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AMERICA UNITED AGAINST COVID-19

KEEP SAFE

- Follow CDC guidelines
- Observe Social Distancing
- Wash Hands Frequently

KEEP AMERICA SAFE

COVID-19 UPDATE, as of June 18, 11.59 PM



- 8,585,194 cases confirmed worldwide and 456,439 deaths, according to data from Wikipedia
- 2,263,749 cases and 120,688 deaths from the disease in the United States, according to data from Wikipedia
- 408,426 cases and 31,092 deaths from COVID-19 in New York State, according to data from Wikipedia.
- In New Jersey which ranks second to New York in COVID-19 cases, there are 171,029 cases and 12,987 deaths, according to data from Wikipedia.
- India, which has overtaken UK, has 381,485 identified cases and 12,605 confirmed deaths, according to data from Wikipedia.

Read related stories inside

A Reprieve for DREAMers : Supreme Court Blocks Trump's Bid to End DACA



DACA recipients and supporters take a knee in support of the Black Lives Matter protests in front of the Supreme Court. Photo / courtesy Reuters

I.S. SALUJA

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Supreme Court on Thursday, June 18, crushed the Trump administration's attempt to dismantle the program protecting undocumented immigrants brought to the country as children, a reprieve for nearly 650,000 recipients known as "dreamers."

The 5 to 4 decision was written by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and joined by the court's four liberals. It was the second, stunning defeat this week for the Trump administration, as the Supreme Court begins to unveil its decision in marquee cases. It will likely elevate the issue of immigration in the presidential campaign, although public opinion polls have shown sympathy for

contd on page 34

India Elected as a Non-Permanent Member of Security Council for the 8th Time

Will serve as President of UNSC for August 2021

NEW YORK (TIP): India has been elected as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the 8th time.

India, the endorsed candidate from the Asia-Pacific States, won 184 votes out of the 192 ballots cast.

India, Norway, Ireland, Mexico and Kenya were elected as the non-permanent members of the UNSC for a

two-year term beginning January 1, 2021, on Wednesday, June 17.

According to the information released by the office of the UN spokesperson, India will assume the rotating presidency of the Council for the month of August next year.

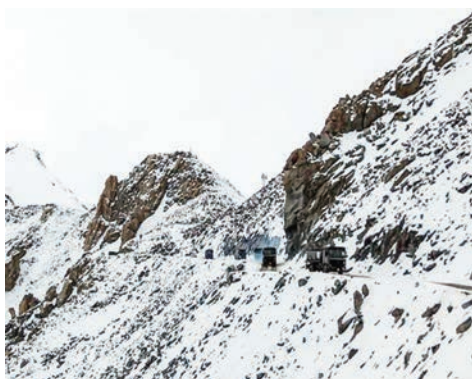
India will preside over the Council again for a month in 2022.



The presidency of the Council is held by each of the members in turn for one month, following the English alphabetical order of the member states' names.

contd on Page 34

China releases 10 Indian soldiers following major general-level talks



These soldiers were missing, or taken captive, or cornered behind enemy lines at Galwan Valley.

US extends condolences to India on loss of its soldiers' lives in clashes with Chinese troops

NEW DELHI (TIP): Ten soldiers, including two officers, who had been 'missing' since the deadly clash with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China, were released on Thursday, June 18 evening following a meeting of the Major General-level officials. They had come back, sources in New Delhi said. These soldiers were missing, or taken captive, or cornered behind enemy lines at Galwan Valley. contd on page 34

US President Trump pleaded with Xi to help him win 2020 re-election: Ex-NSA Bolton



Ex-National Security Advisor John Bolton has made explosive revelations about Trump in his book, "The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir"

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Donald Trump virtually pleaded with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at last year's G-20 summit in Japan to help him win the 2020 US presidential election, former US national security adviser John Bolton has claimed in a new book. The White House has said the forthcoming book by Bolton is "full of classified information" and contd on page 34



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WHO HOPEFUL COVID-19 VACCINES COULD BE AVAILABLE BY YEAR-END

LONDON (TIP): The World Health Organisation's chief scientist, Dr Soumya Swaminathan, on Thursday said that the agency is optimistic and hopeful that the COVID-19 vaccines could be available before the end of this year.

Addressing a press briefing from Geneva on the latest coronavirus drug trial findings, the top WHO scientist also said that clinical trials have now definitively shown that anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine does not have an impact on preventing deaths from COVID-19.

In reference to a future vaccine against the deadly virus, she said there are about 10 candidates which are in human testing phase and at least three of them are entering the new promising phase-three stage which proves a vaccine's efficacy.

"I'm hopeful, I'm optimistic, but vaccine development is a complex undertaking and comes with a lot of uncertainty. The good thing is we have many different vaccine candidates and platforms," she said, adding that WHO's focus is also on accelerating and scaling up a potential vaccine.

"If we are lucky, there will be one or two successful candidates before the end of this year," she said.

Clarifying the WHO's position on hydroxychloroquine, famously called "game-changer" by US President Donald Trump in the fight against coronavirus, she said that separate clinical trials had shown the "futility" of carrying on testing the drug as a means to cut mortality rates from the deadly virus.

Japan lifts Covid-19 travel curbs to help economy bounce back

TOKYO (TIP): Japan lifted all coronavirus-related curbs on domestic travel on Friday, with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe calling on people to go sightseeing or attend concerts and other events to help the nation's economy bounce back from a pandemic recession.

Japan began lifting its pandemic lockdown in May as coronavirus infections fell. The latest easing on Thursday comes after the end of an emergency declaration that allowed people to return to work and for bars and restaurants implementing social distancing measures to reopen.

"I would like people, while observing social distancing, to go out on sightseeing trips. We would like you to make an effort to engage in social and economic activity," Abe said in an address to the country late on Thursday.

The end of a government advisory for people to stay put in infected prefectures or avoid travelling to them should help hotels, resorts and areas that rely heavily on tourism.

Any recovery, however, may be slow because many people are still avoiding crowds and most travel to Japan is still restricted. Only 1,700 foreigners arrived in Japan in May, the lowest number for that time of year since 1964, according to the Japan National Tourism Organization.

Japan's two big airlines, ANA Holdings and Japan Airlines Co., say they are restarting some domestic flights as demand picks up, but both say flight schedules by July will still only be half of what they had planned before the coronavirus pandemic.

Worldwide corona cases cross 8.5 million, death toll at 4,56,286

More than 8.5 million people have been reported to be infected by the novel coronavirus globally and 456,286 have died.

Infections have been reported in more than 210 countries and territories since the first cases were identified in China in December 2019.

Coronavirus deaths near 44,000 in Brazil, No. 2 global hotspot

Brazil's death toll from the novel coronavirus pandemic rose to nearly 44,000 on Monday, according to Health Ministry data, as the country continued easing restrictions on circulation despite the world's second-worst outbreak after the United States.

Brazil registered 627 new fatalities on Monday, down from an average of nearly 1,000 over the past week. Reporting of fatalities typically slows over the weekend.

Although Brazil's official death toll from the pandemic has risen to 43,959, the true impact is likely far greater than the data show, health experts say, because of a lack of widespread testing in Latin America's largest country.

The Health Ministry registered about 20,000 new coronavirus cases on Monday, bringing the total to 888,271 infections.

Despite the severity of the outbreak, many Brazilian states and cities have begun easing social distancing rules in recent weeks amid growing public fatigue and repeated demands from President Jair Bolsonaro to get the economy going.

On Monday, Mike Ryan, the World Health Organization's top emergencies expert, said Latin America remained a cause for concern.

"Brazil cannot be singled out in the Americas — there are many other countries in the Americas like Mexico, Chile and others who have had significant number of cases and continue to have an upswinging epidemic," he said. "I would characterize the situation in Central and South America as being of concern."

TRACKING THE VIRUS

GLOBAL

Cases	Deaths
8,578,283	4,56,286

INDIA

Cases	Deaths
3,66,946	12,237



A graffiti depicts a cleaner in protective gear spraying away viruses with the face of Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro in Rio de Janeiro.

NZ military to oversee quarantine facilities after new COVID-19 case

WELLINGTON (TIP): New Zealand on Wednesday said the defence force will now oversee the country's quarantine facilities and strengthen border requirements, after a slip up allowed two people with coronavirus to move around the country.

New Zealand on Tuesday lost its COVID-free status when two women who had been given permission to leave quarantine early on compassionate grounds after arriving from Britain tested positive for the coronavirus.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said she was appointing the Assistant Chief of Defence, Air Commodore Digby Webb, to oversee all quarantine and to manage isolation facilities, including the processes of exiting people from these facilities.

Ardern said Webb can seek access to military logistics, its operational expertise and, if needed, personnel, for running of the quarantine facilities.

She added that an audit would be done to make sure all processes in place are followed and any changes needed can be made to further strengthen the border facilities.

"I cannot allow the gains we have all made to be squandered by processes



that are not followed," Ardern said at a news conference in parliament.

New Zealand had trumpeted its achievement last week of becoming one of the first countries in the world to eliminate COVID-19 and return to pre-pandemic normality, lifting all social and economic restrictions except border controls.

The two women who arrived from Britain on June 7 went into compulsory quarantine after landing, but had been given special permission to leave the facility early to see their dying parent, even though one had symptoms which she attributed to a pre-existing condition.

Mexico's infections surpass 150,000, deaths over 17,500

Mexico passed the grim milestone of 150,000 total confirmed coronavirus

cases on Monday, as the health ministry reported 3,427 new infections along with 439 additional fatalities.

There are now a total 150,264 confirmed

coronavirus cases and 17,580 deaths, though the government has said the real number of infected people is likely significantly higher than the official count.

Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty: 'Setting up of Gandhi Shanti Van is my lasting legacy'



"Setting up of Gandhi Shanti Van is my lasting legacy", said Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty. Ambassador Chakravorty (third from left) inaugurated the plantation ceremony at Gandhi Peace Garden at CUNY, Old Westbury, October 1, 2019. 150 trees were planted in Commemoration of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary
Photo / Courtesy Indian Consulate, New York

Ambassador Chakravorty may be credited with enormous work he has done to streamline the consulate functioning, bringing Indian American community to consulate and vice versa; strengthening bond between Indian Americans and mainstream Americans at various levels; reaching out to American lawmakers and educating them on contentious issues, and winning over some hesitant ones to India's side ; educating Indian Americans on various Indian issues and winning their support for government of India policies; lobbying with investors in America to invest in India, and creating an image for himself as a dependable friend to Indian Americans and Americans alike. His passion for promotion of Indian culture and heritage resulted in the Consulate becoming a home to artists and promoters of various arts. His dialogue with anti -India separatists to persuade them to give up their futile efforts at separatism and get back to Indian mainstream, is a part of his historic initiatives. There is so much more to Ambassador Chakravorty's immense work and valuable contribution.

The Indian Panorama, which was the first publication to interview Ambassador Chakravorty, three days after his taking over, as Consul General , on August 3, 2017 , is probably the privileged publication to have him to sit for his last interview as Consul General, on June 16, 2020. The Indian Panorama Chief editor Prof. Indrajit S Saluja and Assistant Editor Bidisha Roy spoke with Ambassador Chakravorty.



Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty took over as the Consul General of India at New York on August 3, 2017. He is completing his tenure here in June and will be taking up the new assignment in New Delhi. Seen here answering questions from The Indian Panorama team of Prof. Indrajit S Saluja and Bidisha Roy
Photo / Bidisha Roy

Here are some excerpts from the interview.
TIP: Thank you for the interview, which I believe, is your last interview as Consul General with The Indian Panorama.

I recall your first interview to The Indian Panorama in August 2017. I believe it was your first interview to media after taking over as Consul General on August 3, 2017. You were kind enough to give us time immediately after joining here. And that was on August 6, 2017. You had said certain things, then, which I would probably like you to recall.

We have come a long way during the past close to 3 years.

We kept track of your journey, sometimes, through very difficult terrains particularly during the last about one and half year that I can think of. We have been appreciative of your work, and critical, too, where we thought the Consulate was failing, as is the dharma of media. However, we have had a great relationship, to the building of which you contributed more than we did. Thank you.

Institution building is a continuous process. The consulate in 2017 when you took over has undergone transformation at your hands. You have added enormously to what you inherited. Prमित is the most outstanding example of your prized additions. What led you to imagine Prमित? How successful has it proved? Can you elaborate on that?

AMBASSADOR: So, first of all, thank you and I vividly remember our first meeting right after I arrived here on August 3, if I remember correctly and you mentioned that our interview was on 6th August. So, I would request you to also remind me of what I had said then and I remember in another interview you had brought up what I had said and, you know, we were able to evaluate our performance. So now that I'm ending my tenure here I would again like to go back and see what all I promised, how much I was able to deliver and where I could not. But that's not from a negative point of view but to see what more can be done. And I like this approach because three years back I set out the roadmap and some milestones to achieve, and I would be very happy to see how much I have achieved and how much I have not been able to achieve. So, that's a very evaluative kind of exercise that you always do and I want to thank you and Indian Panorama for doing that.

Talking about the app that was developed - the app was developed with the whole idea. You know the moment I arrived here I realized that conventional ways



Always planning better services at the Consulate. Ambassador Harsh Shringla cuts the ribbon to inaugurate the E-Seva at the Consulate, July 16, 2019. Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty is on extreme right.
Photo/ Jay Mandal-On Assignment

of reaching out to the community will not succeed because of the sheer size and number. And this consulate, although it's one of the largest consulates India has, it is not commensurate to the responsibilities and the duties that we have to perform. Our staff is the same since last so many years but the Diaspora has doubled, at least in the last 20 years, from 1 million it has become 2 million in this part of the world, and our interaction and connection with India in every, every way has increased. So, we realized that we had to rely on technology and with that objective we worked and I would like to put on record my appreciation and gratitude to one of my consuls Vipul Mesaria who came up with this server based idea, and then both of us, worked together and we developed it and it has really stood us in good stead, particularly now when we faced this crisis, due to COVID. One small example is that you know we responded to medical prescription requirements for across the United States, even outside our jurisdiction, hundreds and thousands. At least five to seven thousand people have responded - that would not have been possible without this app. You know the number of queries that we handle, the number of phone calls. We handle on an average 400 to 500 phone calls a day. That is not possible without this application. So, we integrated our web-based work, our telephone system, our monitoring system into one. And I think this is a great powerful tool, which we have developed and my hope is that other embassies and other missions use it and it actually proved its worth during this crisis, where we were able to reach out to everyone who came to us with some kind of a response.



Building bridges. Ambassador Harsh V Shringla at an informal dinner reception, hosted in his honor by the New Jersey Governor, Phil Murphy (right) and his wife Tammy Murphy at his private residence in NJ, July 15, 2019. Also in the picture is Consul General, Ambassador, Sandeep Chakravorty who organized the meeting
Photo / Jay Mandal-On Assignment

CONTD FROM PAGE 3



Always a man of ideas. General (Ret) David Howell Petraeus (Left), former Director of CIA and Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, India's Consul General to New York at the Consulate General of India in New York July 23, 2019. General Petraeus was invited to deliver a lecture on US-India relations under the New India Lecture Series. Photo/ Jay Mandal- On Assignment

In these circumstances now what people need is response. Even if you say no, it's a response. But what people don't like is indifference. Indifference is the worst sentiment that can be created in somebody, and we have tried to overcome that, and I am very proud that my team has been very responsive. Our 24 hours helpline since mid-March, it is working 24 hours - you can call anytime, and you'll get a response. So, I think that has been because of the technological changes we made in our consulate and our team spirit that we were able to bring. And we did it when things were Ok and normal, and it proved its worth when things became adverse in the last four months.

TIP: If it is such a useful app, don't you think the Ministry of External Affairs should recommend it across the board to all consulates all over the world ?

AMBASSADOR: They are working on it, and I've been told by a very senior official that they are developing apps. This was home developed, homebrewed. I think they are trying to do it in a more professional. That idea has been implanted. I have myself spoken to our leadership, and they liked the idea and they understand it, and I'm sure it will be the way we work in the coming years.

TIP: Let me take you to your first interview with The Indian Panorama in August 2017, soon after your arrival.

You had said then, and I quote you "There are three relationships here - India-US relationship, Indian community-US relationship, and Indian community-India relationship. All are very important and we need to focus on all three."

Almost three years later, when you look



Kevin Thomas, the first Indian American NY State Senator was honored at the Consulate. Seen from left to right: Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Senator Kevin Thomas, Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty



The New India Lecture Series at Indian Consulate, New York. From left, Sanjay Bhatnagar, CEO, WaterHealth International and Board of Dir. US-India Strategic partnership Forum, Arvind Panagariya, Professor of Indian Political Economy at Columbia University and Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, Consul General of India to New York during conversations on India's current state of Economy at the Indian Consulate in New York City, New York; Jan 22, 2018

back, how do you score yourself on these issues?

AMBASSADOR: Look, I would say that in all three, there has been positive developments. I can't give a number because that would be the job of others who are evaluating me. Self-evaluation is always very difficult. But I think that on all three fronts, there has been, you know, great strengths. The India us relationship has gone ahead. It has been transformational with the Prime Minister's visit to the US last year in September,



Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog (left) speaking about government policies and programs. Ambassador Chakravorty is to the right.

then President Trump's visit to India in February. All those have contributed immensely and if you are a keen observer of the political and geopolitical space, you will realize the kind of goodwill that India generates in the United States. Similarly, there's a great deal of goodwill about United States in India. So, I think on that account too, we don't have any reason to be unhappy. What may be, where we have the challenge is to convert this goodwill into economic opportunities, into businesses for bettering the lives of people in India. Having a strong economic relationship, I think, nothing will put us back.

The India-Indian community relationship is also, I think, strong and vibrant. "Howdy Modi" was a very good example where thousands of people went and you know there is a great deal of support to India and Indian causes in the United States, and the best support we found was when article 370 was abrogated. The Indian community, by and large, you know, greatly and very enthusiastically thought that it was anachronistic and they accepted it. You also mentioned in your remarks that there was a great deal of support. And as far as Indian community Indian Consulate relations are concerned, the assessment should be done by you. But I think that we have opened up our consulate to multiple actors. You know, all kinds of things we have done here. The idea was to not only open up to the Indian community but also to the mainstream American community, and events are a big method of doing that. I

offered our facilities and our platform to all kinds of groups. Things that we have never done before we have done here. You know, and one initiative that I took was recognizing the contributions of Indian Americans who are friends of the consulate, and that I think has gone on very well. Few people told me don't get into this, there will be people who are unhappy! Just because I will make one person unhappy, it doesn't mean I won't make 10 more people happy. So, I started in 2019 which was the first year we did it. And we honored people from the media and I think, Prof Saluja, you were one of the honorees last year. This year we honored Renee. You're working in the media and you have contributed so much to the understanding of India in the United States and vice versa. This year it was in many more in numbers and in the coming years, I'm sure, it will be institutionalized and some of my colleagues and other consulates have liked this and they are proposing to do the same thing.

I'll raise one point here. Earlier the interactions were different. They were more personal, because one could afford to be very personal in relationships, because the numbers were small and the kind of things that you did was small, relationship was small. But things have changed in last five years. Relationship has gone to a new level - it's difficult to go personal now. But I think institution level power interactions have become much, much more. We have taken lots of initiatives. This year I started something called a 'ChaloConsulate'. Rather



Ambassador Chakravorty held a meeting, October 2018, with the only Hindu Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard

Photo/ -Jay Mandal- On Assignment

CONTD ON PAGE 5

CONTD FROM PAGE 4



Promoting adventurer Soman, the globetrotting bicyclist

than we going to you, you come to us, we will host you, we will talk to you. We did two or three Chalo Consulate' editions till we were hit by COVID. We did with GOPIO we did it with AIA. But as soon as the situation normalizes, we'll restart it. So, I think we're at multiple levels we have connected with. You know, we celebrated 350th birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj then Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 550th anniversary, and Gandhi celebrations. We introduced a lot of art and culture and business events. Then, educational events. So, I have tried to vibrate on all the cords, some very successfully, resulting in harmony in music; some maybe not so successful, but I tried my hands on all cords of the Sitar.

TIP: About India, American relationship, there are two areas, which you were looking at. One is the political and diplomatic relationship- India getting the support of the US, and the other is more important maybe, economic development, trade and commerce. There were high expectations of ever-growing economic cooperation between the US and India. There was a huge optimism. You organized so many lectures here by eminent economists, and there was huge optimism that Indian Americans will invest in India; Indian Americans will invest. Many central ministers and chief ministers of states made it a routine affair to visit New York to attract investment and they went all over the US in fact. Where are we on investment by Indian Americans in trade and commerce?

AMBASSADOR: The US India investment story is very positive. Now, as far as Indian Americans investing in India is concerned you know we have to understand it in a slightly nuanced way. If you consider an Indian company here which is owned by an Indian American, it doesn't remain an Indian company, it becomes an American company. So, it then becomes very difficult to ethnically segregate that data. When you look at investment flows, for instance, let's say, Google is investing in India. Now Google is headed by an Indian, or let's say KKR is investing or let's say BlackRock is investing - all their investment portfolio,



Promoting Indian culture internationally. Seen, among others, are Ambassador Chakravorty, wife Taruna Chakravorty, and their daughter who performed classical dance to perfection



Ambassador Chakravorty at India Day Parade in New York. Seen from left to right: Yashpal Soi, Prof. Indrajit Saluja, Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Dr. Neeta Jain, FIA Chairman Ramesh Patel (now deceased) and HR Shah

India portfolio is handled by Indians. So, when American companies invest in India, we don't see them as Indian American companies we see them as American companies, and that data is not available. But what I can say is that Indian Americans in decision making places, they are very pro India. I have attended so many meetings with CEOs when the finance minister came, when our Chief Ministers came. And we have been inviting all American corporates, but the room is full of Indians. The point is that our people have been so successful, they are making the main decisions in these companies. And so, you know, I would not like



Celebrating Guru Nanak, the First Master of the Sikhs at his 550th birth anniversary celebrations, at the Indian Consulate. Prof. Baldeep Singh and his co-performers at the shabad kirtan were honored.

to go down that road and try to segregate the data. I think Americans are big investors in India, and when I talk of Americans, it means Indian Americans or, you know, African Americans or Latin Americans, all kinds of Americans are investing in India and the mood is very upbeat. The geopolitical changes that are happening in India will attract investments from the US and even during the COVID times, Facebook invested \$6 billion, KKR invested some few hundred million dollars or I don't know how much and that story is quite intact. And it will, as soon as things normalize, I think you will see a bounce back.

TIP: Do you see American companies investing in pharmaceutical sector in India?

AMBASSADOR: I think so. I think so because you know one point which came across is that although we are the pharmacy of the world, we do not make all the APIs in India. One of our friends, common friend, Mr Panaser - he has been leading this charge and trying to make sure that American companies also invest in India, particularly in some of the APIs. They would like to see the entire supply chain located in India so that there are less disruptions. So, we have held one video conference webinar on this issue. Some more are planned and the message I'm getting is that there is, and I see some collaborations. The only drug which works on COVID patients is Remdesivir. Indian companies got

license to make Remdesivir. Jubilant America which makes Remdesivir in America, is an Indian company. So, you cannot separate India from pharmaceuticals, neither from vaccines. We are the vaccine factory of the world.

TIP: Coming to some very challenging situations you refer to - article 370 and abrogation of that. And that had international ramifications. Because Kashmir has always been a very hotly contested issue at the world fora, at United Nations and in world capitals. And it must have demanded a very huge effort on your part to explain to not only the Indian American community, a part of which was skeptical about what was being done by government of India, but the American mainstream, the lawmakers, including you know one Congressman you know you disciplined him. How big was that challenge and how you met it, because this is a story, which should be told, and which is a very important one.

AMBASSADOR: I think you've raised a very important question. As we all know, and this is something which really strikes a chord in all Indians because we feel that Indian unity and India is one. And what was existing before - even if it was good - I don't want to even evaluate it as good and bad - it was ineffective. And, rather integrating the people of



Recognizing Friends of the Consulate at PBD 2018. Prof. Indrajit S Saluja was among those honored. See, from L to R: Prof. Indrajit Saluja, Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, Deputy Consul General Shatrughna Sinha

Photo/ -Jay Mandal- On Assignment

CONTD ON PAGE 6

CONTD FROM PAGE 5



2018 Friends of the Consulate honorees with Ambassador Sandeep Chakravort, DCG Shatrughna Sinha and Devadasan Nair, Consul (Community Affairs)

Kashmir with India, it was fueling distancing. And something which does not work has to be changed. You can't keep on taking the same medicine and get violent reactions and not do anything about it, you know, you have to stop that and take something else. And I'm optimistic that in the future, things will work out and Kashmir as a part of India will be fully integrated in our hearts and minds as well. So, you are right. You know it's all a question about messaging and some people, I think, over the years had had been messaging in a very different way and when it happened I think there were some apprehensions and, also, we've to understand, other side was also very active in messaging that India was in the wrong. But I think from the messages that we got from our leadership, both in India and from Washington helped us in building a coherent strategy and there again we obtained or got the help of our community, and they were actually the main messengers to the American interlocutors and to the elected officials, public officials, saying that you know this is something where you know we feel very strongly about. And you need to hear all sides of the story, not only one side which they were had been listening to before. So, I think we were quite successful, to some extent, and people understood that this is something where Indians will not be muted. And, we will have to understand that. So, if you want a strong relationship with Indian Americans and with India, then you have to understand our point of view - I think that message went out well. And I think, very soon people understood that India had the full right to do. Earlier there were phrases being used like unconstitutional. It was not unconstitutional at all. It was done as per our law, as per our Constitution, and then then the narrative I think, we slowly shifted. And I think the message went down well and also I think we did a good job in managing the situation in Kashmir which was a very violent place earlier.

TIP: Even now there is violence. I mean, you can't say there is peace. You know there are encounters taking place, every day.

AMBASSADOR: Yeah, there is. But I think one has to understand that violence is reduced, and civilian deaths have gone down. I think, even if one life is saved, it's worth that effort.

TIP: And I think COVID has played its own role. All contentious issues have been laid to rest for the time being. Everybody is bothered about self-preservation. So, that's probably the positive effect of COVID on India. Even, on the world scene the differences and the contentions that were there, the strifes that were there, they have for now been laid to rest.

AMBASSADOR: Talking about COVID, it has affected everybody, in particular, a section of Indians. Whether Indians abroad got stranded in India, or Indians got stranded abroad, this was a big issue. And it was a big challenge - how did you deal with that. It was a huge number, particularly in the US.

You know one thing which I felt good and I want to mention here also is that when we entered into lockdown in middle of March, we quickly retooled ourselves, and we decided that we will work from home, but we will work, we will not disappear from the scene. So, the consulate quickly re-modulated itself or reengineered itself. And we stopped people from coming to the consulate, but all of us were 24/7 available. And I realized the power of social media and I said, we have to be right there in the community, people should know that the consulate is there if they needed help. I think the number of events that we did over the last three/ four months is quite a mind-boggling number. And I involved the community. I found talent in the community. I asked people for help, people for ideas and suggestions and some of them have absolutely clicked so well that at the end, they have found resonance in India. So, I realized that one is helping people in need, in terms of helping them with food and housing and medicine. That was the first case; will come to the second case later. Otherwise, you know, keeping the

morale high because people are sitting at home, getting upset, depressed they need some avenue or connection. I think we were able to provide that and I am very happy that our, social media platforms are very active and we have done lots of events and in fact, I will mention one event which will be of interest to you is that, we started this virtual. We were supposed to have this play festival for Natya Darpan of New Jersey, and it had to be canceled. And then I thought, why don't we do virtual play festival. So, we had Vibrations 1. It was two/ three plays in English. Then I thought why we don't go regional. So, we had one Hindi and one English play Vibrations 2. On Sunday we had Vibrations 3 in Kannad and Gujarati. And now we have Vibrations 4. For that I've asked people to come with a Punjabi or Telugu play, or whatever. So, this has become very popular and people in India are also seeing it. So, it is an invention of the times. So, initially when flights were not there we tried to engage with the community and Indians stranded here.

And then, when we were assured the flights are going to resume and run the Vande Bharat1, we got involved in preparing those lists of people and trying to put as many needy people as we could. There were certain criteria for selection, and we tried to be as objective as possible, but the numbers are just staggering. And, so you know some people may say that I did not get a chance but I want to say, those who got chance were equally needy. And, you know, so many flights have gone. In the Vande Bharat2 mission, the number of flights is tremendously high, and we opened up the booking. Now it's directly through Air India and people are getting seats and people are going back home. And I think that's a very positive development, you know. So, the burden of ticketing has now moved from us to Air India, and the people can go online and buy tickets. There are issues, because demand may be slightly more than whatever availability. But, again, you know, last week more flights were added from New York. So, I'm sure that the critical requirements was there, that is being fulfilled.

TIP: Yeah, right, critical requirement was fulfilled. I have received complaints that Air India has been charging astronomical fares.

AMBASSADOR: This is completely baseless because Air India was not a company which was in the pink of health, with a green balance sheet or a blue balance sheet. It was in financial stress. I will give you one example. Get me a ticket to China! Chinese nationals are complaining you know how much a ticket to China is costing? \$10,000. How can you run the operation if this is not paying? What has happened here was due to COVID. All the supplies were disrupted. And everyone was charging more because you see everyone was laid off and they were earning Social Security, nobody wanted to come to work. Second thing is, Air India has taken a policy of dividing the cost. You know some tickets are cheap. It's not a money-making operation. It has to be a viable operation - thousands of people went back home. It can't run on charity. Because of COVID everybody has taken a hit, government has taken a hit;



Celebrating International Day of Yoga 2019

CONTD FROM PAGE 7

CONTD FROM PAGE 6

revenues are down. Air India has taken a hit. So, whatever has happened, I think that is a positive culture. When the situation was normal, there were other carriers; people had an option. It could not have been done by any other model. I think it's justified but saying that Air India is price gouging I don't accept that.

TIP: You have actually seen in the consulate basically middle-aged people; the older generation you know they are all over. But the younger generation of Indian Americans, and you probably were trying to rope them in. What did you exactly do to rope them in, to make them interested in their roots, and promote their visits to India so that they get familiar with their own homeland, you know, I mean the Mother India. What did you do about that and how successful has been your initiative?

AMBASSADOR: I think it's a very valid point and although we tried, I don't think we have been very successful. But that doesn't mean that you see, we may not get attract young Indian Americans to our, let's say, cultural programs. But we were all the people who came for investment programs or the roadshows or the, you know, business with India, those are all young people. So when you come in the evening, let's say, for classical music, you may not see young people, but during roundtable with Jaitley saabor Nirmala Sitharaman or Planning Commission and many other such events, they joined. So, I would say that, if you go across the events that we did, we were able to attract young people also, but maybe in some events they came in others did not. But I think that exercise is more needed.

TIP: We have thousands of students, you know, studying in various colleges and universities here under your jurisdiction. So, have you been able to drop a program to reach out to those students?

Our student outreach is, I think one of the high points of our work here. We have now an educational officer. We have an India-US student hub running out of Washington. We are active members of that, and hundreds and thousands of students are being reached in through social media. During COVID time we reached out. In fact, Ambassador did an event on Instagram, where more than 100,000 people students saw. So, we have a fantastic outreach to student. In every campus we have a campus lead, who connects to us. We have this India Corner library initiative, I have personally gone to many universities and colleges and set up the India corner where we have reached out to students.



Finding time to watch US Open. Also seen is wife Taruna Chakravorty. Photo/ -Jay Mandal- On Assignment

So, we have a very strong student outreach.

TIP: I come to another question, and I take you back to your August 2017 interview, and I quote, but as you said, every person is different. And I would also love to leave a legacy behind my legacy that I would love to leave behind this fantastic relationship with the Indian community here. So, as we



Always a man of the people. Participating in the Holi festivities organized by The Indian Panorama in 2019

look at your relationship with the Indian American community and the mainstream of Americans. We have no doubt you have created that legacy. And people here will fondly remember you. But how did you achieve it? It must have meant an enormous effort and work on your part. Would you please like to tell us, for our readers.

Yeah, I think, you know, I sensed that many people were hesitant to engage with the consulate. They had some issues in their mind. Maybe we were signaling what we were not. So, I tried to change that signaling. I said that this is home for everybody, and all kinds of people. You know, whether you're rich or poor or belong to which part of India, really, as long as you are in India connection, you are most welcome here and even if you don't have you are most welcome. So I think, and that messaging I passed down my consulate and, you know, I tried to build. I told my team that you know the way you behave with each other and with your family, you will have to be here with your clients and customers. So that is the messaging I tried to give from the very beginning and I think we have been successful. And I also said that you know everyone needs a response. People come to see you, or meet you or write to you or call you, response was a deficit, I think, in the same when I came in. And I tried to put in place a very efficient response management system. People want an answer. So, if you see on social media on Google on Facebook, on Twitter and all I think the feedback that we give, we get that has improved dramatically. And to that feedback also we respond. So, I said you know respond to everybody. And I think that creates a positive sensation. And I think the message that I gave to people was that, you know, we are here to serve people you know it's not the other way around. You have to be very clear. I got support from our embassy and from our leadership. And I think if it continues like this, then I think I've achieved my goals.

TIP: There always is some unfinished task, as there are unsatiated desires. What are the things that you had on the list to do, but haven't been able to do?

The greatest regret is COVID!! It took away four months from my calendar. There were many things that I wanted to do. Even I am not able to say goodbye in a proper way. I wanted to work more on some political issues, meeting governors and elected officials under my jurisdiction. After President Trump's visit, the messaging was very important but could not do that. I leave on a high, if people say, 'don't go' - I think that's the achievement rather than they say, 'you go now!'

TIP: What would be your message for people in the New York Consulate jurisdiction, in particular, and for all Indian Americans, in general?

AMBASSADOR: People must be very careful about COVID. You have to take precautions. If you are opening up and re-engaging with the community, you have to do it very carefully. Secondly, we have tried to make a new relationship with the community and the consulate is part of the community. This Consulate has the best relationship with people. Extend the same degree of support to my successor. I think I have been able to create a very good team. They are all working for you and will be there. Use that relationship for your benefit. And thirdly, I want to thank everybody. Various institutions, including temples, mosques and gurdwaras were extremely cooperative. I want to thank them all.

TIP: What situation or event or happening can you identify as you may like to cherish and never want to forget?

AMBASSADOR: It is a little difficult to identify it. But I may say, the driven and energetic leader that I saw in our Prime Minister on his last visit in September to USA is one I cannot forget. However, I should think, setting up of Gandhi Shanti Van at CUNY campus was my high point. It was my idea. You know my love of trees. So, it was a very satisfying thing to do. I asked Mr. Arvind Vora, who is at least, 70, for his cooperation and he very willingly stepped forward. No government of India funds were used. It was people's participation. They planted trees in commemoration of their near and dear ones, even as I did in the name of my parents. Gurdwaras, temples, institutions and individuals contributed. We planted trees in the name of all 50 States. Prime Minister Modi Ji made some suggestions which were very helpful. I consider setting up of Shanti Van as my lasting legacy.

TIP: Any situation or event or happening you may like to forget as a bad dream?

AMBASSADOR: I try to be very discerning not to get into a situation which I may regret later. I may not have made all happy. But I did not intentionally make anybody unhappy. What I know for sure is institutionally, we have never failed.

TIP: As you are preparing to leave, to take up another assignment, we, at The Indian Panorama and Opinio Media, Bidisha and myself, wish you all success and happiness. I hope our bond is beyond geographical limits, and our paths will continue to cross again and again.



By Sandeep Chakravorty

There is a fervent need to change the way we have been interacting with nature. Thus far it has been man v/s nature. This is clearly not sustainable. Man is part of nature and can only prosper in harmony with nature and all that is part of nature, living or nonliving. One may wonder what is the link between sustainability and yoga? Is a link being established just because we are commemorating the International Day of Yoga? To understand the link one needs to go no further than delve into Indian philosophy which posits the human being in the lap of mother nature. Let me elaborate on just one tiny example from our scriptures which explains our position in the world. It is from the Upanishads.

"If all the Upanishads and all the other scriptures happened all of a sudden to be reduced to ashes, and if only the first verse in the Isha Upanishad were left in the memory of the Indians, our civilization would live forever." With these words Mahatma Gandhi paid tribute to the remarkable Isha Upanishad, which by long tradition usually comes first in Indian collections. The first mantra of Isha Upanishad says:

"Isavasyam idam sarvam
Yat kincha jagatyam jagat
Tena tyaktena bhunjitha
Ma graddh kasya svid dhanam
The Lord is enshrined in the hearts of all
The Lord is the supreme Reality
Rejoice in him through renunciation
Covet nothing. All belongs to the Lord".

Everything inanimate or animate that is within the universe is controlled and owned by the Lord. One should therefore accept only those things necessary for himself, which are set aside as his quota and one should not accept other's things, knowing well to whom they belong.

So when everything belongs to the Lord or to nature and we are only in trusteeship, who are we to ruin it, pollute it and destroy it to satisfy our greed?

When one hears the word yoga, what are the first images that come to mind? Asanas and exercises. Lately, it seems like yoga has become synonymous with the physical aspect of the practice - the asana or postures. But that is only one aspect of yoga. In the Yoga Sutras of Patanjali, yoga is explained as having eight limbs or ashtanga which means eight limbs in

AS I SEE IT

THE COMPELLING CASE FOR GREEN YOGA

Lately, it seems like yoga has become synonymous with the physical aspect of the practice - the asana or postures. But that is only one aspect of yoga. In the Yoga Sutras of Patanjali, yoga is explained as having eight limbs or ashtanga which means eight limbs in Sanskrit. The physical practice (asana) is actually the third limb. The first two are the yamas and niyamas - ethical and personal guidelines for living. The rest of the limbs (pranayama, pratyahara, dharana, dhyana, and samadhi) ultimately lead to the union of the individual soul with the universal soul.

Sanskrit. The physical practice (asana) is actually the third limb. The first two are the yamas and niyamas - ethical and personal guidelines for living. The rest of the limbs (pranayama, pratyahara, dharana, dhyana, and samadhi) ultimately lead to the union of the individual soul with the universal soul.

Victoria of 'Yoga for Humanity' says that realizing a connection with the universe may be a stretch for most of us, our connection doesn't have to be so abstract and out-there - the natural environment can help to serve as a way to see that oneness and union all around us. Green Yoga practitioner Russell Comstock asks "How are yoga and sustainability related? What could standing on your head and the fate of the planet possibly have in common? Can practicing yoga help to make the world a better place?"

Yoga is founded upon principles that promote awareness of one's sense of connection, inborn unity, and interdependence with all things. Clearly these central tenets convey innately ecological consciousness through the practice of yoga. And perhaps more importantly show that yoga can perhaps inspire conscious, peaceful, environmental stewardship for the betterment of society and the Earth.

We see the evolution of friends and family members who start to practice yoga all around us. They begin to make healthy decisions in their lives, whether it's paying more attention to the food they eat, what they wear, what they buy or changing their lifestyle to accommodate sustainable practices. For example in my personal case, my yoga consciousness doesn't necessarily mean that I am doing asanas, but it translates to maintaining societal hygiene, working towards reducing use of single use plastics and a passion for trees and water. The late Michael Stone, a well-respected and well-loved meditation and

yoga teacher, in his book "Yoga for a World Out of Balance" says "the techniques of yoga - including body practices, working with the breath, and discovering the natural east of the mind - reorient practitioners to the very deep continuity that runs through every aspect of life until they realize that the mind, body, and breath are situated in the world and not apart from worldly life in any way."

Yoga has the power to make one more sensitive to the world. Through this realization of shared energy and common life force, we learn to respect other living beings and understand that every tree or animal has an equal right to live on this planet. If we can open our minds to the original purpose of yoga, in addition to the physical, emotional and mental health that it brings to our lives, then there is hope for allowing this practice to encourage environmental sustainability. Yoga provides us with a set of guidelines and tools to help us deal with ourselves and with the world around us. It provides a framework for managing our inner needs and desires, and when applied to communities and societies, can be a toolkit for sustainable living and global change. It is my firm belief that practically applying the principles of yoga on an individual level can lead to large-scale change in our relationship with our planet. As the world grows increasingly complex, it has been easy to lose touch with the simple reality which has come down to us through ages in our scriptures.

At this moment when we are grappling with the situation created by Covid-19, which I believe has come about by breaking the rules of nature, we have to redevelop the pathways for reclaiming the connection to nature and enhancing the capacity for compassionate action. Yoga can inspire conscious, peaceful, environmental stewardship for the betterment of society and the Earth.



Green Yoga

Through the practice of yoga we become more sensitized to the interconnections of thought, energy, and action. Yoga teaches us to care for our bodies and to make choices that are life enhancing over those that diminish quality of life. Improving air and water quality is one such example. With a greater awareness of our surroundings and what goes into our bodies, we can begin to make choices that support clean air and water for all. It may mean walking to destinations more, using less plastics or reducing energy consumption.

Similarly, we can become more aware of the foods we eat and the water we drink. We can then choose not to buy bottled water or consume less processed foods. We can become aware of the various correlations and what it takes to bring food from the farm to the table or water from the forests to the jug. Our choices in the marketplace impact the producers and in turn the environment those companies operate within. Thus the yoga we practice at home (Hatha and Kriya), and in our lives in general (Karma, Bhakti, Jnana and Tantra), not only changes us as individuals, it impacts the wider world in which we live.

Bringing yoga and environmental awareness together is beneficial for all. The practice of yoga generates new habits of thinking, and the fate of our world is dependent upon creative, new initiatives for long-term survival. If anyone does not agree with what I have said please visit Govardhan Eco Village. The need of the hour are hundreds and thousands of such institutions re-engineering our lives around our age-old philosophy. The need for Green Yoga can be more deeply felt than in this very moment.

References and Acknowledgements: Yoga for Humanity, Metta Earth Institute, Michael Stone, Santanam Swaminathan (Speaking Tree).

(The author is an Indian career diplomat, currently posted as Consul General at New York)

GUEST COMMENT

Too little, too late: Knee-jerk reaction after border clash not strategic planning

The more the fog lifts, the worse the Indian situation appears. During the telephone call between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on Wednesday afternoon, India insisted that premeditated and planned action by Chinese troops was directly responsible for violence and casualties on June 15. If that be so, it only proves that India was

caught napping diplomatically and militarily. Worse, Jaishankar explained that the People's Liberation Army's actions reflected its intent to change the facts on the ground in violation of agreements to maintain status quo. This is the first admission from the Indian side that status quo has been violated by the Chinese, which implies that the Chinese have indeed set up structures and camps on Indian territory. Indian soldiers seem to have fallen defending our territory against a barbaric attack by the Chinese using nail-studded iron rods. Our military leadership has a lot to answer.

Meanwhile, it was business as usual

in Delhi with the bruised left hand not knowing what the right was doing. On June 12, while the Indian Army was trying hard to push back Chinese aggression on the Line of Actual Control, the National Capital Region Transport Corporation awarded a Rs 1,126-crore tunneling project to Shanghai Tunnel Engineering Corporation, rejecting the bids from Indian giants Tatas and Larsen & Toubro. The tunnel is part of the Regional Rapid Transport System, whose foundation stone was laid by PM Modi near the Hindon Air Force station last year.

Five days after awarding the tunnel-

digging contract close to an IAF base to a Chinese company, the Union government woke up to the dangers of the Chinese virtually running the Indian telecom sector with their hardware. It is too late and too little to ask the private telecom operators to stop using Chinese hardware or the Indian Railways and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited to cancel contracts. Strategic planning for a nation's economic security and military capabilities cannot begin after a border clash. It ought to be inherently ingrained in all actions pertaining to infrastructure development and capacity building in core sectors.

(Tribune, India)

The UN Security Council: "equitable representation" and "reformed multilateralism"



By Asoke Kumar
Mukerji

After her independence from British colonial rule, India became an ardent advocate of the application of the principle of "equitable representation" in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). This was the wellspring for the decolonization movement, which culminated in December 1960 with the adoption of a unanimous resolution by the UNGA. The resolution enabled the entry of new members into the UNGA without vetoes blocking their applications in the Security Council.

On 17 June 2020, India was elected for the eighth time to a two-year term on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). In 2022, India will also be chairing the G20 grouping. These two positions will provide a huge opportunity as well as a challenge for India's multilateral diplomacy

This will be a critical period for India, as existing issues on the agenda of the Security Council where India's core national interests are involved, and on which decisions have been taken by the UNSC without the equal participation of India, include the following:

- countering terrorism directed against India, including the situation in the Af-Pak region, from where foot soldiers of terrorism are incubated to launch attacks on India;
- the deployment of thousands of Indian troops for peacekeeping missions in conflict zones like the Lebanon, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo;
- uncertainties regarding the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran and its impact on India's energy security, connectivity and consular priorities including in the Gulf;
- the volatile conflict in Yemen which represents a direct threat to the free flow of navigation in the sea-lanes of communication in the western Indo-Pacific;
- the confrontation between the current major veto-wielding powers in the Council which impacts directly on India's transformation including in the digital technology domain; and
- heightened tensions between China and India in the UNSC on the "India-Pakistan Question" being raised by China.

Some of these issues have been highlighted by India as priorities for her membership of the UNSC as an elected

member for 2021-22.

After her independence from British colonial rule, India became an ardent advocate of the application of the principle of "equitable representation" in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). This was the wellspring for the decolonization movement, which culminated in December 1960 with the adoption of a unanimous resolution by the UNGA. The resolution enabled the entry of new members into the UNGA without vetoes blocking their applications in the Security Council.

The major political impact of decolonization was felt in the UNSC. Newly independent former colonial countries succeeded in tabling a UNGA resolution in December 1963 to amend the UN Charter and create an additional four elected seats in the UNSC to get representation in the Council.

The 1963 resolution, adopted by a two-thirds majority as required under the UN Charter, was opposed by four of the five permanent members (P5) of the UNSC. Ironically, among the P5 it was only the Republic of China (today's Taiwan) that voted in favor of expanding the UNSC. Behind the Republic of China's vote was the calculation that support among the newly independent countries in the UNGA would give it a constituency to stave off demands to unseat the Republic of China from the UNGA and bring in the communist People's Republic of China.

Although the 1963 reform of the UNSC resulted in greater representation for developing countries, the experience of all elected members who have participated in the decision-making process of the UNSC so far has shown the lack of "equitable" participation. Under Article 27.3 of the Charter, the P5 ensured that any substantive decision of the Council had to have the "concurring votes of the permanent members" (the veto).

The UNSC's veto provision contradicts the principle of one-country one-vote enshrined in Article 18 of the UN Charter that the rest of the UN structures follow. If a decision cannot be adopted by consensus, it is taken by majority voting in the UNGA and subsidiary bodies like the Economic and Social Council (which had 54 elected members) and the Human Rights Council (which had 47 elected members).

The attempt to remove this anomaly from the UN Charter began in November 1979. India had served on the UNSC as an elected member four times already when she, along with nine other developing countries, inscribed the need for "equitable representation" in the UNSC on the agenda of the UNGA in November 1979. However, the politics of the Cold War prevented even a discussion on this issue in the UNGA despite increasing examples of the inability of the UNSC to maintain, much less resolve, international peace and security.

One aspect of the issue was lack of representation in the decision-making structure of the UNSC when addressing

conflicts in Latin America, Africa and have firmly rejected any dilution of their



India's multilateral diplomacy should look to implement Article 109 of the UN Charter in this perspective, so that India can achieve her objective of "reformed multilateralism".

Asia. Till today, there are no permanent members of the UNSC from the 54 member-states of the Africa Group, or the 33 member-states of the Latin American and Caribbean Group. Only communist China is a member of the P5 from the 54 member-states of Asia-Pacific. Russia is the only P5 member from the 23 member-states of the Eastern European Group. On the other hand, the 29 member-states of the Western European Group have three P5 members (France, UK and the USA).

The other aspect of the issue was the way the UNSC took decisions, which required the unanimous agreement of the P5. In September 2005, world leaders (including those from the P5) unanimously approved "early reform" of a malfunctioning UNSC to look at both these dimensions. Their mandate was to make the Council "more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions."

Since 2005, this mandate has not yet been implemented. The UNGA established a platform for Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) of the UNGA on UNSC in 2007 under pressure from a group of developing countries under the "L-69" nomenclature. The same group catalyzed the unanimous decision in 2008 of the UNGA on five specific areas for negotiating UNSC reform.

These five areas were: categories of membership; the question of the veto; regional representation; size of an enlarged Security Council and working methods of the Council; and the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly.

The issue of the veto is central to any demand for "equitable representation" in the UNSC. This represents a direct challenge to the P5. The opposition of the P5 was clear when the UNGA unanimously adopted a document on 14 September 2015 tabled by the African President of the UNGA containing the written views of 120 member-states on each of the five areas for UNSC reform.

In their written submissions contained in this document, both France and the UK

veto privilege. The other three permanent members (China, Russia and the United States), who refused to send written comments for the document, have stated in the UNGA that they would neither forego the veto, nor allow new permanent members to have the same privilege.

Faced with this reality, India will have a difficult challenge within the Security Council Chamber on issues that she wants to move forward, such as international cooperation on countering terrorism and deployment of UN peacekeepers. In the broader context, India's attempt to revitalize the UN through "reformed multilateralism" will also confront this challenge. The increasing use of unilateral measures, including force, by some P5 countries in recent years to resolve disputes has augmented this difficulty. Specifically, the current downturn in India's relations with China illustrates the nature of this challenge.

In 1945, when pushing the veto provision into the UN Charter, the P5 had agreed to include a provision to review the UN Charter ten years later to ensure the successful outcome of the Conference. This provision, contained in Article 109 of the UN Charter, provided for a simple majority of the UNGA and seven votes in the UNSC to convene a General Conference to "review" the UN Charter. This General Conference has not been held so far.

Of course, any outcome of a UN General Conference which calls for amending the UN Charter will still need a two-third majority vote and ratification by the domestic constitutional process of two-thirds of the UNGA member-states including all the P5. However, by pooling a broad set of issues, such a General Conference will potentially provide scope for the give-and-take of transactional diplomacy to try and bring "equitable representation" into the UNSC. India's multilateral diplomacy should look to implement Article 109 of the UN Charter in this perspective, so that India can achieve her objective of "reformed multilateralism".

(The author is a former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations)

Five Indian Americans Named Finalists for Blavatnik Award for Young Scientists

NEW YORK (TIP): Five Indian Americans have been named one of 31 national finalists for the Blavatnik National Awards for Young Scientists, the world's largest unrestricted prize for early-career scientists.

Neil Garg, PhD (University of California, Los Angeles), Prashant Jain, PhD (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), and Ryan Shenvi, PhD (Scripps Research Institute) are the finalists in Chemistry, while Aditya Akella, PhD (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Subhash Khot, PhD (New York University) are Finalists in Physical Sciences & Engineering.

They will compete for three top spots as the 2020 Blavatnik National Laureates, to be announced July 22.

Neil Garg is an organic chemist and a world leader in the synthesis of complex molecules. Garg has made significant contributions to the field of catalysis by developing new chemical reactions that allow chemists to break bonds that were once considered unbreakable. Some of his most innovative work includes the development of reactions involving cyclic alkynes—a chemical species traditionally considered too reactive to be useful. Garg's methods are employed widely in the pharmaceutical industry in the synthesis of new medicines. In addition, Garg is an award-winning chemistry educator excelling in both classroom teaching and the creation of innovative online educational resources that are used all over the world.



Neil Garg (University of California, Los Angeles), Prashant Jain (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), and Ryan Shenvi, (Scripps Research Institute) are the finalists in Chemistry, while Aditya Akella, (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Subhash Khot, (New York University) are Finalists in Physical Sciences & Engineering

Drawing inspiration from photosynthesis, physical chemist Prashant Jain is revolutionizing our ability to control and harvest energy from light. Jain uses metal nanoparticles to trap light in the form of plasmon resonances, which are collective oscillations of electrons in the metal. This confined light can be used to catalyze or drive chemical reactions that are not otherwise possible in the presence of the catalyst alone. As an example, Jain has used light to convert unreactive species like carbon dioxide into valuable chemicals that can be used as fuels or chemical feedstocks. Such light-driven chemical manufacturing may prove to be crucial for developing and scaling-up renewable methods of industrial production.

As a leader in the field of natural product synthesis, Ryan Shenvi is recreating, altering, and improving these

challenging molecules by developing new chemical reactions and novel catalysts to drive complex synthesis. His fundamental insights into the relationship between a molecule's structure and its functional properties has led to new potential therapies for diseases from chronic pain to malaria.

Aditya Akella develops technologies that dramatically improve the speed and efficiency of datacenters, while also enhancing the performance and reliability of typically bug-prone datacenter networks. By addressing fundamental challenges in datacenter networks and analytics, Akella's research will continue to have a deep impact on health care, particle physics, climate modeling, national security, and other fields.

Subhash Khot is a theoretical computer scientist working to understand the full power of

computation, and its limits. Khot's research on the "Unique Games Conjecture" addresses deep questions in computer science and bridges the wide gap between development of efficient algorithms and the inherent complexity of computational problems.

The finalists were selected from 305 nominations of outstanding researchers from 161 of the nation's leading academic and research institutions. One laureate in each disciplinary category—chemistry, physical sciences and engineering, and life sciences—will receive \$250,000 in unrestricted funds.

Now in its 14th year, the Blavatnik awards recognize the past accomplishments and future promise of the most talented faculty-rank scientists and engineers aged 42 years and younger at America's top academic and research institutions.

Indian Origin Geeta Pasi Nominated by Trump as Ambassador of Ethiopia

WASHINGTON (TIP): On June 15, President Donald J. Trump announced his intent to nominate Indian American Geeta Pasi, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Ms. Pasi, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, is Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for African Affairs at the Department of State. She previously served as United States Ambassador to Chad and as United States Ambassador to Djibouti.

Ms. Pasi also served as Director of Career Development and Assignments for the State Department, Director of the Department's Office of East African Affairs, Deputy Chief of Mission at the United States Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and Deputy Principal Officer at the United States Consulate General in Frankfurt, Germany. Her other past assignments include Afghanistan Desk Officer in the Office of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh Affairs, Political Officer at the United States Embassy in New Delhi, India, and Political Officer at the United States Embassy in Accra, Ghana.



Geeta Pasi is currently the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary State for African Affairs

Picture/ courtesy Facebook

Ms. Pasi earned her B.A. from Duke University and her M.A. from New York University. She has won numerous Department of State performance awards, including the Matilde W. Sinclair Language Award. She speaks French, German, Hindi, Romanian, and Russian.

Indian American SBU Junior Wins Japan Center's Virtual Essay Competition

NEW YORK (TIP): On Saturday, June 13, the Japan Center of Stony Brook University (JCSB) held its 15th Annual Essay Competition Award Virtual Ceremony. Sailesh Srinivas, a junior at Stony Brook University, won the College Division Best Essay Award of the competition. He was

presented with a \$3,000 check, an award certificate and a Canon camera. In his award-winning essay, "The Walking of Mountains," Sailesh states that he was, one day, intrigued by the aphorism, "If you doubt mountains' walking, you do not know your own walking," written by Zen Master D'gen in his Mountains and Waters Sutra, and describes his attempt to understand its meaning and apply its significance to his life.

Srinivas hoped that his Sensei would guide him through the process of finding the answer to his search. In her interpretation, Sensei explained that a human being is no different from a mountain in that as each moment passes, the physical form of each is changed. However, she stressed that this form's essence or Buddha nature lies beneath its physical form. She described this essence as having the characteristics of emptiness, being without ego, being connected to all beings as one and remaining unchanged. Srinivas learned that "though things change, they are never gone." He concluded, "Zen teaches us that the real, or Buddha nature, lies within our hearts, the center of our being," and Buddha teaches us that the human heart "holds all of our potential to become actualized and free from ego."

Srinivas' favorite subjects are Japanese Buddhism, organic chemistry, Islamic studies and physiology. He enjoys playing tennis, spending time with friends, exploring areas of the world and drinking tea. He hopes to be a pediatrician in the future.



Sailesh Srinivas, a junior at Stony Brook University, won the College Division Best Essay Award of the competition

(Courtesy - Stony Brook University)

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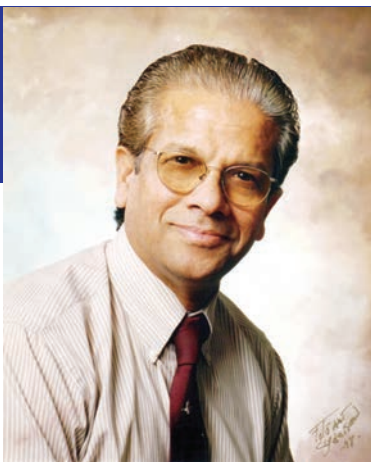


[NYC.gov/COVIDtest](https://nyc.gov/COVIDtest)

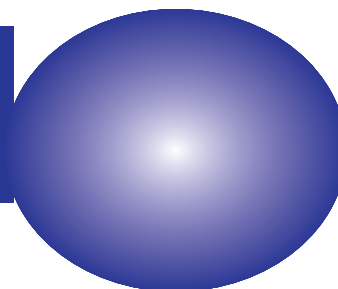


CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE

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



DR. VK RAJU IS A
CLINICAL
PROFESSOR OF
OPHTHALMOLOGY
AT WEST VIRGINIA
UNIVERSITY



DR. LEELA RAJU IS
AN ASSOCIATE
PROFESSOR OF
OPHTHALMOLOGY
AT NYU LANGONE
MEDICAL CENTER



They can be reached at
eyefoundationofamerica.org@gmail.com

Indian Embassy Issues Updated Advisory on Requirements for Visa and Travel to India



WASHINGTON (TIP): In continuation of earlier advisories regarding requirements for visa and travel to India in response to COVID19, the Government of India has decided to permit the following categories of foreign nationals, including Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Cardholders, to enter India:

A. OVERSEAS CITIZEN OF INDIA (OCI) CARDHOLDERS

i. Minor children who hold OCI cards & whose parents are Indian nationals.
ii. OCI cardholders who wish to come to India on account of family emergencies like critical medical conditions of immediate family members or death.
iii. Married couples where one spouse is an OCI cardholder and the other is an Indian national.
iv. Students who are OCI cardholders where at least one of their parents is an Indian citizen or an OCI cardholder.

B. OTHER FOREIGN NATIONALS

i. Foreign nationals who are minor children where at least one of their parents is an Indian citizen or an OCI cardholder.
ii. Foreign nationals married to Indian citizens.
iii. Foreign nationals who are single parents of minor children holding Indian passports or OCI cards.
iv. Students who are foreign nationals where at least one of their parents is an Indian citizen or an OCI Cardholder.
v. Dependent family members of foreign diplomats and official/service passport holding service staff accredited to foreign diplomatic Missions, consular offices or accredited International Organizations in India.

Foreign nationals covered in sub-para B (i) to (v) above shall have to obtain a fresh visa of appropriate category from the Embassy of India, Washington DC or one of its Consulates in USA. Foreign nationals holding a valid long-term multiple entry visa of appropriate category issued by the Indian Embassy/Consulate shall have to get the visa re-validated from the Indian Embassy/Consulate concerned. Such foreign nationals will not be permitted to travel to India on the strength of any electronic visa obtained earlier. It is clarified that applicants with emergency visa issued since 13 March, 2020 by the Embassy of India, Washington DC or one of its Consulates in USA do not require re-validation of visa.

Department of Commerce Announces New National Director of Minority Business Development Agency

WASHINGTON (TIP): U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, announced, June 17, that David J. Byrd will be the new National Director of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA). Mr. Byrd will be the 18th National Director of the agency.

Established by an Executive Order in 1969, MBDA is the only Federal agency solely dedicated to the growth and global competitiveness of U.S. minority-owned businesses.

"David's vast experience in public service and as an entrepreneur are true assets to MBDA and the Department of Commerce," said Secretary Ross. "In his new role, I fully expect him to continue to provide the type of leadership that will lay the foundation to usher in the next 50 years of opportunities and growth for minorities as well as the country as a whole."

Mr. Byrd joined MBDA in October 2019 as the National Deputy Director responsible for overseeing the day-to-day departmental operations and



Mr. Byrd will be the 18th National Director of the agency

establishing a streamlined information portal to track Agency milestones and program execution. As MBDA National Director, Mr. Byrd will oversee the development and implementation of Agency initiatives, policy agenda, and federal grant programs.

"I am honored to be selected by Secretary Ross to lead the Minority

Business Development Agency", said Mr. Byrd. "I am proud to take the helm as the National Director following several of my career mentors who were instrumental in shaping the mission and strategic direction of MBDA since its founding in 1969. I look forward to continuing the Agency's work ensuring the resiliency and growth of America's minority-owned firms today, tomorrow, and for future generations of minority entrepreneurs."

Prior to accepting the fourth presidential appointment of his career at MBDA, Mr. Byrd served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Policy Development, at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. His more than 28-year career in public service has included executive positions at the county, state, and federal levels. Mr. Byrd is also an experienced entrepreneur who owned and operated a consulting firm specializing in government relations, political consulting, executive and life skills coaching.

Facebook Removes Trump Ads Displaying Symbol Used by Nazis

WASHINGTON (TIP): Facebook on Thursday, June 18, removed advertisements posted on its platform by the Trump campaign that prominently featured a symbol used by Nazis to classify political prisoners during World War II, saying the imagery violated company policy, New York Times reported.

The Trump campaign had used the ads, with a picture of a large red triangle, to inveigh against antifa, a loose collective of anti-fascist protesters that President Trump has blamed for violence and vandalism during the nationwide protests against racial injustice. There is scant evidence that antifa has been involved in any coordinated campaigns during the demonstrations.

"Dangerous MOBS of far-left groups are running through our streets and causing absolute mayhem," the campaign's Facebook ads said. Beneath the text was the red triangle, a symbol that Nazis used to identify Communists and other political prisoners in concentration camps, just as they used a pink triangle to identify people they labeled as homosexual.

It was not clear if the Trump campaign was familiar with the origin of the symbol, which was reclaimed after World War II by some anti-fascists in Britain and Germany, in the same way that various political groups over the years have reclaimed words and symbols used to oppress them.

"We removed these posts and ads for violating our policy against organized hate," Facebook said in a statement. "Our policy prohibits using a banned hate group's symbol to identify political

prisoners without the context that condemns or discusses the symbol."

Before their removal, however, the advertisements gained more than a million impressions across the Facebook pages of Mr. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence. They began running on Facebook on Wednesday and were flagged by a journalist for Fortune magazine on Thursday.

Tim Murtaugh, the Trump campaign's communications director, defended the advertisements. "The red triangle is a common Antifa symbol used in an ad about Antifa," he wrote in an email. "Pretty straightforward."

He also said that a similar red triangle was a standard emoji, and provided links to merchandise for sale online, like water bottles and phone cases, decorated with symbols described by the sellers as "anti-fascist red triangles."

Mr. Murtaugh noted that the red triangle was not listed in the database of hate symbols maintained by the Anti-Defamation League.

But the Anti-Defamation League said its database is not used to keep track of historical Nazi symbols, and only lists symbols commonly used by modern extremists and white supremacists in the United States. The group denounced the Trump campaign for using the image.

"Whether aware of the history or meaning, for the Trump campaign to use a symbol - one which is practically identical to that used by the Nazi regime to classify political prisoners in concentration camps - to attack his opponents is offensive and deeply troubling," said Jonathan Greenblatt, the chief executive of the Anti-Defamation

facebook

League. "It is not difficult for one to criticize their political opponent without using Nazi-era imagery. We implore the Trump campaign to take greater caution and familiarize themselves with the historical context before doing so."

The Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum also weighed in on Twitter, noting that the red triangle was "the most common category of prisoners registered at the German Nazi #Auschwitz camp."

Mark Bray, a historian at Rutgers and the author of "Antifa: The Anti-Fascist Handbook," said that "the origin of the symbol is universally agreed to be with the Nazis and the concentration camps." He added that the red triangle was not part of the symbolism of antifa in the United States.

The fact that the triangle has been reclaimed by some anti-fascists, Mr. Bray said, does not give the Trump campaign license to use the same symbol to attack antifa. "This is a symbol that represented the extermination of leftists," he said. "It is a death threat against leftists. There's no way around what that means historically."

Mr. Trump and his campaign have often charged forward with little regard for the impact of hateful symbols, leaving critics with the impression that they are posting purposefully incendiary and racist content online.

In 2016, Mr. Trump tweeted and then deleted an image of Hillary Clinton's face with \$100 bills in the background and a six-pointed Star of David, the symbol that Nazis forced Jews to wear on their clothing. At the time, Mr. Trump defended himself by saying that the star was the shape of a sheriff's badge. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indoor Shopping Malls in New Jersey to Reopen June 29 with Restrictions in Place

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): Indoor shopping malls in New Jersey will reopen later this month, Gov. Phil Murphy announced June 18 as the Garden State witnesses an overall drop in the number of new cases, deaths, and hospitalizations. Thirty-eight new deaths and 442 new cases were reported in New Jersey June 18. The update comes as the number of cases has risen to 168,107, and 12,800



Stores must limit capacity to 50 percent and Common areas in the mall such as food courts must remain closed or otherwise cordoned off

people have died. New Jersey began Stage 2 of its multiphase reopening plan Monday June 15 - when eateries were allowed to offer outdoor dining. Beauty and hair salons, spas, massage parlors, nail salons and other personal-care businesses are permitted to reopen June 22, provided the facilities comply with standards issued by the Division of Consumer Affairs and Department of Health. "We're able to confidently announce this important step in our restart and recovery because the health metrics tell us we can," said Governor Murphy. "With the proper health and safety protocols in place, personal care business owners who are anxious get back to serving their customers and communities will have the opportunity to do so."

The inside portions of indoor malls will be allowed to operate again with restrictions starting Monday, June 29. Stores must limit capacity to 50 percent and Common areas such as food courts must remain closed or otherwise cordoned off.

"Certainly, malls are part of New Jersey culture and lure," Murphy said during his daily coronavirus briefing in Trenton. "We want these businesses to get back up and running responsibly and safely. And we ask everyone who wishes to head out to the mall to comply with the requirements in place - keep your distance, wear a face covering, and follow pedestrian directions."

Restaurants and eateries at malls can offer takeout, delivery, and outdoor dining, but indoor dining remains banned. Indoor entertainment businesses also, such as movie theaters, will remain closed, as they are statewide.

Violations of Reopening Rules Could Result in Shut Down Order for Businesses in New York

ALBANY, NY (TIP): Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced June 18 that he will issue an Executive Order strengthening state enforcement during the phased reopening to protect New Yorkers and ensure business compliance. Businesses that violate the reopening rules and guidelines are subject to immediate loss of their liquor license and a shutdown order. The Governor also announced he will issue an Executive Order to expand the enforcement areas of the State Liquor Authority by giving bars responsibility for the area immediately outside their locations.



Governor Cuomo announced he will issue an executive order to ensure business compliance during phased reopening

The Governor also announced the State will issue guidance to colleges and universities to allow some in person instruction and on-campus housing and for the fall semester. Campuses must develop a plan, which attests to meeting the guidance and file plans with the State.

The Governor also announced a final decision on New York City entering Phase Two June 22 is expected to come June 19 following a review of data by global experts.

"As we go through these phases of reopening, the compliance and enforcement function of local government gets more difficult. We're

going to take an added step by issuing Executive Orders to increase the State's enforcement capacity," Governor Cuomo said. "We have done this now in every region across the state, and it has worked overall, but it works better or worse depending on compliance and enforcement and how people follow the rules. New Yorkers have done an incredible job in fighting this virus, but our success will rely on all of us continuing to be smart."

The State again reached the lowest percentage of positive COVID-19 tests June 17 since the pandemic began. Out of the 68,541 tests conducted in New York State yesterday, only 618, or less than one percent, were positive.

US considers expanding current visa restrictions for foreign workers

WASHINGTON (TIP): The administration of US President Donald Trump is considering a significant expansion of current visa restrictions for foreign workers, the Financial Times newspaper reported on Thursday, June 18.

Many of Trump's top advisers and cabinet members had a meeting on Tuesday to discuss a potential executive order to suspend the issuance of visas to several classes of individuals, the newspaper reported, citing four people briefed on the meeting.

Indian Origin Illinois Business Owner Charged with COVID-Relief Fraud

NEW YORK (TIP): An Indian American owner and operator of several information technology companies based in the Chicago area has been charged in a complaint with allegedly filing a bank loan application fraudulently seeking more than \$400,000 in a forgivable Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan guaranteed by the Small Business Administration (SBA) under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Rahul Shah, 51, of Evanston, Illinois, was charged in a federal criminal complaint filed in the Northern District of Illinois with bank fraud and making false statements to a financial institution.

Shah allegedly caused to be submitted to a federally-insured bank an application for a \$441,138 loan that was guaranteed by the SBA which

significantly overstated the payroll expenses of a company that he controlled. In support of the loan application, Shah allegedly caused to be submitted to the lender several different false and fraudulent IRS documents. The complaint alleges that Shah caused to be submitted to the lender false IRS Forms 1099-MISC representing that the company made payments to several individuals who confirmed to investigators that they had not received the payments. In addition, Shah signed and caused to be submitted to the lender what purported to be IRS Forms 941 representing his company's quarterly payroll expenses for 2019. However, a comparison between the documents submitted to the lender and the company's IRS filings revealed that Shah's company reported significantly lower payroll expenses to the IRS.

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CIVIL ESTIMATOR(S) WANTED

GRADE CONSTRUCTION is a full service civil general contractor performing projects either as a prime or a sub-contractor to private and public entities located throughout New Jersey.

Basic Requirements:

Effectively and efficiently develop and manage takeoffs and proposal estimates for various construction projects.

Highly self-motivated, experienced and able to multi-task.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities:

Position may involve performing other duties as required, which may not be mentioned below.

Search for bid opportunities, analyze bid documents, prepare plan take off calculations, prepare cost estimates and assembling of bid packages.

Research construction history for techniques related to job elements and productivity, value enhancing, value engineering, and alternative constructability.

Ensure bid proposals are completed in a timely fashion to allow for team review prior to submission.

Work in a productive and efficient manner while maintaining the highest level of quality work.

Education and Experience Requirements:

Experience in estimating and proposal development - MINIMUM 5+ years.

Attention to detail and accuracy are essential skills for this position.

Proficiency in B2W- Bid 2 Win estimating software, Insite earthwork takeoff software.

A strong background in public works projects, heavy highway, private work-residential and commercial construction.

Excellence in communication skills, both written and verbal and strong attention to detail.

Strong work ethic and willingness to work as a team to efficiently complete jobs to the highest customer satisfaction.

Must be able to speak, read and write in English.

Organized individual committed to performing duties with detail and accuracy.

Compensation:

This is a full-time position at our Paterson, NJ office. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Excellent compensation, benefit package and performance bonus.

Send resume to: Ralph@gradeconstruction.net

Covid-19: Eight states have more than 10,000 cases, but better rate of recovery

NEW DELHI (TIP): The coronavirus disease has been rapidly spreading across the country. The number of cases has already passed the 3.6 lakh-mark with over 10,000 cases being recorded in the last few days.

The Centre has held review meetings to discuss the ways to check the spread of the disease. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the chief ministers of various states over two days, home minister Amit Shah held meetings on the situation in national capital Delhi which has seen spike in the Covid-19 cases.

Maharashtra continues to lead the grim tally with nearly a third of the coronavirus disease cases.

Here is a list of states with highest number of Covid-19 cases:

MAHARASHTRA: The state has seen the highest number of coronavirus disease cases because of the rapid spread of the disease after the outbreak. According to Union health ministry update on Thursday, Maharashtra has 1,16,752 cases of Covid-19. The state has recorded 5,651 fatalities. The number of active cases in the state are 51,935 while 59,166 have been discharged.

TAMIL NADU: The southern state has recorded more than 50,000 Covid-19 cases so far, the highest after Maharashtra. While 21,993 are active cases, 27,624 have been discharged. The number of fatalities in the state due to the coronavirus disease is 576.

DELHI: The number of Covid-19 cases in national capital were increasing at a steady pace initially, but in the last fortnight, there has been a huge spike. And with the



state government correcting its data and including some past numbers too, Delhi's Covid-19 tally stands at 47,102. The city-state has seen 1,904 deaths due to the disease. While 27,741 cases are active, 17,457 patients have been discharged.

GUJARAT: The western Indian state of Gujarat is also among the states which have very high number of Covid-19 cases. The number of such cases in the state are 25,093, according to Union health ministry data. Though the number of half of that of Tamil Nadu, such high caseload makes Gujarat one of the worst affected states in the country due to Covid-19. The number of active cases in the state are 6,103 and 17,430 have been cured or discharged. As many as 1,560 patients have died due to the disease in Gujarat.

UTTAR PRADESH: India's most populous state has seen its Covid-19 tally nearing the 15,000-mark. As per the Union health ministry, the

number of coronavirus disease cases in the state are 14,598. While 5,259 are active cases, 8,904 have been discharged. Uttar Pradesh has recorded 435 Covid-19-related fatalities.

RAJASTHAN: With 13,542 Covid-19 cases, Rajasthan is next in the tally of high caseload states. The western Indian state has 2,762 active cases, while 10,467 have been discharged. The state has recorded 313 deaths due to Covid-19.

WEST BENGAL: The number of Covid-19 cases in West Bengal are 12,300. There are 5,261 active cases and 6,533 have been cured or discharged. The number of Covid-19 fatalities in West Bengal are 435.

MADHYA PRADESH: The number of Covid-19 cases in Madhya Pradesh are 11,244. Out of these, 2,374 are active cases whereas 8,388 patients have been cured or discharged. The number of fatalities in the state due to Covid-19 are 482.

INDIA SEES ANOTHER RECORD SPIKE OF 13,587 COVID-19 CASES, TALLY OVER 3.8 LAKH

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Union health ministry said on Friday there were 13,587 new cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and 336 people died across the country in the last 24 hours.

India's infection tally now stands at 380,533 with 163,248 active cases of the respiratory disease and 12,573 fatalities, according to the health ministry's dashboard at 8am.

The country's recovery rate, which is the ratio of the number of patients recovered to the number of patients infected, is now 53.79% after 204,710 patients were cured of Covid-19.

But India's recovery rate was still behind the global average, which is at around 55%.

The number of patients who recovered from the coronavirus disease in India had crossed 200,000 on Thursday. Of the 381,010 people who tested positive for Covid-19 in India, 205,092 recovered as of Thursday.

Maharashtra, which has roughly a third of all infections in India, logged the highest number of absolute recoveries at 60,838. It was followed by Tamil Nadu at 28,641 and Delhi at 21,341.

In terms of recovery rate among major states, Rajasthan topped the list with 77.5%, followed by Madhya Pradesh at 75.5%.

While a section of experts said the increasing number of recoveries was a good sign, others said it was important to find out how many of the severely ill patients had recovered.



8 TERRORISTS KILLED IN 24 HOURS IN J&K, 2 WERE HIDING IN MOSQUE

SRINAGAR (TIP): Eight terrorists were killed in two encounters in Shopian and Pampore in Jammu and Kashmir in the last 24 hours. In the Pampore operation, security forces eliminated two terrorists who were holed up inside a mosque. There was "no use of firing and IEDs" and "only tear smoke shells" were used to "maintain sanctity of the mosque", the police said.

"While conducting operation at Meez Pampore full sanctity of the mosque was maintained. Local people and Masjid committee expressed happiness and thanked district police chief Tahir for patience and good supervision. They also complimented Army and CRPF involved in the operation for restraint," Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Dilbag Singh said.

In almost every operation security forces use Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and heavy firing to target houses where terrorists take refuge. The encounter in Pampore is one of the rarest of rare operation when tear



smoke shells were used to kill the terrorists.

Police say security forces launched anti-terror operation in both areas

yesterday morning after receiving specific information about the presence of terrorists. While five terrorists were killed in Shopian, three were killed in

Pampore.

One terrorist was killed in the gunfight in Pampore on Thursday, but two others entered a nearby mosque to take refuge inside it, the official said.

On Friday morning, both terrorists were killed after security forces used tear smoke shells in mosque.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, said no firing or IED was used. "Patience and professionalism worked. No use of firing and IED. Used tear smoke shells only. Maintained sanctity of the mosque. Both terrorists hiding inside mosque neutralised," he said.

Meanwhile in Shopian, five terrorists were killed in the anti-terror operation in Munand area today. So far, police have not disclosed the identity of the terrorists or details about the weapons recovered from them.

More than two dozen terrorists have been killed by security forces in Jammu and Kashmir in the last two weeks. All of these killed terrorists are locals.

Nepal map Bill now law, India says disappointed

In the middle of the worst Sino-Indian border tensions in decades, there was more bad news for India from Kathmandu as Nepal on Thursday completed the legislative process for the validation of its controversial new map which shows parts of India's Uttarakhand state as belonging to Nepal

NEW DELHI/KATHMANDU: Nepal set itself on a collision course with India Thursday after the Upper House unanimously cleared a constitution amendment Bill, endorsing the country's new map that includes territories with India.

President Bidhya Devi Bhandari gave her assent to the Bill within hours of its passage in the Rastriya Sabha.

This deepens the boundary row with India which has already rejected Nepal's claim to the areas of Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura in Uttarakhand, saying it is "violative of our current understanding to hold talks on outstanding boundary issues".

In New Delhi, sources said the government was "disappointed" at the manner in which Kathmandu did not try to create a "conducive atmosphere" and "positive situation", despite the feelers for talks. The onus, sources said, was on the Nepal government.

In the Rastriya Sabha, 57 of the 58 members — except the Chairman — voted 'aye' in favour of the Bill. Chairman Ganesh Prasad Timilsina certified the House resolution.

The Bill, passed earlier by the House of Representatives, gives Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli the constitutional mandate to "reclaim" the territories from India as promised.

"We must have these areas under our administrative control," said Radheshyam Adhikary, member of the Opposition Nepali Congress in Rastriya Sabha.

"We had to bring the new map because India, despite having accepted these areas as disputed, included them in its map and unilaterally built a road there," he



said. This was a reference to the May 8 inauguration of the Dharchula-Lipulekh road on the Mansarovar Yatra trail by Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Members of the ruling Nepal Communist Party were more vocal, blaming India for matters coming to a head.

Narayan Kaji Shrestha, former Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister, said: "We only want that the issue should be settled through talks, based on facts and evidence. Avoiding talks will worsen the situation."

Oli did not speak during the House debate on the matter but later, while responding to a debate on the annual budget, said: "The solidarity, with no one opposing the constitution amendment Bill, shows that we stand together on the issue of national unity and that no effort from any side to divide us will succeed."

With the Bill becoming law, it will be mandatory for the government to use the new official map and the national emblem which has the map.

The Nepal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, meanwhile, indicated that it will clarify to India its efforts to hold a dialogue since last November, soon after India included Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura in its new map published following the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.

"We made written requests twice. All that India said was that it is keen on a dialogue. Till date, it has never given us a clear time frame, officially or unofficially," Ministry sources said.

Asked about Nepal's view on the India-China faceoff in Ladakh, sources said "we will maintain a neutral posture, but we sincerely wish that both sides sort it out peacefully and through dialogue."

In New Delhi, government sources said India had proposed a "video-conference", phone calls between the Foreign Secretaries, apart from possible visits to India by Nepal's Foreign Secretary to discuss the boundary issue. Sources said the proposal was sent before the issue was taken up in the Nepal parliament.

J&K REVOKES PSA DETENTION OF SENIOR PDP, NC LEADERS

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday revoked the detention of senior PDP leader Naeem Akhtar and National Conference's Hilal Lone more than 10 months after they were detained, both booked under provisions of the Public Safety Act (PSA).

The detentions of the two leaders were last extended for three months on May 7.

With their release, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti remains one of the last mainstream political leaders booked and detained under PSA. Others, including People's Conference chairman Sajad Lone, are under house arrest.

Thursday's decision to revoke detentions comes two days after the Jammu and Kashmir High Court quashed the detention of NC general secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar.

Welcoming their party leader's release "from unlawful and solitary detention", the National Conference said in a statement that the "total redemption of the situation is not impossible till all other detainees languishing inside and outside are not also released fore with".

The party has also demanded "immediate release" of party colleagues, including Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, Nasir Aslam Wani, Mohammad Shafi Uri, AR Rather, among others.

Rs 50,000-cr job scheme for returned migrants

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch a Rs 50,000 crore Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan from Bihar's Khagaria district on Saturday to provide 125 days of employment to returned migrants in 116 districts of six states, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said at a press conference on Thursday. "We have found that migrant workers returned in large numbers to 116 districts spread over six states — Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan. The government will pool 25 projects to give jobs to migrant workers who have returned amid the Covid crisis. The government will frontload Rs 50,000 crore for the cause. The top priority is to provide immediate relief to migrant workers who have returned home," the Finance Minister said.

As we go along, we will see how many will stay back for continued employment," the Union Minister said.

"The government has mapped the skill sets of migrants. Nearly three-fourths of the surveyed migrants are skilled. They will be offered jobs in construction work, laying of fibre optic cables and horticultural activities."

—Nirmala Sitharaman, FM

Indian and Chinese militaries to take part in Russian Victory Day

KOLKATA (TIP): Indian and Chinese militaries, involved in a fierce clash in the Ladakh on Monday, will have a different kind of engagement next week. Contingents from the two armies will march in Russia's historic Red Square on June 24 on the occasion of military parade being organised by Russia to mark the 75th anniversary of Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany.

Besides India and China, troops from 18 more foreign countries including USA, UK and France would march alongside the personnel from the Russian armed forces to celebrate the diamond jubilee of the great victory.

India will send a contingent of



75 personnel from its three armed forces to Moscow to participate in the event, the Defence Ministry has said.

"On the occasion of the 75th

anniversary of the victory in the Second World War, there will be a military parade in Moscow to honour the heroism and sacrifices made by the Russians

and other friendly people. The Russian Defence Minister has invited an Indian contingent to take part in the Victory Day Parade scheduled to be held on June 24, 2020, in Moscow," stated a press release issued by MoD.

"The participation in the parade will be a mark of tribute and solidarity with the people of Russia at a time when they remember their heroes of the Great Patriotic War," the release added. China watchers here said that troops of PLA Honor Guard — composed of representatives of the People's Liberation Army Ground Force, Navy and Air Force — have already landed in Moscow to participate in the parade.

China also used the

opportunity to showcase the indigenously developed transport aircraft Y-20. PLA soldiers chosen for the parade landed in the Russian capital aboard the aircraft.

The Victory Day parade is held annually on May 9 but it got postponed this year because the preparations for it could not be carried out amid the coronavirus spread.

However, it was on June 24 in 1945 when the legendary historic parade of victors took place, when soldiers, who fought for Moscow and defended Leningrad and Stalingrad and liberated much of Europe and stormed Berlin, had marched at the Red Square.

(Source: The Tribune)

INDIA-CHINA STANDOFF

Coffins of 20 soldiers wrapped in Tricolour reach 10 states as nation bids farewell to bravehearts

NEW DELHI (TIP): Awake of grief swept across the country as the mortal remains of the soldiers who laid down their lives fighting the Chinese Army in Galwan Valley in Ladakh were taken to their native places on Wednesday.

For many of the bereaved families the agonising wait started on Tuesday evening when they were informed by senior Army officials about the death of 20 soldiers in the violent clashes with the Chinese army along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh a day earlier.

Indian Army in a statement said that a violent face-off occurred between Indian troops and soldiers of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) on the night of June 15.

Among those killed, five soldiers were from Bihar, four from Punjab, two each from Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal and one each from Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

A pall of gloom descended over the family and relatives of Colonel Bikkumalla Santosh Babu, the commanding officer who was killed by Chinese troops during clashes, as his mortal remains arrived at his residence in Vidyanagar in Hyderabad on Wednesday night.

The emotionally-charged crowd holding national flags raised slogans of "Santosh Babu amar hai" as the tricolour-wrapped coffin was brought out of the ambulance by the army personnel.

The body was flown from the national capital in a special aircraft to Hakimpet Air force base near Hyderabad at 8 PM.

STATES MOURN LOSS OF THEIR SONS

Bihar, Jharkhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Bengal, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana lost their brave sons to the ugly battle with the Chinese troops that took place on Monday night.

Bihar reacted with a blend of grief, anger and the spirit to make sacrifices in the national interest, as news reached that the stand-off between Indian and Chinese troops in Ladakh has killed 20 soldiers of the country, five of them hailing from the state.

Political rivalries were set aside for the moment as Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi and other ministers stood beside Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav and Jan Adhikar Party founder Pappu Yadav at the airport in Patna when the mortal remains of Havildar Sunil Kumar were brought on a special aircraft.

Jharkhand mourned the deaths of two of its sons -- Kundan Kumar Ojha and Ganesh Hansda -- in the violent face-off between India and China at LAC in Ladakh.

Two nondescript tribal villages in Odisha mourned the deaths of their sons killed in the India-China clash.

Chandrakanta Pradhan (28) hailed from Biarpanga village in Kandhamal



An Indian Army banner seen on the road to Pangong Tso Lake.



district's Raikia block and Naib Subedar Nanduram Soren belonged to the Rairangpur area of Mayurbhanj in Odisha.

In Chhattisgarh, the family of a 27-year-old Army jawan Sepoy Ganesh Ram Kunjam, who died of injuries suffered in the clash, had finalised his marriage during his last home visit and planned to solemnise it next year, his relatives said on Wednesday.

Ever since the news about the death of Sepoy Ganesh Ram Kunjam came in, his family members in Gidhali village of Kanker district have been in a state of shock mixed with a sense of pride over his sacrifice for the country.

West Bengal also lost two of its sons in the ugly battle at LAC in Ladakh. Sepoy Rajesh Orang of Birbhum and Havildar Bipul Roy of Alipurduar lost their lives fighting the Chinese on Monday.

On the other hand, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh extended

his heartfelt condolences to families of the soldiers -- Naib Subedar Santosh Singh (Gurdaspur), Naib Subedar Mandeep Singh (Patiala), Sepoy Gurbinder Singh (Sangrur) and Sepoy Gurtej Singh (Mansa).

Punjab CM on Wednesday announced compensation and a job to the next of kin of each of the four soldiers killed in the violent face-off with the Chinese army in Ladakh. A soldier from Tamil Nadu, K Palani, who was among those killed in Ladakh in the violent clash with Chinese troops, served the Army for 22 long years and was due to retire in a year. When Madhya Pradesh's Naik Deepak Kumar Singh, posted in Ladakh, told his grandmother on phone a few days ago that he will come home after the coronavirus-induced lockdown ends, he did not know it will be his last conversation with his family.

Naik Deepak Kumar, a resident of



SOURING TIES

1949: Chinese army enters Tibet, PM Jawaharlal Nehru deploras invasion

1959: Dalai Lama escapes from Lhasa to India. New Delhi grants asylum, move angers Beijing. It refuses to accept McMahon Line

1962: India, China go to war. 1,383 killed, 4,000 injured; 722 Chinese killed

1967: Nathu La incident. 88 killed, 160 injured; 350 Chinese killed

1975: Four Assam Rifles men killed in ambush by Chinese in Arunachal

2013: Chinese troops intrude 19 km into Ladakh, set up camp for several days

2017: Two-month stand-off at Doklam

May-June 2020: Chinese troops intrude into Ladakh and Sikkim and engage in violent skirmishes. Chinese deployment along entire border with India

Farenda village in Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh, had got married just seven months ago. He too was among the 20 Indian Army personnel killed in the fierce clash.

Meanwhile, a large number of people assembled and shouted anti-China slogans in sepoy Ankush Thakur's Karohta village in Hamirpur district of Himachal Pradesh.

The 21-year-old sepoy was a resident of the village in Bhoranj subdivision.

Born on November 4, 1998, Thakur was recruited to the Punjab Regiment in December 2018 and formally joined the regiment after finishing his training ten months ago.

Here is the list of names of bravehearts released by the Indian Army:

1. Col B Santosh Babu
2. Nb Sub Nuduram Soren
3. Nb Sub Mandeep Singh
4. Nb Sub Satnam Singh
5. Hav K Palani
6. Hav Sunil Kuma
7. Hav Bipul Roy
8. Nk Deepak Kumar
9. Sep Rajesh Orang
10. Sep Kundan Kumar Ojha
11. Sep Ganesh Ram
12. Sep Chandrakanta Pradhan
13. Sep Ankush
14. Sep Gurbinder
15. Sep Gurtej Singh
16. Sep Chandan Kumar
17. Sep Kundan Kumar
18. Sep Aman Kumar
19. Sep Jai Kishore Singh
20. Sep Ganesh Hansda

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SR™ Film Fest NY 7th Edition Goes Virtual

By Mabel Pais



- 4 narrative features, 10 documentary films, 23 shorts selected
- Spotlight Panel on the Effects of Climate Change on Women
- Distribution consultations and script finalist readings via Zoom.
- LIVE stream "Meetings with the Filmmakers"

The Socially Relevant Film Festival NY (SR™FF 2020) goes virtual due to the current COVID-19 health restrictions. The festival's seventh season brings international and local films, panels, script readings, and networking opportunities online from June 18-28. *Films stream over ten days, progressively, each for a 48-hour time window.

The Official Selection covers a diverse mix of films. There is also a script-writing contest with finalist scripts readings. Visit www.ratedsrff.com for details, tickets, and "Meet the Filmmakers" virtual sessions.

PREVIEW SPOTLIGHT

Film Screening and Panel, June 19, 2:30 pm

(originally planned for the NGO CSW Forum - UN)

Streaming LIVE online

Climate, Violence, and the Environment: Women Paying the Price

Panelists:



CYNTHIA LOPEZ - Executive Director of New York Women in Film & Television.



HOURY GEUDELEKIAN - Chair - NGO CSW New York.



DAYNA ASH - NGO CSW 2020 Women of Distinction awardee - cultural and social activist, playwright, performance poet.



CATHLEEN DE KERCHOVE - Founder Les Enfants de Panzi, The Children of Panzi



VIKTORIJA MICKUTE - Producer with Al Jazeera's Contrast VR team, and documentary filmmaker

Moderated by Nora Armani - Founding Artistic Director SRFF

These films stream online for 48 hours from June 18, 5:00 PM to June 20, 5:00 PM

Short Films on Climate change and Women

Like No Other | DIR: Aziz Ahmed | USA, Pakistan | 2019 | 11'

Caused by a combination of global warming and climate change, the 2010 Pakistan floods were the worst natural disaster in Pakistan's history. The film addresses the increasing impact of

climate change on displacement.

Mother, Daughter, Sister | DIR: Jeanne Marie Hallacy | USA, Bangladesh, Myanmar | 2018 | 28'

Amae, Thamee, Ama (Mother, Daughter, Sister) gives voice to Kachin and Rohingya women calling for an end to sexual violence in conflict.

Fly High | DIR: Fatma Racha Shehadeh | Lebanon | 2019 | 06:29'

Marital Rape exists- Yes consensual sex does exist between a husband and a wife. Marriage won't normalize or humanize rape. Be a woman who looks up to the sky.

Leaving to Live | DIR: David Rodrigues | France | 2019 | 0:7:48'

On December 24 in the middle of the afternoon, Alexandra, 35, makes an important decision that will change her life : leaving her marital home with her 7-year-old daughter Léa.

Chasing Glaciers | DIR: Mark Gregory | Peru | 2019 | 19:50'

Climate Change is currently manifesting itself in the beautiful country of Perú. Within their borders are 70% of the world's tropical glaciers and over the last 40 years, they have lost almost half their surface areas.

Voices on the Road | DIRS: Bethan John, Eilidh Munro | Peru | 2019 | 23'

Deep in the remote Peruvian Amazon a road is quietly destroying a protected rainforest, cutting through a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Many indigenous communities are struggling to live in this paradise.

CONTD ON PAGE 19

CONTD FROM PAGE 18

The narrative feature films of the Official Selection competing for the Narrative Grand Prize are:

BUTTER | North American Premiere | DIR: Paul A. Kaufman | USA | 2019 | 1h 50m

A lonely obese teenager everyone calls "Butter" is about to make history. He is going to eat himself to death live on the Internet and everyone is invited to watch. When he first makes the announcement online to his classmates Butter expects pity, insults, and possibly sheer indifference. What he gets are cheerleaders rallying around his deadly plan. Yet as their dark encouragement grows, it begins to feel a lot like popularity. But can Butter live with the fallout if he doesn't go through with his plans?

GOOD MORNING | US Premiere | DIR: Bahij Hojeij | Lebanon | 2019 | 1h 28m

Two elderly gentlemen, an 80-year old former Interior Security Forces General, and an 84-year old former Army doctor, go every day to the same coffee shop to sip their espressos and quietly solve crossword puzzles in the daily newspapers. This activity becomes their new "job" which is supposed to protect them against loss of memory.

LORIK | New York Premiere | DIR: Alexey Zlobin | Armenia | 2018 | 1h 34m

A lonely theater actor inhabits a world populated by his past characters as he unexpectedly finds himself plunged into the realities of the people around him. Experiencing the pain and suffering of others, transforms him from a cynical narcissist into a compassionate and selfless person. When he inhabits the role of a rich oligarch, he exploits this new situation to reach an unexpected outcome.

TRANSFERENCE | World Premiere | DIR: Raffaello Degruccola | UK | 2019 | 1h 43m

Transference: A Bipolar Love Story is a twisted psychological drama about obsessive love, the film, set in London, follows Katarina, a Norwegian nurse, and Nik, a fellow immigrant nurse from Italy, as they embark on a passionate affair that threatens to implode from the pressure of unresolved mental health issues concealed in the lovers' secret pasts.

The documentary features of the Official Selection competing for the Documentary Grand Prize:

A CALL FOR PEACE | New York Premiere | DIRS: Juan C Borrero & Melodie Carli | USA, Columbia, Ireland, UK | 2018 | 54m

After 50 years of war, the Colombian peace process is the latest world success in peace agreements due to a very diverse and experienced group of experts, along with the support of the international community, coming together to support this initiative. A Call for Peace is our journey around the world to unravel many intriguing

questions and reveal a previously unseen view into the work of notable peacebuilders that are responsible for transforming conflicts around the world. The film is not only a moving historic document but also a striking story of reconciliation in the 21st century.

BIRTH WARS | New York Premiere | DIR: Janet Jarman | Mexico | 2019 | 1h 13m

Told through deeply personal stories in the trenches of the healthcare sector, "Birth Wars" chronicles a power struggle between doctors and midwives in Mexico about whose vision of childbirth should prevail. Taking viewers on a journey into the two worlds riven by prejudices and antagonism, the journeys of a newly graduated professional midwife in Guerrero, and a traditional midwife in Chiapas, are juxtaposed to explore how these worlds could help save lives by working together.

CAN'T STOP THE SUN FROM SHINING | New York Premiere | DIR: Teresa Mular | USA | 2019 | 48'

A documentary about four centenarian women between 94 and 105 years old living in New York who unravel their courage, strength, and zest for life in unique and inspiring ways. Conveying a message against ageism, "Can't Stop the Sun from Shining" is an homage to older individuals who, in spite of adversities and life challenges, age without regrets and arrive with dignity and charm to the autumn of their lives.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE | New York Premiere | Nandini Sikand | USA | 2019 | 1h 35m

Inside/Outside is a feature length documentary film about women and mass incarceration in the United States as they struggle with the challenges of sexual assault, substance abuse, and often motherhood. Seen through the lens of a predominantly white county jail in a rapidly gentrifying town in the Lehigh Valley in Pennsylvania, this film explores challenges the women face inside and outside jail. Hearing from a chorus of women who share what it is like to be in Northampton County Jail, experts, and correction workers, Inside/Outside addresses the hard and cold facts of the prison industrial complex.

MICROPLASTIC MADNESS | New York Premiere | DIRS: Atsuko Quirk & Debby Lee Cohen | USA | 2019 | 1h 16m

As an inspirational and optimistic take on the local and global plastic pollution crisis, fifth graders from PS 15 in Red Hook, Brooklyn - a community on the frontline of Climate Change that was severely impacted by Superstorm Sandy. With stop-motion animation, heartfelt kid commentary, and interviews of experts and renowned scientists who are engaged in the most cutting edge research on the harmful effects of microplastics, this alarming, yet charming narrative, conveys an urgent message in user-friendly terms with a take action message.

MOTHER OF TIBETANS | New York Premiere | DIR: Niklas Goslar | Germany, India, Poland | 2018 | 1h 30m

A woman decides to have a meaningful life after entering pension age. For 30 years, Irmtraut Wäger headed German Aid To Tibetans and helped the Dalai Lama and Tibetans in exile. She collected about 30 million Euros in donations and took care of over 5,000 Tibetan godchildren. Furthermore she facilitated the construction of schools, hospitals, kindergartens and old people's homes all over India. Today Irmtraut Wäger is seen as a shining example of successful refugee relief, and this is her story.

POTLUCK: The Altered State of Colorado World Premiere | DIR: Jane Wells | USA | 2019 | 1h 17m

The war on drugs has failed, but is legalization of cannabis the answer? Five years after full legalization of cannabis, filmmakers Jane Wells and Barbara Bossuet looks beyond the headlines and hysteria to take an intimate journey into the lives, homes and thoughts (sometimes drug-fueled) of Coloradans either invested in cannabis businesses or committed to teaching the world what legalization has wrought. Meanwhile, overwhelmed law enforcement juggle with the blazed new world, still finding out what the new normal looks like in the still-evolving world of legal cannabis.

STONEWALL WITH A 'T' | New York Premiere | DIR: Samy Nemir Olivares | USA | 2019 | 1h 20m

The film examines the New York City transgender activism movement - spanning from Stonewall era to the present - in a decades-long struggle to acquire civil rights, recognition under the law and society and fighting against discrimination, including the fight for SONDA and GENDA. It's an untold chapter of the LGBT history revisited 50 years after Stonewall. Interviews with the most active transgender activists of recent times, especially transgender women of color, as well as never-seen-before footage of key events of LGBT history, pioneer icons Sylvia River and Marsha P Johnson, highlight the film.

TELL MY STORY | New York Premiere | DIR: David Freid | USA | 2020 | 1h 30m

A grieving father seeks answers after his 14-year-old son dies by suicide. He uncovers painful truths about the lives of teens, the impact of unfettered access to internet and social media, and the shocking rise of depression among America's youth. The journey brings him together with young suicide survivors, prevention experts, and parents trying to understand the 70% increase in adolescent suicide. Seeking to find the warning signs that were missed, he instead finds ways to reverse the isolation and disconnectedness that is killing our youth.

UNDERMINED: Tales from the Kimberley | North American Premiere | DIR: Nicholas Wrathall | Australia | 2018 | 1h 32m

Australia's vast and unspoiled Kimberley region is under threat, with mining, pastoralism and irrigated agriculture driving an unprecedented land grab. The film investigates the politics of an area now branded "the future economic powerhouse of Australia," and what this means for our First People and their unique cultural landscapes. As pressure from industry exposes the limits of Indigenous land rights, what will remain of over 200 remote Aboriginal communities? We follow a young leader, a veteran cattleman and a Senior Elder through David-and-Goliath battles to preserve their homelands, asking the question: for whose benefit is this development?

Themes recurrent in this year's short film blocks include:

- Climate Change,
- Gun Culture,
- Plastic Pollution,
- Mental and Physical Health,
- Childbirth,
- Palestine and Beer,
- Refugees and Immigrants,
- Women Entrepreneurs,
- Indigenous People,
- Middle East Peace, and LGBTQ Rights.

Tickets

*All Early Bird and advance purchased tickets and passes will be honored for the streaming (new festival dates) of the films. Tickets still available for others. Tickets offer a chance to win T-shirts, SR Festival bags, DVD's from IndiePix, downloads, cash prizes and more...Visit www.ratedsrffilms.org for details, tickets, and "Meet the Filmmakers" virtual sessions.

About SR™FF-NY

The SR™ Socially Relevant™ Film Festival New York (SRFF-NY) is a non-profit film festival founded by actress Nora Armani. The Mission of the SR™ Film Festival is to shine the spotlight on filmmakers who tell compelling, socially relevant™, human interest stories, across a broad range of social issues. The festival was created as a response to the proliferation of violence and violent forms of storytelling in media and entertainment. SR™ believes in the power of cinema in raising awareness of social issues and promoting positive social change. During its first six years, the festival showcased over 350 films from 35 countries. For updates on SRFFNY2020 and more information, visit <https://www.ratedsrffilms.org>

Submissions for SRFF 2021 are now open and are received from all over the world.

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



SONAM KAPOOR YEARNS TO GO BACK TO A FILM SET, SHARES BTS PIC FROM KHOOBSURAT

Actress Sonam Kapoor is missing being on film sets and "rehearsing" her lines, and she has reflected the feeling on social media.

"Can't wait to be rehearsing lines, acting and being on set again.. miss it so damn much," she wrote on Instagram along with a throwback still from her 2014 release, "Khoobsurat".

"This still is from 'khoobsurat' . I've never felt as joyful playing a character. Mili I love you," added the actress.

In the picture, Sonam is seen rehearsing her lines for the shoot. She is wearing a printed kurta and blue cardigan.

In an earlier post, Sonam penned an appreciation for husband Anand Ahuja, thanking him for "being extra kind and loving" when she needed the most.

"An appreciation post for my husband. Thank you for being extra kind and loving today. I really needed it. Love you so much," Sonam wrote on Instagram.

KRITI SANON CALLS SOCIAL MEDIA 'FAKE, TOXIC PLACE', BLASTS MEDIA

Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's untimely and sudden death by suicide has shaken Bollywood. Fans, film fraternity and family - everyone feels shattered and angry at the same time. SSR was found hanging from his Bandra residence on June 14, 2020, leaving behind his grieving family and close ones.

Sushant Singh Rajput was all of 34 and was reportedly battling depression for past few months.

His co-star in 'Raabta' and friend Kriti Sanon, after posting a heartfelt post for the late actor has now shared her feelings in a new Instagram post blasting media. She has called out trolls on social media and those who thrive on gossips and blind items.

Kriti's post on Instagram has been liked by many celebrities including Sonam Kapoor.

After Sushant's demise, internet is flooded with condolences and heartfelt messages pouring in for the late actor, who touched a million hearts in a short span of time.

The rising telly star became a household name after his debut in 2008 show 'Kis Desh Mein Hai Meraa Dil', followed by Zee TV's popular show Pavitra Rishta by Ekta Kapoor Balaji Telefilms. As Manav of 'Pavitra Rishta', he became a TV heartthrob of millions. Soon he made his



sensational debut in movies with Abhishek Kapoor's 2013 release Kai Po Che!, which is based on Chetan Bhagat's novel The 3 Mistakes of My Life.

He went on star in movies like Shuddh Desi Romance, PK, Detective Byomkesh Bakshi!, M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story, Raabta. Sushant was also seen in Netflix release 'Drive' co-starring Jacqueline Fernandez.

He was last seen in Abhishek Kapoor's 'Kedarnath', 'Sonchiriya',

and more recently successful release by Nitesh Tiwari's 'Chhichhore'.

Sushant Singh Rajput's last rites took place at Pawan Hans Crematorium on Monday, June 15, 2020. Many B-Town celebrities such as Shraddha Kapoor, Kriti Sanon, Mukesh Chhabra, Vivek Oberoi, Varun Sharma, Krystl D'Souza, Abhishek and Pragma Kapoor amongst others were seen paying their last respects to the departed soul amid heavy downpour.

KANGANA WITNESSES SPIKE IN ONLINE FOLLOWERS; KARAN JOHAR LOSES FANS

Sushant Singh Rajput's untimely death paved the way for debates online. While the attention was on the importance of mental health, the debate over nepotism was also reignited.

Several fans accuse Bollywood of not giving Sushant his due. This debate has left an impact on numerous Bollywood celebrities, especially Karan Johar. The director was brought under the scanner following his tribute to the actor and incidents of him mocking Sushant resurfaced. The internet had strong reactions towards it with numerous fans urging fellow internet users to unfollow the director.

A Hindustan Times report has revealed that Karan's Instagram followers have taken a massive hit. The report claims Karan's Instagram followers went from 11 million to 10.9 million within a matter of 20 minutes. On the other hand, Kangana's team handle, team_kangana_ranaut, witnessed a rise in followers. The social media handle went from about 2 million to 3.2 million and counting between Monday night and Tuesday evening.

Apart from the debate on nepotism, online users are also signing petitions numerous petitions demanding



justice for Sushant. Meanwhile, the Mumbai Police has been investigating the actor's death. The officials previously confirmed they found no note at the scene. An

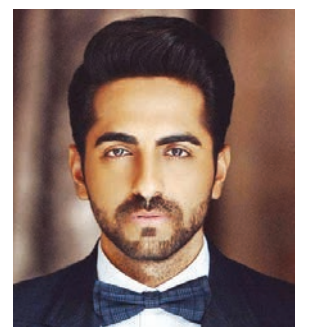
Indianexpress.com report revealed the police have spoken to Sushant's father, KK Singh. He said the actor often felt "low" but he wasn't aware Sushant was depressed.

We don't audition outsiders': When Ayushmann Khurrana was rejected by Karan Johar

An excerpt from actor Ayushmann Khurrana's book - Cracking the Code: My Journey in Bollywood - in which he recalled being rejected by filmmaker Karan Johar in 2007, is going viral, after the suicide of actor Sushant Singh Rajput sparked a renewed conversation around nepotism in the film industry.

Ayushmann recalled that one of the first Bollywood personalities that he interviewed back when he was a radio jockey was Karan. At an awards show in 2007, Ayushmann asked Karan for his number and told him that he wanted to be an actor. "Karan gave me the landline number to his office when I met him. I should have taken a hint there and then. But I was so excited! I even planned exactly when I would make the call: sometime around 11:30 am, so he'd be done with breakfast and available to talk."

Ayushmann continued, "The next day I dialled the number they'd given me. They said Karan wasn't in office. The day after that I called again. They said he was busy. And finally, my bubble burst when, the subsequent day, they told me bluntly 'We only work with stars, and can't work with you'."





HARRY POTTER ACTOR JESSIE CAVE EXPECTING THIRD CHILD

Actor Jessie Cave, best known for playing Lavender Brown in Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince, is set to welcome her third child with boyfriend, comedian Alfie Brown. The 33-year-old actor took to Instagram to share the news.

"Oops I did it again," Cave captioned her picture showing off her baby bump.

Brown, 29, gave an update on his social media with a photo of the baby scan and feet of the couple's other children, captioning it: "I'm very happy to announce my forthcoming vasectomy."

The couple, who rekindled their relationship after nearly three years of living apart earlier this year, share son Donnie, five, and daughter Margot, three.

Last month, Cave's Harry Potter co-star Rupert Grint also welcomed his first child, a daughter, with longtime girlfriend, actor Georgia Groome.

BRYCE DALLAS HOWARD HAPPY TO GO BACK ON 'JURASSIC WORLD' SETS

Actress Bryce Dallas Howard feels safe to return to the sets of "Jurassic World: Dominion" in the post COVID-19 era, and says she is grateful that she has a job.

"Jurassic World: Dominion" is set to resume filming next month in the UK.

Bryce said that she is looking forward to getting back to work and feels things are being handled with precaution. She opened about getting back to sets in SiriusXM's "EW Live".

"There's been a lot of communication. They are going above and beyond. We would never be going back to work if we didn't feel safe. And, you know, we're taking it one day at a time and I'm very grateful to have a job," Bryce said.

In the film franchise, Bryce is seen as Claire Dearing, who she portrayed in 2015's "Jurassic World" and then again in sequel "Fallen Kingdom" three years later.

"Jurassic World: Dominion", also featuring Chris Pratt, will be the first large studio production to start filming in England following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The sixth film in the Jurassic Park franchise began shooting in Canada earlier this year, but production had to be suspended following the virus crisis.

The film also stars Sam Neill, Jeff Goldblum and Laura Dern.



MAYA JAMA FED UP OF PEOPLE 'HYPER SEXUALISING' HER BODY

Maya Jama is fed up with people "hyper sexualising" her body. The 'Save Our Summer' star has slammed those who criticised her for wearing a dress that showed off her curves on the British television show, and told one troll that they were "letting the side down" by critiquing her outfit choice.

Taking to Twitter, she wrote: "appreciate your concern ... with open mouth and cold sweat I am able and allowed to dress how I please. If you feel uncomfortable by my boobs sitting in my dress that's on you sis. We're all fighting for equality and similar treatment to our male counterparts. Don't let the side down by hyper sexualising my body (sic)"

And later on in the day, Maya opened up about her critics, insisting their mean comments were more of a "reflection" on them than on herself or whoever the comments were at.

She posted: "Sometimes I retweet trolls not for sympathy or for you guys to get at them but just to remind you that people are MAD on here and more time if someones gone out the way to be mean to a stranger unprovoked it's a reflection on them not you, i laugh at it now cause I'm used to it ... But for those that aren't and if you are experiencing the effects of an unhappy troll just mute or block and try to feel sorry for them (sic)"

Meanwhile, Maya recently revealed she is "happy" with where she is in life and is learning how to "love" herself, despite society's criticisms of herself and women in general.

She said: "When someone loves themselves, and



seems fully open and accepting with themselves, people don't like to see it. Constantly, society is pushing the message of, 'Love yourself! But, actually, not like that. Do it differently'. I think, now, I'm pretty sure I love myself, and I'm happy with where I am."

Oscars 2021 Ceremony Postponed to April 25

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has announced its decision to postpone next years Oscars ceremony by two months. Oscars 2021 will be held on April 25, owing to the disruption in release schedule of films all through 2020 caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The eligibility period of entry for the contest has also been pushed by a couple of months, from the end of December 2020 to the end of February 2021.

"For over a century, movies have played an important role in comforting, inspiring, and entertaining us during the darkest of times. They certainly have this year. Our hope, in extending the eligibility period and our awards date, is to provide the flexibility filmmakers need to finish and release their films without being penalized for something beyond anyone's control," Academy president David Rubin and chief executive Dawn Hudson said in a statement, reports theguardian.co.uk.



Australia says it has been target of 'state-based' cyberattacks

SYDNEY (TIP): A "sophisticated state-based actor" has been attempting to hack a wide range of Australian organisations for months and had stepped up its efforts recently, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Friday.

The attacks have targeted all levels of the government, political organisations, essential service providers and operators of other critical infrastructure, Morrison said in a media briefing in Canberra.

"We know it is a sophisticated state-based cyber actor because of the scale and nature of the targeting," he said.

Morrison said there were not a lot of state actors that could launch this sort of attack, but Australia will not identify which country was responsible.

Australia's Defence Minister Linda Reynolds said advice showed no large-scale personal data breaches from the attack, as she urged businesses and organisations to ensure any web or email servers are fully updated with the latest software and the use of multi-factor authentication.

An Australian government source said Morrison's public declaration was an attempt to raise the issue with those who could be targeted.

Australia's chief cyber intelligence agency said its investigations have so far found no evidence that the actor attempted to be "disruptive or destructive" once within the host's network.

A U.S. security ally, Australia strained ties with its largest trading partner, China, by pushing for an international inquiry into the source and spread of COVID-19 that first emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year.— Reuters

New Zealand police officer shot dead during routine traffic stop

AUCKLAND (TIP): A New Zealand police officer was killed and another seriously injured on Friday after they were shot during a routine traffic stop, the country's police commissioner said, as officials urgently hunted for the suspect. Schools and daycare centres near the scene of the incident in Auckland were on lockdown as police searched for the shooter, who also injured a member of the public when fleeing by car. The two officers were unarmed, which is usual procedure in New Zealand, where only specialist police like those at airports or in tactical response teams routinely carry guns.

"At this stage, there is nothing to indicate this job was going to be anything out of the ordinary," Police Commissioner Andrew Coster said at a media briefing in Wellington. He did not provide details on why the car was stopped by the officers. The fatally wounded officer was the first in New Zealand. (Reuters)

China charges 2 Canadians with spying, 18 months after arrest

BEIJING (TIP): China has formally charged two Canadians with spying, officials said Friday, more than 18 months after they were arrested in a spat between Beijing and Ottawa.

The pair were detained shortly after Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou was arrested in Canada on a US warrant, in what is widely believed to have been a retaliatory move from China.

The Supreme People's Procuratorate said Friday it has begun the prosecution of ex-diplomat Michael Kovrig and businessman Michael Spavor, who were "suspected of foreign espionage" and "providing state secrets".

The Communist Party's Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission said last year that Kovrig is accused of "stealing and spying on sensitive Chinese information and intelligence." It said Spavor provided Kovrig with intelligence, without giving details.

Kovrig works for the International Crisis Group (ICG), a non-governmental organization that focuses on conflict resolution. ICG could not immediately be reached for comment on Friday. ICG has previously said the accusations against Kovrig are "vague and unsubstantiated."

Spavor, 44, is a businessman with deep ties to North Korea.

The latest move comes just weeks after a key ruling in the Meng case



where a Canadian judge ruled that proceedings to extradite her to the United States will go ahead.

The United States wants Meng extradited to face trial on charges related to the Chinese telecom equipment maker's alleged violations of US sanctions against Iran.

Diplomatic relations between Canada and China have hit rock bottom over the arrests, damaging trade between the countries.

Monthly consular visits for Kovrig and Spavor had been suspended since

the coronavirus outbreak started in China, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in April, amid concerns for their deteriorating health.

But China's foreign ministry has insisted the pair are in good health, and that their detention facility was "in a region that is not particularly affected by COVID-19".

However, people familiar with the matter have told AFP the two have endured hours of interrogation and in the first six months of detention were forced to sleep with the lights on. AFP

Russian war veterans quarantined before watching parade with Putin, says Kremlin

MOSCOW (TIP): Russian war veterans due to join President Vladimir Putin to review a June 24 military parade on Red Square are being quarantined at health resorts beforehand to protect their own health and that of others, the Kremlin said on Thursday.

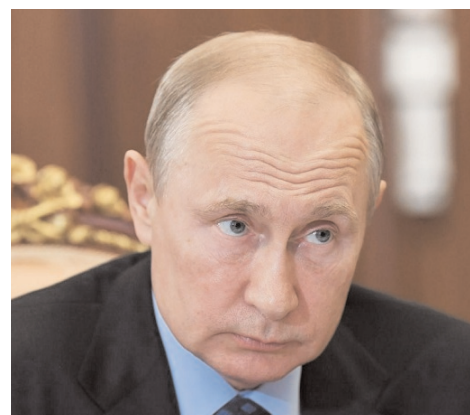
The parade, originally scheduled for May 9, is designed to mark the 75th anniversary of the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany in World War Two, but was postponed due to the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The move to quarantine the veterans beforehand would help safeguard Putin from getting the virus.

The Kremlin said earlier this week that Putin was protected from the coronavirus by special disinfection tunnels that anyone visiting his residence outside Moscow or meeting him in the Kremlin must pass through.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said a group of war veterans was now in quarantine at sanatoriums and rest homes in "lovely conditions."

"Above all there is a concern for their health, since they will be there together and chatting with one another," he said.



Taking such precautionary measures was important, he added, and it was a good opportunity for veterans to receive additional medical care.

The annual parade is a raw display of military strength and patriotism that has become a hallmark of Putin's rule.

Some cities have postponed their own military parades however, citing the coronavirus, but in Moscow, the epicentre of Russia's outbreak, plans remain in place, with a rehearsal taking place on Wednesday evening.

Russia had registered 561,091 cases of the coronavirus and 7,660 deaths as of Thursday.— Reuters

Israeli soldier gets community service after killing Palestinian fisherman

JERUSALEM (TIP): An Israeli soldier who shot and killed a Palestinian fisherman near the Gaza frontier in 2018 has been given 45 days of community service after an army investigation concluded he fired without authorization, the military said Thursday.

The military said a group of Palestinians had approached the fence but were far away when the paratrooper opened fire, striking one of them. Its statement did not identify the soldier or the Palestinian, or say whether he was killed.

Nawaf al-Attar, a 23-year-old fisherman was shot and killed by Israeli troops near the northern beach frontier on Nov. 14, 2018, when the military said the shooting occurred.

It happened a few hours after a cease-fire took effect following a brief round of fighting between Israel and Palestinian militants. The area near the fence had seen weekly protests at the time that often turned violent, but there were no demonstrations that day.

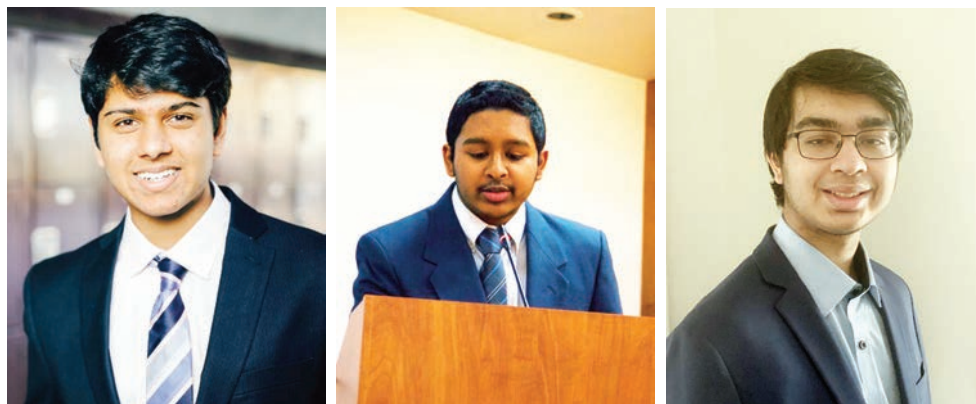
The military said the soldier reached a plea bargain in which he pleaded guilty to charges of negligence and reckless endangerment. AP

Three Indian American High School Students Receive Princeton Prize in Race Relations for Promoting Racial Equity

PRINCETON, NJ (TIP): This year, three Indian Americans are among 29 high school students from around the United States who received the Princeton Prize in Race Relations. The program recognizes students who, through their volunteer activities, have undertaken significant efforts to advance racial equity and understanding in their schools or communities.

The Indian origin students are - Krishay Mukhija (San Francisco Region), Srihari Ravi (Washington), and Manav Shah (Georgia).

Krishay Mukhija is a junior at the Harker School in San Jose, California, and the founder of Suits2Empower, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. He launched Suits2Empower to reduce ethnic and racial disparities in education by providing professional attire and by offering development tools to empower underserved students to thrive in their academic careers. Inspired by an opportunity to help a debate opponent who couldn't afford the requisite blazer and tie, Krishay reached out to his principal and hosted a school-wide donation drive and Suits2Empower was born. He then leveraged his involvement with Fresh Lifeline for Youth, an organization working to break the cycle of juvenile incarceration, where Krishay had heard the stories of many teens who had one or more parents in prison and had gone on to commit minor felonies themselves. He saw that breaking the cycle of incarceration meant providing equal educational opportunities to at-risk youth. While hosting dress-up events, Krishay and his team discovered that many students had limited career aspirations. To break through perceived glass ceilings, Krishay established a speaker program in which industry experts share their insights about their professions. Interacting with dynamic professionals has helped many students realize that they, too, can become pathologists or financial analysts. In partnering with over 14 nonprofits, including Lincoln Law School, Fresh Lifeline for Youth, Urban Debate League, and Restorative Justice Program, Suits2Empower has served over 2,500 students, debaters, young veterans, and



The Indian origin students are - Krishay Mukhija (San Francisco Region), Srihari Ravi (Washington), and Manav Shah (Georgia).

aspiring lawyers. Using the Suits2Empower online portal, Krishay plans to extend the program nationwide and internationally, empowering students from different schools to start their own drives and partner with local nonprofits. In the next 18 months, Krishay envisions supporting more than 10,000 students through clothing drives, skills training, and juvenile court assistance programs with a team of 30 student leaders and 18 adult volunteers. Curious to investigate how these educational disparities and health outcomes are linked with neighborhood infrastructure and conditions, Krishay has also been conducting research at the University of Maryland College Park epidemiology lab. He aims to present this research to city legislators to improve neighborhood conditions and educational opportunities.

Srihari Ravi is a senior at Albert Einstein High School in Kensington, Maryland. An International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma student, Srihari recognized that the students in his more academically rigorous courses were predominantly white, despite his school's diverse demographics. He researched the achievement and opportunity gaps in his school district, Montgomery County Public Schools, for a 20-page IB Maths Standard Level research paper. In discovering his school district's racial and socioeconomic disparities, he found himself involved in a local movement for school integration in hopes of achieving educational equity among students of all backgrounds and subsequently limiting the achievement

and opportunity gaps. He used his report to testify twice at the Montgomery County Board of Education, participated in community conversations relating to de facto segregation, presented his research in forums led by Communities United Against Hate-Youth Creating Change and the Museum of Contemporary American Teenagers, joined the One Montgomery and Students Toward Equitable Public Schools coalitions in support of school integration efforts (becoming a founding member of the latter and coining their name), and created a website for IMPACT Silver Spring's Beyond Boundaries MoCo subdivision. After speaking with and in front of hundreds of people over the course of his advocacy efforts, he recognized the significance of individual conversation and storytelling as a component of social change. He has additionally sought racial justice by petitioning his school district for more inclusive school names; by organizing discourses on race, state violence and segregation both at his school and virtually; by surveying over 600 students from all 25 MCPS high schools with the Nomen Nescio Project, a coalition of students across Montgomery County looking for solutions to sexual assault and harassment among high school students from a racially inclusive and intersectional lens; and by completing research on the impact of caste and ethnicity on the experiences of the Tamil diaspora. His advocacy will be continued by fellow Einstein students Avery Smedley and Luca Utterwulge.

Manav Shah is a junior at Wheeler High

School in Marietta, Georgia. In 2018, after visiting Clarkston, Georgia, a destination for international refugees, Manav learned of the often unnoticed struggles that refugee youth face. Many refugees have difficulty engaging in school and society, face discrimination, and often fall into depression because of bullying and stereotyping. Seeing this cycle of distress, Manav decided he wanted to help by providing a voice to their stories. He founded LiberatedVoices, a nonprofit that uses protest art as a vehicle of communication in helping refugee youth express their journeys as refugees, their experiences with racism, and what they wish to see change in the world. His group has engaged with more than 300 refugee youth in four locations nationwide. Through these art workshops, Manav and his group have helped refugees from locations as diverse as Burma and Iraq build confidence, engage in their communities and speak up against the prejudice they face. Manav is currently expanding his nonprofit to other refugee enclaves and minority youth centers, and eventually hopes to launch an online program for his workshops. Further, Manav is advocating with the Georgia House of Representatives for a Diversity Month within Georgia public schools, in hopes of letting all students appreciate the gifts of diversity and minority culture. He is also the president of his school's diversity and Chinese clubs. Manav believes that youth have the power to create a change they want to see and hopes to inspire others to promote equity, diversity, and inclusivity in their communities.

The Princeton Prize carries cash awards of \$1,000 for students in grades 9-12 in 29 regions around the country. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, programming for the awardees was held over video conferencing, rather than on the Princeton campus at the typically scheduled two-day symposium.

The Princeton Prize in Race Relations is run by more than 400 Princeton alumni volunteers. Since its founding in 2003, it has awarded more than 300 prizes to high school students for their work in standing up to intolerance and encouraging connection and community.

Indian American Pharmacist Charged for Role in \$12.1 Million Health Care Fraud Scheme

OHIO (TIP): An Indian origin man is among nine pharmacists who were charged in three separate indictments unsealed last week for their alleged participation in a \$12.1 million health care fraud scheme executed in Detroit and southern Ohio. Balhar Singh, 57, of Butler County, Ohio was charged with one count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud and wire fraud. The indictments allege that, using the pharmacies, the defendants billed Medicare, Medicaid, and Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) for prescription medications that were neither purchased nor dispensed. The indictments further allege that the defendants billed Medicare and Medicaid for medications that were often medically unnecessary and for some medications that were purportedly dispensed to deceased beneficiaries after their dates of death. From January 2013 to January 2016, Medicare, Medicaid, and BCBS allegedly paid Cholog and Khreizat, through Universal, approximately \$1.5 million for drugs that the pharmacy did not have sufficient inventory to dispense. From January 2011 to February 2018, Medicare and Medicaid allegedly paid Maki, through City Drugs, approximately \$3.7 million for drugs that the pharmacy did not have sufficient inventory to dispense. The indictments further allege that the defendants received significant funds from their participation in these schemes. **(SOURCE: DOJ)**

Indian American SBU Researcher Wins 2020 Young Academic Inventor's Award

NEW YORK (TIP): The National Academy of Inventors, Stony Brook University Chapter (NAI-SBU) has awarded the 2020 Young Academic Inventor's Award to Indian American Priyanka Sharma along with three others. Priyanka Sharma, PhD, Research Scientist, Department of Chemistry (PhD 2014, CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune India) won the award "for her inventions leading to the development of nitro-oxidation method to extract nanocellulose from raw biomass, which drastically decreases the consumption of energy, chemicals and water."

The winners presented a short lecture of their invention at the Young Academic Inventor's Award Symposium via Zoom on May 20, 2020. They will be honored with a certificate and a \$1,000 check each at one of the NAI-SBU Chapter and Office of Technology Licensing and Industry Relations joint meetings to be held in Fall 2020.



Priyanka Sharma is a Research Scientist at Department of Chemistry

Bangladesh coronavirus cases cross 100,000-mark

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh's coronavirus cases on Thursday crossed the 100,000-mark after 3,803 new COVID-19 infections were reported in the last 24 hours, a senior health official said.

The death toll due to the COVID-19 rose to 1,343 after 38 people died, according to the health directorate.

The total number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Bangladesh are 102,292, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Additional Director General Nasima Sultana was quoted as saying by the Dhaka Tribune on Thursday.

As many as 17,349 samples were collected between Wednesday and Thursday. Of those, 16,259 samples were tested in authorised labs across the country and 3,803 of them tested COVID-19 positive, she said.

In all, 567,503 tests have been conducted so far, she said, adding that the rate of recovery from COVID-19 in Bangladesh currently stands at 39.26 per cent while the mortality rate is 1.31 per cent. — PTI

Nepal records highest single-day spike with 586 new COVID-19 cases

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal on Wednesday reported its highest single-day increase in the coronavirus cases with 586 new infections, taking the country's total count to 7,177.

The new cases include 546 males.

The country's COVID-19 death toll climbed to 20 after a 46-year-old kidney patient died due to the deadly virus, the Health Ministry said.

Nine patients were discharged from hospital after their recovery on Wednesday.

The total cases of recovery have reached 1,167. PTI

Pak ex-PM Yusuf Raza Gilani tests positive for COVID-19

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan's former prime minister Yusuf Raza Gilani tested positive for the coronavirus on Saturday, becoming the latest top political figure to contract COVID-19 that has claimed 2,551 lives and infected 132,405 people in the country.

Gilani, 67, tested positive after attending a hearing of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in a corruption case.

On Thursday, Shehbaz Sharif, chief of the Opposition Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), tested positive for the coronavirus after he appeared before the NAB in a money laundering case.

Gilani's son Kasim Gilani announced on Twitter that the former premier had tested positive for the coronavirus.

PTI

First 2-3 days were tough but my health is gradually improving: Afridi on Covid

LAHORE (TIP): Former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi, who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, has provided an update about his health, saying first two-three days were tough but his condition is gradually improving.

Last week, Afridi had announced on Twitter that he has tested positive for novel coronavirus.

In a latest Facebook video, Afridi has said: "I wanted to make this video as I have been hearing a lot about my health on social media since the past few days. First two-three days were really tough for me but my condition has been improving since then." "The biggest difficulty for me is that I am unable to take care of my children and hug them. I miss my children. But it is important to take precautions and maintain distance to keep others safe around you.

"There is no need to panic about this. Till the time you yourself don't fight a disease, you cannot beat it," he added while urging people to take precautions.

The former Pakistan skipper further



said he knew he would be at risk of catching the virus as he had been

travelling a lot for the charity work. "I knew I would catch COVID-19 as I was travelling a lot for charity work. Thankfully, it happened late else I would not have been able to help a lot of people," he said.

"Thank you for all your well wishes. It gives me immense pleasure to know that I have so many people praying for me in Pakistan and outside Pakistan," he added.

Afridi also called upon people to help the poor and needy in these trying times.

Earlier, former India batsman Gautam Gambhir also wished Afridi a speedy recovery from coronavirus.

"Nobody should be infected with this virus. I have political differences with Shahid Afridi but I want him to recover as soon as possible," Gambhir told the media.

"But more than Afridi I want every person infected in my country to get well as soon as possible," he added.

IANS

Afghanistan government, Taliban agree to Doha as venue for first peace talks

KABUL (TIP): Afghanistan's government and the Islamist Taliban group have agreed that Doha will be the venue for the first meeting in their peace talks, both sides said on Sunday.

The talks, known as the intra-Afghan dialogue, will be the first high-level meeting between the two sides after years of fighting.

The Afghan government has released 3,000 Taliban prisoners so far under an agreement signed between the United States and the insurgent group in February.

No date has been announced for the meeting, but it is expected to take place after the two sides settle differences on the release by the Afghan government of 5,000 Taliban prisoners, which could be as soon as the end of next week.

"The first intra-Afghan meeting will happen in Doha," Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen told Reuters, adding that the Islamist group was ready to hold intra-Afghan talks within a week of the release of 5,000 prisoners.

The Afghan government has released 3,000 Taliban prisoners so far under an agreement signed between the United States and the insurgent group in February.

That deal outlined a roadmap for



withdrawing foreign forces from Afghanistan and peace talks to end the 19-year war.

The government wants talks to begin as soon as possible but has issues with the release of a few hundred high-profile Taliban prisoners, a senior government official told Reuters.

The official said the government had offered an alternative prisoner release list to the Taliban.

The spokesman for the Afghan Presidential Palace, Sediq Sediqqi, said on Twitter that Doha had been agreed as the venue for the first talks but said no permanent venue had been agreed.

The Qatari capital was the venue for signing the deal between the United States and Taliban. The insurgent group has had a political office in Doha since 2013. — Reuters

Pakistan presidency budget cut by over 60 per cent

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The overall budget of Pakistan's presidency has been slashed by more than 60 per cent for 2020-

21, while the expenditures of the Supreme Court and the Islamabad High Court enhanced for the same period, according to the budget document.

Pakistan announced its budget for 2020-21 on Friday and its details are still emerging.

The Dawn newspaper reported that the

total budget of the President House was Rs 992 million for the outgoing fiscal year but President Arif Alvi reduced it by Rs 597 million, or 60.18 per cent for 2020-21, and the reduction was shown in personal expenditures of the president along with cuts in allowances of the human resources working there. PTI

SUSHANT'S DEATH SPARKS OUTSIDER VS INSIDER DEBATE IN BOLLYWOOD

Actor Sushant Singh Rajput's untimely death has prompted a shocked Bollywood to introspect on why outsiders find it so hard to get a foothold into an industry which many directors and actors say is ruled by its own people.

Rajput was found dead in his Bandra apartment on Sunday. He was 34.

A complete outsider who studied to be an engineer, the Patna-born actor rose through the ranks from a background dancer to a television star and finally got his Bollywood debut with "Kai Po Che!", which released only seven years ago.

Rajput had his fair share of success in films like "M S Dhoni: The Untold Story" and "Chhichhore".

His tragic death has led many to question the "privileged groups" and "camps" in the industry.

Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur hinted in his recent post that Rajput was let down by his industry peers. The director and the actor were trying to work on their ambitious project "Paani" but it got shelved.

"I knew the pain you were going through. I knew the story of the people that let you down so bad that you would weep on my shoulder. I wish I was around the last 6 months. I wish you had reached out to me. What happened to you was their Karma. Not yours. #SushantSinghRajput," Kapur tweeted on Sunday.

Dibaker Banerjee, the director of Rajput's 2015 detective drama "Detective Byomkesh Bakshy!", also talked about how outsiders need double the talent and hard work to make it in the industry.

"The biggest unfairness in all this is that it takes double the talent, energy and hard work for an outsider to convince the audience and the industry that he or she is as safe a box office bet as a mediocre, unmotivated and entitled establishment elite," Banerjee told PTI.

Without taking any names, actor Ranvir Shorey said the powerful in Bollywood hold all the cards.

"It wouldn't be fair to blame someone for a step that he took himself. He was playing a high stakes game, where it's win or lose it all. But something has to be said about the self appointed 'gatekeepers of Bollywood'.

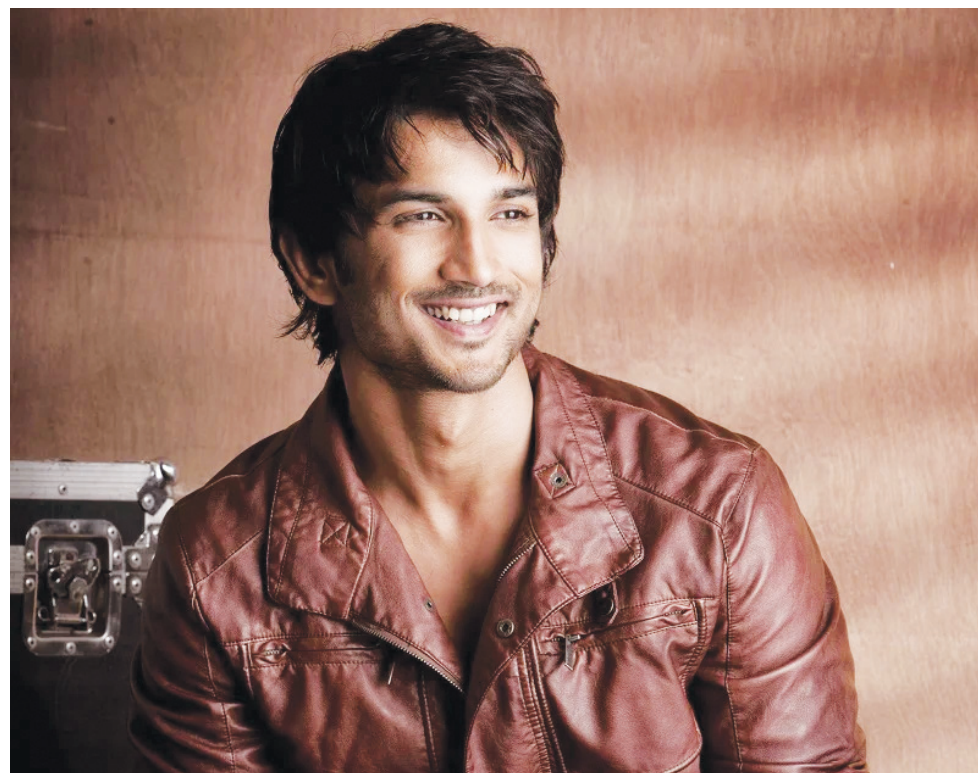
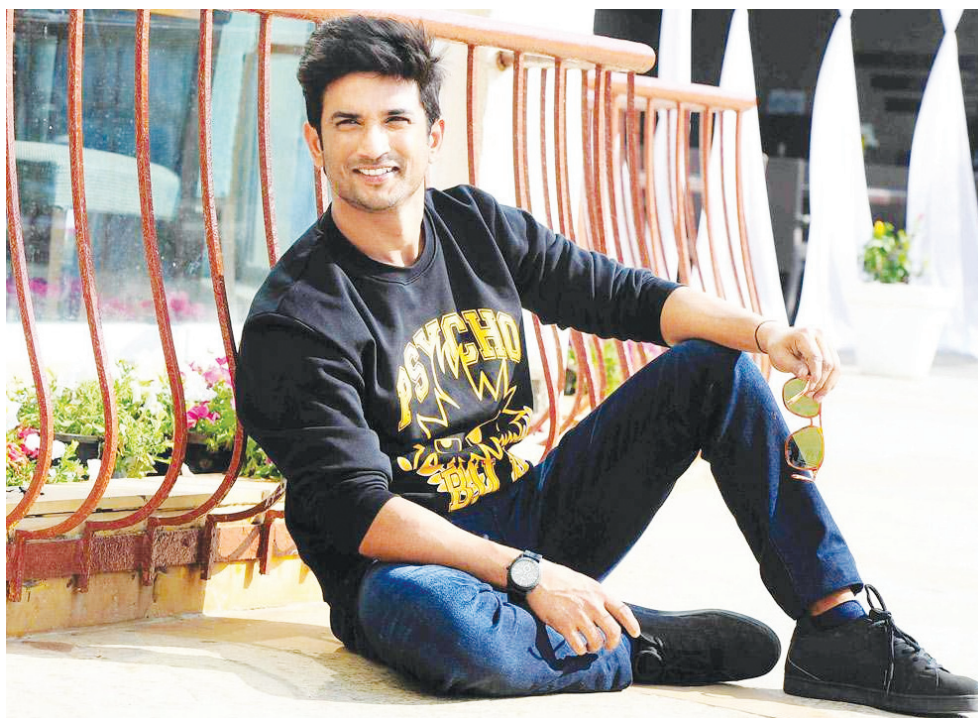
"Something has to be said about the games they play and their two facedness. Something has to be said about the power they wield with zero accountability," Shorey, who worked with Rajput in critically-acclaimed feature "Sonchiriyaa", said.

Actor Gulshan Devaiah said it is about who gets to wield the power.

"The winners of this battle will turn out exactly like the losers they manage to beat. This is not about right or wrong, this is about who gets to wield the power. You may have picked your sides but you are just a pawn & that's your only purpose. Are you ok with that?" the actor argued.

Actor Vivek Oberoi called Rajput's death a "wake-up call" for the industry.

"I hope our industry that calls itself a family, does some serious introspection, we need to change for the better," he said, adding that people should stop the power play and ego trips and acknowledge



deserving talents.

"This family needs to truly become a family...a place where talent is nurtured and not crushed, a place where an artist feels appreciated and not manipulated," he said in a post.

Many also questioned the role of media in promoting the high and mighty in Bollywood.

Banerjee said, "The media colludes in this by wallowing in family, coterie and celebrity worship. This leads to deep anger and frustration. Those who can let this slide survive.

"Those who can't - those who hurt a little more or are vulnerable and impressionable - they are at risk."

Actor Raveena Tandon shared her story of bullying at the hands of certain individuals and how fake stories were planted against her years ago.

"Mean girl' gang of the industry. Camps do exist. Made fun of, been removed from films by heroes, their girlfriends, journo chamchas and their career destroying fake media stories.

Sometimes careers are destroyed. You struggle to keep afloat. Fight back. Some survive, some don't. #oldwoundsrevisited (sic)" she wrote in a thread.

Actor Amol Parashar, best known for his role in TVF show "Tripling", said Rajput's death had shaken young actors like him.

"Young actors are shaken, including me. In a manner and degree that is a little unexpected and unexplained. I can feel it in my bones and flesh, I have seen it in the eyes of the few people I have seen since yesterday, I have heard it in the voices of friends I have spoken to," he said in a long Twitter thread.

"In a profession as uncertain as this, you need sources of hope, whether from your own life or others', whether real or imagined. Sushant was one of the 'biggest' names in recent times to come from out of this town, and therefore a source of hope for similar young boys and girls," he added.

A PROMISING ACTOR

An engineering dropout, Rajput was inclined towards dancing when he was a student at Delhi Technological University. He soon enrolled in choreographer Shiamak Davar's dance classes and later joined acting guru Barry John's classes.

He also performed as a background dancer in the song "Dhoom again" with Hrithik Roshan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan in the 2006 film "Dhoom 2".

But it was the small screen that gave the "outsider" his breakout role as the coy and mild-mannered Manav in soap opera Pavitra Rishta, which ran from 2009-11, and was produced by Ekta Kapoor.

Two years later, he made his foray into films with Kai Po Che! in 2013.

He has starred in movies such as Shuddh Desi Romance, Raabta, Kedarnath and Sonchiriyaa but his most prominent role came as cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni's in the 2007 biopic, MS Dhoni: The Untold Story.

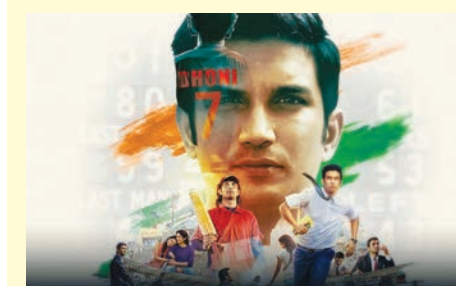
In his last screen appearance, "Chhichhore", Rajput played the role of a father who conveys the message of hope and affirmation to his son after he attempts suicide.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi mourned Rajput's death, remembering him as a "bright young actor".

"Sushant Singh Rajput...a bright young actor gone too soon. He excelled on TV and in films. His rise in the world of entertainment inspired many and he leaves behind several memorable performances. Shocked by his passing away. My thoughts are with his family and fans. Om Shanti," the PM tweeted.

"Chhichhore" director Tiwari said he had spoken to Rajput last week.

"I had to call people to confirm. It's so shocking and unfortunately true. I am at a loss for words. I spoke to him last week over messages. We would text each other on and off. Now this is what I get to hear. He was like a younger brother to me," Tiwari told PTI.



GET STRONGER AND LONGER NAILS

Fingernails are made of many layers of a hard protein called keratin. Your fingernails are an important indicator of your overall health.

Healthy nails should be smooth and hard, free of any dents or grooves, and consistent in color.

If your nails grow slower than average and you'd like them to grow faster, there are several home remedies and grooming techniques that may help.

There is no scientifically proven method for making nails grow faster. But taking good care of your body through proper nutrition and using the following tips to strengthen your nails can help them grow strong and long over time.

Take biotin

Biotin is an important type of B vitamin that allows the body to turn food into energy. It's also highly recommended as a supplement to help boost the strength of hair and nails.

Several human studies suggest that taking a biotin supplement daily can help strengthen nails. Some scientists say a dose of 2.5 milligrams of biotin daily can improve nail strength in just a few weeks. Biotin can be found naturally in:

- Brewer's yeast
- Cooked eggs
- Sardines
- Nuts and nut butters
- Whole grains
- Soy and other beans
- Cauliflower
- Bananas
- Mushrooms

Use nail hardeners sparingly

Nail softness makes nails more prone to breaking, which increases the need for nail regrowth. To prevent nails from breaking, experts normally recommend nail hardeners. These are substances that get painted onto nails like a polish and are later removed with nail polish remover.

This is helpful in strengthening nails and preventing breakage in the short-term. However, experts say prolonged use of nail hardeners can sometimes cause nails to become weaker and more prone to breakage.

Avoid glue-on nails and toxic polishes

Researchers have found that regular use of glue-on artificial nails can weaken real nails and make them



more prone to breaking. The better option is to paint your nails with nail polishes that have little or no toxic chemicals, such as:

- Toluene
- Formaldehyde
- Dibutyl phthalate (DBP)

Look for water-based formulations that indicate they're toxin-free. Some popular nontoxic nail polish brands include Acquarella and Suncoat.

Practice good grooming

Regular nail grooming can also help boost the strength of your nails, encouraging growth and reducing breakage. Some ways to keep your nails well-maintained include:

- Keeping your nails dry and clean, which keeps bacteria from growing beneath them
- Using sharp manicure scissors or clippers to trim your nails straight across, and then using them to round the tips of your nails into a soft curve
- Moisturizing your hands and nails with a lotion, making sure to rub it into your fingernails, especially at the base where the cuticles are located
- Avoiding nail biting or cutting your nails too short



By Tript Arora

Dhaba Style Chicken & Potato

Although every vegetable can be cooked in several manners but chicken is one ingredient which can be cooked in innumerable ways. Even chicken with gravy can be cooked in a variety of ways. Today we are cooking chicken gravy with potatoes. Potatoes add thickness and a smooth texture to any gravy. So when we add potatoes to chicken gravy, the result is a creamy gravy which lingers on your lips and is impossible to resist. The potatoes will also adapt well with the taste of chicken.



This recipe is very simple to make and is quick too. You can make it when you are in the mood of eating a tasteful, spicy and wholesome meal in jiffy.

We need

Full chicken curry cut, washed- 650-700 grams, Onions- 3 large size, Potatoes- 2 large, sliced into four pieces each, Tomatoes- 4 large, Green chillis- 4-6, Garlic pods- 6-8, Ginger- 1 inch piece, Salt- to taste, Degi mirch- 1 teaspoon, Garam masala- Half teaspoon, Cloves- 4, Green cardamom (elaichi)- 2, Cinnamon stick- 1 and a half inch, Turmeric powder (haldi)- 1 teaspoon, Mustard oil- 1 ladle full, Desi ghee- 2 tsp

Preparation

Make a paste of the garlic pods and green chillis, adding a few drops of water if necessary.

Crush the onions in a mixer.

Make a puree of tomatoes and ginger.

Let's begin

- On flame, heat the cooker and then when it's hot add mustard oil. When the mustard oil starts sizzling, add cloves, green cardamom, cinnamon. Then stir it for sometime.
- Add the paste of garlic and green chilli. When the paste in the cooker turns pink, add the crushed onions. Stir it for some time.
- When the onions turn a tender brown, add the puree of tomatoes and ginger to it. Without waiting, add turmeric powder and salt. Stir it for sometime. When the water dries up, add 1-2 teaspoons of water.
- Add the washed chicken pieces and cook it for 10-15 minutes, stirring occasionally, so that the masala doesn't stick to the bottom of the pan. If it sticks, do not worry, add a sprinkle of water and stir well. Keep on repeating this process till the masala starts clinging well to the chicken pieces, coating it very well.
- Add 300 mL of water and sliced potatoes. Then place the lid on the cooker and turn the flame to full. Let it cook in steam, turn off the flame immediately upon the first whistle.
- Let it sit and let the steam escape naturally. Then open the lid.
- In another small frying pan, heat up desi ghee. When the ghee is hot, add one teaspoon of degi mirch. Pour this hot mixture upon the cooked chicken in the cooker. Your delicious dish is ready to be served.
- Serve this dish hot and steaming with rice or naan, and let your heart fill with pride when you see your family smacking their lips and licking their fingers while they eat.

Keep your hair and skin healthy

For dull, tired and dry skin

Massage the skin with papaya. Then make a scrub by mixing oats and honey along with a little cold milk and scrub the skin. Wash off with ice cold milk and water and pat dry.

Suffering from frizzy hair?

Try this simple, quick and easy-to-make spray. Take slices of two lemon and simmer in two cups of water until it reduces to half the amount. Pour the liquid into a spritz bottle and spray on your hair. Not only will there be a wonderful natural sheen but static and fly away hair will be gone!

For natural hair colour

If you have a brownish tinge in your hair and don't have the time to henna or colour it, then take a few sprigs of rosemary from the kitchen shelf and simmer them in 2 cups of water along with 2 tsp black tea until it reduces to half the quantity. Mix with 1/4 cup of shampoo and every time you shampoo, use this mixture. Leave the shampoo in your hair for about 15 minutes and see the difference it makes.

For a smooth back

Planning to wear a low back blouse, backless dress or choli, but have no time to go in for a body scrub to show off



a smooth back? Here's a quick home remedy. Take 1 cup of sea salt and mix it with half a cup of olive oil. Add 5 drops of sandalwood oil and mix well. Store in a jar and scrub the areas of your body you want to flaunt. Wipe off with a wet towel.

Dealing with dark circles

Take used chamomile tea bags and store them in the freezer. Grate half a cucumber and massage around eye area and then lie down with the tea bags on your eyes for 10 minutes. You will find an instant difference in the way your eyes look and feel.

SUICIDE, A PREVENTABLE CAUSE OF DEATH

India has the highest rate of death by suicide in the South-East Asia region at 16.5 suicides per 100,000 people (2016). Actor Sushant Singh Rajput losing his life to suicide just goes to show that contrary to the popular belief, success, fame and the like are not determinants of good mental health. While success, money, achievement may increase self-worth and therefore happiness, it is not the sure shot to happiness. There's a lot more to it than what meets the eye. No one is immune to poor mental health.

Causes

The most common cause of suicide is depression, though it is also linked with other psychiatric disorders. In spite of efforts to reduce the stigma around mental health, there is an increase in societal and individualist pressures on individuals. However, there is no substantial increase in the awareness of mental health and its implications. This disparity may in turn cause mental health negligence and potentially suicidal thoughts or behaviour. We are conditioned to try and meet expectations that are made by people other than themselves, and pressure or failure to meet those expectations may cause distress. A few other causes of self-harm or suicidal thoughts are internalising negative emotion and mental health concerns, family history of mental health issues, knowing, identifying, or being associated with someone who has committed suicide.

Self-isolation, too, can trigger such thoughts and actions. Withdrawal from social activities can lead to feelings of loneliness and this leads people to believe that they have no one and their absence will be unnoticed, thus leaving little to stand between them and the final act. Another faulty perception that they may have is that they don't matter; that they are a burden, that suicide will solve the problem, or that the loss of their life would be a relief to some. Sometimes people attempt suicide not so much because they really want to kill themselves but because they are unable to find another way out and suicide is seemingly the only available option. Many different factors can contribute to suicidal ideation and often occur when one feels hopeless, finds life meaningless or purposeless or beyond control. These feelings may be due to relationship problems, trauma, substance abuse, a crisis of some sort, pressure at work, a physical health issue, or financial difficulties.

How to spot signs

Some of the signs to look out for are, signs of clinical depression, withdrawal from friends and family, isolation, feelings of sadness and hopelessness, lack of interest and motivation in activities that were



previously enjoyable, an increase in substance use or misuse, recklessness, anxiety, change in appetite or weight, change in sleep patterns, lack of energy, low self-image and negative self-talk, talk of death or suicide, history of self-harm and giving away possessions. Having said this, it may not always be easily identifiable as individuals learn to mask their emotions and that prevents them from being identified. A composed exterior need not mean a composed interior.

What to do if you're having suicidal thoughts

Talk about it! Don't underestimate the power of sharing your concerns. Let a trusted friend or family member in by disclosing what you're going through. When you have thoughts of self-harm or suicide, distract yourself and allow that thought to pass. Prevent suicidal thoughts from becoming suicidal behaviour by nipping it in the bud. Seek professional help, visit a mental health specialist, psychologist or a psychiatrist. For immediate aid, seek assistance from suicide helplines. Often professional help is pursued only when an issue escalates beyond control; however, prolonged neglect leads to prolonged recovery. Address mental health concerns immediately, no matter how small you may assume it is.

How to help someone

When trying to help someone suffering from depression, self-harm or suicidal thoughts show your concern, be present, have the courage to ask direct questions, listen without judgement. Do not avoid the conversation of suicide, this can be counterproductive. Discuss the emotions the person is going through and don't allow the conversation to be about your reaction. There is no substitute for professional help, push them to seek

mental health services. Telephone helplines can also be useful when worrying about a friend or family member who is suicidal.

At workplace

In the workplace, it is the duty of employers to ensure employees are mentally healthy as sometimes work may be a cause of stress. Many employed people may not get the time and the resources to get the help they need. An in-house counsellors, employee assistance programmes and access to mental health specialists can help keep employee mental health in check.

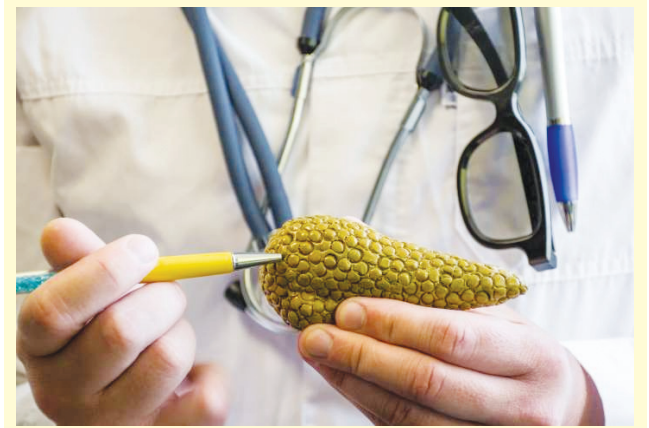
In schools and universities

More education on mental health at early stages will increase the likelihood of children speaking up about any issues they may be facing and get the help they need at the earliest. Merely having a school counsellor isn't enough, active initiatives must be made to ensure that students avail the counselling services and help parents to identify risk factors in children.

Systemic changes

A revolution in mental health care systems is needed, where clinicians, psychologists, etc. are trained in suicide prevention as a part of the curriculum. Inter-agency working such as referral to a psychologist by GP's can help early identification of issues. In terms of policy, it is of importance to have guidelines, reports or visions for mental health.

In conclusion, be kind, compassionate and empathetic towards all. Everyone is fighting their own battle, some more silently than others. It's time to add value and enrich one another's lives. Mental illness is real, hard, disabling and needs addressal and treatment. I urge people to seek professional help as soon as the need arises. Early detection and intervention of a psychological condition will allow you to live the life you deserve.



SIGNS YOUR PANCREAS IS FUNCTIONING BADLY

This pear-shaped organ may be small—it weighs around 80 grams (three ounces)—but it is mighty when it comes to keeping us healthy. Located in the upper abdomen, the pancreas produces important digestive enzymes and secretes hormones that are vital for metabolizing sugar. No wonder so much can go wrong when your pancreas isn't working the way it should.

Abdominal pain

Pain in your abdomen can be a sign of pancreatitis, an acute or chronic inflammation of the pancreas. When large tumours press against nearby organs, abdominal pain can also be a symptom of pancreatic cancer, which is characterized by abnormal cell growth in the pancreas.

Back pain

Pain in your back is also associated with pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer. In the case of the latter, the pain may worsen when lying down, or three to four hours after eating.

Fever

An unusually high body temperature can also be a symptom of pancreatitis, which occurs when pancreatic enzymes escape into the tissues of the pancreas, causing irritation, edema, and congestion of the blood vessels.

Nausea and vomiting

Nausea and vomiting are symptoms of both pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer, which has been linked to smoking and obesity.

High blood pressure

High blood pressure can also be a sign of pancreatitis, which is most commonly caused by excessive alcohol intake, trauma, and gallstones blocking pancreatic ducts.

Cold and moist skin

Clammy skin and a low body temperature can be signs of severe pancreatitis, which occurs when the condition causes infection, bleeding, and formation of pus in the organ, as well as necrosis of pancreatic tissue.

Jaundice

Marked by a yellowing of the eyes and skin, dark-coloured urine and light-coloured or greasy stools,

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'DEEPFACEDRAWING' AI CAN TURN SIMPLE SKETCHES INTO DETAILED PHOTO PORTRAITS

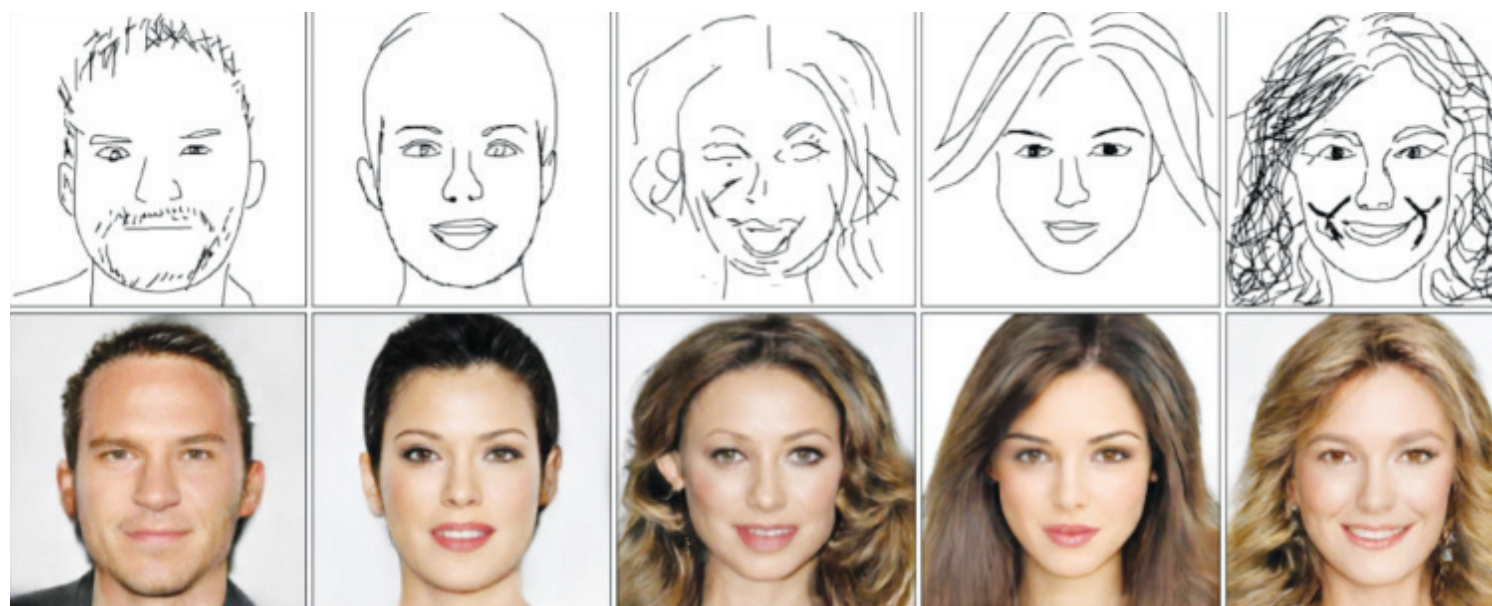
Researchers have found a way to turn simple line drawings into photo-realistic facial images. Developed by a team at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, DeepFaceDrawing uses artificial intelligence to help “users with little training in drawing to produce high-quality images from rough or even incomplete freehand sketches.”

This isn't the first time we've seen tech like this (remember the horrifying results of Pix2Pix's autofill tool?), but it is certainly the most advanced to date, and it doesn't require the same level of detail in source sketches as previous iterations have.

It works largely through probability — instead of requiring detailed eyelid or lip shapes, for example, the software refers to a database of faces and facial components, and considers how each facial element works with each other. Eyes, nose, mouth, face shape and hair type are all considered separately, and then assembled into a single image.

As the paper explains, “Recent deep image-to-image translation techniques allow fast generation of face images from freehand sketches.”

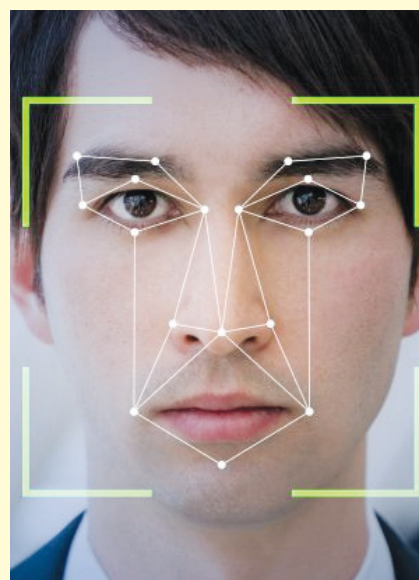
However, existing solutions tend to overfit to sketches, thus requiring professional sketches or even edge maps as input. To address this issue, our key idea is to implicitly model the shape space of plausible face images and synthesize a face image in this space to approximate an input sketch. Our method essentially uses input sketches as soft constraints and is thus able to produce high-quality face images even from rough and/or



incomplete sketches.”

It's not clear how the software will handle race. Of the 17,000 sketches and their corresponding photos created so far, the majority have been Caucasian and South American faces. This could be a result of the source data (bias is an ongoing problem in the world of AI), or down to the complexity of face shapes — the researchers don't provide any further details.

In any case, the technology is due to go on show at this year's (virtual) SIGGRAPH conference in July. According to the project's website, code for the software is “coming soon,” which suggests we could see its application in the wild in the coming months — not only as a fun app to play around with, but also potentially in law enforcement, helping to rapidly generate images of suspects.



- The AI, called DeepFaceDrawing, was demonstrated by Chinese researchers
- It can extrapolate a rudimentary sketch into photo-like pictures
- The AI looks at facial features like eyes, hair, and lips individually
- It could be used by law enforcement for bringing suspect sketches to life

NASA RUSHING TO COMPLETE MARS LAUNCH BEFORE PLANET MOVES OUT OF RANGE

Landing a spacecraft on Mars is hard enough. Doing it during a global pandemic makes the hair-raising task — “terror” is a word often associated with Mars landings — even more difficult. But NASA is pushing ahead with its plans to send a rover to Mars, and remains on track to launch the spacecraft next month from Cape Canaveral, officials said Wednesday.

Then again, NASA is facing a tight deadline.

Mars and Earth are only on the same side of the sun every 26 months, meaning NASA has a limited window to launch the spacecraft to the Red Planet. Storing the spacecraft and waiting another two years for the next opportunity could have cost “half a billion dollars,” NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said during a press briefing Wednesday, so the space agency made the mission a high priority, despite the coronavirus pandemic. Despite the difficulties of working amid the virus, officials said they have made significant progress on what they called one of the most ambitious and significant robotic programs the space agency has tackled in years.

Dubbed “Perseverance,” the SUV-sized rover would embark on a \$2.7 billion exploration mission to search for ancient signs of life on Mars, and begin the first leg of an attempt to bring samples from the Red Planet back to Earth. Over the course of a mission that is expected to last some two years on the surface, the rover would also study the planet's climate and geology and help pave the way for human exploration, NASA said.

Physicists announce first direct evidence for 'axions'

A team of physicists has made what might be the first-ever detection of an axion.

Axions are unconfirmed, hypothetical ultralight particles from beyond the Standard Model of particle physics, which describes the behavior of subatomic particles. Theoretical physicists first proposed the existence of axions in the 1970s in order to resolve problems in the math governing the strong force, which binds particles called quarks together. But axions have since become a popular explanation for dark matter, the mysterious substance that makes up 85% of the mass of the universe, yet emits no light.

If confirmed, the axions that may have been detected wouldn't fix the asymmetries in the strong force or explain most of the missing mass in the



universe, said Kai Martens, a physicist at the University of Tokyo who worked on the experiment. These axions, which appear to be streaming out of the sun, don't act like the “cold dark matter” that

physicists believe fills halos around galaxies. And they would be particles newly brought into being inside the sun, while the bulk of the cold dark matter out there appears to have existed unchanged for billions of

years since the early universe.

And it's not certain that axions were detected at all. Despite two years of data collection, the hint of a signal is still faint compared to what physics requires to announce the discovery of a new particle. Over time, as more data comes in, Martens told Live Science, it's still possible that the evidence of a signal may fade away to nothing.

Still, it sure seems like there was a signal. It turned up in a dark underground tank of 3.5 tons (3.2 metric tons) of liquid xenon — the XENON1T experiment based at the Gran Sasso National Laboratory in Italy. At least two other physical effects could explain the XENON1T data. However, the researchers tested several theories and found that axions streaming out of our sun were the likeliest explanation for their results.

Chinese firms to lose India business in railways, telecom

NEW DELHI (TIP): As tensions run high after the violent clash in Ladakh that left 20 Indian soldiers dead, a first set of actions have been initiated against Chinese businesses in the country.

A Chinese engineering major is set to lose a significant contract with the Indian Railways, and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has conveyed to state-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) not to use Chinese-made equipment in its upgradation, top sources in both sectors said on Thursday.

“DoT has conveyed to BSNL not to use Chinese-made equipment in the upgradation of its 4G facilities,” a source in the government said. “The entire tender will be reworked now,” the source said.

DoT, this official said, was “actively considering” telling private mobile service providers to “reduce their dependence on China-made equipment”. “In the current situation, the safety and security of networks built with Chinese equipment will be under scrutiny. The ownership patterns of Huawei and ZTE could become a sticking point in India’s network upgradation plans,” the source said. Likewise, decks are being cleared to terminate the contract of the Chinese signalling behemoth China Railway Signal and



Communication (CRSC) Corp., in the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor. CRSC had won the contract in 2016 to install signalling systems in over 400 km of railway lines. This is the only Chinese presence in the mega project, which is now keen to engage Indian players, officials said. The around Rs-500 crore contract involves designing, supplying, constructing, testing and commissioning signalling, telecommunications and associated works for two lines of 413 km in the New Bhaupur-

Mughalsarai section in Uttar Pradesh.

Sources said that the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation Limited has already applied to the World Bank, which is the funding agency, to initiate the process. It is learnt that DFCCIL made up its mind to show the Chinese firm the door after being continuously dissatisfied with the progress of work, and other issues. Officials did not attribute the impending decision to the latest tensions between the two countries.



SAUDI ARABIA’S PIF INVESTS RS 11,367 CRORE IN JIO PLATFORMS

MUMBAI (TIP): Public Investment Fund (PIF) of Saudi Arabia has invested Rs 11,367 crore in Jio Platforms Ltd, the digital arm of Reliance Industries (RIL). 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.

PIF’s investment will translate into a 2.32 per cent equity stake in Jio Platforms on a fully diluted basis. With this investment, Jio Platforms has raised Rs 1,15,693.95 crore from leading investors including Facebook, Silver Lake, Vista Equity Partners, General Atlantic, KKR, Mubadala, ADIA, TPG and L Catterton since April.

“With addition of PIF’s investment, Jio Platforms has established partnerships with a marquee set of global financial investors, who will contribute to establishing the digital society vision for India,” RIL said in a statement.

PIF is the sovereign wealth fund of Saudi Arabia and, as part of its mandate to diversify its economy, has made its largest investment in the Indian economy till this date. “This investment is in line with PIF’s strategy and mandate of investing in sectors and companies that generate long-term commercial returns,” it said.

Qantas cancels most overseas flights until late October

Qantas Airways Ltd. canceled most international flights until late October after the government said Australia’s borders are likely to remain closed until next year. The extended cancellation increases financial pressure on the airline, which is slowly adding back domestic services but has grounded dozens of aircraft and furloughed most of its employees. International flights were previously on hold until the end of July.

The prolonged flight ban doesn’t apply to services between Australia and New Zealand, a Qantas spokesman said Thursday. The two countries have largely suppressed their coronavirus outbreaks and are working to create a trans-Tasman corridor to kick-start travel and tourism.

Australia’s confirmed Covid-19 cases total 7,388, with 102 deaths. Globally, cases have risen above 8.3 million and almost 450,000 people have died.

Australia is keeping its borders essentially closed to mass-market travel. If lengthier entry bans are replicated by other nations, it would deepen the blow to an airline industry already forecast to lose more than \$84 billion in 2020.

Qantas last month raised an additional A\$550 million (\$379 million) to ride out a near-halt in passenger revenue and said it had enough liquidity to hold on until December 2021.



Coal sector coming out of ‘lockdown’, aim is to become top exporter: PM Modi

NEW DELHI (TIP): Announcing the auction of 41 coal blocks for commercial mining, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the decision would bring the coal sector out of “decades of lockdown”, adding India had the world’s fourth-largest reserves of coal and should aim to become the top exporter of the commodity. He also said the move was a major step towards self-reliance.

“... 41 coal blocks will be put up on sale for commercial mining,” the PM said at the launch event. He added the auction was “taking place at a time when business activity in India is normalising rapidly. Consumption and demand are rapidly approaching the pre-COVID levels”.

The coal mines being auctioned are located in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha. They include partially and fully explored mines. The auction process will be a two-stage tender process with technical and financial bidding. The government had earlier announced the commercialisation of coal as part of the announcements in the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan. In previous auctions, only end users of coal, such as companies in the iron and steel and power sectors, were permitted to bid on coal blocks.

India is expected to save around Rs 30,000 crore annually on import bill of thermal coal on account of commercial mining of blocks, Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi said. On the issue of the coronavirus pandemic wreaking havoc on the economy, the PM said the country will fight the outbreak and win against it. “India is not in favour of considering this as a big calamity and sit and cry over it. Howsoever big calamity it might be, India is committed to turning it



into an opportunity.”

E-way bills have seen about 200 per cent rise when compared with April. Also, road and highway toll collection in June has reached 70 per cent of the pre-COVID levels of February, while railway freight tariff in May has seen an improvement of 26 per cent over April. Digital transactions too have witnessed a rise in both volume and value terms.

“These indicators point to the economy fast preparing to bounce back,” Modi said, adding, “India has come out of big crises in the past and it will come out of the present one as well.”

The Prime Minister announced that the government would invest Rs 50,000 crore on infrastructure for coal extraction and transportation, noting that the commercialisation of coal would help aspirational districts in eastern and central India.



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope from the World's most trusted astrologer Nastur Bejan Daruwalla.

Weekly Horoscope June 22 - June 28, 2020

ARIES: Ganesha says your life is full of surprises and this disquiets you. There is no uniformity or steadfastness in your life and you try your best to give it some stability. You are feeling rattled by the continuous turn of events and long for some peace and predictability. But you have also been having crazy mood swings. You find yourself at the door of an extremely busy, involved, perhaps, occasionally, even confused phase.

TAURUS: You are fighting against all odds and it is an uphill climb. Nothing is working according to plan and you don't know what to do now. At times, there are marvellous flashes of genuine inspiration / intuition / perception and at other times there is only a void which is difficult to plug. You keep oscillating from triumph to despair. You are re-aligning goals, priorities and your image to find the key that fits.

GEMINI: You have the right intentions and you back the right horses but the rewards are not as expected. There are new opportunities and a chance at true peace, plenty and prosperity. You take a break and spend time with congenial companionship. You try to let your hair down and laugh, play and relax, but it doesn't help too much. Deep down you know that your plans are not working out as you had hoped they would.

CANCER: There is some confidence and self-belief in your efforts but they are still not bearing fruit. You are in debt and could take to gambling and other excesses. It is high time that you pull up your socks or it could get too late. The family is pained by what they see and you also refuse to listen to the same counsel of friends and well wishers. You know they are right but you are adamant and refuse to listen to your inner voice which tells you to change in no uncertain terms.

LEO: You are trying your best to make the most of the rotten situation that you find yourself in. It will help if you take to self-disciplining through yoga and meditation. Work is unattended and you could risk a job loss and this could lead to further ramifications. You need to steer your boat to stable ground and make an all-out effort to do it. The waters are now swirling around your neck and you realise that you could drown in it.

VIRGO: There is progress in your affairs as you wrestle to quell the demons that hound you. You look at growth and advancement and you push hard to achieve your true potential. You make many changes which could even include a job hop or a new line of work altogether. You feel isolated now and need to get back lost prestige. You take time off and spend it at ashrams and with gurus looking for answers. There may even be a pilgrimage to a shrine as you seek divine help.

LIBRA: There is a shimmer of hope as you slowly regain control of your life. You need to get back the respect of your peers and need to start believing in yourself more. You bring in discipline to your life and get organised. You put in long hours at work and start from scratch. The dividends start showing almost immediately as though your life was just waiting to be set right and looking for the slightest excuse to stabilise itself.

SCORPIO: You are pulling yourself from the bootstraps. You have indulged yourself in various ways and feel it is time to return to the daily grind. You make superhuman efforts at your job / work / profession and realise that sincere, hard work is the need of the hour. You put in long hours and slowly recover all that you had lost. When you look back at the year, the balance sheet is not so favourable, and you need to set it right. There are also domestic issues to be resolved and very little time for partying and entertaining.

SAGITTARIUS: Your efforts are pro-active and you are charged with zeal and energy. People reciprocate your feelings and the world loves a winner. So, suddenly, you find even strangers and mere acquaintances rallying around you. There may even be romance in the air but take your time before you begin to be swayed by all this. You make stupendous progress as you pan out new targets. You are on an achievement spree as success breeds more success.

CAPRICORN: As I have said many times, nothing remains stagnant and change is the only reality. The species that manages to survive is the species that adapts to changing circumstances. You are now oozing confidence and there is travel, romance, marriage / engagement, collaborations, financial gains, festivities, outings, get-togethers, shows, picnics, parties, operas, plays, and family reconciliations. You have everything to gain in this period and so push ahead with vigour.

AQUARIUS: You are making big plans and spreading out in every direction. You are possessed of a new zeal and are on achievement mode. There could be overseas travel which will prove very beneficial. Those in the media will win kudos for their creativity. You are inspired and are filled with wisdom and new insights. You find new methods of money making and, if self-employed strike out in several directions with considerable success.

PISCES: The work scene is going well and now you find time for the family too. There is a balance now and you are in full throttle. You are confident and determined to reap the whirlwind. You can see clearly that the period is ending well. As you achieve more and make more money, there is a new sense of well-being. You share it with the family and they exult in it. There could be a happy occasion like the stork paying a visit. Health will be good.

Birthday Horoscope June 22 - June 28, 2020

June 22: Ganesha says the morning hours may not offer much traction for anything you'd like to get started today. Friendly activities and lively allies make you a happy Pied Piper.

June 23: It might be harder to play with others today than it was yesterday, but someone does offer you a sense of stability or reliability, if that's what you're after, come later in the afternoon.

June 24: You get a chance today to break out of a rut or take a break from everyday routines,

which suits you just fine. Even a sense of unreliability is one you can cope with if it leaves you free, too.

June 25: You'd rather everything be open and upfront, but the emotional theme might bring up deep, repressed feelings that you haven't yet come to terms with. Delve into these mysteries today.

June 26: The Moon in your signs brings to a head recent differences between you and others over whose needs dominate. With Mars

with it, it gives you the might to satisfy / demand your preferences.

June 27: There's plenty of fight over who's the boss left over from yesterday's divisions, but Mercury going direct starts to clear up misunderstandings.

June 28: Take your best shot for uninhibited fun and life outreach this morning, when spontaneous reactions can offer enthusiastic ways to be stimulated.

JAGANNATH RATH YATRA

One of India's biggest religious festivals, the Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra is unique in that three Hindu gods are taken out of their temples in a colourful procession to meet their devotees.

This is the only festival in the world where deities are taken out of temples to travel to devotees, and it is also the largest chariot procession in the world.

Millions of people come to watch as a "king" sweeps the road with a golden mop and three massive 18-wheeled chariots bearing the sibling deities make their way through massive crowds. Their chariots, which are mini architectural marvels, are constructed over 42 days from over 4,000 pieces of wood by the only family that has the hereditary rights to make them.

Legend says it always rains on the day of the procession. For a whole week before, the temple doors are shut and no one is allowed inside, because it is believed that the sibling deities have a fever after bathing in the sun with 108 pitchers of water. The breaking of their fever calls for a change of scene, which is why they go to their aunt's home for a few days.

The size, pomp and splendour of this procession has even contributed a word to the English dictionary: Juggernaut.

What is the legend of the sibling deities?

Unlike the ornate, carefully crafted metal idols everywhere else, these three deities are fashioned from wood, cloth and resin. They are malformed with large heads and no arms: reminders of the legend of an impatient King.

The legend begins in different ways.

One speaks of an arrogant Indrayumna, King of Puri in the east, who tried to steal the Hindu god Krishna's heart. It had been immersed in the legendary Dwarka sea after his cremation and had reappeared to the tribes people of the place as an idol. When Indrayumna tried to claim its possession, the idol disappeared. The repentant king sought absolution from Krishna by sanctifying him in another form.

Another speaks of how Krishna's grief-struck siblings - his elder brother Balabhadra and younger sister Subhadra - rushed into the Dwarka sea carrying his half-cremated body. At the same moment, King Indrayumna dreamed that Krishna's body had floated back up on his shores as a log.

The two legends merge here: Indrayumna decided to build a temple to house the log. His next task was to find someone to craft the idols from it. Legends say that Vishwakarma, God's own architect, arrived as an old carpenter. He agreed to carve the idols, but on the condition that he was not to be disturbed. However, when he did not emerge from his workshop for weeks, going without food, water or rest, a worried and impatient King threw the door open.

At the time the images were only half-finished, but the carpenter disappeared. Still, believing the idols to be made from the very body of God, the King sanctified them and placed them in the temple.

When the deities disintegrate, they are remade in the same half-done image with



SC stays this year's Puri Rath Yatra due to COVID-19 pandemic

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the annual Jagannath Rath Yatra in Puri scheduled on June 23.

"We direct that there shall be no 'rath yatra' anywhere in the temple town of Odisha or in any other part of the State this year. We further direct that there shall be no activities secular or religious associated with the rath yatra during this period", the court ordered.

"Lord Jagannath won't forgive us if we allow the yatra," Chief Justice of India (CJI) S.A. Bobde observed orally.

Chief Justice Bobde, leading a Bench, said the restraining order arose out of the court's concern for public health and safety amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Do you know the word 'juggernaut' comes from 'Jagannath'? 'Juggernaut' means something that cannot be stopped," Chief Justice Bobde said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta quipped "Your Lordships have stopped it today".

The court's order was vehemently objected to by several parties, who said the rituals at least should be allowed to be conducted.

new wood every 12 years. They were last remade in 2015.

Why are there two rath yatras and how are they connected?

Dwarka in Gujarat - where Krishna's half-cremated body is believed to have been immersed into the ocean - is located on the west coast of India and Puri in Orissa - where it is said to have re-emerged as a log - is located in the east.

About 500 hundred years ago, a travelling Hindu saint and temple priest of a Hanuman temple in Gujarat, Shree Sarangdasji, arrived in Puri to offer prayers at the historic Jagannathan



temple.

While sleeping at the temple guest house, it is believed that he received visionary instruction from Lord Jagannathan to go back to Ahmedabad in Gujarat and install three idols of Jagannathan, Balabhadra and Subhadra there. Carrying out the instructions received in his dream, he founded the Ahmedabad Jagannathan Temple.

By doing so, he sanctified the two locations - one where Krishna's mortal

remains began their journey from the west, to their transformation as Puri's Lord Jagannathan in the east.

About 142 years ago, one of the founder's disciples, Shree Narsinhdasji Maharaj, began the Ahmedabad Rath Yatra. The deities on chariots, pulled by elephants and humans, replicate their own journey in Puri, completing a set of rituals that sanctify the two places where Krishna's mortal remains are believed to have come to rest.

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contd from page 1

A Reprieve for DREAMers...

those who were brought here as children and have lived their lives in this country. Congress repeatedly has failed to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

President Trump responded to the decision by tweeting his displeasure and turning it into a call for his reelection, with a specific focus on gun-rights supporters: "These horrible & politically charged decisions coming out of the Supreme Court are shotgun blasts into the face of people that are proud to call themselves Republicans or Conservatives. We need more Justices or we will lose our 2nd. Amendment & everything else. Vote Trump 2020!"

The administration has tried for more than two years to "wind down" the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, announced by President Barack Obama in 2012 to protect from deportation qualified young immigrants. Former Attorney General Jeff Sessions advised the new Trump administration to end it, saying it was illegal.

But, as lower courts had found, Roberts said the administration did not follow procedures required by law, and did not properly weigh how ending the program would affect those who had come to rely on its protections against deportation, and the ability to work legally.

"We do not decide whether DACA or its rescission are sound policies," Roberts wrote. He added: "We address only whether the [Department of Homeland Security] complied with the procedural requirement that it provide a reasoned explanation for its action. Here the agency failed to consider the conspicuous issues of whether to retain forbearance and what if anything to do about the hardship to DACA recipients. That dual failure raises doubts about whether the agency appreciated the scope of its discretion or exercised that discretion in a reasonable manner."

He was joined by Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan in the most important parts of the opinion. The court's four most conservative justices dissented. Justice Clarence Thomas said the program was illegal, and that the court should have recognized that rather than extending the legal fight.

"Today's decision must be recognized for what it is: an effort to avoid a politically controversial but legally correct decision," Thomas wrote. "The court could have made clear that the solution respondents seek must come from the legislative branch."

Instead, he said, the court provided a "stopgap" measure to protect DACA recipients, and "has given the green light for future political battles to be fought in this court rather than where they rightfully belong - the political branches."

He was joined by Justices Samuel A. Alito Jr. and Neil M. Gorsuch. Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh dissented on other grounds. He said that even if the department had not provided adequate reasons initially for ending the program, it has since supplied them, and should not have to start over.

Immigration advocates were euphoric over the court's actions.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra (D), who led a coalition of 20 states and the District of Columbia in bringing the fight, said ending DACA "would have been cruel to the hundreds of thousands of Dreamers who call America home, and it would have been bad for our nation's health." He said Congress should "permanently fix our broken immigration system and secure a pathway to citizenship." Obama responded on Twitter as well: "Eight years ago this week, we protected young people who were raised as part of our American family from deportation. Today, I'm happy for them, their families, and all of us. We may look different and come from everywhere, but what makes us American are our shared ideals,"

And he put in a plug for presumptive Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, his vice president. He said future reform depends on electing Biden "and a Democratic Congress that does its job, protects DREAMers, and finally creates a system that's truly worthy of this nation of immigrants once and for all."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

India Elected as a Non...

In a first-of-its-kind election, ambassadors and diplomats from 192 member states cast their ballots in the General Assembly wearing masks and in adherence with the strict social distancing guidelines amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tunisia will begin 2021 as the President of the Council in January, followed by a month each for the rest of the year by the UK, the US, Vietnam, China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Niger.

In 2021, the newly-elected members India, Ireland, Kenya, Norway and Mexico will sit at the UN high-table along with the five permanent members - China, France, Russia, the UK and the US - as well as non-permanent members Estonia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Vietnam.

The two-year terms of Belgium, Dominican Republic, Germany, Indonesia and South Africa are ending this year. This is the eighth time that India will sit at the Council's horseshoe-shaped table. Previously, India was elected for the years 1950-1951, 1967-1968, 1972-1973, 1977-1978, 1984-1985, 1991-1992 and most recently in 2011-2012 (Source: PTI)

China releases 10 Indian...

According to rules, these personnel were debriefed and will be asked to give an account of the period they were 'missing'.

The deadly clash on Monday night at Galwan Valley in Ladakh had left 20 soldiers dead on the Indian side. As many as 76 soldiers were injured. On the Chinese side, there are reports of casualties, but the numbers have not been declared.

After a clash with the enemy, the Army counts its men and those missing have to be accounted for.

So far, no official statement has been issued by the army or the government on the release of the soldiers.

The Army, however, said on Thursday that all Indian soldiers involved in the clashes with the Chinese army at the Galwan Valley had been "accounted for". "It is clarified that there are no Indian troops missing in action," the Army said in a statement.

Among the injured 18 were serious while 58 suffered minor injuries. Sources said 18 personnel were undergoing treatment at a hospital in Leh while 58 had been admitted to various other hospitals. They are expected to join back work in the next few days.

Meanwhile, US has extended condolences to India on loss of its soldiers' lives in clashes with Chinese troops.

The United States on Thursday, June 18, expressed its deepest condolences to India on the loss of lives of its soldiers in violent clashes with Chinese troops at Galwan Valley in Ladakh early this week.

"We extend our deepest condolences to the people of India for the lives lost as a result of the recent confrontation with China," US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a tweet, hours after his meeting with top Chinese diplomat Yang Jiechi.

"We will remember the soldiers' families, loved ones, and communities as they grieve," said Pompeo.

State Department did not say if the recent India-

China confrontation along the Line of Actual Control in East Ladakh appeared during the Pompeo-Yang talks in Hawaii.

A day earlier, the White House had said President Donald Trump is aware of the fierce clashes between the Indian and Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh.

Twenty Indian Army personnel, including a colonel, were killed in the clash with Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley on Monday night, in the biggest military confrontation in over five decades that has significantly escalated the already-volatile border standoff between the two countries.

"The president is aware of it. We're monitoring the situation between Indian and Chinese forces along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh," White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany had told reporters when asked about the border clash.

"We have seen the Indian Army statement that 20 Indian soldiers died as a result of the confrontation, and we extend our deepest condolences on that," she had said.

McEnany stressed that there are no formal plans to mediate between India and China.

"No formal plans on that beyond what I already said in expressing our absolute condolences to the Indian soldiers that died as a result of today's confrontation. We extend our deepest condolences there," she said.

"I would note just that during the phone call on June 2 of this year that President (Donald) Trump had with Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi, they did discuss the situation on the India-China border," McEnany said.

Monday's face-off was the biggest confrontation between the two militaries after their 1967 clashes in Nathu La when India lost around 80 soldiers while over 300 Chinese army personnel were killed in the face-off.

According to a report in the US News, at least 35 Chinese troops, including one senior official, died in the violent clash with Indian soldiers.

The Indian Army has been fiercely objecting to border transgressions and has demanded their immediate withdrawal for the restoration of peace and tranquility in the area. Both sides have held a series of talks in the last few days to resolve the row.

The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km Line of Actual Control (LAC). China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of southern Tibet, while India contests it. (With inputs from agencies)

US President Trump pleaded...

the Department of Justice has sought a temporary restraining order blocking its release.

Excerpts from the book, "The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir", were carried by The New York Times, The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal on Wednesday. Published by Simon & Schuster, the book is slated to hit the stores on June 23. Trump fired Bolton, one of the most hawkish voices in his inner circle, last year after a string of disagreements.

"He is a liar," Trump told the Wall Street Journal on Wednesday, adding that "everybody in the White House hated John Bolton." He said Bolton disclosed "highly classified information." (Source: PTI)

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INCREDIBLY GLORIOUS PLACES TO VISIT IN OOTY

Ooty also is known as Udagamandalam, is a popular holiday destination nestled in the beautiful Nilgiri Hills in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. This 'Queen of Hill Station' is situated at an altitude of 2,240 meters above sea level and has a favourable climate all-round the year, making it a mountain-lovers' dream destination. Ooty with its delightful mountain trails, lush green scenery, never-ending meadows, crystal clear lakes that stretch for miles, and cascading waterfalls that suddenly appear as you take a hairpin bend, holds a charm like no other hill station.

Ooty is one tourist destination that you cannot rush through just so you can move on to the next place on your itinerary. This lovely destination stands tall and can hypnotize anyone with its cool peaceful landscape, awe-inspiring hills, winding country lanes, aromatic tea gardens, tasty bakery goods, and a joyful ride on the miniature toy train that infuses fresh air into the souls of the weary travelers.

Ooty is a fundamental part of the Western Ghats and is one of the most bio-diverse regions of the world. Monsoon is the best time to visit this pleasant hill station. In this season, you will be greeted by forests laden with rare blooming flowers and hill slopes covered with colourful species of plants not likely to be traced anywhere else in India. You can also spot a plethora of exotic wild animals and reptiles, few of which are the elusive panther, the rock python, majestic cobra, and the big cats. A variety of rich pharmaceutical plants and herbs with medicinal qualities can also be found here.

Botanical Garden

Located right in the heart of this beautiful scenic hill station is the famous Ooty Botanical Garden. It is one of the top places to visit in Ooty. Sprawling over 55 acres of land, the gardens house hundreds of different varieties of plants and flower species. Built-in 1847, this beautifully landscaped garden is split into various sections, namely Lower Garden, New Garden, Italian Garden, Conservatory, Fountain Terrace, and Nurseries, and encompasses large varieties of both indigenous and exotic plants, shrubs, ferns, herbal, orchids, and bonsai species all of which present a natural colourful endearing sight. The garden has a temperate climate ideal for a variety of plants, shrubs, ferns, and bonsai.

Ooty Lake

This manmade lake was artificially constructed just for the fishing purpose but is now one of the most popular tourist attractions in Ooty. This lake is very popular for its boating and the boathouse here provides paddle boats, motorboats, and rowing boats. A graceful and refreshing ride on the calm waters is a very popular activity enjoyed by family and honeymoon couples. Cycling and horse riding around the lake is another favourite amongst tourists.



For a quick tour around the lake, there is even a mini-train for the kids. The beautiful lake spread over an area of 65 acres is surrounded by Eucalyptus trees and one can also see small streams flowing down the hills around it and is

city-life, Needle View Hill Point also known as Oosi Malai is as an ideal place to calm your soul and spend quality time in the lap of nature with your dear ones. One can climb up the rocks and get a panoramic view of the splendid scenery all around. The cool breeze, the setting sun and the 360-degree view of the surrounding terrain make the whole experience more pleasant and romantic.

Nilgiri Mountain Railway

A trip to Ooty is incomplete without embarking on a ride in the Toy Train run by the Nilgiri Mountain Railway, which gives its passengers a lifetime experience as it chugs its way through captivating landscapes, dense forests, and sparkling river with the sun shining brightly over them. It is one of the places to visit in Ooty in one day. The Toy Train was built by the Britishers and is said to be the steepest track in Asia. As the train climbs to higher altitudes one can witness how treasured Nilgiri is, and from your seat, you can have a panoramic view of the sparkling blue waterfalls, lush green forests, steep hills, plunging ravines, fragrant tea plantations, and breathtaking locales. At the end of the journey, you will not regret spending 5 hours on this 46 kilometers track as it is a never to be forgotten experience.

The journey commences from Mettupalayam up till Udagamandalam and crosses 250 bridges and 16 tunnels while passing through a number of other stations on the way including Coonoor, Kellar, Wellington, Lovedale, and Ootacamund.

Emerald Lake

Emerald Lake situated in Emerald Village at a short distance from the main city of Ooty, is a part of the Silent Valley National Park in the Nilgiri District. Away from the maddening crowd, this serene lake with its picturesque surroundings, green Nilgiri slopes, and beautiful tea plantations offers a perfect place to enjoy a leisurely time in the lap of nature and tranquillity. It is not overcrowded by tourists and is one of the unexplored and virgin places of this South Indian hill station. For families, it's a perfect picnic spot and for nature photography enthusiasts, bird lovers, ornithologists, and landscape artists, the delightful place provides a perfect subject and composition.

The azure blue water of this charming lake and the woods around it are home to a number of colourful native birds. For a better experience of the region, one can indulge in trekking and mountain biking around the lake or just sit and chill with a book or a fishing rod and enjoy the breathtaking view. Strolling around the Tea Gardens near the lake is another experience, which is a must for city dwellers and tourists.

Nilgiri tea is famous for its strong flavourful taste and easily available in shops near the lake and one can be sure of the quality and authenticity when purchasing it from here.

brimmed with shops selling local products as well as beautiful shawls and stoles.

Needle View Hillpoint

Away from the hustle and bustle of

PREPPING ON A NEW COURT, SERENA WILLIAMS WILL ENTER US OPEN

For all the doubts about which top players will actually enter the first Grand Slam tennis tournament of the coronavirus pandemic, the biggest name in the sport made clear Wednesday that she intends to be there when the main draw begins Aug. 31.

"Ultimately, I really cannot wait to return to New York," Williams said in a video that was shown during the U.S. Tennis Association presentation of plans for its marquee event.

"I feel like the USTA is going to do a really good job of ensuring everything is amazing and everything is perfect and everyone is safe," said the owner of an Open-era record 23 major singles titles. "It's going to be exciting. It (will have been) six months since a lot of us have played professional tennis."

The women's and men's tours have been suspended since early March because of the COVID-19 outbreak. The French Open was postponed from May to September, while Wimbledon was cancelled for the first time in 75 years.

The USTA got the green light Tuesday from the New York state government to go ahead with its proposal for a scaled-down tournament. There will be no spectators, fewer events, fewer on-court officials and regular



temperature checks and occasional nasal swabs for COVID-19. Most players — and their reduced entourages — will stay at two designated hotels, although more expensive private homes are also an option.

"I'll certainly miss the fans, don't get me wrong," said Williams, a 38-year-old American. "Just being out there, and that New

York crowd, and hearing everyone cheer. I'll really miss that, getting me through some of those tough matches."

Her backing for the tournament — she has won it six times and was the runner-up in 2018 and 2019 — is certainly a boost for broadcaster ESPN and perhaps will help sway other uncertain players to compete, too.



Marketers keep fingers crossed, hope for IPL boost

NEW DELHI (TIP): A few days back, a top marketing firm got a call from an auto major representative keen to talk about the much-delayed launch of their compact SUV that was showcased at the February Auto Expo and expected to hit the road by April. The lockdown had forced them to shelve those plans. Both would agree on a September-to-November media blitz. It was a no-brainer since for the first time ever the festival season was expected to coincide with the Indian Premier League (IPL), the bandwagon for established brands and new products.

Though media planners are not looking beyond a month in terms of strategy, everyone has pinned their hopes on the festival of lights, and floodlights.

Vinit Karnik, Business head (entertainment, sports and live events) Group M, too talks about light, and tunnel.

"With an assumption that sport starts during the festive season in India, there will be some brands that will do fresh launches and there will be some brands who may want to go on sale. All of them will need some kind of marketing support. If live sports happens, whenever it does, it will make a statement that 'life is slowly coming back to normalcy'," he says.

However, a sales executive from another firm advises against putting all eggs in one basket. "But imagine, if IPL doesn't happen. This dream that we are selling will be gone," the executive says.

Sterling strikes, Luiz sent off as Manchester outclass Arsenal

MANCHESTER (TIP): Raheem Sterling scored the first goal of the Premier League's return to action after the coronavirus lockdown as Manchester City defeated Arsenal 3-0 behind closed doors at the Etihad stadium on Wednesday.

The result means Liverpool, whose lead has been cut to 22 points by second-placed City, cannot now win the title on Sunday at Everton in the Merseyside derby.

But the league table was far from the minds of the few people inside the stadium at kickoff time, with a minute's silence for victims of the coronavirus followed by the players and officials taking a knee in support of the "Black Lives Matter" movement.

Sterling, a prominent supporter of the movement whose slogan featured on the players' shirts, fired home on the stroke of halftime to put the hosts ahead.

City had threatened on several occasions to provide the first goal of "Project Restart" with Arsenal keeper Bernd Leno saving efforts from Sterling and David Silva and racing out to foil Riyad Mahrez.

The goal came after Arsenal substitute David Luiz failed to deal with a ball into the box and allowed Sterling in on goal, and the Brazilian was at fault again for City's second.

Mahrez got the wrong side of Luiz as he burst into the box and the ex-Chelsea defender put his hand on the Algerian's back. Referee Anthony Taylor ruled he had pushed him to the ground, awarding a penalty and sending off Luiz.

Kevin De Bruyne confidently converted the spot-kick and City never looked in any danger against opponents reduced to 10 men.

WORLD CHAMPION FACES BAN FOR MISSED DRUG TEST

LONDON (TIP): World 100 metres champion Christian Coleman, who narrowly escaped a ban last year for missing three doping tests, was provisionally suspended today and could miss next year's Tokyo Olympics after again breaching whereabouts rules.

The American sprinter revealed the news on Twitter, but claimed that anti-doping officials had not followed the correct procedure when he missed them after going Christmas shopping on December 9 last year, at a time when he had said he would be at home.

The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) later confirmed the ban, and issued a lengthy rebuttal of Coleman's objections.



Wolfsburg retain German women's Bundesliga soccer title

Wolfsburg won the German women's Bundesliga title on Wednesday for the fourth year in a row after beating Freiburg 2-0 to open up an insurmountable lead.

Defender Joelle Wedemeyer gave Wolfsburg the lead before Pernille Harder scored her team's second goal. That left Wolfsburg eight points clear of Bayern Munich at the top of the standings with two games to play.

Wolfsburg is unbeaten in the league with 19 wins and one draw, as well as 88 goals scored with just eight conceded.

Wolfsburg can add the German Cup with a win over SGS Essen in the final in Cologne on July 4. It will play the eight-team tournament to resolve the women's Champions League in Spain in August, starting with a quarterfinal against Glasgow City.

Germany was the only one of Europe's top four ranked women's leagues to resume playing amid the coronavirus pandemic. France, England and Spain all abandoned their seasons and declared a champion based on existing results.





A World Without Childhood Blindness

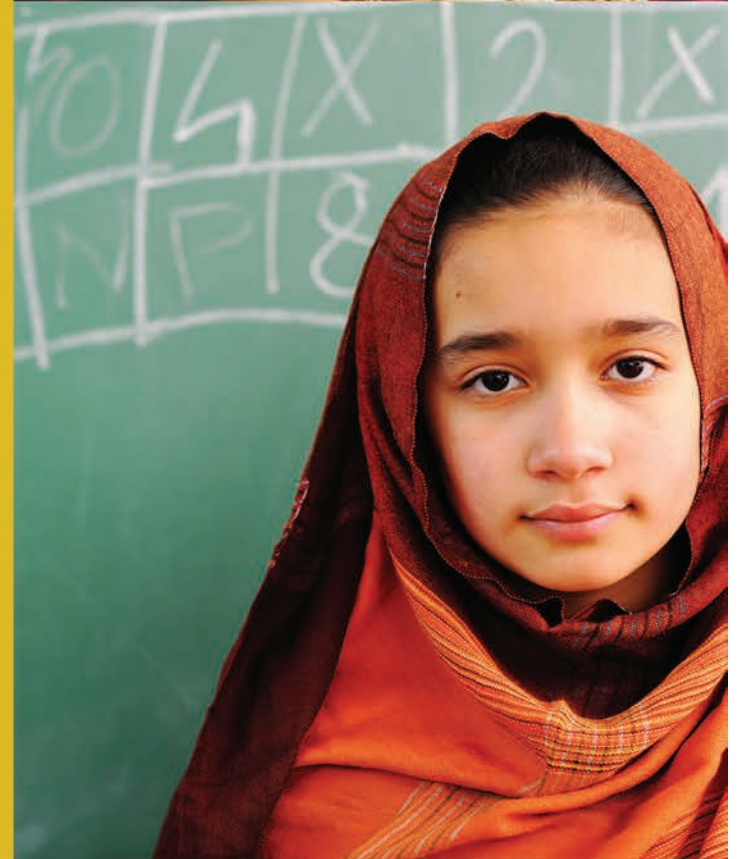
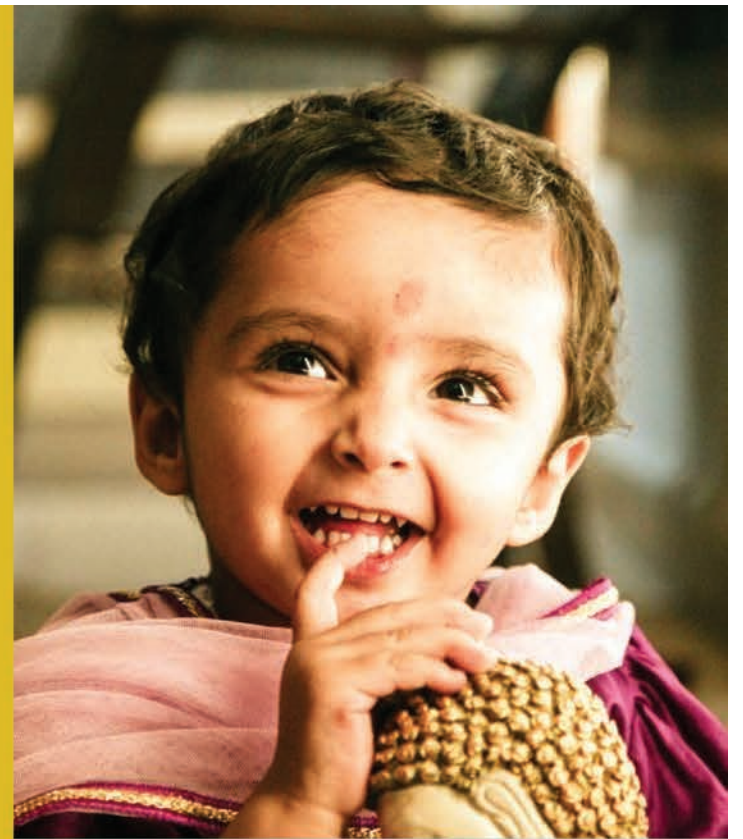
Did you know that 80% of learning happens through vision? It all starts with vision exams. Often, a simple pair of glasses is enough to change the life of a child and allow for 75+ years of productivity. In some cases, children may need sight-saving surgery.

The Eye Foundation of America and Goutami Eye Institute provide all these services free of charge in Andhra Pradesh, India.

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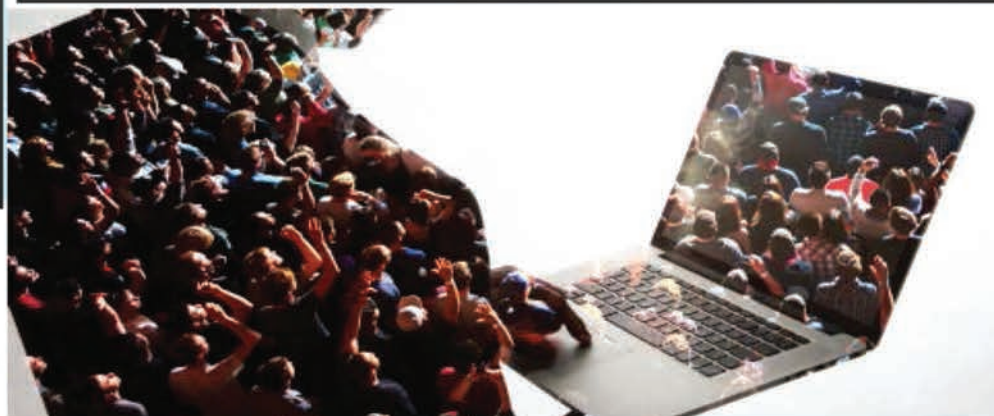
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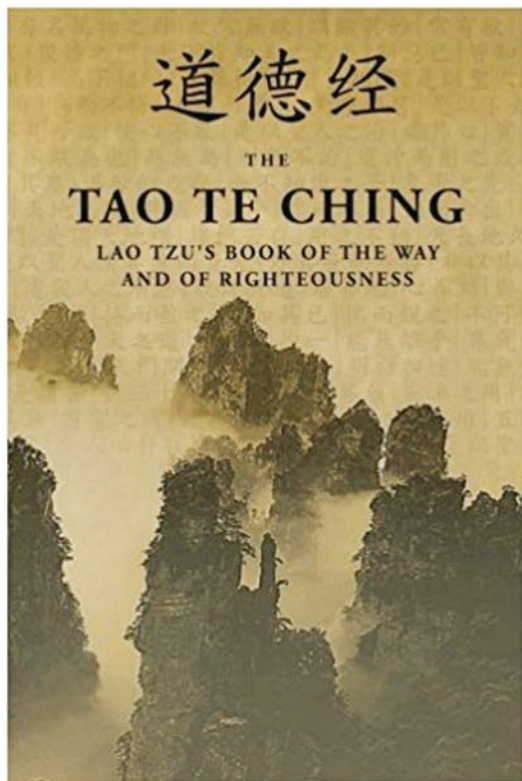
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*True words are rarely elaborate.
Elaborate words are rarely truthful.
Good words are rarely eloquent.
Eloquent words are rarely good.
He who knows is rarely learned.
He who is learned rarely knows.
The wise do not hoard wisdom.
Giving to others what they have
They have still more.
Sharing what they have with others
They are richer still.
Heaven's Way helps and never harms.
The way of the wise is generous.
And free from all contentions.*

**Tao Te Ching
Lao Tzu
(A translation into English by A S Kline)**

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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

NYC
Health