limited information on the environmental persistence of Covid-19, but the study noted that other coronaviruses can remain viable in sewage for up to 14 days, depending on the environmental conditions.

Brazil hits record for corona deaths, raising chances of lockdowns

BRASILIA (TIP): Brazil, one of the world's emerging coronavirus hot spots, registered a record number of cases and deaths on Wednesday, prompting the health minister to flag the possibility of strict lockdowns in particularly hard-hit areas.

The nation registered 10,503 new confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus in the last 24 hours, well above the previous record of 7,288 cases on April 30, according to health ministry data. Brazil also registered 615 deaths, up from the previous record of 600 on Tuesday.

There are over 100,000 completed coronavirus tests that still have not been registered in the national database, health ministry subsecretary Wanderson Oliveira warned, meaning case numbers could rise steeply in the coming days.

Overall, Brazil has registered 125,218 cases and 8,536 deaths due to the virus. New cases rose roughly 9.2% over the last 24 hours, while deaths increased roughly 7.8%.

UK becomes virus epicentre of Europe; sharp rise in Russia

LONDON (TIP):

Britain reported the highest number of COVID-19 deaths in Europe on Tuesday while infections rose sharply again in Russia, even as other nations made great strides in taming the virus. China marked its third week with no new virus deaths and South Korea restarted its professional baseball season.

In the United States, some states began halting steps to lift the lockdown restrictions being blamed for throwing millions out of work even as thousands of new US infections and deaths were being reported daily.

Britain's death toll from the pandemic appears to have surpassed Italy as Europe's hardest-hit nation.

The government said a total of 28,734 people with COVID-19 had died in UK hospitals, nursing homes and other settings. But official UK statistics released on Tuesday take into account people who died with suspected, rather than confirmed, COVID-19, putting Britain's toll at more than 30,000.

Those figures also suggested the true toll could be a third higher than the government virus figure. Italy has reported as many as 29,079 fatalities.

Tallies from both nations are likely to be underestimates because they only include people who tested positive for COVID-19 and testing was not widespread in Italian and British nursing homes until recently.

In Russia, the number of infections rose sharply again, with Moscow reporting more than 10,000 new cases for three days in a row.

At the same time, many European countries that have relaxed strict lockdowns after new infections tapered off, were watching their virus numbers warily.

UN appeals for \$6.7 billion to fight virus in poor countries

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): The United Nations called on governments, companies and billionaires Thursday to

TRACKING THE VIRUS

GLOBAL

Cases	Deaths
3,917,532	2,70,720

INDIA

Cases	Deaths
56,342	1,886



GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS CASES SURGE TO 3.9 MILLION, DEATH TOLL AT 2,70,720

Cases of infections of the deadly coronavirus surpassed 3.9 million worldwide on Friday as COVID-19 spreads across Europe, North America and South Asia.

COVID-19 has now infected 3,917,532 people worldwide and 2,70,720 people have been killed due to this pandemic. Around 1,285,807 people of that tally have recovered.

A few days ago, the World Health Organization (WHO) had claimed how lifting lockdowns too early could lead to a second wave and would be a catastrophe.

The epicentre of the pandemic has shifted twice, first from China to Europe, and then from Europe to North America.

Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University have reported in its map that the United States has taken the grim title of the country with the most coronavirus infections and reported a record surge in unemployment.

As of Friday morning, 1,257,023 people have been infected with the coronavirus across the US, while the death toll has surged to 75,662,



according to the Johns Hopkins University.

Some scientific models suggest the figure will rise to 3,000 a day by June.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has urged countries to investigate any early suspicious cases of the coronavirus before December 2019 when the first human cases were officially identified in China's Wuhan.

The disease later identified as COVID-19 was first reported by Chinese authorities to the WHO on December 31 and was not previously believed to have spread to Europe until January.

WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier said that other earlier cases could emerge after retesting samples.

contribute to a \$6.7 billion fund for fighting the coronavirus pandemic in vulnerable countries, warning that a failure to help could lead to a "hunger pandemic," famine, riots and more conflict.

U.N. humanitarian chief

Mark Lowcock said that "Covid-19 has now affected every country and almost every person on the planet."

He said the U.N.'s initial \$2 billion appeal unveiled March 25 was being increased because there is already evidence of

incomes plummeting and jobs disappearing, food supplies falling and prices soaring, and children missing vaccinations and meals. He added that the peak of the pandemic isn't expected to hit the world's poorest countries for three to six months.

New York State Gov Cuomo Extends Moratorium on Evictions until August 20

NEW YORK, NY (TIP): New York State Governor Cuomo, May 7, extended the residential and commercial evictions moratorium to August 20, 2020, banned late payment fees during the moratorium, and allows renters facing financial hardship to use their security deposits as payment.

The moratorium was initially issued on March 20, Cuomo said. Moving ahead, the measure also bans late payments or fees during the moratorium. Individuals can also use their security deposit as payment and can repay that amount over a period of time, Cuomo said.

No one renting homes or commercial businesses can be evicted until August, Cuomo said. "I hope it families a chance to take a deep breath," he said.

When asked about the landlords who need funds to pay the mortgage, electric bills and other expenses, Cuomo said the state is working with banks to provide relief to landlords.

In his daily press briefing, May 7, Cuomo reported 231 new deaths. He also reported that the number of hospitalizations statewide was down to 8,600, a "fairly significant drop"; intubations are also down, he said.

A top priority, Cuomo said, is

protecting front line and essential workers. "This all happened so fast," he said. "Front line workers showed up and went to work; they put their lives in danger so everyone else could stay home. Look at the courage."

A total of 27,000 health care workers recently underwent antibody testing at downstate healthcare facilities, Cuomo said. On Long Island, 11.1 percent tested positive for antibodies, compared with 11.4 percent of the general population.

In New York City, 12.2 percent of healthcare workers tested positive for the antibodies, compared to 19.9 percent of the general populations. And in Westchester, 6.8 percent tested positive for antibodies, with 13.8 percent of the general population testing positive.

"That is amazingly good news," Cuomo said.

The data, he said, also makes two points: Healthcare workers must continue to be protected, and also personal protective equipment is key. "That mad scramble for PPE can never happen again," Cuomo said. Every hospital, he has said, must have a 90-day supply of PPE at the "COVID rate of usage."

The new information, Cuomo added, "shows everyone how important masks,

gloves and sanitizers are - and that they work."

Nourish NY initiative

Cuomo also mentioned the Nourish NY initiative, which matches up farmers upstate that can't sell their products and downstate residents who are "going hungry and can't pay for food." So far, \$25 million has been allocated to the program, to bolster 25 food banks, he said.

Looking ahead, Cuomo said the hope is to garner support of philanthropies. Those interested can email covidphilanthropies@exec.ny.gov

Governor Cuomo also announced the creation of the New York Forward Re-Opening Advisory Board to help guide the state's re-opening strategy. The advisory board will be chaired by Former Secretaries to the Governor Steve Cohen and Bill Mulrow and includes over 100 business, community and civic leaders from industries across the state. A list of the members of the advisory board is available here.

"We've come up with a phased plan to re-open New York so every region in the state has the same opening template as we begin this process," Governor Cuomo said. "We have to be smart about this -



No one in New York State can be evicted until Aug. 20, Gov Andrew Cuomo said Thursday, May 7.

emotions can't drive our re-opening process - and we've come up with factual data points that each region must monitor as they begin to re-open. We've also created a New York Forward Re-Opening Advisory Board made up of business, academic, community and civic leaders from across the state to help guide this process and ensure businesses are following the necessary guidelines to preserve public health as we work towards a new normal."

'80K cases reported in April daily', says WHO Director-General



WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that communities should be fully educated to adjust to what will be a "new norm"

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK (TIP): An average of 80,000 COVID-19 cases were reported each day in April to the WHO has said, noting that South Asian nations are seeing a spike in the infections while the numbers are declining in regions such as Western Europe.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that countries must also be able to manage any risk of the disease being imported into their territories, and communities should be fully educated to adjust to what will be a "new norm".

He said as the countries press forward in the common fight against COVID-19, they should also lay the groundwork for resilient health systems globally.

"Since the beginning of April, an average of around 80,000 new cases have been reported to the WHO every day," Ghebreyesus said.

He said while the numbers are declining in Western Europe, more cases are being reported from Eastern Europe, Africa, South-East Asia, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Americas.

While some countries are reporting an increase in cases over time, many have seen caseloads rise because they have ramped up testing, he said.

(Source:PTI)

New Jersey's Death Toll Climbs to 8,801, Health Emergency Extended for another 30 Days

After Dr Priya Khanna's death her father Satyender Dev Khanna also dies due to COVID-19

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): Indian American Dr. Satyender Dev Khanna passed away in New Jersey April 21 after his daughter Dr Priya Khanna's death due to Covid-19.

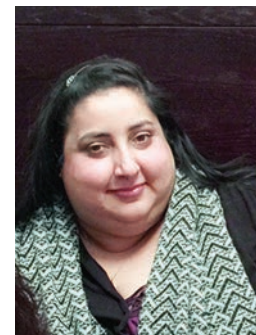
Priya Khanna, 43 died at Clara Mass Hospital on April 13. This week, her father, Dr. Satyender Dev Khanna, 78, passed away. Both physicians had been sick since the first week in April. Their doctors were urgently searching for plasma donors to treat them.

"Dr. Satyender Dev Khanna and Dr. Priya Khanna were father and daughter. They both dedicated their lives to helping others. This is a family dedicated to health and medicine. Our words cannot amply express our condolences", tweeted Governor Phil Murphy.

"He is being remembered by colleagues as 'A gentle and caring physician.' He also had a passion for bicycling and he often found peace from the hustle of the hospital in biking along the Jersey shore", said Gov. Phil Murphy in his daily press conference on Thursday May 7.



"Dr. Satyender Dev Khanna and Dr. Priya Khanna were father and daughter. They both dedicated their lives to helping others. This is a family dedicated to health and medicine. Our words cannot amply express our condolences", said Gov Murphy.



"Priya will be remembered as a caring and selfless person who put others first and even while in the fighting her own battle", Murphy added. "We commit in their memory to saving as many lives as we can."

Satyender left behind his wife, Dr. Kamlish Khanna, a pediatrician, and Priya's two sisters, Dr. Sue Ganda Khanna, an emergency medicine physician, and Dr. Anisha Khanna, a pediatrician.

According to the latest update by state officials, coronavirus pandemic in New Jersey has now claimed at least 8,801 lives, with 133,635 total cases in the state.

Governor Murphy signed an executive order May 6 extending the state's public health emergency for another 30 days.

"I want to make it absolutely clear that this action does not mean that we are seeing anything in the data which would pause our path forward and it should not be interpreted by anyone to mean we are going to be tightening any of the restrictions currently in place," Murphy said at a daily briefing. He stressed that even though the data is showing positive signs, citizens must continue to take active measures against the virus, specifically with social distancing.

Indian-American Nominated by Trump as US Representative to IBRD



Ashok Michael Pinto has worked as a Special Assistant and Associate Counsel to former president George W Bush

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald Trump has nominated Indian-American Ashok Michael Pinto of Illinois as a representative to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Pinto's nomination was sent to the Senate for confirmation May 4.

Pinto, who has worked as a Special Assistant and Associate Counsel to former president George W Bush, currently serves as Counsellor to the Under Secretary for International Affairs at the United States Department of the Treasury.

With a BA from Stanford University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Illinois College of Law, Pinto was a Counsellor to General Counsel at Treasury.

He also held senior leadership roles in the United States Congress, including Chief Investigative Counsel and Policy Director to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation in the Senate, Chief Counsel for Investigations to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in the House of Representatives, and Special Counsel to the Committee on the Judiciary in the Senate.

Indian-American Attorney Nominated by Trump as Federal Court Judge in NY

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American Saritha Komatireddy, who is a prosecutor and teaches law at the prestigious Columbia Law School, has been nominated by President Donald Trump as the judge of the US district court for the Eastern District of New York. Trump sent her nomination to the US Senate May 4.

Komatireddy is an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York. She has served in the Office's National Security and Cybercrime Section, Long Island Division, and General Crimes Section. She has also served as the Acting Deputy Chief of the International Narcotics and Money



Originally hailing from Telangana, Komatireddy graduated from Harvard Law School

Laundering Section and as a Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property Coordinator.

Previously, Komatireddy practiced law at Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd, Evans & Figel P.L.L.C. in Washington, D.C., and was Counsel to the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling. She clerked for the Honorable Brett M. Kavanaugh, then on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Komatireddy received her J.D. from Harvard Law School, where she was the Bluebook Chair for the Harvard Law Review, and she received her A.B. from Harvard College.

Indian American Suparna Rajaram Elected Member of American Academy of Arts and Sciences

NEW YORK (TIP): Suparna Rajaram, distinguished professor of cognitive science in the Department of Psychology at Stony Brook University, has been elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Academy members are world leaders in the arts and sciences, business, philanthropy and public affairs.

Dr. Rajaram's research interests include human memory, social transmission of memory, collective memory, collaborative remembering, transmission of false memory, memory and emotion, learning and education, social memory and aging, implicit versus explicit memory, recollective experience, and human amnesia. Her research group conducts research on human learning and memory, with a major focus on the social aspects of memory. They are also investigating the nature of emotional memory,

with an emphasis on the learning process, social influences, and autobiographical content that pertain to emotional information.

Dr. Rajaram received her PhD in Cognitive Psychology from Rice University, where she was also awarded the Rice University Fellowship. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Cognitive Neuroscience at Temple University School of Medicine before joining Stony Brook in 1993 as an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology. She served as the associate dean for faculty affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences from 2012 to 2015. Several prestigious organizations have given their support to Dr. Rajaram's work, including the National Institutes of Mental Health (from which she received a FIRST Award), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Russell Sage Foundation and Google.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Dr. Rajaram received her PhD in Cognitive Psychology from Rice University, where she was also awarded the Rice University Fellowship

Indian American San Diego Psychiatrist Pays \$145,000 to Resolve Opioid Overprescribing Investigation

SAN DIEGO, CA (TIP): San Diego area psychiatrist Prakash Bhatia, M.D., has paid \$145,000 to resolve allegations that he overprescribed opioids. Dr. Bhatia previously owned and operated Progressive Health and Wellness in El Cajon, California, practicing pain medicine.

The settlement stems from an investigation that the Drug Enforcement Administration initiated into whether Dr. Bhatia improperly prescribed opioids to his patients at Progressive Health and Wellness (PHW) in violation of the civil provisions of the Controlled Substances Act. Pursuant to the Controlled Substances Act, health care providers may write prescriptions for opioids only for a legitimate medical purpose while acting in the usual course of their professional practice. Based on its investigation, the United States alleged that from March 2013 to December 2017,

Dr. Bhatia wrote opioid prescriptions at PHW, including for hydromorphone, morphine, methadone, oxycodone, fentanyl and oxymorphone without a legitimate medical purpose and/or outside the usual course of his professional practice, in violation of the Controlled Substances Act. The United States alleged that Dr. Bhatia also prescribed these medications in combination with depressant medications (including benzodiazepines and muscle relaxants), which are known to increase the risk of abuse, addiction and overdose.

While the Department of Justice continues to aggressively investigate prescribers who brazenly seek to make money by writing opioid prescriptions to those who have no pain, this investigation exemplifies the Department's willingness to scrutinize whether doctors treating patients who

actually suffer painful conditions are nevertheless overprescribing opioids. Health care providers treating patients who suffer from pain must still only prescribe opioids in accordance with recognized and accepted medical standards.

Indeed, public health experts have, for over a decade, been increasingly warning health care providers that overdose risk is elevated in patients receiving medically prescribed opioids, particularly those receiving high dosages. As such, leading medical organizations, and domestic and international government agencies recommend health care providers carefully track the potency of opioids prescribed to patients by noting the Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME, also commonly referred to as Morphine Equivalent Dose or MED) of prescribed opioids. Among other things, tracking



Dr. Prakash Bhatia at Progressive Health and Wellness

MMEs advances better practices for pain management by reinforcing the need for providers to consider alternatives to using high-dosage opioids to treat pain, and to appropriately justify decisions to use opioids at dosages that place patients at high risk of addiction, abuse, and overdose.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Scholar Designs New Chip for Ultra-Low Power Wi-Fi Connectivity

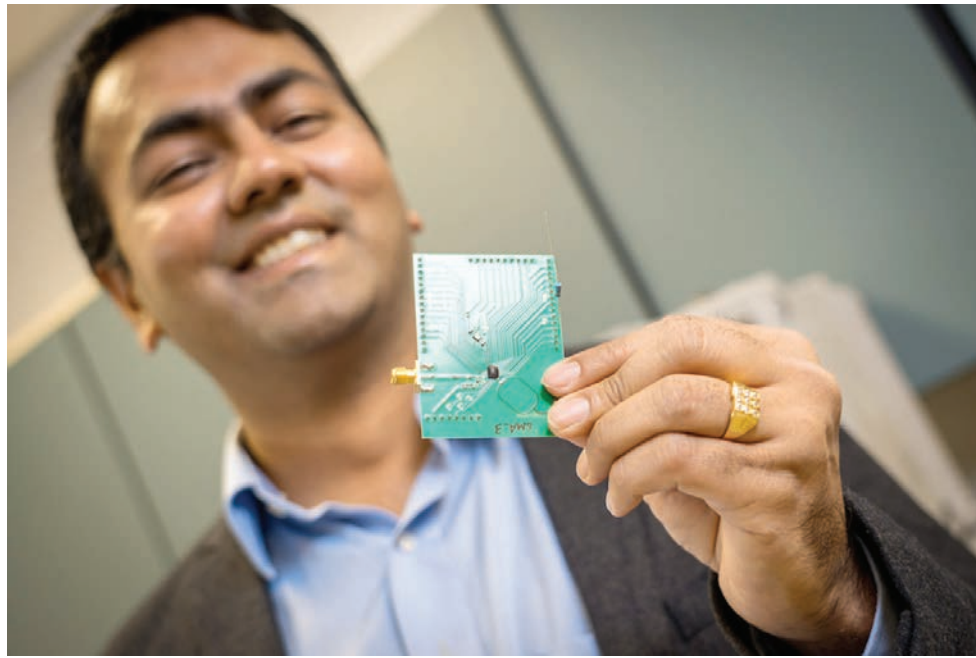
SAN DIEGO, CA (TIP): A team of Engineers led by an Indian American at the University of California San Diego have developed a "smart surface" that could make signal available in dead spots-and also make the existing connection twice as fast.

UC San Diego electrical and computer engineering professor Dinesh Bharadia and his team presented their work at the ISSCC 2020 conference Feb. 16 to 20 in San Francisco.

"You can stick this on your wall like a painting to improve WiFi connectivity in your home or office," said Dinesh Bharadia.

The technology could benefit both employees who are working remotely and students who are receiving remote instruction. It could also reduce interference from your neighbors' WiFi networks, which would make working or learning from home easier for everyone, Bharadia said.

Bharadia received his PhD from Stanford University in 2016 and was a Postdoctoral Associate at MIT. Specifically, in his dissertation, he built prototype of a radio, that invalidated a



Dinesh received his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 2010, where he received the gold medal for graduating at the top of his class

long held assumption in wireless is that radios cannot transmit and receive at the same time on the same frequency. In recognition of his work, Dinesh was named to Forbes 30 under 30 for the

science category worldwide list. Dinesh was also named a Marconi Young Scholar for outstanding wireless research and awarded the Michael Dukakis Leadership award. He was also

named as one of the top 35 Innovators under 35 in the world by MIT Technology Review in 2016. Dinesh is also recipient of the Sarah and Thomas Kailath Stanford Graduate Fellowship. From 2013 to 2015, he was a Principal Scientist for Kumu Networks, where he worked to commercialize his research on full-duplex radios, building a product that underwent successful field trials at Tier 1 network providers worldwide like Deutsche Telekom and SK Telecom. This product is currently under deployment. His research interests include advancing the theory and design of modern wireless communication systems, wireless imaging, sensor networks and data-center networks.

Dinesh received his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur in 2010, where he received the gold medal for graduating at the top of his class. His research has been published at top conferences such as SIGCOMM, NSDI, MobiCom and has been cited over 2000 times. He would offer core courses in wireless communication, IoT networks, and networked systems building.

Indian American Congressman Calls for Enhanced Resources to Support Health Care Workers' Mental Health

CHICAGO (TIP): Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi led 90 of his colleagues in Congress in sending a bipartisan letter to House leadership calling for the inclusion of enhanced mental health resources for healthcare workers in the next coronavirus aid package. The letter requested that an HHS grant program be established to allow healthcare employers and facilities to confidentially assess and treat the mental health of frontline workers in addition to ordering a comprehensive study on healthcare workers' mental health. The study would focus on identifying the factors that contribute to distress and burnout, the barriers to accessing treatment, the ramifications for patient outcomes and the healthcare system, and ways to address these problems.

"As the husband of a physician, I know the burden borne by frontline healthcare workers as they risk their health fighting this pandemic and confronting its human cost on a daily basis," said Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi. "We have heard countless tragic stories about the toll it is taking on their mental wellbeing but to date, our government has not done nearly enough to help these heroes. I'm proud to lead my colleagues in this effort to ensure we provide vital support for the mental health of those who are enduring so much during this crisis to take care of all of us."

"The COVID-19 outbreak has presented numerous challenges for our essential healthcare workers," said

Congresswoman Elise Stefanik. "It is imperative that we provide adequate resources and funding in any forthcoming legislative packages to support mental health for healthcare workers and help our communities address this crisis on all fronts. The provisions and funding outlined in this letter will ensure struggling workers have access to the resources they need. I will continue to advocate for initiatives to help our North Country communities respond to and recover from this crisis."

"The health care workers who are putting their lives on the line every day are true heroes. We need to make sure they can get whatever resources they need right now, including access to mental health care," said Congressman David Cicilline. "I'm pleased to join Congressman Krishnamoorthi and our colleagues in fighting to make sure that all health care workers can get mental health treatment if and when they need it."

"Our healthcare workers have been on the frontlines of this crisis since day one, and they need all the support we can provide as they cope with the day to day struggles of a stressful work environment," said Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick. "We must continue to make sure that they have the needed mental health resources available when they need it most."

"While physicians are trained to place the needs of their patients at the forefront of their work, it is vitally

important that physicians also tend to all aspects of their health," said President Patrice A. Harris, M.D. of the American Medical Association (AMA). "Physicians are experiencing a unique level of stress and potential emotional trauma because of the pandemic, a development that deserves closer analysis. The AMA commends Rep. Krishnamoorthi and the other bipartisan letter cosigners for exploring how the long-term impact of treating COVID-19 patients will affect physicians' mental health, as well as their commitment to harnessing federal resources to study issues associated with stress and burnout."

"Surgeons, physicians, and healthcare providers are facing unprecedented and overwhelming mental health and well-being challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because COVID-19 is a novel virus, the absence of evidence-based protocols, treatments, vaccines, and best practices affects health care personnel at virtually all levels," said David Hoyt, MD, FACS, Executive Director of the American College of Surgeon. "The resulting emotional burnout and physical exhaustion can lead to mental health concerns and suicide ideation. The American College of Surgeons strongly supports inclusion of mental health resources for frontline health care workers in the next relief package."

"ACEP deeply appreciates Rep. Krishnamoorthi's leadership in ensuring that emergency physicians and other frontline health care providers have



Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi led 90 of his colleagues in Congress in sending a bipartisan letter to House leadership

access to the mental health resources they need as they serve on the frontlines of the greatest public health crisis of our lifetime," said William Jaquis, MD, FACEP, President of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). "I, along with other emergency physicians across the country, have watched our colleagues rise to the challenge with selflessness and compassion despite the personal risks of providing care and the toll of loneliness as we isolate ourselves from our families-but we should not suffer silently."

White House considers measures to boost economy without Congress

**Trump administration is considering pushing tax deadline back again and other unilateral steps
Record 20.5 million American jobs lost in April.
Unemployment rate soars to 14.7%**

WASHINGTON (TIP): The White House is considering another delay in the deadline for filing federal taxes along with additional measures aimed at providing economic relief for Americans that can be adopted without legislation from Congress, two people familiar with the discussions said.

Tax Day has already been pushed to July 15 but could be extended further to Sept. 15, or as late as Dec. 15, these people said, though administration officials stressed that no decision has been made.

Another proposal under consideration is a moratorium on new federal regulations, and White House officials are looking into whether the president can take executive action to protect businesses from lawsuits if employees become infected with coronavirus while on the job. Lawmakers have discussed some liability protection but administration officials see the issue as urgent.

The potential for new measures comes as the White House braces for a jobs report on Friday that is expected to be the worst in history, with one of the president's advisers predicting close to a 20 percent unemployment rate. That's nearly six times the unemployment rate prior to the coronavirus pandemic. On Thursday, May 7, the Labor Department announced that another 3.2 million Americans filed for unemployment benefits, for a total of more than 34 million in just seven weeks.

Many of the economic proposals the White House is considering depend on

Americans reopening businesses and returning to work, with one administration official saying the timing of any announcements could hinge on how that unfolds. "As states begin to reopen we need to wait and see where and what the need is," the official said.

The goal is for the measures to work in concert with the president's push to reopen the country, which officials said was hastened in recent weeks by a series of economic briefings that included dire projections through the summer and fall if businesses continue to be shuttered and Americans remain out of work.

Some of the projections showed the unemployment rate skyrocketing above 30 percent and the widespread collapse of small businesses, according to multiple people familiar with the briefings. One person briefed on the numbers said at least one of the projections warned of the potential collapse of as much as 50 percent of the country's small businesses. Other officials said that number was higher than the projections they'd seen.

The projections have infuriated Trump, who just two months ago told Americans in his State of the Union address that "our economy is the best it has ever been," two of the people familiar with the briefings said.

"He lost it," one of them said.

The result was a president who started emphasizing the need for the country to reopen sooner than some of his advisers expected, officials said.

Trump reviewed some of the options

for boosting the economy during a "working weekend" at Camp David, where he hosted a group of economic and outside counselors for meetings on "the reopening and economic rejuvenation" broadly.

Among the ideas his team has considered is a tax break for real estate and stock sales by indexing capital gains to inflation and temporarily suspending rules to fast-track possible drug treatments, officials said. Though one official said indexing capital gains for inflation is not currently under consideration.

In terms of legislation, officials said the president continues to back a payroll tax cut, despite opposition from even members of his own party, and infrastructure spending, though some of the economic advice he's received argues against additional spending.

Friday's jobs report will be the first since the coronavirus pandemic that reflects a full month of a mothballed U.S. economy. And White House officials said they plan to own the numbers.

"We're not going to shy away from them," one official said.

Instead, officials said, the president and his advisers plan to make the argument that while the economic pain is deep, it can be temporary if the country opens as quickly as possible. At the same time they want to soon outline a series of steps the president is taking to give Americans a roadmap of sorts for how the country will recover economically.

The challenge for the president, however, is for his prescriptions to quickly yield signs of economic improvement as he campaigns for reelection, some of his allies said.

"Trump is going to need an improving



economy in November or else he's going to lose," said Stephen Moore, who has advised the president from outside the White House on economic issues.

White House spokesman Judd Deere said Trump's trade and energy policies, tax cuts and reduction of federal regulations prior to the current economic downturn will help the economy thrive again.

"As President Trump has said, we are going to ensure that we take care of all Americans so that we emerge from this challenge stronger and with a growing economy, which is why the White House is focused on pro-growth, middle class tax and regulatory relief," Deere said in a statement.

Part of Trump's message is to cast the second quarter GDP, which is expected to show negative growth, as an outlier and to project optimism for the third and fourth quarters of the fiscal year.

Before the pandemic, the Trump campaign planned to showcase strong financial gains as the centerpiece of the president's 2020 pitch. Without that, his political aides have had to shift the narrative to an American comeback story, as opposed to a consistently booming message of prosperity.

The president has dangled tax cuts before, without ever enacting them. He floated a "major" promise for the middle class back in the 2018 midterms that never materialized. And long before the pandemic, starting last September, Trump hinted at "tax cuts 2.0," which also haven't become reality in the nine months since. *(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)*

What New Yorkers Need to Know

Nonessential businesses will stay closed through May 15th

1. All K-12 schools and college facilities statewide will remain closed and continue to provide distance learning, meal delivery and childcare services for the remainder of the school year.
2. Governor Cuomo issued executive orders 202.17 and 202.18 requiring all people in New York to wear masks or face coverings in public, including when taking public or private transportation or riding in for-hire vehicles.
3. New Yorkers without health insurance can apply through NY State of Health through June 15, 2020; must apply within 60 days of losing coverage.
4. New York State's moratorium on COVID-related evictions will be extended until August 20th with fees for missed or late rent payments banned during the moratorium.
5. Nourish New York Initiative has helped nearly 50 food banks, more than 2,100 New York farms and more than 20,000 households across the state.
6. Antibody testing results of health care workers show infection rate among health care workers is about the same or lower than the general public.
7. Governor Cuomo extended an executive order allowing out-of-state health care professionals to continue practicing in New York State.
8. The results of the state's completed antibody testing study show 12.3 percent of the population have COVID-19 antibodies.
9. A new contest asks New Yorkers to create and share a video explaining why wearing a mask in public is important. Interested applicants can go to wearamask.ny.gov.
10. Governor Cuomo outlined the results of new hospitalization data that was collected in a targeted effort to further reduce the number of new hospitalizations per day.
11. The state is partnering with the Kate Spade New York Foundation and Crisis Text Line to provide a 24/7 emotional support service for frontline health care workers: workers can text NYFRONTLINE to 741-741 to access these emotional support services.
12. New York State-regulated health insurers will be required to waive cost-sharing, including deductibles, copayments and coinsurance, for in-network mental health services for



frontline essential workers during COVID-19.

13. New Yorkers can call the COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline at 1-844-863-9314 for mental health counseling.
14. Testing is free for all eligible New Yorkers as ordered by a health care provider.
15. Your local health department is your community contact for COVID-19 concerns.

Air India Flights to Airlift Stranded Citizens from US from May 9

NEW YORK / NEW DELHI (TIP): Government of India has decided to facilitate the return of Indian nationals from the United States, who could not travel due to COVID-19 related international travel restrictions, in a phased manner.

Air India will be operating non-scheduled commercial flights from the U.S. to various cities in India from 9 to 15 May 2020 in the first phase. Those taking the special flights will be charged Rs 100,000 from the US. Additional fare may be charged for domestic sectors.

Air India noncommercial flights will fly out of San Francisco, Chicago, Newark and Washington, DC. While the airline will operate two flights out of San

Francisco, Chicago and Newark, it will fly one flight from Washington, DC.

Since the number of seats on the flights would be limited, passengers with the compelling cases such as those facing medical emergencies or requiring return due to bereavement in the family, students, pregnant women, elderly or those facing expiry of visas will be given priority, and identified through an electronic random selection method.

The cost of travel from designated airport in the USA to the designated airport in India will be borne by the passenger. The Embassy/Consulates will share the details of passengers identified with Air India Offices that will contact them directly regarding booking of

tickets and mode of payment. Refund or adjustments, if any, for previously booked tickets may be processed separately with the Air India.

All passengers will be required to undergo medical screening before boarding the flight and only asymptomatic passengers will be allowed to travel.

All passengers on arrival in India will be medically screened and would have to download and register on Arogya Setu app.

All passengers will need to undergo a 14-day mandatory quarantine on arrival in India in institutional quarantine facilities on payment basis as per the protocols framed by Government of



Air India will be operating non-scheduled commercial flights from the U.S. to various cities in India from 9 to 15 May 2020 in the first phase

India. COVID test would be done after 14 days and further action would be taken according to applicable health protocols.

All passengers will have to follow the protocols and procedures including Health Protocols issued by the Government of the USA on departure and by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Civil Aviation and other concerned authorities of Government of India before, during the journey and on arrival in India.

All passengers will be required to sign an Undertaking which will be collected from them at the airport before boarding the flight.

Gregory Meeks advises New Yorkers to Vote in the Primaries

NEW YORK (TIP): Gregory Meeks is on the ballot in the June 23 primary election and wants to make sure all have the information "to share with your friends about the important changes that have been made to how New Yorkers are going to vote in June. Our presidential primary has been cancelled because Joe Biden is the presumptive nominee and only candidate still campaigning, but there are important nominations being decided in June including Congress, State Legislature, and the Queens Borough President".

In an open letter sent to The Indian Panorama, Meeks says: "To protect us all from a resurgence of COVID-19 through community contact, changes have been made to make it easier for everyone to vote by mail. At this point the plan is for in-person voting to also be an option, but I recommend everyone take the opportunity to vote by mail as soon as they can.

"Postal voting in New York will be a two-step process. First, every registered voter should receive an absentee ballot application with a postage paid return envelope. When you receive yours, please complete it and mark 'Temporary Illness' on the form as the reason you are requesting the ballot - this definition has been temporarily expanded to include both those affected by COVID-19 and/or the potential of contracting the virus. Mail your application immediately but no later than later seven days prior to the election. Applications can also be dropped off in person at your county Board of Elections (BOE) office up to the day before the election.

"Absentee ballot applications will be mailed to the address at which you are registered to vote. If you have made arrangements as a result of COVID-19 to



I recommend everyone take the opportunity to vote by mail as soon as they can: Gregory Meeks

stay elsewhere, you can still apply for absentee ballot online, or downloading it to return either by email or regular mail it back to your county BOE:

Queens: 118-35 Queens Boulevard 11th Floor, Forest Hills, New York 11375) or AbsenteeJune2020@boe.nyc, 1-866-VOTE-NYC, or <https://nycabsentee.com/>. Request Ballot/Queens info.

Nassau: 240 Old Country Road - 5th Floor, PO Box 9002 Mineola, NY 11501 InfoBOE@nassaucountyny.gov or 516-571-8683. Request Ballot/Nassau Info

"A lot is being asked of all of us during this pandemic and it is vitally important all exercise our right to vote in the upcoming June 23 primary election. Please share this note with your friends and encourage them to sign up for more email updates and to follow me @GregoryMeeksNYC on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook".

New Jersey Governor's Ratings Soar Amid Pandemic, Finds Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy's leadership during the coronavirus pandemic has catapulted him to one of the most liked governors in New Jersey history, according to the latest Rutgers-Eagleton Poll.

Echoing the highs reached by governors Thomas Kean, Christine Todd Whitman and Chris Christie, Murphy's favorability rating is almost touching the 60% mark (59% favorable to 20% unfavorable). This represents a 16-point increase for Murphy since this time last year. The governor also now beats Christie's Sandy-fueled job approval high: 77% of New Jerseyans currently approve of the overall job Murphy is doing (a 25-point leap since last year), while 21% disapprove.

Murphy gets high marks from residents specifically on his handling of the coronavirus outbreak. Almost three-quarters give Murphy an 'A' (39%) or 'B' (33%). Murphy is bested only slightly by his counterpart across the Hudson, Gov. Andrew Cuomo: 51% of Garden Staters give the New York governor an 'A' and 25% a 'B.' Local officials in New Jersey also receive solid grades from New Jerseyans, with two-thirds awarding their local policymakers an 'A' (30%) or 'B' (37%).

Among federal officials, Anthony Fauci garners the highest grades from New Jerseyans for his handling of the pandemic. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director gets an 'A' from 44% of New Jerseyans and a B from 31%. New Jerseyans' grades for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are mostly concentrated in the 'B' to 'C' range. President Donald Trump receives the worst marks of all on his handling of the pandemic: 42% of New Jerseyans



Governor Phil Murphy's leadership during the coronavirus pandemic has catapulted him to one of the most liked governors in New Jersey history

give him a failing grade, while the rest are somewhat evenly dispersed among the other letter grade options.



By Yogesh Gupta

Japan has announced an initiative to set up a fund of \$2.2 billion to encourage companies to move out of China. Given the hardening of bipartisan consensus in the US to probe China's role in the pandemic and take punitive measures, firms of medical equipment, pharmaceuticals and other essential goods may relocate the production of these items in their own and friendly EPN countries.

India is considering a number of steps to attract the foreign companies moving out of China. These include a reduction in corporate taxation to the lowest level in the region and assistance to the moving companies through the provision of land, utilities and essential infrastructure. There are, however, several weaknesses which India will have to address, such as low productivity of our industries due to outdated technologies, lack of an ecosystem of efficient suppliers who could manufacture quality goods at the required speed in large volumes and logistical and infrastructural constraints, besides membership of important trade groupings to emerge as a serious destination for supply chains relocating from China.

Keith Krach, an undersecretary for economic growth, energy and environment in the US government, recently said in an interview that the Trump Administration is 'turbocharging' an initiative to remove global industrial supply chains from China as it examines various ways to 'punish' Beijing for its mishandling of the Covid-19 pandemic. These may include more tariffs and sanctions on China to push foreign companies to move outsourcing and manufacturing out of that country. A strong view is emerging, shared by many countries that they should not depend upon an authoritarian, unaccountable and insecure China with its unfair and opaque processes, for procuring essential goods and services.

The US is considering setting up an 'Economic Prosperity Network' (EPN) which will be a grouping of trusted partners like Japan, India, South Korea, Vietnam, Australia and New Zealand which will work on the basis of similar standards on everything, from digital business, energy, infrastructure, research to trade, education and commerce. This Quad (US, Japan, India and Australia) plus group would drive an agenda which would balance the economic, political and security imperatives so that the

The immediate backdrop for this initiative has been the massive loss of lives and damage to the economies due to Covid-19 in the US, the UK, France, Italy, Spain, Japan, India and other countries. Many believe that this loss could have been considerably reduced had China shared the vital information about the pandemic with other countries transparently at an early stage and not allowed its five million nationals carrying the virus to travel to several countries before January 25 this year. The growing anger against China has been sharpened further by its 'warrior diplomats' who have gone all out

to annoy the local governments by using the open threats of Beijing's clout as a major trade partner.

The shifting of supply chains from China is an old phenomenon which started after 2008 as the global economy witnessed new rebalancing with several emerging economies becoming the latest engines of demand and multinational companies relocating supply chains in or around these markets. The expansion in trade in services such as telecommunications, information technology, business services and finance created a fresh set of supply chains. The increase of wages in China post 2008 and the escalation of tariff war between the US and China after 2018 further prompted many businesses to shift a part of the existing or new investments in countries outside China.

Various sectoral chains have reacted differently to the new political and economic conditions. The textiles, clothing and footwear companies are scouting for low labor cost countries. The automobile manufacturing companies are aggregating in or around the prime demand destinations such as China, India and the US. The electronics supply chains are centered primarily in high-tech locations such as the US, Europe, Japan, South Korea and Malaysia, though some have also relocated to Vietnam, India and Mexico.

China, however, remains a key overseas destination for many American and other foreign companies due to its unrivalled high-tech supply ecosystem. The supply chains in China, built over a period of 20 years or more, have vast networks of manufacturers and suppliers, fully tuned to the US quality control standards, on time delivery, safety certifications and production of large volumes. The US iPhone maker, Apple, has faced hurdles in diversifying its production beyond China due to the non-availability of highly skilled engineers, lack of high-value added and innovation-based suppliers who could offer competitive rates and the absence of reliable logistics, transport, infrastructure and utility services.

For these reasons, many companies will continue to retain a significant part of their manufacturing in China to tap the large Chinese market. Also, the demand for goods in many countries in the post-Covid-19 environment has sharply fallen and will take years to recover. Therefore, the setting up of green-field units will take time. Many business executives will keenly watch how the US-China rivalry under President Trump plays out further and if the former would be re-elected in the upcoming presidential elections in November 2020; the prospects of a mercurial Trump striking a new trade deal with China if the latter were

AS I SEE IT

Shift of supply chains from China accelerates



Anger mounts: Automobile manufacturing companies are aggregating in such prime demand destinations as India and the US

to offer more economic incentives can't be ruled out either.

Japan has already announced an initiative to set up a fund of \$2.2 billion to encourage companies to move out of China. Given the hardening of bipartisan consensus in the US to probe China's role in the pandemic and take punitive measures against it, the manufacturers of medical equipment, pharmaceuticals and other essential goods may relocate the production of these items in their own and friendly EPN countries. Such an initiative by the US will, undoubtedly, find resonance among the European countries and their allies in the other continents. It has the potential to sharply accelerate the shifting of supply chains from China, particularly those aimed at providing goods to the other countries.

The spurt in the relocation of supply chains from China will, undoubtedly, affect its economy (trade contributes about 40 per cent to its GDP), high-value jobs, purchasing power of its people and even its internal stability. It must be remembered that much of China's economy prospered when it was an integral part of the global supply chains and the manufacturing capital of the world.

India is considering a number of steps to attract the foreign companies moving out of China. These include a reduction in corporate taxation to the lowest level in the region and assistance to the moving companies through the provision of land, utilities and essential infrastructure. There are, however, several weaknesses which India will have to address, such as low productivity of our industries due to outdated technologies, lack of an ecosystem of efficient suppliers who could manufacture quality goods at the required speed in large volumes and logistical and infrastructural constraints, besides membership of important trade groupings to emerge as a serious destination for supply chains relocating from China.

(The author is a former ambassador)

GUEST COMMENT

Synchronized Centre-state effort is a crucial requirement

After May 17, what? Sonia Gandhi's pointed question on what next after the third phase of the coronavirus-induced lockdown ends calls for a transparent and clear-cut strategy. A less confusing, better-processed graded exit would require higher Centre-state coordination and appreciation. At Wednesday's video conference of the Congress president with CMs of states where the party is in power, Captain Amarinder Singh reiterated

his concern that 'people sitting in Delhi are deciding on classification of (Covid-19) zones without knowing what's happening on the ground'. Rajasthan counterpart Ashok Gehlot concurred that the Union government was not giving any assistance, and that 'without an extensive stimulus package, how will states and the country run?'

It would be unfair on the Modi government's part to consider suggestions and views by CMs of states not ruled by the BJP as criticism of its noteworthy efforts in the fight against the pandemic. The

task at hand is onerous. A combined effort is in national interest and of paramount importance. If the Punjab CM, who is not known to mince his words, asserts that those heading governments in states know better about what is happening in their areas, choosing to ignore or belittle what is being said would amount to poor judgement. The message is simple: we need each other, and the battle asks of us to be in it together.

Under pressure and not wanting to be seen as unsympathetic, states have been depending on self-devised protocols to manage the return of

migrants and those stuck in other states. Any adverse implication, like the huge number of positive cases among Punjab pilgrims from Nanded, and a blame game and political to-and-fro is prompt. The Centre's role has been less than satisfactory in helping out beleaguered states. Covid-19 is a public health issue and also one of sheer survival. A synchronized effort is the only option. CMs desperately seeking help is not a call for alms, it is a harsh reminder that what is expected is not forthcoming.

(Tribune, India)

What after May 17?

US India 2020 Trade Relations in Health Sector under COVID-19 Challenge



By H.S. Panaser

We are living in unprecedented times. The entire world is focusing on the coronavirus pandemic. Legions have contracted the illness; many have died from it. The virus surprised every sector of society and caught many people unawares and unprepared. Health officials are working furiously to address and contain it. But just as unprepared are families who do not know what their loved ones would want if faced with a serious or life-threatening illness. With life coming to a near standstill in America, it's time to have these important conversations with the people who mean the most to you. To ask them about the kind of medical care they want or don't want in times of serious illness. If you haven't had those conversations yet, now is the time.

Our prayers are with the families currently dealing with COVID-19 and other serious illnesses, particularly those who have lost a loved one. All of us in some way have been impacted by the uncertainties related to this dangerous virus. For some, it means cancelled travel plans or events. For others, it means lost work. For those in healthcare, it means bracing for unknown clinical challenges. For families with loved ones in senior care facilities, it means limited visits. I lost my father in law Professor Emeritus Harkishan Singh, Padma Shri awardee on March 20th. We as family could not join his final journey. Due to non availability of flights. We were humbled to see the live coverage when this saint was, on special request, brought to the Panjab University for the Faculty members and students to pay their last respects before taking him to the cremation ground.

Future development between US India relations in Covid 19 era, as I see.

Both the United States and India will be key players in future developments in the medical supply trade relevant to the COVID-19 crisis, as each is a giant on the world stage in pharmaceutical production. India is the second largest exporter of pharmaceuticals to the United States and the United States is the largest exporter of medical devices to India. However, each has now put into place or is considering trade restrictions in these sectors. India has banned exports of certain active pharmaceutical ingredients in order to counteract recent interruptions in supplies from China and has just put into place a ban on exports of ventilators and surgical and patient masks. The United States is reportedly considering new "Buy American" restrictions on pharmaceutical products. Even before that, or in parallel, the United States and India should start their own coordination on trade matters relevant

to the COVID-19 crisis. The two sides have already begun to reengage in their efforts to conclude a bilateral trade deal, following their failure to do so when US President Donald J. Trump visited India in February. Prospects for this deal remain very good given that the pending issues are no more than a handful and the ministers involved-US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal-enjoy a strong rapport.

When all is said and done, there is a strong likelihood that COVID-19 will have hit both the United States and India hard. Even despite their differences, they share much in common as the two largest democracies in the world, which may make the challenges more difficult in steering public opinion towards social distancing and related preventative actions. The United States and India also have a deepening strategic relationship and their efforts to conclude a bilateral trade deal-even as difficult as that has been-suggest greater potential for expanding their collaborative work. More significantly, this is precisely the kind of situation that can test the potential for building out the relationship and contributing to a larger global response. Let a new initiative in the US-India partnership begin-one that can contribute to a global response to COVID-19.

It is of interest to understand the relationship between small companies and innovation / R&D in USA, India and China.

Countries that have competitive small & medium industries (Bulls Eye) witness a high degree of innovation. For example, the US has had 50% of all innovations and 94% of all radical innovations-since the Second World War-coming from new and small firms. The number of patent applications, another indicator for innovation, validates this theory further. Small & medium enterprises in China, which due to their low product prices have worried Companies around the world, file 80% of intellectual property applications in China, as compared to a mere 15% by Indian small & medium enterprises in India. An effective way to induce innovation among Indian small businesses is to adopt a programme like the Small Business Innovation and Research (SBIR), popular in the US and a few other countries. Under SBIR, governments disburse funds on a competitive basis to small enterprises and help them build their R&D capabilities. Improving R&D will boost innovation and make enterprises more competitive. As a result, they will generate higher employment and will be more productive with improved products and services. In fact, SBIR in the US has helped small businesses secure over 67,000 patents since its inception. Thus this segment will create a very large number of employment, skill



development and increase in infrastructure, and in totality boost commerce and GDP.

Indian Pharmaceuticals is a sunrise industry with a competitive advantage for India globally. We should leverage India's position by unleashing entrepreneur spirit. The bullish outlook for health care segment is now taking India in a forward momentum. The market size of India in Pharmaceuticals alone is estimated to be US \$100 billion and medical devices is US \$25 billion by 2025. In the year 2019 India did export worth 20 billion dollars alone and had crossed US \$25 billion in the first three months of 2020. The happy news for Indian Pharmaceutical industry in totality is now the amendment in FDI policy where one can invest up to 100% specially if it is medical devices as we are importing 80% of medical devices. India is looking towards undecisive growth tenure as 55 billion US dollar of product line is going off patents and this will certainly help India accelerate a higher market share and exports.

As for Corona virus vaccine R&D under US India Relations, recently US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that "US India were working together to develop vaccines for COVID-19." The research of new vaccines has been in collaborative efforts between India and US going on for last three decades. It has resulted in too stopping the fight against dengue, influenza and tuberculosis. Following are some of the examples of the latest research which is being conducted between USA and India:

1. The Serum Institute of India, which is the world largest vaccine manufacturer, a 53-year-old company manufactures 1.5 billion doses annually with 1700 people. It exports 20 different vaccines to 165 nations of which majorities exports. The vaccine approximately costs about 50 Cent a dose. They have now collaborated with Codagenix a US biotech company. The new vaccine is created by reducing the virulence or removing the harmful properties of a pathogen yet keeping it alive. The animal trials started in April and the human trials are expected by

September end

2. A Hyderabad based Bharat Biotech in partnership with University of Wisconsin and US based Flugen is to make a 300 million doses of vaccine for global distribution for COVID-19. This 450-crore rupee company earlier came up with a rotavirus vaccine at \$1 a dose

3. Four other pharmaceutical companies each developing Covid vaccine and are in the early development phases: Zydex Cadila, Biological E, Indian Immunologicals and Mynvax.

In one of the interviews professor David Nabarro, at Imperial College UK said that humans will have to live with the threat of Covid for the foreseeable future because there is no guarantee that a vaccine will be successfully developed.

About the author

H. S. Panaser is Global Marketing and Business Development Consultant, Speaker and EDP Trainer. He is Founder and President of Global Indian Trade and Cultural Council. A strong and innovative leader with more than three decades of experience in fortune 500 companies in Pharmaceutical, Medical Tourism and Food and Health segment in Global Marketing and CRM Management, he launched several new products which are brand leaders globally like Zantac, Ventolin etc. He represented Max, Fortis and many other hospital chains globally in Medical Tourism. Presently, he is a global consultant for Pharmaceutical and Medical devices manufacturers and software in healthcare companies. He has a strong network of Angel Investors, Venture Capitalists and other Financial Consultants. His other affiliations and experience include Chair, Tri-state US India Political Action Committee, Ex-President, Global Haryana Chamber of Commerce, Advisor on Board, C3Summit International LLC, President, US SAARK Business Forum, Director A I Nexus, President - Global Marketing NYSO, India and Member on Board, Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association, USA.

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Nepal extends nationwide lockdown till May 18

KATHMANDU (TIP): The Nepal government has decided to extend the ongoing nationwide lockdown imposed due to the coronavirus pandemic, until May 18, while the suspension of domestic and international flights will continue till May 31. Minister of Communications and Information Technology Yubaraj Khatriwada said the government also decided to keep all border entry points shut till May 31. PTI

IMF approves USD 214 million to Nepal to address COVID-19 pandemic

WASHINGTON / KATHMANDU (TIP): The IMF on Wednesday approved a disbursement to Nepal of about USD 214 million to help the Himalayan nation cover the urgent balance of payments and fiscal needs stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said COVID-19 is having a severe impact on Nepal's remittances, tourism, and domestic activity. As such, it will substantially weaken the country's GDP growth, balance of payments and fiscal position.

During recent months, remittances have fallen considerably, tourist arrivals collapsed and domestic activity has taken a hit amid social-distancing measures, it said.

The IMF said Nepal's immediate priority has been to deal with the human and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The government is increasing health spending, including by providing additional incentive pay and an insurance coverage to all medical frontline personnel, importing additional medical supplies and setting up quarantine centres and temporary hospitals.

They are also strengthening social assistance by providing those most vulnerable with daily food rations, subsidising utility bills for low-usage customers and taking steps to partially compensate those who suffer job loss. In addition, measures are being implemented to ensure adequate liquidity in the financial system and support a continued access to credit, it said.

As such, the IMF financial support will make a substantial contribution to filling the immediate external and fiscal financing needs that have emerged due to COVID-19. It is also expected to catalyse additional support from development partners, it said in a statement. PTI

Bangladesh lifts curbs on mosque prayers as lockdown eases

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh on Thursday allowed Muslims to attend prayer congregations in mosques as the government continues to ease the lockdown restrictions amid the coronavirus outbreak which has infected 12,425 people in the country so far.

However, mosque leaders are not allowed to organise Iftar gatherings on the mosque premises in line with the social distancing rules, the Bdnews24.com reported.

The mosques and devotees have been asked to comply with a set of safety protocols to hold prayer congregations, the Religious Affairs Ministry said.

Bangladesh announced a nationwide lockdown to enforce social and physical distancing norms on March 26 amid a surge in coronavirus cases and deaths.

The government subsequently restricted congregations at mosques to a maximum of five worshippers for the daily prayers, including the cleric and other officials, in an effort to bridle the escalating coronavirus crisis.

The Friday prayers were limited to 10 worshippers while only 12 devotees were allowed to participate in the Taraweeh prayers during Ramzan.

In keeping with the hygiene rules to reduce the risk of contagion, the new guidelines issued by the ministry said mosques are not allowed to use common carpets for prayers while devotees are required to carry individual prayer mats from home, the news portal reported.



Places of worship must be cleaned with disinfectants before every prayer session – five times a day.

Mosque must also install hand-washing facilities equipped with soaps or provide hand sanitisers at the entrances.

Devotees must perform their ablutions at home and wash their hands with soap for at least 20 seconds.

Worshippers must wear masks to the mosques while maintaining a space of at least three feet between each other when they line up for the prayers.

Children, the elderly, any sick person

or those engaged in treating the sick will not be allowed to participate in congregations

Failure to comply with these guidelines will be met with legal action, the ministry warned.

The novel coronavirus cases on Thursday crossed the 12,000 mark in Bangladesh as 706 more people tested positive in the last 24 hours, the health authorities said.

With the latest figure, the number of total confirmed cases jumped to 12,425.

The total number of deaths in the country stood at 186 till Wednesday. PTI

COVID-19 pandemic: Pakistan Cabinet approves easing lockdown after May 9

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The Pakistan cabinet has approved easing the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions in the country gradually after May 9, provided that strict implementation of the coronavirus-related preventive measures suggested by the government was ensured.

"Prime Minister Imran Khan decided that small businesses and transport to some extent should be reopened so that these people could have a chance to earn," Dawn news reported on Wednesday citing Information Minister Shibli Faraz as saying at a post-cabinet meeting press conference.

He said Khan, however, warned that threat from the viral disease was not over and could strike again if the government's standard operating procedures (SOPs) were not followed.

"The Prime Minister was of the view that the situation can turn worse if SOPs are not implemented and followed after soft opening of businesses and



Punjab and Sindh, the two worst-hit provinces, have also announced some relaxation in lockdown. AFP file

industries," Faraz added.

The government is going to open more businesses and sectors despite a surge in COVID-19 cases that has now reached 23,655 with 544 deaths in the country.

Punjab and Sindh, the two worst-hit provinces, have also announced some relaxation in lockdown by allowing reopening of few businesses like garment/cloth, shoes, automobile and spare parts. — IANS

The solution to fight Coronavirus is now becoming a reality



By H.S. Panaser

The world is looking for a drug and a vaccine to overcome the deadly virus. Many countries and many research groups are working feverishly to find an effective remedy. Fortunately, there have been some breakthroughs which give hope that the pandemic will ultimately be controlled.

The novel coronavirus is rapidly spreading its fang globally and has already led to more than 2,58,344 deaths and 3.66 million positive cases. Yes, that is a huge number and will most likely continue to rise in the coming days. Even though the countries across the globe have closed their borders and continue to take stringent measures (including a complete lockdown) to contain the spread of this highly infectious virus, the flattening of the curve is yet to be seen.

In the United States, COVID-19 has caused more than 70,000 fatalities and the number of positive cases has touched almost 1.2 million. Italy, on the other hand, remains one of the worst-hit nations in the world with 2,13,013 positive cases.

The world is looking for a drug and a vaccine to overcome the deadly virus. Many countries and many research groups are working feverishly to find an effective remedy. Fortunately, there have been some breakthroughs which give hope that the pandemic will ultimately be controlled.

The 'significant' breakthrough of Israel

Israeli Defense Minister Naftali Bennett announced the country had a remarkable breakthrough in the development of COVID-19 vaccine. He said that Israel's Institute for Biological Research (IIBR) has developed a monoclonal neutralizing antibody, which will effectively neutralize novel coronavirus in the body of the carriers. Bennet stated that Italian researchers have made a 'significant breakthrough' in developing an antibody to combat novel coronavirus. He was quoted as saying, "I am proud of the institute staff for this terrific

breakthrough."

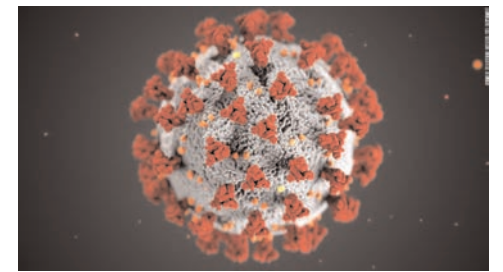
Italy claims to develop first COVID-19 vaccine

While multiple research groups are developing potential vaccines, Italian scientists have claimed to develop a vaccine that has successfully generated antibodies in mice that work on human cells. The vaccine has been tested in the Spallanzani Hospital in Rome. It is said to be one of the most advanced stages of testing of a potential vaccine in the country as the vaccine neutralizes the SARS-CoV-2 in the human cells.

After a single vaccination, the mice developed antibodies that can block the virus from infecting human cells. The researchers selected the two best candidates after observing that the five vaccine candidates generated a large number of antibodies

The Oxford vaccine against COVID-19

Oxford University initiated a phase-1 human clinical trial of its vaccine on April 23, where two volunteers were injected and Elisa Granato is one of the first ones to get injected with the vaccine. The vaccine -ChAdOx1 nCoV-19- was developed under three months by the



University's Jenner Institute. It uses a weakened strain of common cold virus (adenovirus) that causes infections in chimpanzees. For the vaccine to work, scientists have taken the genetic material of the novel coronavirus present on the surface of the virus and put it in the virus.

The status of coronavirus vaccine in India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reviewed India's status in developing a vaccine for the novel coronavirus, drug discovery, diagnosis, and testing on Tuesday. It was found that as of now more than 30 vaccines are in different stages of development while a few are ready to go to clinical trial stages. It is also important to note that the Pune-based Serum Institute of India is the world's largest vaccine maker and India produces 60 per cent of the world's vaccines.

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International Nurses Day, May 12

The Indian Panorama salutes Nurses across the world for their selfless services to humanity, particularly in these trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Happy International Nurses Day!



be quarantined. With determination and courage, they stood still even when they themselves became severely ill. Caregivers associated with home healthcare are facilitating their services to home even amid the national lockdown.

Salutes to healthcare

workers poured in from around the world amid the COVID-19 pandemic, as the world gave medical heroes a standing ovation from windows and balconies. It is the duty of every country's Government to provide them with proper protection and added benefits. Indian Air Force Planes, Military Bands paid tribute to COVID workers in the major cities including New Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. Indian entertainment and art industry showed their gratitude to the healthcare workers with their artwork. According to WHO, nurses directly serving COVID-19 patients should wear the following PPE: gloves, respirator mask, gown, apron and eye protection via goggles or a face shield. Initiatives should be taken to protect the nurses from coronavirus starting with fixing the lack of masks and protective equipment which is of most priority. Since nurses are on the frontlines of the battle against the coronavirus pandemic, they should be tested for Covid after treating the infected patients. Apart from these, the nurses also need mental health counselling for their wellbeing.

Happy International Nurses Day!

(With inputs from PorteaMedical)

Nasalpharynx wash can prevent Covid infection : Lung India

By Dr Yash Goyal

The World reeling under Pandemic COVID-19 now can find a treatment if opted in early stage of suspected contract of deadly virus by doing salt based water gargles, and Nasalpharynx wash (Jal-Neti) three times a day, reports an international journal Lung India in its latest issue on Tuesday, May 5.

Jal Neti is an important part of Hindu Shatkarma, the yogic system body cleaning technique for mind through nasal passageways under guidance of an expert. Whereas Gargling is the act of bubbling lukewarm water (salty) in the mouth and throat that keeps motion by breathing through it with gurgling sound.

An interesting research study authored by Dr Sheetu Singh, a chest specialist at SMS Medical college, Jaipur has a potential of helping patients to fight against the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

In this rapid systematic analysis, this type of therapy may have potential of add-on therapy in prevention and treatment of diseases like COVID, Dr Sheetu told a press conference at Rajasthan Hospital here. However, she emphasized on proper learning of the Nasal Wash technique under expert supervision.

The scientific evidence regarding role of Gargles and Jal Neti in prevention of upper respiratory viral infections manifesting as common cold, cough and

fever was too evaluated in patients. The present study showed that gargles and Nasal wash may prevent viral diseases entering through nose and throat. Like hand wash, nose and throat wash may also remove or reduce viral load. In previous studies it has been shown that cells in throat and nasal mucosa convert chloride ion of hypertonic saline to hypochlorous acid (HOCl) having anti-viral effect. Interestingly, HOCl is also an active component of the bleaching powder, which is used in disinfecting hands by wash.

Many studies have shown that nasal wash and gargles can reduce period of illness, symptoms of the viral disease and amount of viral shedding. In a study carried out at Edinburgh types of viruses were also evaluated in upper respiratory tract infections, quoting the findings of others Dr Virendra Singh, leading the research group and Chest Expert of Rajasthan Hospital here, underlined.

Interestingly 56% were rhinovirus and 31% were Corona virus (not COVID). With decreasing amount of viral shedding the risk of spread of infection in other household people was also reduced, Dr Virendra said, adding Japan along with face mask and hand washing, gargles are also included in the preventive therapy of national guideline on influenza control.

(The author is State Correspondent of The Tribune, stationed at Jaipur, Rajasthan, India. He can be reached at +91 94140 43334 and +91 141 2761111)

IRS provides guidance for estates and trusts for itemizing deductions



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

WASHINGTON

(TIP): The

Internal Revenue

Service today

issued proposed

regulations that

provide guidance

for estates and trusts clarifying that certain deductions of estates and non-grantor trusts are not miscellaneous itemized deductions.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) prohibits individual taxpayers from claiming miscellaneous itemized deductions for any taxable year beginning after Dec. 31, 2017, and before Jan. 1, 2026.

Specifically, the proposed regulations clarify the following deductions are allowable in figuring adjusted gross income and are not miscellaneous itemized deductions:

Costs paid or incurred in connection with the administration of the estate or trust which would not have been incurred otherwise.

Deductions concerning the personal exemption of an estate or non-grantor trust. Deductions for trusts distributing current income. Deductions for trusts accumulating income

Finally, the guidance clarifies how to determine the character, amount and manner for allocating excess deductions that beneficiaries succeeding to the property of a terminated estate or non-grantor trust may claim on their individual income tax returns.

For more information about this and other TCJA provisions, visit [IRS.gov/taxreform](https://www.irs.gov/taxreform).

Current Guidance on the Use and Forgiveness of Paycheck Program Funds

NEW YORK (TIP): Now that lenders have started to advance funds under the Paycheck Protection Program ("PPP"), recipients of those funds need to turn their focus to the proper use of PPP funds and the measures that can be taken to maximize the debt forgiveness feature of PPP loans.

The information in this alert is derived from the CARES Act and all available guidelines released by the Small Business Association ("SBA") and U. S. Department of Treasury as of the date of this alert. Please be aware that even with these resources, a multitude of unanswered questions remain regarding many aspects of the PPP - particularly the forgiveness process. In the Interim Final Rule implementing the PPP published in the Federal Register on April 15, 2020, the SBA indicated that it would be issuing additional guidance on loan forgiveness and when that guidance is released, we will update the information contained in this alert accordingly.

HOW CAN I USE MY PPP LOAN FUNDS?

Funds received under the PPP can only be used to pay the following "allowable expenses":

Payroll costs

costs related to the continuation of group health care benefits during periods of paid sick, medical, or family leave, and insurance premiums

mortgage interest payments relating to a mortgage on real or personal



property in existence before February 15, 2020 (but not prepayments or principal payments)

rent payments under a lease in force before February 15, 2020

payments for utilities (electricity, gas, water, transportation, telephone, or internet access) for which service began before February 15, 2020

interest payments on any other debt obligations that were incurred before February 15, 2020

refinancing an SBA EIDL loan received between January 31, 2020 and April 3, 2020

If you use PPP funds for unauthorized purposes, the SBA will direct you to repay those amounts. If you knowingly use the funds for unauthorized purposes, you will be subject to additional liability, including fraud. If one of your shareholders, members or partners uses PPP funds for unauthorized purposes, the SBA will have recourse against such shareholder, member or partner for the unauthorized use.

HOW CAN MY PPP LOAN QUALIFY FOR FORGIVENESS?

As mentioned, we expect further guidance on PPP loan forgiveness, but at

this point borrowers are without clear direction on many aspects. What follows is the best guidance we can provide at this time regarding the use of PPP funds to most effectively maximize forgiveness.

You will be eligible for forgiveness of the full principal amount of your PPP loan and any accrued interest provided you utilize all of the loan proceeds for the "forgivable expenses" over the eight-week period beginning on the date your lender advances your PPP loan. Under the PPP, you will not be responsible for repayment of your loan to the extent you utilize your PPP proceeds for these expenses and your employee headcount and compensation levels are maintained. You should be acutely aware of the dates between which your use of PPP funds will be eligible for forgiveness.

While there is significant overlap between "allowable" and "forgivable" expenses, the categories of expenses eligible for forgiveness are more limited and include:

Payroll costs

interest (but not prepayments or principal) on a mortgage in effect before February 15, 2020

rent payments under a lease in force before February 15, 2020

utility payments for services in effect before February 15, 2020

Forgivable expenses do not include (i) costs related to the continuation of group health care benefits during periods of paid sick, medical, or family

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IRS :Act by May 13 for chance to get quicker Economic Impact Payment; timeline for payments continues to accelerate



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

WASHINGTON (TIP): With a variety of steps underway to speed Economic Impact Payments, the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service urged people to use Get My Payment by noon Wednesday, May 13, for a chance to get a quicker delivery.

The IRS, working in partnership with Treasury Department and the Bureau of Fiscal Services (BFS), continues to accelerate work to get Economic Impact Payments to even more people as soon as possible. Approximately 130 million individuals have already received payments worth more than \$200 billion in the

program's first four weeks.

Starting later this month, the number of paper checks being delivered to taxpayers will sharply increase. For many taxpayers, the last chance to obtain a direct deposit of their Economic Impact Payment rather than receive a paper check is coming soon. People should visit Get My Payment on IRS.gov by noon Wednesday, May 13, to check on their payment status and, when available, provide their direct deposit information.

"We're working hard to get more payments quickly to taxpayers," said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. "We want people to visit Get My Payment before the noon Wednesday deadline so they can provide their direct deposit information. Time is running out for a chance to get these payments several weeks earlier through direct deposit."

After noon Wednesday, the IRS will begin preparing millions of files to send to BFS for paper checks that will begin arriving through late May and into June. Taxpayers who use Get My Payment before that cut-off can still

take advantage of entering direct deposit information.

How 'Get My Payment' works

The Get My Payment tool provides eligible taxpayers with a projected Economic Impact Payment deposit date. The information is updated once daily, usually overnight. There is no need to check more than once a day. Taxpayers who did not choose direct deposit on their last tax return can use this tool to input bank account information to receive their payment by direct deposit, expediting receipt.

Non-Filers portal remains available

For those not required to file a federal tax return, the Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info Here tool helps them submit basic information to receive an Economic Impact Payment quickly to their bank account. Developed in partnership between the IRS and the Free File Alliance, this tool provides a free and easy option for those who don't receive Social Security retirement, survivor or disability benefits (SSDI), Railroad Retirement

benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and VA Compensation and Pension (C&P) benefits. The Non-filers tool is also available in Spanish.

Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for 2019 or 2018 will receive the payments automatically. Automatic payments will also be sent to those receiving Social Security retirement, disability benefits, Railroad Retirement benefits, Veterans Affairs benefits or Supplemental Security Income soon.

Watch out for scams related to Economic Impact Payments

The IRS urges taxpayers to be on the lookout for scams related to the Economic Impact Payments. To use the new app or get information, taxpayers should visit IRS.gov. People should watch out for scams using email, phone calls or texts related to the payments. Be careful and cautious: The IRS will not send unsolicited electronic communications asking people to open attachments, visit a website or share personal or financial information.

Stay informed with Economic Impact Payment FAQs; Social Media platforms

Taxpayers should check the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for more information.

Coronavirus attack worse than Pearl Harbour, 9/11: Donald Trump

More than 72,000 Americans had died due to COVID-19

WASHINGTON (TIP): "We went through the worst attack we have ever had in our country. This is really the worst attack we have ever had. This is worse than Pearl Harbour. This is worse than the World Trade Center. There has never been an attack like this," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office of the White House during a meeting with nurses.

At another White House event, when reporters asked him about his comments earlier that likened COVID-19 to the Pearl Harbour and September 11, 2001 attacks, Trump said, "I view the invisible enemy as a war. I do not like how it got here, because it could have been stopped, but no, I view the invisible enemy like a war."

"Hey, it has killed more people than Pearl Harbour. And it has killed more people than the World Trade Center. The World Trade Center was close to 3,000. Well, we are gonna beat that by many times, unfortunately. So, yeah. We view it as a war," he added.

"This is a mobilization against a war. In many ways, it is a tougher enemy. We do very well against the visible enemies. It is the invisible enemy. This is an invisible enemy. But we're doing a good job," the president said.

By Wednesday, more than 72,000 Americans had died due to COVID-19 and over 1.2 million tested positive for the disease. Because of preventive social-mitigation measures and complete shutting down of states and businesses, more than three crore people have applied for unemployment benefits.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank project the American economy into recession and according to the White House, the country is likely to experience a minus 15-20 per cent growth in the second quarter of the current financial year.

The number of daily deaths and fresh cases of infections has shown signs of decline and as a result, a large number of states have started opening up their economy.



The deadly coronavirus attack on the US is worse than that of Pearl Harbour and 9/11, President Donald Trump said on Wednesday, May 6
File photo

Trump said the White House Task Force on Coronavirus has done a great job.

"We will be leaving the task force indefinitely. We will see. You know at a certain point it will end. Things end, but we will be adding some people to the task force," he said.

"I thought we could wind it down sooner. But I had no idea how popular the task force is until actually yesterday, when I started talking about winding it down. I get calls from very respected people, saying, 'I think it would be better to keep it going, it's done such a good job.' It is a respected task force. I know it myself. I did not know whether or not it was appreciated by the public, but it is appreciated by the public," the president added. Trump said he would like to see schools open, wherever possible.

"I would say that until everything is perfect, I think that the teachers that are a certain age-perhaps you say over 60, especially if they have a problem with heart or diabetes or any one of a number of things -- I think that

they should not be teaching in schools for a while. And everybody would understand that probably. That we understand," he said.

"But other than that, we see how well children seem to do. Incredible. You realize how strong children are, right? Their immune system is maybe a little bit different, maybe just a little bit stronger. Or maybe it is a lot stronger, right? Could be a lot stronger. We have learned a lot by watching this monster," the president said.

He also lauded nurses for their "valiant sacrifices".

Sophia Thomas, president of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, who works in New Orleans, was somewhat off message when Trump got most of his guests to nod in agreement that hospitals now have plenty of masks, gowns etc.

"Certainly there are pockets of areas where PPE is not ideal, but this is an unprecedented time and the infection control measures that we learned back when we went to school-one gown, one mask for one patient a day or for a time-this is a different time. I have been reusing my N95 mask for a few weeks now. I just broke out a new one to come here, in case I needed to wear it," Thomas said.

The president put a particular spotlight on Luke Adams, a nurse who has volunteered to work in New York City.

"The men and women in this room today are true American heroes. Luke Adams is a nurse of 11 years. He lives in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania-good place. When he heard the call of volunteers in New York, Luke drove to the epicenter of the outbreak and slept in his car for nine days, so he could help care for the sick,"

Trump said. "A lot of us have been forced away from our partners, turned away from our children. We have slept on concrete floors or in cars. And we did these things not for our own benefit or safety," Adams said.

(SOURCE: PTI)

CONTD FROM PAGE 12

Current Guidance on the Use and Forgiveness of Paycheck Program Funds

leave, and insurance premiums, and (ii) interest on any other debt obligations, both of which are allowable loan uses.

To qualify for maximum forgiveness, 75% of your PPP funds must be used for payroll costs during the eight-week period. While the current guidance is unclear, if a borrower utilizes less than 75% of their PPP funds for qualified payroll expenses, they may face a proportional reduction in loan forgiveness.

The SBA has announced that no more than 25% of your loan forgiveness amount may be attributable to non-payroll costs. However, borrowers looking to maximize those costs are - for the moment - forced to plan and make those expenditures notwithstanding a lack of specific SBA instruction. Among other things, guidance is anticipated as to whether forgivable lease expenses will include equipment rental payments and

rent paid to related parties. Additionally, we expect there will be further clarification of the types of "utilities" that can be categorized as forgivable expenses.

After your "forgivable amount" is determined by calculating your eligible expenditures during the eight-week period, the amount eligible for forgiveness can be reduced under any of the following circumstances:

- you employ fewer full-time equivalent (FTE) employees during your eight-week period than you did during your "Base Period," which, at your option, can be either February 15, 2019 through June 30, 2019, or January 1, 2020 through February 29, 2020

- the salary or wage of an employee is less than 75% compared to the most recent full quarter before your eight-week period (this only applies to employees who made less than \$100,000 in 2019)

Any headcount reduction or wage reduction will cause a proportionate reduction in your PPP loan forgiveness. However, any such reduction that occurred between February 15, 2020, and April 26, 2020 will be ignored if the number of FTEs or wage of a given employee is restored by June 30, 2020. For the moment, it is unclear whether the reduction will be ignored completely (or

subject to a pro rata reduction) if the restoration occurs at or near the end of the eight-week period or after the eight-week period, but before June 30, 2020.

In addition, many other questions remain surrounding headcount reduction and loan forgiveness, including whether reductions unrelated to the COVID-19 crisis (such as retirements, voluntary employee departures or terminations due to poor performance) will be ignored for the purposes of the headcount calculation. At the moment, it does not appear that there is relief for a borrower that reduced headcount for a non-COVID-19 related reason. There is also uncertainty as to whether a 30 hour or 40 hour per week standard will be used to determine a borrower's number of FTEs.

Ultimately, under current SBA guidelines, your PPP lender will make the final determination on what amounts will be forgiven.

HOW SHOULD I TRACK MY USE OF PPP LOAN FUNDS?

You should immediately start tracking and gathering data and documenting all your expenditures to maximize forgiveness through the appropriate use of your PPP funds. You must also keep track of the ratio between payroll and non-payroll expenses (mindful of the

25% limitation with respect to non-payroll expenses).

While neither the loan forgiveness application nor further details about the forgiveness process are available, it is a certainty that you will be required to present complete and thorough proof of the proper usage for your PPP funds.

When applying for loan forgiveness, you must be prepared to verify the number of your FTE employees and to provide support for employee pay rates, which could include documentation such as Form 941 quarterly tax filings and payroll reports and registers. You must also be prepared to provide proof of expenditures on eligible mortgage, lease and utility payments, which could include cancelled checks, payment receipts and copies of vendor invoices.

WHAT IF PART OF MY PPP LOAN IS NOT FORGIVEN?

Any portion of your PPP loan that is not forgiven must be paid back within two years of the date of funding and will bear interest at the rate of 1% per annum. Payments are deferred for six months, although interest will continue to accrue. Any outstanding loan amount can be prepaid at any time, without penalty.

(Source: Warshaw Burstein, LLP)

Covid-19 death toll rises to 1,886; cases climb to 56,342

NEW DELHI (TIP): The death toll due to COVID-19 rose to 1,886 and the number of cases climbed to 56,342 in the country on Friday, registering an increase of 103 fatalities and 3,390 infections in the last 24 hours, according to the Union Health Ministry.

The number of active COVID-19 cases stood at 37,916. While 16,539 people have recovered, one patient has migrated, it said.

"Thus, around 29.35 per cent patients have recovered so far," a senior health ministry official said.

The total cases include 111 foreign nationals.

The total 103 deaths reported since Thursday morning include 43 in Maharashtra; 29 in Gujarat; eight in Madhya Pradesh; seven in West Bengal; five in Rajasthan; two each in Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh; and one each in Bihar, Delhi, Karnataka, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

Of the 1,886 fatalities, Maharashtra tops the tally with 694 fatalities, Gujarat comes second with 425 deaths, followed by Madhya Pradesh at 193, West Bengal at 151, Rajasthan at 97, Delhi at 66, Uttar Pradesh at 62 and Andhra Pradesh at 38.

The death toll reached 37 in Tamil Nadu, 30 in Karnataka while Telangana has reported 29 fatalities due to the respiratory disease. Punjab has registered 28 COVID-19 deaths, Jammu and Kashmir nine, Haryana seven, Bihar five and Kerala four.

Jharkhand has recorded three COVID-19 fatalities. Odisha and Himachal Pradesh have reported two deaths each.

Meghalaya, Chandigarh, Assam and Uttarakhand have reported one fatality each, according to the ministry data.

According to the health ministry



5,231 railway coaches to be used as Covid-19 isolation wards at 215 stations

The Centre has drafted a plan to deploy 5,231 railway coaches as isolation wards across 215 stations in 15 states "considering the possibility of an increase in cases of Covid-19."

The ministry of railways said on Thursday the plan is to use these coaches if a state has "exhausted the facilities and needs to augment capacities for isolation..." The health ministry has come out with a

standard operating procedure (SOP) for deploying these coaches. "The coaches can be used for very mild cases that can be clinically assigned to the COVID care centres as per guidelines issued by the health ministry," it said. The coaches shall be deployed in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, J&K, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, MP, Maharashtra and Odisha.

data updated in the morning, the highest number of confirmed cases in the country is from Maharashtra at 17,974, followed by Gujarat at 7,012, Delhi at 5,980, Tamil Nadu at 5,409, Rajasthan at 3,427, Madhya Pradesh at 3,252 and Uttar Pradesh at 3,071.

The number of COVID-19 cases has gone up to 1,847 in Andhra Pradesh and 1,644 in Punjab.

The tally has risen to 1,548 in West Bengal, 1,123 in Telangana, 793 in Jammu and Kashmir, 705 in Karnataka, 625 in Haryana and 550

in Bihar. Kerala has reported 503 coronavirus cases so far, while Odisha has 219. A total of 135 people have been infected with the virus in Chandigarh and 132 in Jharkhand.

Tripura has reported 65 cases, Uttarakhand has 61, Chhattisgarh has 59, Assam has 54, Himachal Pradesh has 46 and Ladakh has 42.

Thirty-three COVID-19 cases have been reported from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Meghalaya has registered 12 cases, Puducherry has nine, while Goa has seven.



RAHUL: GOVT MUST ACT TRANSPARENTLY AS INDIA INCHES CLOSER TO MAY 17

NEW DELHI (TIP): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the government must make its actions transparent as India comes closer to May 17.

Rahul said opening the lockdown is not a switch on-off thing; it required a national transition, a serious challenge and the Centre should start seeing states and district magistrates as its partners and stop centralising things.

Covid-19 is dangerous for some groups, like older people and those with chronic diseases, and not for other groups, he said, adding that the government needs to work on psychological change and to open the lockdown it must convert people's fears into confidence. At such a time we need not just one strong PM but a strong PM, many strong CMs, strong DMs, a strong leader everywhere, he added.

He said, "Our CMs are telling us that red zones at the national level are actually green zones and green zones are red zones; zones have been designated centrally, they should have been designated at state level."

Immediate direct cash transfer on the lines of NYAY should be done and money put in the hands of the poorest people, he said.

Four hospitals cleared to join WHO Solidarity trial

NEW DELHI (TIP): FOUR COVID-19 treatment centres, in Jodhpur, Ahmedabad, Chennai and Bhopal, have received regulatory approvals for taking part in "Solidarity" — the World Health Organisation's (WHO) international clinical trial to help find an effective treatment for novel coronavirus — and more are set to follow.

Confirming this, Dr Sheela Godbole, Head, Division of Epidemiology, ICMR-National AIDS Research Institute, and National Coordinator of the WHO-India Solidarity Trial, told The Indian Express that the ICMR plans "to initiate the trial at 20-25 clinical trial sites in many states across India".

"These sites are in various stages of being approved. The sites require approval from their institutional ethics committees, and have to be trained and updated with the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) and Clinical Trials Registry-India (CTRI). Some sites are already registered, some are close to registration, and many more are in the process of obtaining approval from their ethics committee," she said.

The four which have been cleared so far are from cities that have reported a high case load: AIIMS in Jodhpur, Apollo Hospital in Chennai, B J Medical College and Civil Hospital in Ahmedabad and Chirayu Medical College and Hospital in Bhopal. The case count so far is 842 in Jodhpur, 2,644 in Chennai, 4,991 in Ahmedabad, and 605 in Bhopal.

According to the WHO website, the Solidarity trial "will compare four treatment options against the standard of care, to assess their relative effectiveness against COVID-19".

The treatment options that have been selected are: Remdesivir; Lopinavir/ Ritonavir; Lopinavir/ Ritonavir with Interferon beta-1a; and Chloroquine or Hydroxychloroquine.

Waiting for lockdown to end: Bereaved families keep ashes in crematorium lockers

DEHRADUN (TIP): A resident of Dehradun, S L Gulati (86) died on April 27 after a prolonged bout of illness. The family custom is to immerse the ashes of the deceased in the Ganga in Haridwar. However, Gulati's ashes are waiting in a locker at the cremation ground in Lakhhibagh here. His son Rajiv booked it by paying Rs 100.

"When the lockdown ends, I will take the ashes from the locker and immerse it in the Ganga after the rituals," Rajiv said.

Ashes of 26 other deceased people are also kept in the 'asthi kaksh' at the crematorium. "We have only 18 lockers, all of which are occupied. Ashes of others are kept in bags. Relatives are waiting for the lockdown to end so that they can take it to Haridwar," said Suresh Paswan, crematorium in-charge.

He said some families will take the ashes to Paonta Sahib in Himachal Pradesh.

"The lockers used to be booked by those whose family members were coming from abroad to perform rituals. Now, all of them are occupied," said Chandan, a panda who performs cremation. He wears a mask and sanitises his hands before every cremation.



Pandit Nitin Shukla, a priest and member of Ganga Sabha that organised Ganga Aarti at Har ki Pauri in Haridwar, said, "Haridwar is called mukti ka dwar (gate of salvation). People from across the country and abroad come here to immerse the ashes of their dear ones and perform rituals as per Hindu customs. But they cannot come now due to the lockdown. They are contacting priests and pandas over phone as they are worried that rituals cannot be performed on schedule."

On their way back home, exhausted migrants fall asleep on tracks, 16 run over by train

PUNE (TIP): Sixteen migrant workers were mowed down by an empty freight train in Maharashtra's Aurangabad district in the early hours of Friday. While 14 of them died on the spot, two of them later succumbed to injuries.

The workers, who were walking to Bhusawal from Jalna to board a "Shramik Special" train to return to Madhya Pradesh, were sleeping on the railway line when the mishap occurred between Badnapur and Karmad stations in Nanded Division.

Expressing grief over the incident, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted, "Extremely anguished by the loss of lives due to the rail accident in Aurangabad, Maharashtra. Have spoken to Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and he is closely monitoring the situation. All possible assistance required is being provided."

Inspector Satish Khetmalas of Aurangabad rural police said the migrant workers must have fallen asleep on the tracks due to exhaustion.

"All the 20 workers were walking from Jalna to Bhusawal, which is about 150 kilometers. They stopped after walking for about 45 kilometers for some rest and fell asleep on the tracks. A goods train ran over them at around 5.15 am," he said. The empty train was heading



from Cherlapally Station near Hyderabad to Panewadi Station near Manmad in Nashik. The motormen tried to bring the train to a halt but failed to do so, an official said.

"The loco pilot noticed some persons along the tracks. He honked and also tried to stop the train but failed to contain the speed before hitting those lying on the tracks," Chief Public Relations Officer of South Central Railway Ch Rakesh said. He added that an inquiry has been ordered under the Commissioner of Railway Safety,

SCR. "During early hours after seeing some labourers on track, loco pilot of goods train tried to stop the train but eventually hit them between Badnapur and Karmad stations in Parbhani-Manmad section. Injured have been taken to Aurangabad Civil Hospital. Inquiry has been ordered," the Railway Ministry tweeted.

Several migrant workers have hit the streets, in an attempt to return home, ever since the nationwide lockdown in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic has come into force.



Hizbul Mujahideen Chief Riyaz Naikoo, Most Wanted, Killed In Jammu And Kashmir

SRINAGAR (TIP): Riyaz Naikoo, one of Kashmir's most wanted terrorists and the commander of terror group Hizbul Mujahideen, was killed during an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama on Wednesday.

Riyaz Naikoo was killed during an anti-terrorist operation conducted by the Army and J&K Police in the Beighpura area of Pulwama district. A second terrorist, believed to be an accomplice of Naikoo, was also killed in the encounter.

Three separate anti-terror operations were launched on Wednesday morning in the south Kashmir area following after intelligence reports that Naikoo, 32, and other terrorists were hiding in a village.

As the encounters began at 9 am, mobile internet services were suspended in all 10 districts of Kashmir Valley. Mobile internet services remain suspended as authorities look to control any backlash from Naikoo's killing.

Riyaz Naikoo, a former teacher who had a bounty of Rs 12 lakh on his head, was a key target for India once he took charge of the Hizbul Mujahideen in Kashmir.

According to SP Vaid, former Director General of J&K Police, Naikoo was the most wanted terrorist after former Hizbul chief Burhan Wani, who was killed in an encounter in July 2016.

Naikoo was born in south Kashmir. A government report said he was a school teacher for two years, delivering lectures on Islamic topics, before becoming a terrorist in 2012. Wanted in 11 terror-related cases, he became "head of operations in Kashmir" after taking over from Yaseen Ittoo, a top terrorist killed in an encounter in September 2017.

Vizag gas leak kills 11, over 1,000 affected

VISAKHAPATNAM / NEW DELHI (TIP): Gas leak from a multinational chemical plant in Visakhapatnam in the early hours of Thursday killed 11 persons and over 1,000 fell ill as the toxic vapours spread to villages up to 5 km away. The National Disaster Management Authority and local administration evacuated nearly 3,000 people and secured the area with the help of specialised teams.

Hours after the styrene gas leak around 2.30 am from the South Korean-owned LG Polymers Plant at RR Venkatapuram village near here, scores of people could be seen lying unconscious on sidewalks, raising fears of a major industrial disaster.

Among the dead were two children, aged six and nine, a first year medical student and two people who fell into a well while fleeing the vapours from the plant, getting ready to reopen after the lockdown. Cries for help broke the silence of the night and many people fell unconscious in their sleep, a villager said.

As rescue officers and police personnel rushed to take people to hospital and revive them, many people could be seen gasping for



breath as they staggered their way to safety, dazed and disoriented. Some tried to walk but fell to the ground.

The death toll from the accident could go up with at least 20 people on ventilator support. Besides, 246 people with health complications are undergoing treatment at Visakhapatnam's King George Hospital, police said.

"Only around 9.30 am we could understand what exactly it was after the fog over the area cleared," District Collector V Vinay Chand

said. As much as 1,800 tonne of styrene is said to have been in the storage tank when the leakage happened. Styrene gas, used to make polystyrene plastics, fibreglass and latex, affects the central nervous system, throat, skin and eyes.

Taking stock of the situation, PM Narendra Modi said he had spoken to officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the NDMA. "I pray for everyone's safety and well-being in Visakhapatnam," Modi said in a tweet.

Post lockdown, banks to disburse Rs 5.6L cr: FM

NEW DELHI (TIP): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said the economy was poised to recover as there was enough credit for the industry in the pipeline after the lockdown was lifted.

Several segments of the industry will soon get loans worth Rs 5.66 lakh crore that were sanctioned by public sector banks between

March and April. She said these pending disbursements would benefit 40 lakh accounts, mainly from small and medium enterprises, retail, agriculture and the corporate sectors. Sitharaman said the RBI directives on loan moratorium had led to over 3.2 crore availing the three-month moratorium.

"Quick query redressal allayed customer concerns. Ensuring responsible banking amid Covid," she said. For NBFCs and Housing Finance Companies, PSBs sanctioned Rs 77,383 crore between March 1 and May 4. Inclusive of targeted long term repo operations funds, there has been total financing of Rs 1.08 lakh crore which has ensured business stability, she said.



TRIBECA VIRTUAL FEST 2020 WINNERS

By Mabel Pais

**PRASHANT NAIR (SCREENWRITER):
BEST SCREENPLAY - INTERNATIONAL
NARRATIVE FEATURE FILM, "TRYST
WITH DESTINY"**

**APARNA NANCHERLA: JURY
MEMBER FOR THE NORA EPHRON
AWARD**

**"Despite not being able to be
together physically, we were still
able to support our artists, which
has always been at the heart of
the Festival." Jane Rosenthal, TFF
Co-Founder - CEO**

**"The jury chose to recognize a
daring, innovative, entertaining,
diverse group of films and
filmmakers, and the Festival is
pleased to honor all of them with
our first ever virtual awards
ceremony." - Cara Cusumano,
Festival Director**

**WINNERS SELECTED FOR TRIBECA
2020 VIRTUAL FESTIVAL WERE
ANNOUNCED VIA INSTAGRAM**

The Tribeca Film Festival (TFF2020) announced the winners for the 2020 juried competition, awarding top honors from this year's program. Tribeca has continued its commitment to celebrating storytellers. However, the 19th edition which was set to take place April 15-26, 2020 in New York City by in-person gathering, partially took place in a virtual format. Winners of the juried awards, presented by and in partnership with several sponsors and the jury participants, are as follows:

U.S. NARRATIVE COMPETITION CATEGORIES:

The jury comprised of Cherien Dabis, Terry Kinney and Lucas Hedges awarded the following:

Founders Award for Best Narrative Feature - "The Half of It," directed by Alice Wu.

Art Award: Julian Schnabel's "Le Scaphandre et le Papillon", 2007. Oil on map.

Best Actress in a U.S. Narrative Feature Film - Assol Abdullina, "Materna".

Best Actor in a U.S. Narrative Feature Film - Steve Zahn, "Cowboys".

Best Cinematography in a U.S. Narrative Feature Film - "Materna", Greta Zozula, Chananun Chotrungroj, Kelly Jeffrey, Cinematographers.

Best Screenplay in a U.S. Narrative Feature Film - "Cowboys", Anna Kerrigan, Screenwriter

INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE COMPETITION CATEGORIES:

The jury comprised of Sabine Hoffman, Judith Godrèche, Danny Boyle, William Hurt, and Demián Bichir awarded the following:

Best International Narrative Feature - "The Hater" (Poland), directed by Jan Komasa.

Art Award: Helen Marden's "January Golden Rock", 2020. Watercolor on paper.

Best Actor in an International Narrative Feature Film - Noe Hernandez, "Kokoloko" (Mexico).

Best Actress in an International



Prashant Nair: ("Tryst With Destiny")
screenwriter, filmmaker, producer

Narrative Feature Film - Shira Haas, "Asia" (Israel).

Best Cinematography in an International Narrative Feature Film - "Asia" (Israel), Daniella Nowitz, Cinematographer.

Best Screenplay in an International Narrative Feature Film - "Tryst With Destiny" (India, France), Prashant Nair, Screenwriter.

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION CATEGORIES:

The jury comprised of Yance Ford, Regina K. Scully, Ryan Fleck, Chris Pine, and Peter Deming awarded the following:

Best Documentary Feature - "Socks on Fire", Bo McGuire, Director.

Art Award: Sterling Ruby's , DRFTRS, 2020. Collage, paint and glue on paper.

Best Cinematography in a Documentary Film - "499", Alejandro Mejia, Cinematographer.

Best Editing in a Documentary Film - "Father Soldier Son", Amy Foote, Editor.

BEST NEW NARRATIVE DIRECTOR COMPETITION:

The jury comprised of Lukas Haas, Juno Temple, Nat Wolff, Grace Van Patten, and James Ponsoldt awarded the following:

Best New Narrative Director - "Nobody Knows I'm Here", Gaspar Antillo, Director.

Art Award: Rita Ackermann's The Working Woman 3, 2018. Oil, crayon and graphite on paper.

BEST NEW DOCUMENTARY DIRECTOR COMPETITION:

The jury comprised of Erin Lee Carr, Stacey Reiss, Josh Hutcherson, Joel McHale, and Gretchen Mol awarded the following:

Albert Maysles New Documentary Director Award - "Jacinta", Jessica Earnshaw, Director.

Art Award: Gus Van Sant's "Achelous and Hercules, 2016". Enamel on paper.

THE NORA EPHRON AWARD:

The jury comprised of Gina Rodriguez, Aparna Nancherla, Anna Baryshnikov, Regina Hall, and Lizzy Caplan awarded:

The Nora Ephron Award - "Asia", Director, Ruthy Pribar.

Art Award: Pat Steir's "Untitled, 2008". Oil, pencil, ink, and acrylic on paper.

SHORT FILM COMPETITION CATEGORIES:

The jury comprised of Pamela Adlon, Kerry Bishe, Kasi Lemmon, Taylor Hackford, and Marshall Curry awarded



Ashish Vidyarthi & Suhasini Maniratnam in a scene from "Tryst With Destiny"



Alena Yiv with Shira Haas (front) in a scene from "Asia" ("Nora Ephron" Awardee).
Photos / Courtesy TFF2020.

the following:

Best Narrative Short - "No More Wings", Abraham Adeyemi, Director.

Art Award: Robert Nava: "Medusa's Walk, 2020". Acrylic, oil stick, crayon, and pencil on paper.

Best Animated Short - "Friends", Florian Grolig, Director.

Art Award: "Stephen Hannock's Wallsend Morning on the River Tyne, 2019". Oil on board

2020 SHORT DOCUMENTARY and STUDENT VISIONARY COMPETITIONS:

The jury comprised of Asia Kate Dillon, Marti Noxon and Sheila Nevins awarded the following for the:

Best Documentary Short - "My Father The Mover", Julia Jansch, Director.

Art Award: Francesco Clemente's Flag US, 2018. Watercolor and miniature on paper.

Student Visionary Award - Cru-Raw, David Oesch, Director.

Art Award: Vahakn Arslanian's "Light of Airbus, 2009". Graphite on paper in artist's frame.

TRIBECA X AWARDS:

The finalists for the 2020 Tribeca X Awards are available for public viewing on Tribecafilm.com. Tribeca X recognizes excellence in branded storytelling at the intersection of advertising and entertainment.

The jury comprised of Stefon Bristol, Filmmaker; Taylor Johns, Head of Content Production at YETI; David Lee, Chief Creative Officer at Squarespace; Matt MacDonald, Chief Creative Officer at Omnicom for AT&T; and Bonnie Siegler, Founder at Eight and a Half awarded the following:

Best Short - "Pay Day", Director, Morgan Cooper

Brand: Synchrony Bank

Agency: Giant Spoon

Production Co: ColorCreative

Best Series - "Girls Room", Director, Tiffany Johnson

Writer: Lena Waithe

Brand: Dove

Agency: attn: BBH Entertainment

Best Feature - "U Shoot Videos?"

Director, Morgan Cooper

Brand: Adorama

For more information on all of the 2020 Tribeca Film Festival competition winners, visit tribecafilm.com/festival

About the Tribeca Film Festival:

The Tribeca Film Festival brings visionaries and diverse audiences together to celebrate storytelling in all its forms, including film, TV, VR, gaming, music, and online work. With strong roots in independent film, Tribeca is a platform for creative expression and immersive entertainment. The Festival champions emerging and established voices; discovers award-winning filmmakers and creators; curates innovative experiences; and introduces new technology and ideas through premieres, exhibitions, talks, and live performances.

The Festival was founded by Robert De Niro, Jane Rosenthal, and Craig Hatkoff in 2001 to spur the economic and cultural revitalization of lower Manhattan following the attacks on the World Trade Center. Now in its 19th year, the Festival has evolved into a destination for creativity that reimagines the cinematic experience and explores how art can unite communities.

(Mabel Pais writes on Social Issues, The Arts and Entertainment, Health & Wellness, and Spirituality)

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HISTORY, COVID-19, AND CATARACTS: HOW MEDICINE SHAPED OUR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe.

- H. G. WELLS

3,000 YEARS AGO- SUSRUTA



Susruta, an ancient Indian doctor, wrote on foundations of medicine including **hand washing and cleaning under the nails.**

He described, in Sanskrit, a cataract as an opacity of the lens. Susruta performed the first surgical procedure.

122 YEARS AGO- BEIJERINCK

Martinus Beijerinck was the first to coin the term 'virus'. He observed that viruses multiplied only within other cells. Later, Peter Medawar, the father of modern immunology and Nobel Laureate, would describe viruses as **'a piece of bad news wrapped up in a protein'.**

71 YEARS AGO- RIDLEY'S IMPLANT



Dr. Harold Ridley implanted the first intraocular lens (IOL) during cataract surgery. The lens reduced the need for thick glasses after surgery. This was the beginning of a major change in ophthalmology, however, it was not accepted for decades, as it was not the medical doctrine of the time.

8,000 YEARS AGO- A FLAT EARTH

Almost everyone thought that the world was flat and that leaving one's country of origin was akin to a suicide mission (*see chapter 13 from Musings on Medicine, Myth, and History by V.K. Raju, MD*).

Many countries were like their own little isolated worlds. Diseases remained localized.

175 YEARS AGO- SEMMELWEIS

In the mid-1840's, Ignaz Semmelweis, a Hungarian obstetrician, discovered evidence that **hand washing could prevent the spread of disease.** He was seen as a madman and was put in an Viennese asylum where he died.

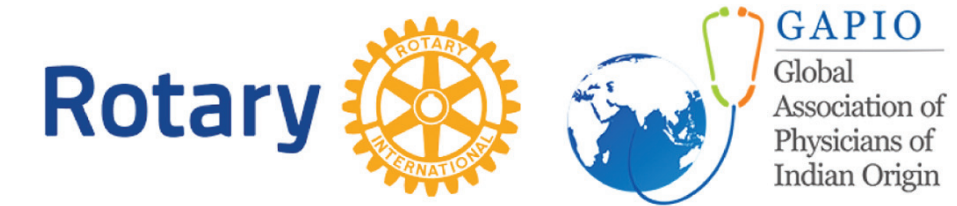
102 YEARS AGO- SPANISH INFLUENZA

The influenza virus that caused the 1918 Spanish Influenza pandemic was not completely understood until the 1930s. The pandemic killed 40-50 million people in less than a year in multiple waves. The spread of the pandemic was largely due to the intercontinental travel of soldiers following WWI.

53 YEARS AGO- KELMAN

In 1967, American ophthalmologist Dr. Charles Kelman introduced small incision cataract surgery which is practiced all over the world now. It was resisted for decades as it was inconsistent with the medical doctrine of the times.

In collaboration with:

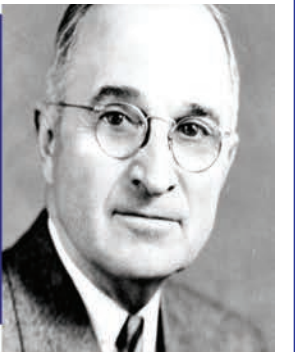


PRESENT DAY

The new coronavirus began in Wuhan, China in late 2019, COVID-19. It spread to 200 countries- from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe (A to Z). Cataract surgeries and other elective procedures were put on hold to preserve supplies.

There is nothing new in this world which you cannot learn from history.

- HARRY S. TRUMAN



TAKE HISTORY'S ADVICE

We have learned that viruses are comprised mostly of proteins and can only replicate within other cells in a host. Prevent the spread of disease by covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing, wearing a mask, and washing your hands regularly. Reduce travel and stay home whenever possible to help flatten the curve.

WE ARE LIVING LONGER

With humans living longer than ever, our chances of contracting diseases increase. **If we live long enough, we will all get grey hair and cataracts. A cataract is an expression of aging.** Adopting a healthy lifestyle slows cataract progression. Symptoms of a cataract include decreased vision, light sensitivity, difficulty seeing to drive at night, and changes in color perception.

CATARACT SURGERY

Over 20 million cataract surgeries have been performed worldwide. Long ago, eye surgery had disastrous failures. Now, advances in basic and clinical sciences and collaboration among surgeons has made cataract extraction and intraocular implantation is one of the safest procedures in medicine.

THE PRESENT AND FUTURE ARE UP TO YOU

You can spend time right now learning about how to keep yourself and your family safe. You can also prepare for the future and learn about cataracts and cataract surgery now. COVID-19 has been a long pause on the timeline of history, but we will get through this. As they say, "This too shall pass." As Dr. V. K. Raju says, "Eat right, exercise right, and don't take yourself too seriously." Moderation is the key.

If you would like to know more, check out "Musings on Medicine, Myth, and History- India's Legacy" by Dr. V.K. Raju, available through the Eye Foundation of America at 695 Westview Avenue Morgantown, WV 26505, Amazon.com, and Kindle.



DISHA PATANI NEW LOCKDOWN LOOK

Disha Patani is without a doubt; the hottest actress in Bollywood and frequently serves as a fashion inspiration to many. The actress' wardrobe is filled with elegant and classy attires that one can always be in awe off.

The actress has a ginormous following on social media owing it to her sophisticated looks and frequent wonderful posts. When it comes to style Disha Patani has set quite a benchmark and she is sure to be a hoot in any attire she adheres.

Recently, the actress enhanced the audience's day by posting a different blazing hot look and a rejuvenating picture of herself on social media. She was seen wearing a blue and white striped crop top paired with a black leather skirt and blue pendant.

Disha Patani is always slaying it in every attire. She is style and hotness personified! Going by the humongous craze of Disha, who also crossed over 30 million followers on Instagram, surpassing all her contemporaries (including her senior counterparts), fans are eagerly anticipating Disha's next, Radhe with megastar Salman Khan.

WHEN AISHWARYA REVEALED RANBIR LIED TO HER ABOUT HIS CLASS 10TH PERCENTAGE

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Ranbir Kapoor shared screen space for the first time in Karan Johar's *Ae Dil Hain Mushkil*, and during the promotions of the film on *The Kapil Sharma Show*, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan revealed that when Ranveer passed his 10th grade, his late grandmother, Krishna Raj, threw a party as Ranbir scored 65 per cent.

However, the twist is that back in the day, Ranbir Kapoor had lied to Aishwarya about his percentage as he told her that instead of 54, he scored 65 per cent.

In the said video, we see Kapil Sharma showing a photo from the party and that is when Aishwarya revealed that until she shot for *Ae Dil Hain Mushkil*, she didn't know Ranbir's real percentage and that is when Ranbir said that he calculated best of 5 and told everyone making everyone in the audiences crack up.

Later, Aishwarya revealed that Krishna aunty was so happy to know that Ranbir passed that she threw a big party and Aishwarya recalled Ranbir telling her that his grandmother and family is so happy with his percentage as he said, 'yeh log itne mein hee khush hai.'

A few days back, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan took to Instagram to express a sense of grief over the death of Bollywood actor Irrfan Khan as the *Life of Pi* actor passed away at the age of 53 on April 29, 2020, after succumbing to his year-long battle against cancer.



BUTTERFINGERS COULD BE MY MIDDLE NAME: TWINKLE KHANNA

Twinkle Khanna's social media posts are mostly witty and laced with humour. The former actress also pokes fun at herself, even while talking about some achievement.

In her recent Instagram post, the 46-year-old shared a picture of her beautiful garden that has often appeared in her social media feed. The caption reads, "I am inordinately clumsy and butterfingers could be my middle name but my thumb is a spectacular green. Can't cook, can't dance, can't even make small talk, but give me a tiny piece of land and I will give it so much love that it can't help but love me back (sic)."

Twinkle's garden is visibly one of her favourite spots in the house by the beach. She often shares pictures of her activities with the garden in the background, whether she is working, reading or simply having tea.

Meanwhile, Twinkle joined fellow members from the entertainment business for India's biggest at-home concert. The Give India initiative featured some of the most renowned names from the showbiz and was showcased on Facebook Live on May 3.

Twinkle is a popular columnist and



has penned novels like *Pyjamas Are Forgiving*, *Mrs Funnybones* and *The Legend of Lakshmi Prasad*. Apart from writing, she is also a producer and an interior designer. She takes

multi-tasking to another level with her digital content establishment, *Tweak India*. It's a platform for open conversations and engagement in meaningful debate.

KRITI'S LOCKDOWN TENSION: EYEBROWS KA KYA KAREIN!



Overgrown eyebrows are among the many repercussions of the lockdown, ask Kriti Kharbanda.

On Tuesday, Kriti took to Instagram and wrote: "Baaki sab toh theek hai, par in eyebrows ka kya karein (Rest is all right, but what does one do about the eyebrows)!"

A few days ago, actress Sonam Kapoor too expressed concern over the state of her eyebrows. She said that her "eyebrows are in mess".

On the other hand, actor Shahid Kapoor's wife Mira Rajput shared how glad she was that her eyebrows were "behaving" amidst the lockdown. She had posted a picture of her perfectly shaped eyebrows and captioned it: "So far the eyebrows are behaving."



TOM CRUISE AND NASA TO TEAM UP FOR MOVIE FILMED IN SPACE

Due to the forced quarantine that the coronavirus pandemic has caused worldwide, the entertainment industry has essentially ground to a halt; forcing actors to stay at home and production to stop.

But that's not stopping Mission Impossible actor Tom Cruise from starring in his next film. Instead, he'll choose a different, more extreme location than the studios in Hollywood, California: one that's out-of-this-world. Literally.

According to a tweet from NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine, Cruise, an action star known for performing his own stunts, will film in space.

"NASA is excited to work with Tom Cruise on a film aboard the space station," he wrote on Tuesday. "We need more popular media to inspire a new generation of engineers and scientists to make NASA's ambitious plans a reality."

NASA may not be the only organization helping Cruise achieve this feat. On Monday, Deadline reported Cruise will also collaborate with Elon Musk's SpaceX on the narrative feature film shot in space, specifically, the International Space Station.

SCARLETT JOHANSSON WAS REJECTED FOR BLACK WIDOW'S ROLE

Part of the original six Avengers, Scarlett Johansson as Black Widow has one of the most important roles in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. The actor is headlining her own stand-alone film that was supposed to land May 1 but has been delayed due to coronavirus pandemic.

However, not many know that Scarlett was not the first choice to play Natasha Romanoff aka Black Widow. In an interview with Parade magazine, she has accepted that she was not the first choice to play the iconic character. The Oscar-winning actor said she had a "wonderful" meeting with Iron Man 2 director Jon Favreau but the role went to Emily Blunt. "I was really excited to work with him," Johansson said about Favreau. "So I said, 'If this doesn't work out, I'm an actor for hire, so call me anytime.'"

Emily Blunt, however, could not play the part due to a scheduling conflict with another film -- the Jack Black starrer Gulliver's Travels. She also bowed out from playing Peggy Carter in Captain America: The First Avenger later.

Scarlett added that when she got the role after being passed over initially, she appreciated it more, "The best call you can receive is after you are rejected for something and then you get it. You appreciate it more. I've basically made a career out of being second choice."

She also spoke about that exact moment when she realized what a phenomenon Marvel Cinematic Universe was turning out to be. While filming a scene in 2012's The Avengers, Black Widow, Iron Man, Thor, Captain America, Hawkeye and the Hulk stand in a circle while gearing up for battle.



EMMA STONE TALKS MENTAL HEALTH IN TIMES OF CORONA: WRITE, WRITE AND WRITE

In a rare video appearance, actor Emma Stone is raising mental health awareness while practising social distancing during the coronavirus pandemic. May is Mental Health Awareness Month and the Oscar winner announced the Child Mind Institute's #WeThriveInside campaign, a digital initiative that will help those struggling right now and beyond with tele-health and online resources.

"Many of us are dealing with isolation, anxiety and uncertainty during this COVID-19 crisis, and this includes the 17 million kids and teens in America that's one in five who have a mental health disorder. We're inviting you to be part of our team," she said in the clip.

According to media source, the institute will release self-recorded videos daily featuring notable names sharing stories of how they stay mentally fit while encouraging families and kids to check out its COVID 19-related resources.

Videos will be distributed across all social media platforms of Child Mind Institute.

Stone, who is a board member of the organisation, opened up what she likes



to do when she is struggling with anxiety.

"What I do is just write down anything that I'm worried about. I just write and write and write and I don't think about it and I don't read it back.

"I find it's really, really helpful for me to get it all out on paper. I hope you're staying safe, you're staying strong and healthy and I'm sending you lots of love," she said.

LOCKDOWN DIARIES: SELENA GOMEZ WORKING ON NEW MUSIC

Amid the lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic, pop star Selena Gomez has set up a small studio at her home, and is working on new music.

The singer took to Instagram to share a picture of her home recording studio, reports dailymail.co.uk.

In the picture, the 27-year-old is seen sitting on the floor next to her furry slippers in front of a studio, with a professional microphone, mic stand, and insulated walls. She is wearing a grey tee with a pair of dark blue pants, she also has a book with a sketch on one side and another book with notes kept in front of her.

"Makeshift studio so I can work from home" she captioned the image.

Recently, during a conversation with Apple Music's Zane Lowe, Gomez revealed her plan to build a home studio.

"Currently I'm actually building this little studio situation and I'm doing it with the people that have been in my house," she said.

"So I'm creating a little station where



I'm going to be able to FaceTime with my engineer and some of my producer friends and we're going to try to make some music, which I'm so excited about," she added.

IS attack in Syrian desert kills 11 Syrian soldiers

DAMASCUS (TIP): The Islamic State (IS) carried out an attack in a desert region in eastern Syria, killing 11 Syrian soldiers and pro-government fighters, a war monitor reported.

The IS attack took place in an area between the towns of Sukhnah and Shoula between the central province of Homs and the eastern province of Deir al-Zour, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights on Thursday, Xinhua news agency reported.

It said the death toll could likely rise due to the critically wounded cases.

The attack is the latest in a series of offensives carried out by the sleeper cells of the IS group in the Syrian desert. The Britain-based watchdog group said 515 government soldiers and pro-government fighters have been killed in similar attacks since March 2019. The group also said that over the past hours the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces and its patron of the US-led coalition carried out several operations against IS in Deir al-Zour, leaving several IS members killed. — IANS

UK economy to 'shrink' most since 1706

LONDON (TIP): The Bank of England (BoE) warned on Thursday the British economy could suffer its deepest annual contraction in more than three centuries as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, before bouncing back next year.

The bank said the British economy will be 30 per cent smaller at the end of the first half of the year than it was at the start of it, with the second quarter seeing a 25 per cent slump alone following a 3 per cent decline in the first. Unemployment is projected to more than double to around 9 per cent. The central bank said the economy should start to recover during the second half of the year. — AP

Parliament nominates Netanyahu to form govt

JERUSALEM (TIP): The Israeli parliament formally nominated Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday to form a new coalition government despite his upcoming trial on corruption charges, bringing him closer to a fifth term after more than a year of political stalemate. Seventy-two of the Knesset's 120 lawmakers signed on to Netanyahu's candidacy after parliament passed legislation approving details of a power-sharing deal between the premier's right-wing Likud party and centrist rival Benny Gantz's Blue and White, a joint statement from the factions said. Netanyahu's nomination was submitted to President Reuven Rivlin. Netanyahu and Gantz, who were deadlocked in three inconclusive elections since April 2019, plan to swear in their new coalition in on Wednesday. Gantz had previously baulked at partnering up with Netanyahu, who has been indicted on graft charges. — Reuters

North Korea's Kim praises XI for outbreak gains

BANGKOK (TIP): North Korea says leader Kim Jong Un sent a personal message to Chinese President Xi Jinping praising what he described as China's success in getting its coronavirus epidemic under control.

The report by North Korea's state media followed an assessment by South Korea's spy agency that the pandemic is hurting the North's economy, already crippled by decades of policy failures and U.S.-led international sanctions over its nuclear weapons programme.

China is North Korea's most significant ally and economic lifeline, accounting for about 90 per cent of the country's external trade. With China's COVID-19 caseload easing, some experts say the North could reach out to China to reinvigorate cross-border trade that had been significantly reduced in past months.

The Korean Central News Agency says Kim in the message to Xi "congratulated him, highly appreciating that he is seizing a chance of victory in the war against the unprecedented epidemic." It did not specify when the message was sent.

South Korea's spy agency recently told lawmakers in a closed-door briefing that trade volume between North Korea and China in the first quarter declined 55% from a year earlier. In March, the bilateral trade volume suffered a 91 per cent drop, lawmakers cited the agency as saying.

North took intense action to avoid an outbreak by closing its borders in January and quarantining thousands of people. It still contends it has had no cases of infection, though many outsiders doubt that.

A South Korean lawmaker who discussed the spy agency's findings earlier this week said the National Intelligence Service cannot rule out an outbreak in the North. But the agency concluded skyrocketing food prices and panic-buying in Pyongyang and a reduction in Kim Jong Un's public



appearances this year were evidence of the impact, the lawmaker said.

South Korea reported 12 fresh cases of the new coronavirus, its first increase above 10 in five days.

Figures by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention brought national totals to 10,822 cases and 256 deaths. Three of the new cases were detected in the hardest-hit city of Daegu, and three were passengers screened at airports.

As its caseload has slowed, South Korea has relaxed social distancing guidelines, allowing sports to resume and preparing to reopen schools.

South Korea's professional soccer league will begin its new season on Friday, following Tuesday's baseball openers. Still, health officials warning of new infections urged people to reconsider visiting their elderly parents on Friday, which is national parents' day, and over the weekend.

China announced one new virus case, a local infection in Jilin province, and 16 new cases of people who are not showing symptoms.

Just 260 people remain hospitalized

and 890 are in isolation as suspected cases or for having tested positive but without showing symptoms. China has reported 4,633 deaths among 82,886 cases. Also, China's football teams will temporarily cut players' pay to help teams manage losses.

The head of China's football association, Chen Xuyuan, also told state broadcaster CCTV that matches would resume on a staggered schedule but gave no dates.

The United Nations is appealing to governments, companies and billionaires to contribute to a \$6.7 billion appeal to fight the coronavirus pandemic in vulnerable countries.

UN humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock warns that a failure to help could lead to a "hunger pandemic," famine, riots and more conflict. Lowcock said there is already evidence of incomes plummeting and jobs disappearing, food supplies falling and prices soaring, and children missing vaccinations and meals — and the peak of the pandemic isn't expected to hit the world's poorest countries for three to six months. AP

UK PM Johnson's divorce with Indian-origin wife finalised

LONDON (TIP): Boris Johnson has become the first British Prime Minister in 250 years to divorce while in the office as papers filed by his Indian-origin ex-wife, Marina Wheeler, earlier this year, were granted recently. The 55-year-old had announced his engagement with fiancée Carrie Symonds soon after the decree absolute was filed in February.

Symonds (32), who moved to Downing Street with Johnson in July last year, gave birth to their baby boy, Wilfred Lawrie Nicholas Johnson, last Wednesday. According to the Daily Mirror, Johnson's divorce from Wheeler, his second wife, was finalised with the grant of the decree just before the birth

of the baby on April 29.

Wheeler, whose mother Dip Singh hailed from Punjab, is a barrister and columnist, who has four grown up children with Johnson.

On February 18, she obtained permission from the Central Family Court in London to apply for a decree absolute, the legal document ending a marriage. The newspaper believes the paperwork was filed "immediately" and it is believed that Johnson and Wheeler could each end up with 4 million pounds from the divorce settlement.

Wheeler, who has previously written about surviving cancer, is due to publish 'The Lost Homestead' about her mother,

who married her father, BBC foreign correspondent Charles Wheeler, in 1962.

Johnson's first marriage was to socialite Allegra Mostyn-Owen, between 1987 and 1993.

With his latest divorce, he has become the first British Prime Minister to divorce while in the office since Augustus FitzRoy, the Duke of Grafton, back in 1769. The Duke had shocked the Georgian society at the time when he had a very public affair with the courtesan Nancy Parsons. Matters were further complicated as his wife became pregnant by her lover, the Earl of Upper Ossory, with an Act of Parliament was approved granting their divorce in March 1769. PTI

5 KILLED, DOZENS WOUNDED IN TRIPOLI SHELLING

CAIRO (TIP): Artillery shelling by Libya's eastern-based forces killed more than five civilians and wounded dozens in the capital, Tripoli, an official with the country's UN-supported government said on Thursday.

It was the latest attack on Tripoli by the eastern forces' commander Khalifa Hifter, who launched a push last year to capture the city. The fighting, which has killed hundreds of civilians and displaced tens of thousands, has mostly stalemated in recent months.

Libya has been in turmoil since 2011, when a civil war toppled long-time dictator Moammar Gadhafi, who was later killed. The country has since 2015 been split between rival administrations in the east and the west, each backed by armed groups supported by an array of foreign powers.

Hifter's offensive is supported by France and Russia, as well as Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and other key Arab countries.

The government in Tripoli is backed by Turkey, which deployed troops and mercenaries to help defend the capital in January, as well as by Italy and Qatar. Mercenaries, mainly from the Syria battlefield, are now fighting on both sides and complicating the already complex proxy war.

Meanwhile, a report by UN experts monitoring sanctions against Libya obtained earlier this week said that a private Russian security company has provided between 800 and 1,200 mercenaries to support Hifter's offensive on the capital.

Hifter's artillery on Wednesday hit two Tripoli neighborhoods, Tajoura and Abu Salim, according to Amin al-Hashemi, the Health Ministry's spokesman with the Tripoli-based government. Children and paramedics



were among the 46 civilians wounded in the shelling, al-Hashemi added.

"This the first time since the beginning of 2020 that residential neighborhoods are that intensively targeted," he said.

Late Thursday, artillery shells fired by Hifter's forces struck the area around the Italian ambassador's residence, killing two civilians, according to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"These attacks are unacceptable and denote contempt for international law and human life," the ministry said in a statement.

At the United Nations, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the world body continues "to remind the parties of their obligations under international humanitarian law to take all feasible measures to avoid civilian harm."

Earlier this week, the International Criminal Court's prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said her office is working on new arrest warrants for possible war

crimes committed in Libya. Attacks on civilians may constitute crimes under the Rome Statute that established the ICC, she said, adding that military commanders will be held accountable for crimes committed by their forces.

The fighting over Tripoli has intensified in recent weeks despite UN calls for a cease-fire to allow authorities to focus on curbing the spread of the coronavirus. Libya has so far recorded 64 virus cases, including three deaths. The pandemic could possibly devastate war-torn Libya, where a decade-long conflict has ravaged key infrastructure and created dire medical shortages.

Dujarric said that already this year, 13 attacks have impacted field hospitals, health care workers and ambulances, including attacks on hospitals identified to treat COVID-19 in Libya. He added that "the UN fears that figures may be underreported as there is a lack of testing capacity and contact tracing." — AP

Kadhimi is new Iraq Prime Minister

BAGHDAD (TIP): The government of Iraqi PM-designate Mustafa al-Kadhimi won a vote of confidence in Parliament, putting an end to more than five months of political turmoil.

Lawmakers approved Al-Kadhimi and 15 of his candidates for ministerial posts, including the key defence and interior portfolios, while rejecting four others and postponing a vote on nominees to head the oil and foreign ministries.

The new PM takes the reins as Iraq struggles to surmount a deep economic, political and institutional crisis after months of protests that left more than 500 dead and a public health emergency due to the pandemic. — PTI

Russia overtakes France, Germany in virus cases

MOSCOW (TIP): Russia's coronavirus case tally surged to 177,160 on Thursday after a record daily rise in infections, meaning it now has the fifth highest number of registered cases in the world and more cases than in Germany or France. The number of new cases of the novel virus jumped by 11,231 in the last 24 hours, the country's coronavirus taskforce said. Reuters

Dutch restaurant trials glass booths for dining amid coronavirus

AMSTERDAM (TIP): A Dutch restaurant has come up with an idea on how to offer classy outdoor dining in the age of coronavirus: small glass cabins built for two or three people, creating intimate cocoons on a public patio. Waiters wear gloves and transparent face shields, and use a long board to bring dishes into the glass cabins to ensure minimal physical contact with customers.

While the concept is currently being trialed only for family and friends of staff from the ETEN restaurant, which is part of the Mediamatic arts centre, it certainly looks glamorous, as diners enjoy candle-lit meals with a waterside view.

"It's super-cosy, it's really cosy, it's nice and the food is delicious," said Janita Vermeulen, who was invited to a trial dinner with her roommate.

Organisers call the project 'Serres Séparées' (Separate Greenhouses) because they say it sounds better in French. "We are now learning how to do the cleaning, how to do the service, how to get the empty plates out again in an elegant way, so you still feel taken care of nicely," said Willem Velthoven of Mediamatic. Dutch restaurants are closed to the public until at least May 19, though kitchens may operate for takeaway. The Netherlands' restaurant association KNH has said that even if restaurants are allowed to reopen at limited capacity and with safety measures in place, many face financial ruin if social distancing rules are maintained. Reuters

Suspect claims Norway mosque attack was 'emergency justice'

COPENHAGEN (TIP): A Norwegian man suspected of killing his ethnic Chinese stepsister and then storming an Oslo mosque and opening fire said Thursday on the first day of his trial that it was an act of "emergency justice" and that he regretted not having caused more damage.

Philip Manshaus appeared at a court west of Norway's capital and denied charges of murder and terror read to him by a prosecutor, the Norwegian news agency NTB said.

Manshaus has acknowledged the facts but denies the accusation, saying he opposes non-Western immigration.

Broadcaster NRK said during his testimony Manshaus claimed the white race "will end up as a minority in their own home countries" and criticised those who "blackmail national socialism". In court, Manshaus, 22,

described how he killed his 17-year-old stepsister, Johanne Zhangjia Ihle-Hansen, by shooting her four times — three in the head and one in the chest — with a hunting rifle at their home in the Oslo suburb of Baerum. Ihle-Hansen was adopted from China as a 2-year old.

Shortly after that, Manshaus said he drove to a nearby mosque where three men were preparing for Eid al-Adha celebrations. He wore a helmet with a video camera attached and a bulletproof vest, Manshaus was armed with a hunting rifle and a shotgun and fired four shots with the rifle at a glass door before he was overpowered by one of the men in the mosque at the time, Muhammad Rafiq.

During the scuffle, two more shots were fired but no one was hit. Rafiq was slightly injured in the struggle. In his testimony, Manshaus said he wanted to

kill Rafiq.

"I did everything I could to carry out the attack," he told court, adding he was exhausted when police arrived.

The prosecution says Manshaus acted "with the intention to kill as many Muslims as possible". Some 30 witnesses, including the men at the mosque and Manshaus' father, are expected to give evidence. If found guilty, Manshaus could face up to 21 years in prison. The prosecutor has said it would consider a sentence where he would be sent to a secure mental facility for as long as he is considered a danger to others. Norwegian media have reported that Manshaus was inspired by shootings in March 2019 in New Zealand, where a gunman targeted two mosques, killing 51 people, and in August 2019 in El Paso, Texas, where an assailant targeted Hispanics and left at least 22 dead. AP

SURPRISING THINGS WOMEN MISS ABOUT BEING SINGLE

It may be a cliché to say that people always want what they don't have, but when it comes to relationships, sometimes that's the cold, hard truth.

Those who are single want to find someone who makes their heart dance and can officially take them off the market (aka the dating apps).

Those who are in a relationship, married or even married with kids like to flirt with the idea of kicking it all to the curb and downloading a dating app, where they can swipe themselves to a new life and a new lover.

Here's what married women who wish they were single had to say:

I miss sleeping alone

There's nothing like sleeping by yourself. That's something you don't get to do when you are in a relationship or even married, like I am, for four years. I miss the days when I could have the whole bed and even apartment to myself. Sharing is tough. Being single and selfish has such a giant appeal to me some days when I just need some alone time, or desperately want to go to sleep and stretch out on the bed.

Never got to use dating app

I see all my friends swiping on these dating apps, and it just seems like something I wish I tried. I met my husband the old-fashioned way: in person at a coffee shop. Sure, it feels like a romantic movie, but a part of me wishes I was dating now, when there are more options and meeting people is easier. I seriously wonder if he and I would have matched on one of these dating apps or what our profiles would have looked like. It would be kind of cool to test that out and see if in today's world, if we would be together with the help of one of these apps.



Going out to clubs would be more fun

I used to love going out for a girls' night at a club, having a group of guys pay for our bottle service and dance with us all night. Now I go, and guys see my wedding ring and automatically think I'm boring. I miss being single and able to flirt with an outrageously hot guy at a club until 4 am.

There's nothing like new love

Ah, I miss the spark of new love. There's nothing like those first couple of dates with someone and all the anticipation over whether they like you, when they are going to kiss you or just watching their name pop up on your phone. I miss all those feelings. Everything is calm and predictable when you're married.

I'd feel young again

Marriage makes me feel old. Maybe it's because I gave up on trying to look nice all of the time, or maybe it's because I don't feel nice when I don't get attention from random guys like I did when I was single or looking.

That's the only reason I wish I was single, to feel young and good about myself again.

I'd get the chance to start over

I'll be honest and say I'm not in a good marriage. I'm not happy, and hope to get a divorce soon. The one thing I can look forward to is the chance to be single again and start from scratch. It's hard to reset a relationship that's just all wrong and making you miserable. It's easier to start things off on a good note with a new person.

FOOD CORNER



MUGHLAI CHICKEN

INGREDIENTS

- 3 tablespoons Ghee, 10 Cashewnuts, 4 large Onions, finely chopped, 6 Garlic Cloves, peeled, 1 inch piece Ginger, peeled, 3 Green Chillies, 2 Cardamom Pods, 1 Bayleaf, 3 Cloves, 1 inch Cinnamon stick, 1/2 kg bone-in Chicken (cut into medium sized pieces), 1/2 teaspoon Turmeric Powder, 1 teaspoon Coriander Powder, 1/2 teaspoon Chilli Powder, 1/2 teaspoon Garam Masala Powder, 2 tablespoons Cream, Salt to taste

Method

- To start with, soak cashewnuts in hot water for 10 minutes. Also rub turmeric powder all over the chicken. Set both things aside.
- Heat a tablespoon of ghee in a pan, and add the onions. Sprinkle 1/2 teaspoon salt over the onions and mix. Reduce the flame, cover and cook the onions till they are deep brown in colour. During the process of browning the onions, stir them around every 5-6 minutes to prevent them from sticking to the bottom and burning. This whole process of caramelizing the onions should take about 20 minutes.
- Once the onions are brown, transfer them to a food processor along with the soaked cashewnuts, garlic cloves, ginger, green chillies and 1/4 cup water. Grind to a smooth paste.
- Heat the remaining ghee in the same pan, and add cardamom pods, bayleaf, cloves and cinnamon. Saute for a minute or two and add the onion paste. Cook the onion paste on medium high heat, while stirring occasionally for 4-5 minutes. Add coriander powder, chilli powder, garam masala powder and salt and saute for another 2-3 minutes.
- Add chicken to the pan along with 1/4 cup water. Cover and cook the chicken for 20 minutes or till cooked through, while stirring the curry occasionally. This will be a thick gravy, but if you like your thinner, feel free to add a little water and bring the curry to a boil.
- Taste for seasoning, and finish it up by stirring in the cream. Switch off the flame. Let the curry sit for 10 minutes before serving with parathas and jeera rice.

GET RID OF PIMPLES FAST

Instead of shelling out for expensive acne treatments, learn how to get clear skin with these natural at-home remedies.

Green Tea

Green tea has antimicrobial and antioxidant compounds that can help fight acne. To get its effects, use a cooled cup of green tea as a face wash or lay the bag over the affected area.

Honey

Honey's antibiotic properties can help improve acne. Apply a teaspoon of honey to affected areas, or make a mask by mixing 1/2 cup of honey with 1 cup of plain oatmeal and leaving it on for 30 minutes.

Mint

Mint can help remove pore-clogging oil. To help clear acne before it begins, mix 2 tablespoons of finely chopped fresh mint with two tablespoons each of plain yogurt and oatmeal (use a blender to pulverize the oatmeal to powder). Leave the concoction on your face for 10 minutes, then rinse off with water.

Echinacea

Echinacea is traditionally used to speed wound healing and prevent colds and flu, but its antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties can help with acne as well. Use echinacea tea as a daily face wash by soaking a cloth with it, or put a few drops of tincture on a cotton ball and dab it on blemishes.

Asprin

The salicylic acid in aspirin is a go-to for acne treatments, and the aspirin can dry up pimples and reduce inflammation. To take advantage of its benefits, form a paste by mashing aspirin in a little water, or dissolve four pills in 2 tablespoons of water.

Chamomile

Chamomile helps decrease inflammation from acne. In a blender or coffee grinder, combine the contents of a chamomile tea bag with enough water to form a paste, and apply that to acne. Alternately, steep two chamomile tea bags with 1 cup boiled water for 15 minutes. Let the tea cool, then use a cotton ball to dab it on your face after cleansing.



BENEFITS OF BLACK COFFEE: FROM LOWERING DIABETES RISK TO BOOSTING METABOLISM

Black coffee not just acts as a wake-up drink but the warm bitter concoction comes with other benefits too. Coffee lovers would agree, a cup of concentrated caffeine can help you meet all kinds of deadlines. Though people have mixed opinions, it must be consumed wisely to avoid potential harmful effects.

Among its many benefits, drinking coffee or tea is associated with a lowered risk of type 2 diabetes, and consumption of at least three cups per day may help, according to a study.

Below are some of the health benefits of black coffee

- Boosts memory: A cup of black coffee in the morning boosts your attention and keeps your mind at its optimum pace. For years, drinking coffee has been associated with having a reduced risk of developing Parkinson's disease (PD). In fact, a 1968 study suggested that coffee drinkers were less like to get PD (Nefzger, Quadfasel, & Karl, 1968).
- Better workouts: Black coffee helps improve your performance at the gym. It helps to break down fat and release it in the bloodstream as fatty acids, which can be used up as a fuel for the body.
- Promotes weight loss: Black



coffee boots your metabolism by 50 per cent and helps you burn fats. It also reduces water content in the body.

- Rich in antioxidants: It has antioxidants such as potassium, magnesium,

Vitamin B2, B3 and B5.

- Healthy liver: Regular intake of black coffee has been linked with the prevention of liver cancer, fatty liver disease, hepatitis as well as alcoholic cirrhosis.

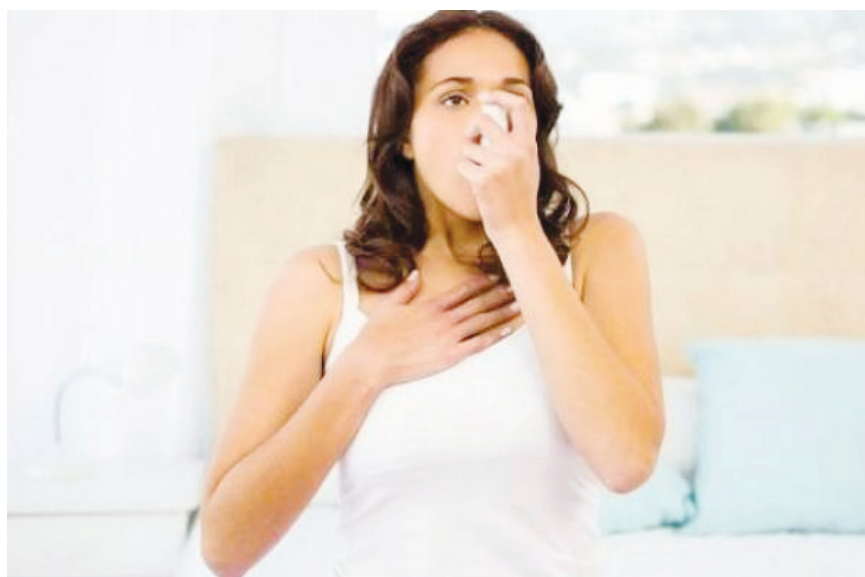
Avoid these foods if you have asthma; here's why

Asthma is characterised by the inflammation of bronchial tubes which can lead to symptoms such as shortness of breath, chest tightness or pain, wheezing and coughing. Experts suggest that foods you may be allergic to can also lead to symptoms of an asthma attack.

According to a 2017 study published in the journal Nutrients, Western diet comprising "high intake of refined grains, processed and red meats, and desserts" have pro-inflammatory effects and may not be ideal for an asthma patient.

People suffering from asthma should avoid foods with preservatives as they contain chemicals and have a high sodium content, which can cause allergy and trigger the symptoms.

Alcohol is a no-no, stressed the nutritionist. Besides inflammation, it may also increase blood pressure levels, and may increase obesity. "Maintaining the Body Mass Index (BMI) is important for an asthma patient. If the patient's BMI is more than 30-35 Grade 1 or Grade 2 obesity, the excess fat can cause more difficulty in breathing.



So, what should you eat?

Fresh fruits and vegetables, and freshly cooked, warm foods are recommended. The 2017 study mentioned earlier also suggests that Mediterranean diet with high intake of fruits and vegetables are good for asthma patients because of their anti-inflammatory properties. Antioxidant foods like nuts or

foods rich in vitamin D, foods rich in magnesium like spinach or pumpkin seeds, and omega 3 fatty acids like flax seeds can help. Along with this, immunity boosting foods like ginger, turmeric, lemon and honey can help overcome asthma. So, you can have a glass of warm ginger water or turmeric water in the morning.



LOOKING TO BOOST YOUR HEALTH? TRY ONION TEA

We are always looking for ways to stay healthy, especially given the current situation. Nobody wants to rely on medicines all the time, and are always on the lookout for natural ways to boost their immunity. If you, too, are wondering how you can strengthen yourself, here is a simple kitchen ingredient/preparation that can help you: onion tea.

As strange as it may seem, onion tea is actually a thing — and yes, it is exactly what it sounds like: a tea made with onions, and other ingredients. Separately, onions and tea have a lot of health benefits. While onions are known to detox the body and keep it healthy from within, having tea in the morning has many benefits, too.

If you are thinking of making this concoction, here are the things you will need:

- One chopped onion
- Three cloves of garlic
- One or two tablespoons of honey so as to sweeten the tea
- Two cups of water
- Some bay leaves and cloves

Method

- It is like you how you prepare regular tea. Take a saucepan, add water and it let boil on medium flame.
- Next, add the chopped onions to it, and also add the garlic after peeling it, after some time. Remember to squash the garlic.
- You can now add bay leaves and cloves to it, and let it boil for some more time.
- When you notice the water change its colour and become dark brown, switch off the gas and carefully sieve and pour it into a cup.
- Add honey for the sweet taste after some time and stir it well.
- It is advisable that you drink this every day in the morning for good health and more energy.

Also, different people prepare it differently, but the key ingredient — onion — is always present in all the different variations. You just have to suit yourself.

- It is known to prevent cold, especially when it starts to rain suddenly and the weather gets colder. According to research published in the Journal of European Clinical Nutrition, onions contain flavonoids called quercetin, which can boost antioxidants in the blood.
- The same research suggests that it can reduce hypertension, and we all know how we are susceptible to it, given our lifestyle and work stress.

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Google Authenticator for Android can finally move accounts between devices

Google hasn't significantly tweaked Authenticator on Android for years (Android Policenotes the last big upgrade was in 2017), but it's about to get a much-needed refresh. The company is rolling out an update that, most notably, lets you transfer accounts between devices. You'll now find an export/import tool that moves accounts by creating a QR code you scan on the destination device. It should now be considerably easier to migrate a work email account or your social networks while keeping them locked down with two-factor authentication.

The new revision also makes the leap to Google's modern design aesthetic and supports a true dark theme if that's more your style. Google typically takes a while to push updates on its own, but it's available through APK Mirror if you just can't wait.



Smart water leak detectors could end up saving you more than you'd think

At CES earlier this year, I noted the rising number of smart plumbing products that promise to monitor for problems with your pipes, including ones that will automatically shut your water off in the event of a leak. The category features established options from major manufacturers that have been on the market for multiple years at this point -- but compared to more popular smart home categories such as lights, locks and thermostats, the devices have struggled to break through with consumers.

Now, one of those manufacturers is turning to the research community to help bolster the pitch. Faucet-aisle mainstay Moen, maker of the Flo by Moen Smart Water Shutoff, teamed with an analytics team at LexisNexis Risk Solutions to participate in research studying what sort of economic impact the device can make for homeowners, as well as its potential for insurers. This morning, the Flo by Moen team released the full findings, which you can read here.

NEW IMAGE CAPTURES 'IMPOSSIBLE' VIEW OF THE MOON'S SURFACE

Shadows creep down the banks of every crater on the near-side of the moon, highlighting the pockmarked face of Earth's gravitationally-bound buddy with a clarity never before seen.

According to photographer Andrew McCarthy, who posted the stunning image to his Instagram in April, there's a simple explanation for the unprecedented level of detail in his work — this lunar view is actually "impossible."

"This moon might look a little funny to you, and that's because it is an impossible scene," McCarthy wrote on Instagram. "From two weeks of images of the waxing moon, I took the section of the picture that has the most contrast ... aligned and blended them to show the rich texture across the entire surface."

The high-contrast section of the moon that McCarthy referred to is called the "lunar terminator" — the long line in the sand (or regolith, if you prefer) that divides the moon's Earth-facing side between darkness and light. This terminator line moves around constantly depending on the phase of the moon, revealing or concealing new sections of the lunar surface each day as the satellite moves in and out of Earth's shadow. Because the terminator line heightens the contrast between the light and dark sides of the moon's face, shadows



look elongated and intensified in craters closest to the terminator.

With this in mind, McCarthy trained his camera on the craters closest to the lunar terminator every night for two weeks as the moon waxed toward complete illumination. By the time the moon was full, McCarthy had a series of high-contrast, high-definition photos of every crater on the moon's Earth-facing side. Blending

them into a single composite image was "exhausting," he wrote, but ultimately resulted in the gorgeously detailed shot seen above — an image that McCarthy calls the "all terminator" moon.

This impossible composite can't really be considered a true photograph of the moon, but the finished whole certainly amounts to more than the sum of its shady-cratered parts.

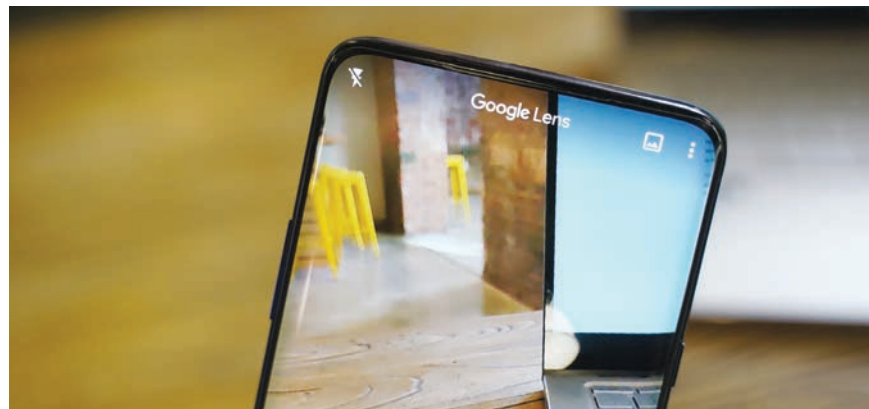
GOOGLE LENS CAN NOW HELP YOU PRONOUNCE THE WORDS IT TRANSLATES

Google Lens already helps you search for stuff via pictures, which is handy if you want to know what a particular type of plant is or what a statue is called. Now though, it's getting a few new features to help you be more productive.

You'll be able to use the notes copy/paste feature — which lets you save text from paper documents to your phone — on your computer as well. Just tap "copy to computer" to paste the text on to any other device that's signed-in with Chrome.

Lens can already help you translate words into other languages when you point your camera at them, now, it'll help you learn how to pronounce them, too. Just select the text and tap the new "listen" button to have the word or phrase read out loud. Finally, Lens can now help you figure out concepts that you don't understand — in-line with Google search results, you can select words to learn more about them. Not sure what gravitational waves are? Tap the phrase and Lens will bring up relevant search results to explain.

These aren't major changes, but



they're certainly enough to make Lens a more useful tool — and provide an interesting way to kill time while you're at home. All these features roll out today, except for the listen function, which is available on Android now and coming to iOS soon.

Google has added a very useful feature to Google Lens, its multipurpose object recognition tool. You can now copy and paste handwritten notes from your phone to your computer with Lens, though it only works if your handwriting is neat enough.

In order to use the new feature,

you need to have the latest version of Google Chrome as well as the standalone Google Lens app on Android or the Google app on iOS (where Lens can be accessed through a button next to the search bar). You'll also need to be logged in to the same Google account on both devices.

That done, simply point your camera at any handwritten text, highlight it on-screen, and select copy. You can then go to any document in Google Docs, hit Edit, and then Paste to paste the text. And voila — or, viola, depending on your handwriting.

Vista Equity Partners picks 2.32% stake in Jio Platforms for Rs 11,367 crore

NEW DELHI (TIP): US-based private equity firm Vista Equity Partners will buy a 2.32 per cent stake in billionaire Mukesh Ambani's digital unit, Jio Platforms, for Rs 11,367 crore, the company announced on Friday.

"This investment values Jio Platforms at an equity value of Rs 4.91 lakh crore and an enterprise value of Rs 5.16 lakh crore," the company said in a statement.

Vista's investment will translate into a 2.32 per cent equity stake on a fully diluted basis, making Vista the largest investor in Jio Platforms behind Reliance Industries and Facebook.

Facebook had bought 9.99 per cent stake in Jio Platforms — the firm that houses India's youngest but biggest telecom firm, for Rs 43,574 crore. That deal was followed by Silver Lake — the world's largest tech investor — buying 1.15 per cent stake in Jio Platforms for Rs 5,665.75 crore.

"Jio Platforms has now raised Rs 60,596.37 crore from leading technology investors in less than three weeks," the statement said.

Jio Platforms, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries, is a next-generation tech company that brings together Jio's leading digital apps, digital ecosystems and high speed connectivity platform under one umbrella.

Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, which provides connectivity platform to over 388 million subscribers, will continue to be a wholly-owned subsidiary of Jio Platforms.

Vista is a leading global investment firm focused on empowering enterprise software, data and technology enabled companies that are reinventing industries and catalyzing change. It has more than \$57 billion in cumulative capital commitments and its global network of companies collectively represent the 5th largest



enterprise software company in the world.

Currently, Vista portfolio companies have a significant presence in India with over 13,000 employees.

"I am delighted to welcome Vista, one of the world's marquee tech investors globally as a valued partner. Like our other partners, Vista also shares with us the same vision of continuing to grow and transform the Indian digital ecosystem for the benefit of all Indians," RIL Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani said.

Ambani further said "we are excited to leverage the professional expertise and multi-level support that Vista has been offering to its investments globally for the benefit of Jio."



BMW INDIA RESUMES PRODUCTION

CHENNAI (TIP): German luxury carmaker BMW on Thursday said it has commenced operations at the Chennai plant in accordance with the guidelines issued by local authorities.

The remaining employees would continue to work from home, BMW India said.

The company also stated that the BMW, MINI and BMW Motorrad dealerships across the country would restart the operations in adherence to local government directives.

"BMW Group India started operations at Chennai plant today (May 7) in accordance with guidelines issued by local authorities. Local production at the plant will be started with less than 50% of regular workforce", the company said.

Engine and auto parts makers Swaraj Engines and Federal-Mogul Goetze India on Thursday said they have resumed operations at their respective plants in Punjab following relaxation in lockdown. In a regulatory filing, Swaraj Engines said it has received permission from authorities to resume operations at its plant located at Mohali.

Similarly, Federal-Mogul Goetze India has partially resumed its operations at its plant situated at Patiala by adhering to directions, guidelines and permissions issued by authorities with respect to Covid-19.

SBI cuts lending rate by 15 bps

NEW DELHI (TIP): The country's largest lender SBI on Thursday slashed benchmark lending rate by 15 basis points (bps), and introduced special deposit scheme for senior citizens with higher interest rate.

To safeguard the interests of senior citizens in the current falling rate regime, the bank has introduced a new product 'SBI Wecare Deposit' for them in the retail term deposit segment, SBI said.

Under this new product, an additional 30 basis points premium will be payable for senior citizen's retail term deposits with "5 years & above" tenor only, it said. This scheme would be in effect up to September 30, it said.

However, SBI slashed its interest rates on retail term deposits by 20 basis points for 'up to 3 years' tenor, effective from May 12 in view of adequate liquidity in the system as well as with the bank.

With regard to revision in the lending rate, the bank said, the marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) comes down to 7.25% from 7.40% with effect from May 10.

Consequently, EMIs on eligible home loan accounts (linked to MCLR) will get cheaper by approx Rs 255 for a 30-year loan of Rs 25 lakh, it said.

This is the 12th consecutive reduction in the bank's MCLR, the bank added.



Gilead in talks with Indian drugmakers for remdesivir production

NEW DELHI (TIP): US-based biopharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences said on Wednesday that it is negotiating long-term voluntary licences with several generic drugmakers in India and Pakistan to produce experimental antiviral drug remdesivir.

Remdesivir is currently under spotlight for its potential to treat patients suffering from Covid-19.

The US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) last week issued an emergency use authorisation for remdesivir in the treatment of Covid-19 patients.

Gilead said that it is in discussions with some of the world's leading chemical and pharmaceutical manufacturing companies about their ability, under voluntary licences, to produce remdesivir for Europe, Asia and the developing world through at least 2022.

Which companies Gilead is currently in discussion with were not revealed.

The announcement comes after Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Monday said that there is a confusion over the pricing and patent of experimental anti-viral drug remdesivir. The Health Ministry had recently said that it is examining remdesivir, which was used during the Ebola outbreak, as one protocol in the treatment for Covid-19.

Gilead said it will provide appropriate technology transfers to facilitate remdesivir production, adding that it is in active discussions with the Medicines Patent Pool to licence remdesivir for developing countries.

Producing the drug requires scarce raw materials, with their own lengthy production time, and specialised manufacturing capabilities with limited global capacity, the drug maker pointed out. Any disruption to the supply chain impacting these scarce raw materials and other manufacturing inputs could reduce the amount of remdesivir produced and increase the time it takes to do so.



Glaxo offloads stake worth \$3.4 bn in HUL

HONG KONG/SINGAPORE (TIP): GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) has sold its stake in Unilever's Indian business (Hindustan Unilever Ltd) for \$3.4 billion, marking India's largest block trade, which will help the British company in its goal of reinvigorating its drug development pipeline.

The transaction GSK announced on Thursday comes as it pursues a two-year programme to split into two entities after it made costly bets on experimental cancer treatments and future cell and gene therapies amid sluggish revenue growth.

The drugmaker is cashing in a 5.7% stake it took in Hindustan Unilever, which produces everything from deodorant to soup, as payment for the sale of its malted drink brand Horlicks and other nutrition brands to Unilever in 2018.

The 133.77 million shares were offloaded on average for 1,905 rupees, according to a statement from GlaxoSmithKline.

Potential investors were earlier told the shares would be sold in a range of 1,850 to 1,950 rupees, which was a 3%-8% discount to Wednesday's closing price of 2,010.20 rupees.



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

Bejan Daruwalla is world's most famous astrologer today. He appears regularly on world wide TV shows. Bejan who has been a professor in English, has authored a number of books on astrology. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on March 29, 2012, lunched one of Bejan's books, '2012- End of the World? Bejan contributes to a number of journals and newspapers in many parts of the world which include Berkley Communications (London) Times of India (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai) and The Indian Panorama (New York and Texas). Bejan's predictions have mostly been correct and people the world over rely on his predictions.



Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at info@bejandaruwalla.com and on phone

91-8141234275
www.bejandaruwalla.com

The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope from the World's most trusted astrologer Bejan Daruwalla. Latest correct prediction: Modi's historic victory

Weekly Horoscope May 11 - May 17, 2020

ARIES: Ganesha says you will be busy with several creative pursuits. There is also success, says Ganesha. You will also be busy with domestic chores like children, the spouse, in-laws and others such matters. It is a busy period and in addition to it all will be new hobbies and friends. Your plate is full and overflowing. Guard against losing your cool, says Ganesha.

TAURUS: Ganesha says try not to be brusque, impatient or irritable. Ganesha says you must overcome this to get the best out of this phase. Home, family, parents and in-laws will continue to demand attention. Be careful of the health of elders and family members as well, and you must also safeguard your own. The mental stress could wear you down, if allowed to grow.

GEMINI: There is a lot of movement in every sphere in the early part of the period. You move ahead with speed and purpose. Domestic issues hog centre stage. As the period progresses, you turn your attention to work and set fresh goals and get your priorities well-aligned. You will concentrate on investments, lending, borrowing, funds, to generate greater income.

CANCER: Ganesha says this is the time for love, beauty and the great joys of life. There is great bonding and many beautiful moments with loved ones. Towards the end of this period, there will be tendency to look for escape routes in food, drink and indiscreet liaisons. Take care, says Ganesha. As the period ends, there will be more stability and you will focus on work.

LEO: You have luck on your side as stars influences your slot of work and projects. Make the most of the high tide in your life. This is an excellent time for a change of job or promotion or even new collaborations or branching out. There will be both ideas and opportunities that could lead to very definite and pleasing gains. Plus, you are charged and will do whatever it takes to ensure success.

VIRGO: There will be domestic bliss as children and the home will be a source of happiness. You also manage to do the juggling act between work and play with efficiency. Ganesha says it will be a busy, hectic and rewarding period for you. No two ways about that. You live life king (or queen size). There is no obstacle that you cannot surmount as you display truly awesome skills at negotiations.

LIBRA: Ganesha says you will rise in prestige and power. But please remember that control over your temper, and emotional balance, are necessary ingredients for growth. You immerse yourself in several activities. You may find yourself engaged in more than one activity or doing several things simultaneously. You are keen to do justice to all that's coming your way.

SCORPIO: Ganesha says there is a lot on your plate, assures Ganesha and you will be frantically looking for time to complete it all. You push hard to meet deadlines. Find time for relaxation, meditation, contemplation, yoga, community welfare and so on. You are now concerned with love, passion the pleasures of sex. You are also firmly entrenched in the more pragmatic pursuits of funds and loans, legacies and money matters.

SAGITTARIUS: Ganesha says you are also firmly entrenched in the more pragmatic pursuits of funds and loans, legacies and money matters. This is a very pronounced trend. You will be brimming with ideas and will win kudos. There will be a rise in prestige. You are happiest when in love, when you register your greatest and most pleasing gains.

CAPRICORN: Ganesha says loved ones, your spouse or partner provide your exhilarating moments. There is a lot of anxiety too as there could be illness in the family and many hospital bills to be paid. The phase improves mid period. This is an action-packed time. There will be many productive and lucrative new associations. Ganesha ensures that in the midst of all the frenetic activity you also have some happy times.

AQUARIUS: Ganesha says several issues confront you almost simultaneously. You will be hard pressed to find the time and resolve to sort it all out. The period will be a fraught, somewhat anxious, period that may bring some tussles, conflicts or hassles. These will be more profession or job-related than personal. You try to live life in the grandest manner possible.

PISCES: Ganesha says you enjoy ties, family, domestic bliss, and satisfaction in bonding. You turn back to your roots, maybe return home. Towards mid-period, there is money and honey, romance, partnerships and trade. There is a lot to learn and you are on the right track. There is stability and solidity to your life now. Your most important achievement will be sense of satisfaction with the direction that you have given your life.

Birthday Horoscope May 11 - May 17, 2020

May 11: Ganesha says you may find it hard to compromise, especially if shared assets are involved. Don't expect good credit news now. Postpone those decisions. Turn inward to modify and mature changing beliefs.

May 12: If you've been wanting something to happen, maybe at home or with family members, you may feel charged to push at the matter today; but don't take on more than can realistically get done.

May 13: The Moon brings to the semi-surface

repressed needs, perhaps impulsively or with anger, it's best to realise these toxins in a healthy way to make way for a fresh start.

May 14: You have the good of everyone at heart and see the best in everyone, but it's easy to get misled if you invest money or love with a friend. Afternoon energy needs a constructive physical outlet.

May 15: Watch for exaggeration today, whether from your own perspective or another's. It could be costly to listen to a loved one's idea. If

you sense that as a possibility, maybe it's better to pull back.

May 16: There's drive, determination, and supported ambition available to help you power toward victory and success, especially focused on the new future you're building. You've got everything if takes!

May 17: What was energised yesterday puts you in the winner's circle. Take action toward what you want and it will be yours - love, money, or family joy.

LORD PARASHURAM – 6TH AVATAR OF VISHNU

Born to warrior princess Renuka and Brahmin Sage Jamadagni (one of the Saptarishi), Lord Parashurama is the sixth incarnation in the Dasavatara list of Lord Vishnu. He was the fifth son of the couple and was named Rambhadra. (Rama who is Gracious).

If you have read or watched Ramayana and Mahabharata, you may already know that Parshuram is one of the greatest warriors of Hindu history.

Let's have a look at some of the interesting and lesser-known facts about Lord Parshuram

The reason behind the name Parshuram

The word Parashurama is derived from two words parashu meaning 'axe' and Rama. The word Parshuram means 'Rama with an axe'.

His other names include:

- Ramabhadra – Gracious Rama
- Bhargava – Descendant of Bhrigu
- Bhrigupati – Lord of Bhrigu dynasty
- Bhriguvanshi – He who belongs to Bhrigu lineage
- Jamadagnya – Son of Jamadagni

Shiva Dhanus and Parashurama

According to Ramayana, Lord Parshuram was upset with Lord Rama who broke the bow that belongs to his Guru, Lord Shiva. Angry warrior sage gave Sharanga (Bow passed by Lord Vishnu) to Rama and challenged him to strings and shoot at him.

Rama took the bow and arrow from Parasurama, easily fit the arrow in the bow and drew it to its fullest extent, and asked the sage Where shall I discharge this deadly arrow? As you are my superior, I cannot aim it at you.

Impressed and astonished Parasurama immediately realized that this was no ordinary Kshatriya standing there in front of him. You surely must be Lord Vishnu himself. I accept defeat but I am not ashamed as you are indeed the lord of all the worlds.

You have already divested me of all my power and my pride. Please release this arrow on my desires for heavenly pleasures and burn them to ashes. The only thing that I now desire is to become your eternal servant.

Saying so Parasurama bowed down before Rama who released the arrow. The sage immediately vanished along with the arrow. Varuna, the god of the water then appeared before Rama and gave him the celestial bow to keep, on behalf of all the gods.

The Immortal One – Chiranjeevi

There are many immortals according to Hindu scriptures and stories. In Sanskrit, Chiranjeevi means a long-lived person, Chiram (means long) and Jivee (means lived). The word is also known as Amaratva or Immortality.

Parshuram is considered as one of the Astha Chiranjeevi (Eight Immortals)



who has lived from one Satyayuga to another, i.e are alive on our earth and they will remain alive through Kali Yuga and wait for next Satya Yuga. Lord Parshuram appears in Mahabharata and Ramayana stories, events from two different Yugas, Mahabharata in Dwapara and Ramayana in Tetra Yuga. He will reappear in Kali Yuga to instruct Lord Kalki in Astra and Sastra Vidya.

He was trained by Lord Shiva himself and was initiated with Rudramsha (Element of Lord Shiva himself) according to Vishnu Purana. Only Shiva himself can kill those who received Rudramsha. That is why he is immortal and according to Kalki Purana, he will reappear in Kali Yuga to instruct Lord Kalki in Astra and Sastra Vidya.

Parshuram Killed Kartavirya Arjuna, One with 1000 hands

King Kartavirya Arjuna was the reason why Parshuram was vengeful of the Kshatriyas.

Sage Jamadagni had a divine cow gifted by Lord Indra, which could feed any number of people with delicious food within seconds. The Kshatriya king Kartavirya Arjuna, stole the cow from his hermitage. Parashuram killed Kartavirya to rescue the cow. In order to take revenge, King Kartavirya's son killed Jamadagni. During those days, the Kshatriyas were becoming atrocious. Therefore, Parashuram took a vow to destroy the evil-minded Kshatriyas of his time to restore peace on the earth and kept roaming with his axe to destroy the unlawful ones on the way.

According to Vayu Purana, King Kartavirya invaded Lanka, and there took Ravana as a prisoner, but later he was killed by Parshuram and Ravana

was rescued from Kartavirya. There are multiple stories mentioned of different Puranas on how King Kartavirya was killed but all the stories mention that it was Lord Parshuram.

Bhagawan Sri Krishna, Balarama, Kamsa, Ugrasena, Vasudeva, Sini, Satyaki, Hridaka, Kritaverma, Pradyumna, Charudeshna, Samba, and Aniruddha, etc are notable descendants of King Kartavirya.

Lord Ganesha's Broken Tusk

After Lord Parshuram defeated King Kartavirya Arjuna and helped Ravana (devotee of Lord Shiva) he wanted to meet Lord Shiva in Mount Kailasha. Parshurama went to Mount Kailash to pay his obeisances to Shiva, but Lord Ganesha stopped Him.

By his nature, Parshuram was enraged that he was being prevented from seeing Lord Shiva, and so he started fighting Lord Ganesha. During the fight,

Parshuram threw His Axe at Ganesha and one of his Tusk was broken. Ganesha didn't defend himself because the axe was a gift from Shiva.

(Note: There is another story regarding Lord Ganesha's broken tusk. Ganesha broke his own tusk to write Mahabharata told by Sage Vyasa).

Parashurama in Mahabharata

The reference of Parashurama appears in the epic Mahabharata a few times. Parashurama taught the art of war to Bhishma and Dronacharya. He also gave knowledge of Brahmastra to Karna but Karna lied to him telling that he was a Brahmin, so he cursed him that he would forget the knowledge Parshuram had given to him at the time when he would need it most. Parshuram also had to fight a small war with Bhishma, his own disciple, over the controversy of princess Amba, in which Parashuram was defeated by Bhishma.

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"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?"

"If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it?"

"Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."

The Parker Jewish Institute has the most COVID-19 deaths of any nursing home in New York State

GLEN OAKS, QUEENS(TIP): The outbreak of the new coronavirus in New York has added a new chapter to Parker's century-long legacy: Of the 362 nursing homes across the state that have reported confirmed or presumed deaths due to the coronavirus, Parker has the highest number, according to an analysis of state health department data on deaths from March 1 to May 5.

Seventy-three Parker residents have died of the coronavirus as of May 5, the state data shows, though daily statistics posted to the facility's website indicate the current death toll is at least 75. The data includes residents who died after getting transferred to a hospital, according to a Parker spokesperson.

That means the virus has killed at least 15 percent of Parker's resident population, accounting for the 91-percent occupancy rate listed for the facility on the state health department's website.

Using that rate, Parker would be rank 12th on a list of New York City's hardest-hit nursing homes compiled by THE CITY.

The Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation dates back to 1907, when it was established as a homeless shelter for the elderly, according to its website.



The Parker Jewish Hospital in Glen Oaks, Queens (Google Maps)

The facility expanded into health care for the elderly in the 1970s and now runs a nursing home for long-term care, a rehabilitation center for shorter-term stays, a dialysis center and a medical transportation service.

It now has 527 beds and employs about 1,300 people, according to public tax records

Meanwhile, Parker keeps admitting patients who have already tested positive for the coronavirus due to a state

directive prohibiting nursing homes from refusing to admit patients "solely based on a confirmed or suspected diagnosis of COVID-19."

Parker has admitted more than a dozen patients with COVID-19 since the beginning of the month, according to statistics posted to the facility's website. As of Wednesday, Parker has 369 residents, a spokesperson told Patch.

Lina Scacco, Parker's vice president for corporate outreach and development, attributed its high death toll to the facility's size, the number of residents with advanced health conditions, starting to test for the virus earlier than other nursing homes, and deciding early on to classify all deaths of residents who had the virus as COVID-19 deaths.

Parker's mission is "to provide with compassion and dedication superior quality health care and rehabilitation," according to tax filings. Its website says: "where excellence is the standard."

The U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services classifies the facility as much above average in terms of the quality of care, and New York State Department of Health records show that the few issues reported at Parker were largely isolated, not systemic.

(With inputs from The City and Patch)

IRS: Three new credits are available to many businesses hit by COVID-19

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Internal Revenue Service today reminds employers affected by COVID-19 about three important new credits available to them.

Employee Retention Credit:

The employee retention credit is designed to encourage businesses to keep employees on their payroll. The refundable tax credit is 50% of up to \$10,000 in wages paid by an eligible employer whose business has been financially impacted by COVID-19.

The credit is available to all employers regardless of size, including tax-exempt organizations. There are only two exceptions: State and local governments and their instrumentalities and small businesses who take small business loans.

Qualifying employers must fall into one of two categories:

The employer's business is fully or partially suspended by government order due to COVID-19 during the calendar quarter.

The employer's gross receipts are below 50% of the comparable quarter in 2019. Once the employer's gross receipts go above 80% of a comparable quarter in 2019, they no longer qualify after the end of that quarter.

Employers will calculate these measures each calendar quarter.

Paid Sick Leave Credit and Family Leave Credit:

The paid sick leave credit is designed to allow business to get a credit for an employee who is unable to work (including telework) because of Coronavirus quarantine or self-quarantine or has Coronavirus symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis. Those



employees are entitled to paid sick leave for up to 10 days (up to 80 hours) at the employee's regular rate of pay up to \$511 per day and \$5,110 in total.

The employer can also receive the credit for employees who are unable to work due to caring for someone with Coronavirus or caring for a child because the child's school or place of care is closed, or the paid childcare provider is unavailable due to the Coronavirus. Those employees are entitled to paid sick leave for up to two weeks (up to 80 hours) at 2/3 the employee's regular rate of pay or, up to \$200 per day and \$2,000 in total.

Employees are also entitled to paid family and medical leave equal to 2/3 of the employee's regular pay, up to \$200 per day and \$10,000 in total. Up to 10 weeks of qualifying leave can be counted towards the family leave credit.

Employers can be immediately reimbursed for the credit by reducing their required deposits of payroll taxes that have been withheld from employees' wages by the amount of the credit.

Eligible employers are entitled to immediately

receive a credit in the full amount of the required sick leave and family leave, plus related health plan expenses and the employer's share of Medicare tax on the leave, for the period of April 1, 2020, through Dec. 31, 2020. The refundable credit is applied against certain employment taxes on wages paid to all employees.

How will employers receive the credit?

Employers can be immediately reimbursed for the credit by reducing their required deposits of payroll taxes that have been withheld from employees' wages by the amount of the credit.

Eligible employers will report their total qualified wages and the related health insurance costs for each quarter on their quarterly employment tax returns or Form 941 beginning with the second quarter. If the employer's employment tax deposits are not sufficient to cover the credit, the employer may receive an advance payment from the IRS by submitting Form 7200, Advance Payment of Employer Credits Due to COVID-19.

Eligible employers can also request an advance of the Employee Retention Credit by submitting Form 7200.

The IRS has also posted Employee Retention Credit FAQs and Paid Family Leave and Sick Leave FAQs that will help answer questions.

Updates on the implementation of the Employee Retention Credit and other information can be found on the Coronavirus page of IRS.gov.

Related Items:

oFS-2020-05, New Employee Retention Credit helps employers keep employees on payroll

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contd from page 1

DOJ drops charges against...

his conduct during Trump's presidency when he lied about his contacts with then-Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak.

In subsequent months, he repeatedly acknowledged his crimes and was once moments away from accepting his fate as a convicted felon.

The decision, which already has revived fresh speculation about Attorney General William Barr's close relationship with the White House, comes just more than a week after Trump claimed that newly released FBI notes outlining agents' strategy in advance of their 2017 interview in the retired Army general's White House office exonerated Flynn.

"They tormented him - dirty cops tormented General Flynn," Trump told reporters at the White House last week.

he Justice Department called the FBI's counterintelligence investigation into Flynn for his contacts with Russia "a no longer justifiably predicated investigation," according to the May 7 filing.

"After a considered review of all the facts and circumstances of this case, including newly discovered and disclosed information appended to the defendant's supplemental pleadings, the Government has concluded that the interview of Mr. Flynn was untethered to, and unjustified by, the FBI's counterintelligence investigation into Mr. Flynn -- a no longer justifiably predicated investigation that the FBI had, in the Bureau's own words, prepared to close because it had yielded an 'absence of any derogatory information,'" DC US Attorney Timothy Shea wrote in the filing.

"The government is not persuaded that the January 24, 2017 interview was conducted with a legitimate investigative basis and therefore does not believe Mr. Flynn's statements were material even if untrue," the documents state. "Moreover, we do not believe that the government can prove either the relevant false statements or their materiality beyond a reasonable doubt."

Commenting on dropping of the case against Flynn, New York based leading attorney Ravi Batra released a statement critical of the way Flynn was "entrapped".

"Lying to a federal agent is a felony. Indeed, perjury is a crime even if what you covered up wasn't. The 5A is a right to be quiet, not to lie. The "entrapment notes" - better than a Hollywood script - along with Peter Strzok & Lisa Page, shame the FBI & Justice Department such, that many a future jury will engage in charge-nullification. It's a sad and sordid affair, and with the withdrawal of the charges - despite a guilty plea (by a father to save his son) - it frees President Trump from using his pardon-power in the interest of justice." (With inputs from agencies)

COVID-19 Cases may peak in...

somewhere between June and July, but this can change depending on our response over the next few weeks."

Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, meanwhile, on May 7, asked the states to ensure all cases of severe pneumonia and influenza like illnesses in unaffected districts were found and tested for Covid.

Trump says U.S. has flattened...

However, there has been a sharp decline in the number of new cases and deaths in the country in the last one week, prompting Trump to say that the country has been able to flatten the curve. This pandemic, he

said, has underscored the vital importance of reassuring U.S. supply chains and constructing a powerful domestic manufacturing base.

The United States, he said, is now helping various countries, including providing them with essential medical supplies like ventilators. "We have more ventilators now than anybody in the world and we are helping France, as you know. We are helping France, Italy, Spain, Nigeria. We are giving I think 250 to Nigeria. We have many countries that we are helping," he said. (Source: PTI)

U.S. Senators urge Trump to...

"As you know, more than 33 million Americans have filed for unemployment coverage just since mid-March, and approximately one-fifth of the American workforce is currently out of work. This is a stunning difference compared with the historically-low nationwide unemployment rate of just 3.5% in February this year," they said in their letter to the president.

The letter, dated May 7, specifically calls for suspension of all non-immigrant guest worker visas for the next 60 days, followed by a continued suspension of certain categories of new non-immigrant guest worker visas for a year or until the national unemployment figures return to normal levels.

"To protect unemployed Americans in the early stages of economic recovery, we urge you to suspend all non-immigrant guest worker visas for the next 60 days," the senators said.

Exceptions to this suspension should be rare, limited to time-sensitive industries such as agriculture and issued only on a case-by-case basis, when the employers can demonstrate that they have been unable to find Americans to take the jobs, the senators wrote.

After 60 days, the senators urged Mr. Trump to continue to suspend new non-immigrant guest workers for a year or until the national unemployment figures return to normal levels, whichever comes first.

"That suspension should, at a minimum, include H-2B visas (non-agricultural seasonal workers), H-1B visas (specialty occupation workers) and the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program (extension of foreign student visas after graduation). We also urge you to suspend the EB-5 immigrant visa program, effective immediately," the lawmakers wrote.

The H-1B work visa for foreign technology professionals is highly popular among Indians and a large number of Indians also opt for the EB-5 investors visa.

The senators argued that there is no reason why unemployed Americans and recent college graduates should have to compete in such a limited job market against an influx of additional H-1B workers, most of whom work in business, technology or STEM fields.

"Temporarily suspending the issuance of new H-1B visas would also protect the hundreds of thousands of H-1B workers and their families already working in the United States - workers who could otherwise be subject to deportation if they are laid off for more than 60 days," they said.

"Of course, appropriate exceptions could also be crafted to the H-1B program suspension to allow for doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals who wish to come to the United States to assist in combating the coronavirus pandemic," the senators wrote.

Additionally, the United States ought to suspend its Optional Practical Training (OPT) programme, which allows foreign students in the country to extend their stay after graduation for one to three years to get "experience in the field" by taking jobs here, they wrote.

In 2019, more than 2,23,000 former foreign students

had their OPT applications approved or extended. While the merits of such a programme are subject to debate, there is certainly no reason to allow foreign students to stay for three additional years just to take jobs that would otherwise go to unemployed Americans as the country's economy recovers, the lawmakers said.

The senators also urged Mr. Trump to remove the EB-5 visa from the exemptions in his Presidential Proclamation issued on April 22, at least until real reforms are adopted.

The EB-5 programme has long been plagued by scandal and fraud and criticized as effectively functioning as a pay-for-citizenship scheme in many cases. There is no reason that the programme should receive preferential treatment as opposed to other green card programs for employment-based immigrants, the lawmakers said. (Source: PTI)

Trump admin urges U.S. court...

(spouse and children under 21 years of age) of the H-1B visa-holders, most of whom are Indian IT professionals. It is normally issued to those who have already started the process of seeking employment-based lawful permanent resident status.

The DHS, in its submission on May 5, said the argument by 'Save Jobs USA' on behalf of American technology workers "only speculates about potential economic harm to its members, based on five-year-old affidavits."

In its lawsuit filed in 2015, 'Save Jobs USA' had argued that the regulation issued by the Obama administration to provide employment authorization for certain H4 dependent spouses harms their members, who are American technology workers.

After coming to power, the Trump administration in December 2017 informed the court that it plans to rescind the Obama-era regulations in this regard. Since then, it told the court about half-a-dozen times about its intention to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). However, the DHS has not rescinded "Employment Authorization for Certain H-4 Dependent Spouses" of 2015.

The DHS's court submission was in response to the one by 'Save Jobs USA,' which sought a preliminary injunction to stop the H-4 rule from providing qualifying H-4 visa-holders with temporary employment authorization. 'Save Jobs USA' had argued that the longer the case remains in abeyance, greater the harm to US workers. The DHS disagreed, asserting that there is no such indication.

In an 11-page argument, the DHS asserted that 'Save Jobs USA' failed to establish that its members' speculative economic injuries were sufficient to satisfy the DC Circuit's "high standard for irreparable injury".

The claim of irreparable harm by 'Save Jobs USA' relied on the H-4 rule eliminating or significantly reducing employment opportunities, meaning that the number of available information-technology jobs would significantly decline due to the H-4 rule, it said.

"But this relationship has not been shown to be 'certain' and 'actual', rather than merely 'theoretical'," the DHS argued.

As such the DHS urged the court to deny the motion of 'Save Jobs USA', seeking a preliminary injunction enjoining the H-4 rule. 'Save Jobs USA' had sought a stay on the H-4 ruling.

An H-4 visa is issued to the spouses of H-1B visa holders, a significantly large number of whom are high-skilled professionals from India. They had obtained work permits under a special order issued by the previous Obama administration in 2015.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

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MALAYATTOOR: MEETING POINT OF RIVER, MOUNTAIN AND LAND

Have you heard about this place called Malayattoor? It is a village in the Aluva Taluk. If we talk about its exact location, it is somewhat 15 km northeast of Angamaly in the Ernakulam District, in the state of Kerala. Now let us focus on the name 'Malayattoor'. How do you suppose it got its name? It is a combination of three small words. Mala (mountain), Arr (river) and Oore (Place).

Thus, Malayattoor is a meeting point of the river, mountain and land.

It is a wonderful pilgrimage destination around 47 km from Kochi and the Catholic church on top of the Malayattoor Hill is also praiseworthy. It is devoted to St. Thomas, the apostle of Jesus Christ, where a lot of pilgrims gather together to celebrate the Malayattoor Perunnal during the months of March/April.

Athirapilly Falls

A wonderful tourist spot in Kerala, these gorgeous falls are around 70 km from Cochin which give a magnificent view of the Chalukudy river, pouring down from a height of around 80 feet. Present in Chalakudy of Thrissur district; this waterfall could make any traveller fall in love with it. Also known as the 'Niagara of India', the falls at Athirapilly flow through the sub-tropical rainforest to spring down at the glittering rocks below.

If you take a look at the statistics, you shall find that around 7 million tourists traverse this place every year! Located at the entrance to Sholayar ranges and about 55 km from Kochi (Cochin), this bewitching place toppled with greenery shall freshen any soul with a sense of liveliness and wrap you in its wild and natural embrace. It is soothing and calm at the same time and you can enjoy some enthusiastic trekking as well.

Illithodu

This is a place in Muankuzhi, Ernakulam district of Kerala. It is a place with a serene atmosphere where you shall enjoy the most in the months of September to May. It shall definitely be a soul-refreshing experience for all. It is at a distance of about 10 km from Malayattoor and around 62 km from Kochi. It is breathtaking with the wonderful Periyar river on one side and grand mountains on the other. This place is a bit uncommon but tourists are still increasing in number quite rapidly.

Do you know what is the most delightful? There is a river making it way through the forest and it shall take you 15-20 minutes to cross the Mahogany and Teak forests to reach up to the river. But beware of the undercurrents in some places! It is quite an exotic location for film-makers and not to forget the naughty monkeys hanging from the branches of trees.

St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Church

When this church comes under discussion, it is one of the most significant churches in the Ernakulam district of Kerala. If you climb to the top



of the Malayattoor hill, you shall spot the 'Malayattoor Church' at a height of 609 m. Now having bagged the position of an international pilgrimage station, this shrine is devoted to St. Thomas who began a Christian community in Kerala.

Kodanand Elephant Training Centre

Which is the animal you have mostly spotted during huge festivals in Kerala? Grand, massive elephants, right? This is because they are deemed to be the luckiest animals and any kind of celebration is always incomplete without the grandeur of the elephant processions. Thus, they are treated with respect and royalty.

The training centre which was moved from Abhayaranyam near Kaprikkad is one of the greatest training centres in Kerala. It is present near the southern banks of the Periyar river. There are two more elephant training centres in Muthanga of Wayanad and Konni of Pathanamthitta.

If you are an elephant lover, then you shall enjoy being here to see the elephants being groomed with so much love! Also, Punnathurkotta in Thrissur has some 40 elephants who are especially well-

groomed for the Guruvayur Temple. The visiting hours of this training centre are 8 am to 5 pm. Nearest railway station to get here is Ernakulam, around 45 km and Cochin International Airport at around 20 km.

Thumboormuzhy Dam

The most interesting bridge the dam is famous for is the hanging suspension footbridge which was allowed public access in the month of January 2015. You shall experience a mesmerizing view of the Thumboormuzhy Dam, the River View Garden, the Ezhattumukham Eco Village and also the butterfly garden. The bridge joins two popular hotspots - the Ezhattukham Eco Village and the Thumboormuzhy Dam.

If you peep through the middle of the footbridge, it shall give you a spectacular view of the river gushing downstream. It is in between Athirapally and Kochin, 32 km towards south from district headquarters Thrissur.

Adi Shankaracharya Birthplace and Temple

At about 7 km from Cochin International Airport, Kaladi is the birthplace of the honourable philosopher

Adi Shankaracharya. The place is so famous because it is capable of flaunting a number of significant temples, as well as shrines totally devoted to Sri Sankara, Sarada Devi, Sri Krishna and Sri Ramakrishna.

Festivals being celebrated here are rare, so they attract those having faith in large numbers. This place is also called Crocodile Ghat. Do you know why? It is because of a popular belief that Sankaracharya was held by a crocodile and refused to budge until his mother let him embrace the ritual of renunciation.

Abhayaranyam Zoo

A mini zoo was built as the tourists started trickling in large numbers. The total area of Kodanad is about 2.5 acres and animals needed a large area to be reared in peace. Hence, the elephant training camp, as well as the mini zoo, was shifted to Abhayaranyam in Kaprikkad.

Project Abhayaranyam saw a light in the year 2010. An area of 200 acres was covered by the project in which around 100 acres was solely dedicated to elephant training. Elephants have the freedom to roam around and the close proximity to the Periyar river makes their training an easy affair.

I feel pressure, I feel scared too, admits Dhoni while speaking on mental health

CHENNAI (TIP): His ice-cool demeanour is the stuff of legends but former India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni has no qualms conceding that he is not immune to pressure and fear.

Dhoni, lending support to MFORE—an initiative offering mind conditioning programs to achieve peak performance in sports—offered his perspective on the issue of mental health.

"In India, I feel there is still a big issue of accepting that there is some weakness when it comes to the mental aspects, but we generally term it as mental illness," Dhoni was quoted as saying in a press release issued by MFORE.

MFORE stated that Dhoni made these comments while speaking to coaches from various sports during an interaction, which was organised before the country went into lockdown to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Nobody really says that, when I go to bat, the first 5 to 10 deliveries my heart rate is elevated, I feel the pressure, I feel a bit scared because that's how everybody feels - how to cope with that?" the World Cup-winning icon asked.

"This is a small problem but a lot of times we hesitate to say it to a coach and that's why the relationship between a player and coach is very important to be it any sport," said Dhoni, who hasn't played any international cricket since India's World Cup semifinal exit last July.

Highlighting the importance of a mental conditioning coach, Dhoni said: "Mental conditioning coach should not be the one who comes for 15 days, because when you come for 15 days you are only sharing the experience."

"If the mental conditioning coach is constantly with the player, he can understand what are the areas which are affecting his sport," Dhoni, who led Chennai Super Kings captain to three IPL titles, said.

India skipper Virat Kohli was quoted as saying that mental clarity was important in life.

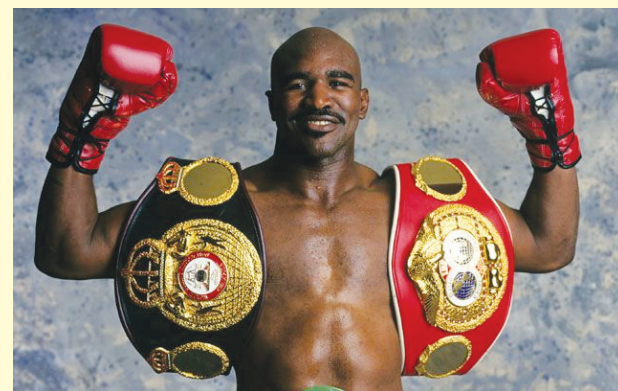
"I think mental health and mental clarity is the most important factor in life; not just in sports," he said.

MFORE has been founded by former Indian batsman



S Badrinath and Saravana Kumar.

Star Sports 1 Tamil is set to launch a show 'Mind Masters by MFORE' on May 10, where besides Dhoni, Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin along with others will share their thoughts on mind conditioning and mental skills in sports.



BOXING CHAMPION HOLYFIELD MAKES CHARITY COMEBACK AT 57

NEW YORK (TIP): Four-time heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield says he is making a ring comeback for charity at age 57, hoping to help first responders and children combat the coronavirus pandemic.

And it could set the stage for a third fight against Mike Tyson more than 20 years after the originals.

Holyfield said he would fight in exhibition matches to raise support for Unite4OurFight, which helps learning and emotional development projects aimed at children whose schooling was disrupted by the deadly virus outbreak.

"Are you ready? The moment you've all been waiting for... The Champ is back!" Holyfield posted on Twitter. "I'd like to announce that I will be making a comeback to the ring. I will be fighting in exhibition matches for a great cause."

Holyfield's move comes after Tyson, 53, was shown training and saying he wanted to make a charity comeback in exhibition bouts.

Holyfield has not fought since stopping Danish fighter Brian Nielsen in the 10th round at Copenhagen in 2011, improving his record to 44-10 with two drawn.

He last owned one of the three major heavyweight crowns in early 2001 after beating John Ruiz for the World Boxing Association title in August 2000.

Holyfield stopped Mike Tyson in the 11th round in 1996 to win the WBA title and then won a 1997 rematch when Tyson was disqualified for biting.

Two of Holyfield's other biggest fights came in 1999 when he fought a controversial draw with Lennox Lewis in New York for the undisputed heavyweight crown, then lost to the British star by unanimous decision eight months later in Las Vegas.



RICKY PONTING'S LEADERSHIP SKILLS KEY TO DELHI CAPITALS' RECENT SUCCESS, SAYS HARSHAL PATEL

NEW DELHI (TIP): Delhi Capitals' Harshal Patel believes that Head Coach Ricky Ponting's leadership and man-management skills have played an important role in the team's turnaround in the past two years. "Ricky ensures that every player feels valued and respected in equal measure. Irrespective of whether you are playing or not, he gives regular feedback to each person and makes them feel like an important part of the team," said Harshal during an Instagram Live session with DC's official handle.

The right-arm seamer also believes that this provides much-needed stability to the squad. "In IPL, there are frequent changes in the team with new faces coming in each season. The support staff does a great job in creating consistency within the squad by ensuring that every new

and old player believes in the ethos of the team. Once everybody is on the same page and each player understands their role, it becomes easier to gel and perform better as a team."

As uncertainty looms over this year's Indian Premier League season, the 29-year old remains confident of Delhi Capitals' prospects. "The IPL will return when the time is right, and when it does, Delhi Capitals' will be the team to beat." Reflecting on the strong squad, Patel says, "Our biggest challenge will be choosing just 11 players from the hugely talented and competitive pool of cricketers we have. Once we strike the correct balance and find the winning combination, we could go far."

In the meantime, the pacer is staying focused on maintaining his fitness during the nation-wide lockdown. "I am determined to

not let my training suffer in this period. Luckily, I have some expertise in strength and conditioning, so I am using the limited equipment I have at home to stick to a strict fitness regime which involves 5-6 days of workout in a week. The key is to mix up your workouts to avoid monotony," said Harshal, who could only play two matches for DC in the 2019 season due to injury.

ABOUT DELHI CAPITALS

Delhi Capitals is one of the eight founding teams that plays in the VIVO Indian Premier League (IPL). Co-owned by the GMR Group and the JSW Group, Delhi Capitals was established in 2008 as Delhi Daredevils before embracing a new avatar in December 2018. The team finished third in the 2019 edition of the tournament.

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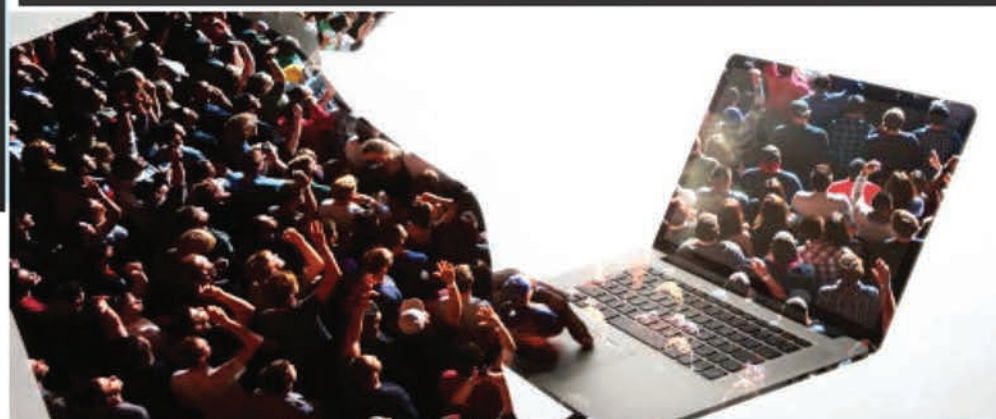
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STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19! LEARN HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND OTHERS AT HOME.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19?

- The most common symptoms are fever, cough, sore throat and shortness of breath. Other symptoms include feeling achy, loss of taste or smell, headache, and diarrhea.
- Most people with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) will have mild or moderate symptoms and can get better on their own.

WHO IS MOST AT RISK FOR SERIOUS ILLNESS?

- People age 50 or older (people age 65 or older are at the highest risk)
- People who have other health conditions, such as:
 - Lung disease
 - Obesity
 - Liver disease
 - Asthma
 - Diabetes
 - Cancer
 - Heart disease
 - Kidney disease
 - A weakened immune system

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I GET SICK WITH COVID-19 SYMPTOMS?

If you are sick with COVID-19 symptoms, assume you have it.

When you are sick:

- If you have trouble breathing, pain or pressure in your chest, are confused or cannot stay awake, or have bluish lips or face, **call 911** immediately.
- Call your doctor if you are age 50 or older or have a health condition that puts you at increased risk, or if you do not feel better after three days.
- Always contact a doctor or go to the hospital if you have severe symptoms of COVID-19 or another serious health issue.
- Do not leave your home except to get necessary medical care or essential food or supplies (if someone cannot get them for you).
- If you must leave your home:
 - Avoid crowded places.
 - Stay at least 6 feet from others.
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a bandana, scarf or other face covering.
 - Wash your hands before you go out, and use alcohol-based hand sanitizer while outside.
- Household members can go out for essential work and needs but should monitor their health closely.

If you or someone in your home is sick:

- Create physical distance:
 - Do not have visitors.

- Stay at least 6 feet from others.
- Sleep head-to-toe if you share a bed with someone who is sick, or sleep on the couch.
- Keep people who are sick separate from those at risk for serious illness.
- Cover up:
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a bandana, scarf or other face covering when you are within 6 feet of others.
 - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your inner elbow.
- Keep it clean:
 - Throw tissues into the garbage immediately after use.
 - Wash your hands often with soap for 20 seconds, especially after you cough or sneeze.
 - Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if you are unable to wash your hands.
 - Frequently clean surfaces you touch, such as doorknobs, light switches, faucets, phones, keys and remote controls.
 - Wash towels, sheets and clothes at the warmest possible setting with your usual detergent, and dry completely.
 - Do not share eating utensils with others, and wash them after every use.

WHEN CAN I LEAVE MY HOME AFTER BEING SICK?

- If you have been sick, stay home until:
 - You are fever-free for three days without Tylenol or other medication **and**
 - It has been at least seven days since your symptoms started **and**
 - Your symptoms have improved
- **Reminder:** New York is on PAUSE. This means that even if you have been sick, you should only leave your home for essential work or errands, or to exercise, while staying at least 6 feet from others.

NEED HELP?

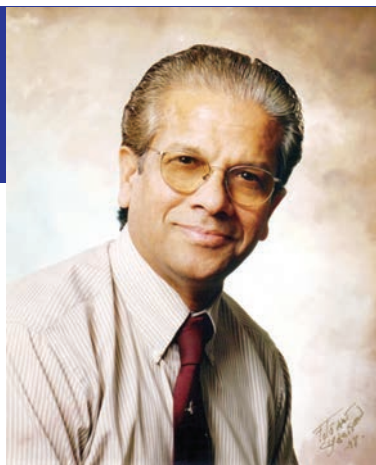
- If you are having a medical emergency, **call 911**.
- If you do not have a doctor but need one, **call 844-NYC-4NYC (844-692-4692)**. New York City provides care, regardless of immigration status, insurance status or ability to pay.
- For more information, **call 311** or **visit nyc.gov/coronavirus**.

The NYC Health Department may change recommendations as the situation evolves. 4.20

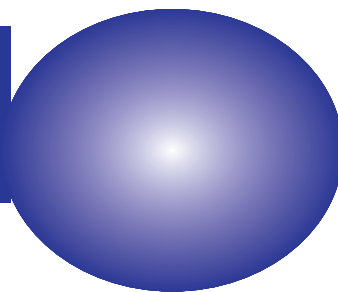


CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE

Dr. VK Raju and Dr. Leela Raju of the Eye Foundation of America will be glad to answer any eye related concerns of the readers of The Indian Panorama during this difficult period of Coronavirus onslaught



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