



The

INDIAN



1 Indian American Weekly: Since 2006

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EVER TRUTHFUL

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

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STAY SAFE AND BLESSED

COVID-19 Coronavirus

Worldwide Update Page 21

SIKH COMMUNITY IN US PLEDGES TO WORK FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PUNJAB PAGE 13

Trump says he will soon sign new merit-based immigration act

WASHINGTON (TIP) : President Donald Trump on Tuesday, July 14 said he will soon sign a merit-based immigration act that will also take care of the immigrants brought to the country illegally as children and protected under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) programme. "We're going to be signing an immigration act very soon," Trump told reporters Tuesday, July 14 at a White House press briefing. "It's going to be based on merit. It's going to be very strong."

Trump has previously said he would seek sweeping changes to U.S. immigration policy through an executive order. *contd on Page 2*



Democrats had their chance for three years to do something with DACA and they always turned it down: Trump

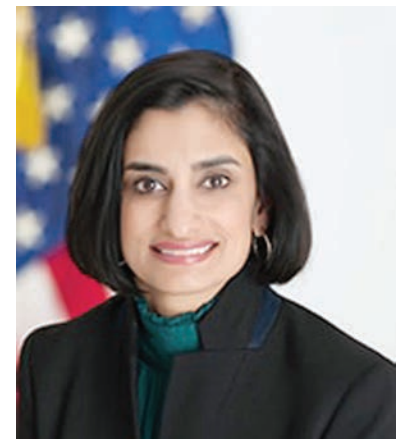
Seema Verma mishandled millions of dollars in federal contracts: Inspector General

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian origin Seema Verma, Chief of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, violated federal contracting rules by steering millions of taxpayer dollars in contracts that ultimately benefited GOP-aligned communications consultants, according to a report by Inspector General, released July 16.

HHS is one of the largest contracting agencies in the Federal Government and in fiscal year 2019 awarded contracts totaling approximately \$27 billion, of which \$7

billion related to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) contracts. Congress has expressed concerns about and the media has reported on CMS's awarding of contracts for strategic communications services. Separately, OIG had begun preliminary work to review the strategic communications services contracts during CMS Administrator Seema Verma's tenure. Based on this preliminary work, they conducted an audit of these CMS contracts.

contd on page 2



HHS watchdog finds Seema Verma mishandled millions of dollars in federal contracts that ultimately benefited friends, former Trump official

174 Indian nationals file lawsuit against presidential proclamation on H-1B



In his presidential proclamation on June 22, Donald Trump temporarily suspended issuing of H-1B work visas till the end of the year

WASHINGTON (TIP): A lawsuit has been filed by a group of 174 Indians, including seven minors, against the recent presidential proclamation on H-1B that would prevent them from entering the US due to the suspension of issuing of foreign work visas for the rest of the year.

In his presidential proclamation on June 22, President Donald Trump temporarily suspended issuing of H-1B work visas till the end of the year.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa

that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries namely India and China.

The lawsuit was filed by the Indians in the US District Court in the District of Columbia on Tuesday, July 14.

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson at the US District Court for the District of Columbia issued summonses on Wednesday to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad F Wolf, along with Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia.

"The proclamation 10052's H-1B/H-4 visa ban hurts the United States' economy, separates families and defies the Congress. While the two former points render it unseemly, the latter point renders it unlawful," said the lawsuit filed by lawyer Wasden Baniyas on behalf of the 174 Indian nationals.

contd on Page 2

Faced with Widespread Opposition, US Drops New Visa Rules for International Students

A big relief to students, including those from India

NEW YORK (TIP): Facing widespread opposition led by Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the federal government on July 14 abruptly dropped its plans to deport or deny entry to international students at U.S. colleges and universities offering virtual instruction only this fall.



The announcement came during a brief hearing at Boston's federal courthouse over a lawsuit the two schools filed last week to block the order, a move that drew support from colleges and universities, state and local governments, and the nation's leading technology companies.

More than 200 public and private institutions of higher education - including all seven other members of the Ivy League - had either filed briefs supporting Harvard and MIT's effort, or their own lawsuits, including one by the University of California system and another by a group of 19 schools in the West that included Stanford University.

contd on Page 2

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EVER TRUTHFUL

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contd from page 1**Trump says he will soon sign new...**

Critics -- including high-profile lawmakers in the president's own party -- have questioned whether he has the legal authority to overhaul immigration laws without passing legislation through Congress.

The president cast immigration in partisan terms on Tuesday, attacking Democratic rival Joe Biden over what he described as lax policies toward those illegally entering the U.S. Trump is seeking to reprise an issue that helped him win election in 2016 as he lags in polls behind Biden.

Trump, who has been repeatedly stymied on Capitol Hill as he has pursued efforts to toughen immigration criteria, said he believed the Supreme Court provided him new powers when it rejected the administration's efforts to dismantle the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, which provides legal status for some young migrants in the country illegally.

"Very importantly, we'll be taking care of people from DACA in a very Republican way," Trump said.

Last month, a divided Supreme Court rebuked Trump by blocking him from ending the Obama administration program.

Trump has offered no specific explanation of why he believes the Supreme Court decision -- which found his administration did not follow proper procedure in eliminating DACA -- granted him substantial new immigration authority.

His foray into immigration comes even as the U.S. has largely shut down the issuance of new work visas and green cards for the remainder of the year because of the coronavirus pandemic. (With inputs from PTI)

Seema Verma mishandled millions...

According to the report "CMS prepared the required documentation for awarding contracts for strategic communications services in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). However, CMS (including the CMS Administrator and other senior leaders) did not administer and manage the contracts in accordance with Federal requirements. Specifically, CMS allowed a subcontractor individual to perform inherently governmental functions, such as making managerial decisions and directing CMS employees. CMS also administered its strategic communications services contracts as personal services contracts. CMS officials exerted a level of control over the contractors' work that exceeded what is allowed under service contracts; in essence, CMS administered these contracts as if the services had been procured under CMS's statutory authority to contract for experts and consultants. Lastly, CMS did not comply with FAR requirements in managing contract deliverables and approving the use of a subcontractor; did not maintain complete working files for all three contracts, and paid some questionable costs."

President Trump nominated Seema Verma to be the Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on November 29, 2016, and she was confirmed by the United States Senate on March 13, 2017. As Administrator of CMS, she oversees one of the largest federal agencies that administers vital healthcare programs to over 100 million Americans.

Faced with Widespread Opposition...

Twenty-six cities, towns, and counties from across the country - from Boston, Cambridge, and New York in the East to Las Cruces, N.M., and Los Angeles in the West - wrote in a brief filed June 13 that, if implemented, the decision would have a "direct and deep impact" on their communities.

Federal Judge Allison D. Burroughs confirmed that both parties had agreed to the decision by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to rescind its proposal, disclosed a little more than a week ago, and continue the March guideline allowing these students to remain in the country and study remotely.

In the 2018-2019 academic year, there were over 10 lakh international students in the US. According to a recent report of the Student and Exchange Visitor Programme (SEVP), 1,94,556 Indian students were enrolled in various academic institutions in the US in January.

Judge Burroughs said the policy would apply nationwide.

"Both the policy directive and the frequently asked questions would not be enforced anyplace," she said, referring to the agreement between the US government and MIT and Harvard.

Congressman Brad Schneider said this is a great win for

international students, colleges and common sense.

"The administration needs to give us a plan to tackle our public health crisis - it can't be recklessly creating rules one day and rescinding them the next," he said in a tweet.

Last week, India also raised with the US its decision to withdraw US visas from foreign students if their universities switch to online-only classes.

The issue was raised by Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla during an online meeting with US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale.

Last week, more than 136 Congressmen and 30 senators wrote to the Trump administration to rescind its order on international students.

"This is a major victory for the students, organizers and institutions of higher education in the #MA7 and all across the country that stood up and fought back against this racist and xenophobic rule," said Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley.

"Taking online classes shouldn't force international students out of our country," Congressman Mikie Sherrill said in a tweet.

In their lawsuit, the 17 states and the District of Columbia said for many international students, remote learning in the countries and communities they come from would impede their studies or be simply impossible.

The lawsuit alleged that the new rule imposes a significant economic harm by precluding thousands of international students from coming to and residing in the US and finding employment in fields such as science, technology, biotechnology, health care, business and finance, and education, and contributing to the overall economy.

In a separate filing, companies like Google, Facebook and Microsoft, along with the US Chamber of Commerce and other IT advocacy groups, asserted that the ICE directive will disrupt their recruiting plans, making it impossible to bring on board international students that businesses, including the amici, had planned to hire, and disturb the recruiting process on which the firms have relied on to identify and train their future employees.

This will make it impossible for a large number of international students to participate in the Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT) programs.

The US will "nonsensically be sending...these graduates away to work for our global competitors and compete against us..." they said.

International students enrolled in academic programs at US universities and colleges study on an F-1 visa and those enrolled in technical programs at vocational or other recognized non-academic institutions, other than a language training programme come to the US on an M-1 visa.

The US is the worst-hit country by the COVID-19 pandemic. The virus has infected more than 3.4 million people and killed over 130,000, according to Johns Hopkins University data.

International travel restrictions in place due to the pandemic have made it increasingly difficult for foreign students in the US to return to their home countries, while those outside America are uncertain if they will be able to travel back. (With inputs from PTI)

174 Indian nationals file lawsuit...

The lawsuit seeks an order declaring the presidential proclamation restriction on issuing new H-1B or H-4 visas or admitting new H-1B or H-4 visa holders as unlawful.

An H-4 visa is a visa issued by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to immediate family members of the H-1B visa holders. The lawsuit also urges the court to compel the Department of State to issue decisions on pending requests for H-1B and H-4 visas.

"In the administration of our nation's immigration system, we must remain mindful of the impact of foreign workers on the United States labor market, particularly in the current extraordinary environment of high domestic unemployment and depressed demand for labor," said the proclamation issued by Trump. Trump said the overall unemployment rate in the US nearly quadrupled between February and May of 2020, producing some of the most extreme unemployment ever recorded by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

While the May rate of 13.3 per cent reflects a marked decline from April, millions of Americans remain out of work.

The proclamation also extends till year-end his previous executive order that had banned issuance of new green cards of lawful permanent residency.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

State Bank of India Country Head Ashwini Tewari given a warm Farewell

Community leaders laud the banker's stellar contribution



Mr. Ashwini Tewari addressing the gathering

NEW YORK (TIP): "The State Bank of India, which is the leading Indian bank, has been here in New York City since 1968. And then in 1973, we opened our branch, so we are here for long time - close to 50 years. So, perhaps we will have a great celebration in 2022. I'll be remotely associated with it. It is just for the Indian community because when we came in here - at that time - there was hardly any corporate connection. It was largely for the Indian community. And therefore, till this date, one of the key functions of the bank is to serve the community, to be the connection of the community to India. It's not that the community does not have choices. It has choices not to bank with us. We will be very happy if the community continues to associate with the bank", said Mr. Ashwini Tewari, Country Head US



Warm welcome to Mr. Ashwini Kumar Tewari with a bouquet from Anu Jain



Mr. Ashwini Kumar Tewari is presented a plaque by The Indian Panorama and the Federation of Indians Associations NY/NJ/CT (FIA). Seen in the front row, from left to right: FIA Chairman Mr. Ankur Vaidya, Acting Consul General of India at New York Mr. Shatrughna Sinha, Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, Mr. Ashwini Kumar Tewari, FIA President Mr. Anil Bansal, Mr. Jarnail Singh, owner of Richi Rich

Operations of State Bank of India. .

Mr. Tewari was addressing community leaders and fellow bankers at a farewell reception hosted by The Indian Panorama, a leading English Weekly on the East Coast, on July 16.

Speaking about the importance the bank attaches to human relationships, Mr. Tewari said, "We have the best people. You want a nice warm feeling when you come to the bank. That is what you want. We offer a human connection".

Mr. Tewari spoke about a scheme his bank introduced to benefit senior citizens. "For any senior citizen we offer slightly higher rate of interest. There was an amazing story from here - One senior citizen came and you will be surprised to know - we had so many customers, not only Indians, white people who said this is a bank which calls me and recognizes me. I just can walk in and talk to people and get it. We earned 30-40 million in just a year in that deposit"

Mr. Tewari said he had had a wonderful stay in New York. He enjoyed working with his colleagues who extended their best cooperation, and his relationship with community which he will cherish forever.

Mr. Ashwini Kumar Tewari had taken over as Country Head, US Operations in April 2017. New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Sao Paulo and Washington DC are under the country head's

jurisdiction.

Mr. Tewari who holds a bachelor's degree in Engineering (Electrical), is CFPCM certified and ACAMS certified. He is a career banker with over 29 years' experience with State Bank of India in India and outside. Having joined as a directly recruited officer in 1991, Mr. Tewari has handled assignments in diverse areas of Credit, International Banking and Retail Banking, including Business Re-engineering and Technology. Prior to his assignment as Country Head, US Operations, he was Regional Head and General Manager, East Asia of State Bank of India, Hong Kong and oversaw the business development and control of State Bank of India in Hong Kong, China, Japan, Korea and the neighboring region.

Mr. Tewari served in diverse positions which include Deputy General Manager, (Operations & Information Systems), International Banking Group, Mumbai, Head of SBI's Cash Management, Regional Manager, Branch Head etc.

Mr. Tewari now goes as MD and CEO of State Bank Cards and will be stationed at Gurgaon.

Laudatory remarks were made by a couple of community leaders which included FIA President Mr. Anil Bansal, Jaipur Foot Executive Member Mr. Alok Kumar, eminent attorney Ravi Batra, and Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, publisher/



Mr. Virendra Bansal, successor to Mr. Tewari pledged to carry forward his predecessor's legacy



Apeksha extends a flowery welcome to Mr. Shatrughna Sinha

editor of The Indian Panorama. Earlier, Mr. Ashwini Tewari and Mr. Shatrughna Sinha were greeted with bouquets.

The distinguished gathering included Mr. Shatrughna Sinha, Acting Consul General, Ms Apeksha, Mr. Virendra Bansal (SBI), Ms. Prem Lata (SBI), Mr. BLS Elango CE BOB, Mr. Patra, AGM BOB, Mr. Lokesh Kumar CE. BOI, Mr. Abhay Kumar CE Canara Bank, Mr. Anil Bansal President FIA, Mr. Ankur Vaidya, Chairman FIA, Mr. Alok Kumar, EM Jaipur Foot, Dr. Sunil Mehrra, former President AAPI -QLI, Ms Anu Jain, Director- Jain Foundation and EM RANA, Harish Thakkar President AIA, Mr. Prem Bhandari, President Jaipur Foot USA, Mr. Ravi Batra, Attorney, Mr. Jarnail Singh, Former President, Gurdwara Baba Makhan Shah Lobana, and Prof. Indrajit S Saluja.

Among the media persons present were Mr. Gurinder Hoth from PTC TV, Mr. Pradeep Singh from Global Punjab TV, and Mr. Zahid from TV Asia.

Prof. Indrajit S Saluja who emceed, thanked the gathering for having made it to the event despite of the COVID challenge.

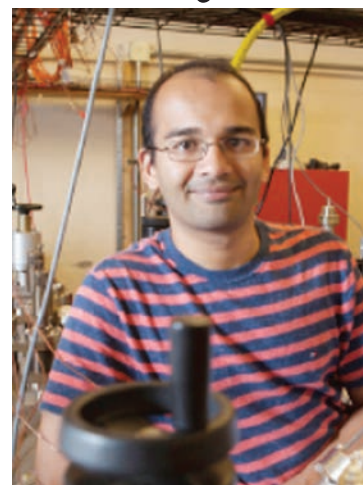
5 Indian Americans Receive USDoE Early Career Award

BOSTON (TIP): The U.S. Department of Energy (DoE) recently announced the names of 76 scientists who have been selected for their 2020 Early Career Research Program. The list includes five Indian Americans.

They are: Arun Devaraj, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (WA), Ranganathan Gopalakrishnan, University of Memphis, Siddharth Karkare, Arizona Board of Regents for Arizona State University, Vedika Khemani, Stanford Junior University, and Karthish Manthiram, MIT.

Under the program, university-based researchers will receive grants for at least \$150,000 per year and researchers based at DOE national laboratories will receive grants for at least \$500,000 per year. The research grants are planned for five years and will cover salary and research expenses.

Dr. Arun Devaraj is a Material scientist in the Physical and Computational Sciences Directorate. His research focus is in microstructure-property relationship of metallic alloys, oxides and composite materials. Dr. Devaraj has extensive experience specifically in applying atom probe tomography (APT) for material characterization, in addition to scanning electron microscopy (SEM), energy dispersive x-ray spectroscopy (EDS), focused ion beam (FIB), transmission electron microscopy (TEM), x-ray absorption



Arun Devaraj, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (WA), Ranganathan Gopalakrishnan, University of Memphis, Siddharth Karkare, Arizona Board of Regents for Arizona State University, Vedika Khemani, Stanford Junior University, and Karthish Manthiram, MIT

near edge spectroscopy (XANES), scanning transmission x-ray microscopy (STXM) and in-situ high energy x-ray diffraction (HEXRD) at beamlines of various DOE synchrotron facilities.

Ranganathan Gopalakrishnan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Memphis. His research focuses on applying aerosol science and technology to Additive Manufacturing (AM) processes as well as fundamental aspects of aerosol science.

Siddharth Karkare is an assistant professor in the Department of Physics at Arizona State University. He comes to ASU following a 3-year post-doctoral

research position at the Lawrence Berkeley Lab. His research is at the interface of accelerator physics and nano-science and focuses on the generation and manipulation of bright electron beams for various applications ranging from meter-scale electron microscopes to large km-scale particle colliders and free-electron lasers.

Vedika Khemani Assistant Professor of Physics at Stanford completed her undergraduate studies at Harvey Mudd College, and her PhD at Princeton University. She was a Junior Fellow at Harvard University before starting as assistant professor at Stanford University. She works on theoretical investigations of quantum many-body

systems and how they evolve dynamically.

Karthish Manthiram, the Theodore T. Miller Career Development Chair and Assistant Professor in Chemical Engineering in MIT, is working to synthesize chemicals and materials that we encounter every day in a sustainable manner that eliminates the carbon footprint. With the support of the DoE Early Career Award, the Manthiram lab is specifically looking at how water can be used as a source of oxygen atoms to convert alkenes, which are two carbon atoms attached by a double bond, into an epoxide, a triangular configuration of two carbon atoms and an oxygen atom.

Indian Origin Mamta Motwani Accapadi Appointed Vice Provost for University Life at Penn



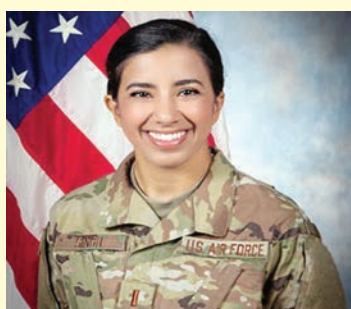
Accapadi has been vice president for student affairs at Rollins College in Orlando, Florida, since 2013, following four years as dean of student life at Oregon State University

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American Mamta Motwani Accapadi has been named vice provost for university life at the University of Pennsylvania, effective Aug. 17. The announcement was made last month by Provost Wendell Pritchett.

"I am delighted to welcome Mamta Accapadi to Penn at a critical moment in our history," said Pritchett. "She is a highly experienced national leader in student affairs, whose career has been devoted to the goals of inclusion, community, and social justice. She has been a particular advocate for first-generation students, low-income students, and children of immigrants, reflecting her own background as a child of immigrants who went on to earn three degrees from the University of Texas at Austin."

Accapadi has been vice president for student affairs at Rollins College in Orlando, Florida, since 2013, following four years as dean of student life at Oregon State University. Her earlier experience at UT-Austin included serving as university ombudsman, diversity education coordinator, advisor to Greek life and education, coordinator of the International Teaching Assistant Program, and assistant director of the Multicultural Information Center. She earned a Ph.D. and M.Ed. in higher education administration and a B.A. in microbiology from UT-Austin. (Source: UPenn)

Sikh American Naureen Singh to Serve in US Armed Forces



Naureen Singh, 26, a student and community organizer from Colorado Springs, has just been appointed a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force

appointed a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

Naureen's father Colonel (Ret.) G.B. Singh is the U.S. Army's highest-ranking Sikh American to keep his turban while serving active duty.

Lieutenant Singh is now a second-generation Sikh American to serve as an officer in the Armed Forces. Her father, Colonel (Ret.) G.B. Singh joined the U.S. Army in 1979, one of a small number of Sikhs allowed to retain articles of faith, grandfathered in after a change in policy in the early 1980s forbidding soldiers from exhibiting their religion with "conspicuous" clothing or style of hair or beard. While the Pentagon does not track religious affiliations within families serving, Singh believes they are among the very first to have two generations of Sikh Americans, serving as officers in the United States Armed Forces.

Naureen is currently a student at the University of Colorado- Denver, pursuing her master's in Criminal Justice.

DENVER, CO (TIP): Following in the footsteps of her father Colonel (Ret.) G.B. Singh, Sikh American Naureen Singh will be serving in the armed forces as an officer. Naureen Singh, 26, a community organizer from Colorado Springs, has just been

Indian-American Dr Sampat Shivangi Elected Republican Delegate for Florida Convention

NEW YORK (TIP): Prominent Indian American community leader Dr. Sampat Shivangi has been elected as a Republican delegate for the fifth consecutive term to the party's August convention in Florida that would formally nominate US President Donald Trump as its candidate for the November presidential elections.

Dr.Sampat S. Shivangi has been a conservative lifelong member of the Republican party, hailing from a strong republican state of Mississippi. He is the founding member of the Republican Indian council and of Republican Indian National Council which aims to work to help and assist in promoting President Elect Trump's agenda and support his advocacy in the coming months. RINC is based on the principles of RJC and want to promote conservative ideas and principles.

Dr.Shivangi is the National President of Indian American Forum for Political Education which is the oldest Indian American association. For the last three decades he has lobbied for bills in US congress on behalf of India through his enormous contacts with US Senators and Congressmen. He is close to Bush family and was instrumental in lobbying for first Diwali celebration in the White house and President George W. Bush to make his trip to India. He had accompanied President Bill Clinton during his historic visit to India.



Dr.Sampat S. Shivangi has been a conservative lifelong member of the Republican party, hailing from a strong republican state of Mississippi



An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

-Benjamin Franklin

Prevention is touted as the first and most important step in health. In today's world, we are focused on preventing the spread of disease through proper hygiene including frequent hand washing, wearing masks, and social distancing. Recently, prevention measures have gained international attention, but this was not always the case.

Prevention is celebrated in principle and resisted in practice.

1

Prevention isn't glamorous.

- Disease treatments take center stage, gathering media and financial backing.
- Prevention such as **hygiene, eating right and regular exercise** are less interesting, but far more important.

2

Prevention isn't fun.

- Good nutrition and 30 minutes of activity every day create a healthy lifestyle.
- Fast food, fad diets and excessive screen time make healthy lifestyle challenging.

3

Prevention isn't static.

- Standards for maintaining health and preventing disease are not always agreed upon.
- As more research is done, guidelines and recommendations may change.

"The science and art of **preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting physical and mental health and efficiency** through **organized community efforts** for the sanitation of the environment, the control of community infections, the education of the individual in principles of personal hygiene, the organization of medical and nursing service for the early diagnosis and preventive treatment of disease, and the development of the social machinery, which will ensure to every individual in the community a standard of living adequate for the maintenance of health." - **Charles Edward Winslow (1842)**

Major Public Health Milestones

Hand Washing

Sewage Systems

Garbage Collection

Water Chlorination

Vaccines

Masks

Research supports wearing masks to control the spread of COVID-19.

Wear a mask!

Rotary & Polio

Global Collaboration vs. Deadly Disease

Polio is a paralyzing and potentially deadly infectious disease. It commonly affects children under the age of 5.

The virus typically spreads through contaminated water.

There is no cure for polio; however, there are two effective vaccine forms - an injection or an oral dose, as seen on the right.



In 1979, Rotary International began work to eradicate polio.

As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, they have helped reduce polio cases by 99.9 percent over the last 30+ years. Over 2.5 billion children have been immunized in 122 countries. Now, polio is only endemic in 3 countries - Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

Prevention (Eradication Efforts):

If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze up to 200,000 children yearly.

Mary Trump's book breaks record with mammoth sales



NEW YORK (TIP): Mary Trump's tell-all book had sold a staggering 950,000 copies by the end of its first day on sale, publisher Simon & Schuster said Thursday, July 16.

That figure, which included pre-sales, as well as e-books and audiobooks, is a new record for Simon & Schuster, the company said.

The book, "Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man," went on sale Tuesday and portrays President Trump in an unflattering light.

Just two weeks ago, Simon & Schuster celebrated the success of another Trump tell-all book, that one by former National Security Adviser John Bolton. The book, "The Room Where It Happened," sold more than 780,000 copies in its first week of sales.

It is rare for books to sell hundreds of thousands of copies in a single week of sales -- and most books will never sell that many.

"Too Much and Never Enough" will join other books about Trump that became sensational best-sellers.

"Fear" by legendary journalist Bob Woodward had sold 900,000 copies by the end of its first day of official sales. "A Higher Loyalty" by former FBI Director James Comey had sold 600,000 copies at the end of its first week on store shelves. And "Fire & Fury," the hit book by Michael Wolff, sold more than 1.7 million copies by the time it had been out for a month.

The sales reflect a significant appetite for books that offer inside accounts of the Trump administration.

In some cases, Trump or his allies have sought to block unflattering books about him, which can backfire and provide an additional publicity boost to the books.

Mary Trump faced litigation from Robert Trump, the President's brother, who argued in court that it violated a confidentiality agreement related to Fred Trump's estate. But a New York judge ultimately allowed its release.

Indian Man Arrested After Attempting to Smuggle Marijuana into US

BUFFALO, NY (TIP): Prabjot Nagra, 26, a citizen of India, was arrested and charged by criminal complaint with possessing with the intent to distribute 1000 kilograms or more of marijuana and importation of marijuana into the

Twitter accounts of Obama, Biden, Musk, Gates and others hacked in Bitcoin scam

The attackers posted tweets that appeared to promote a cryptocurrency scam

NEW YORK (TIP): Several prominent Twitter accounts, including those of former US president Barack Obama, Tesla CEO Elon Musk and Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, were hacked apparently to promote a Bitcoin scam in what the microblogging site believes to be a "coordinated social engineering attack".

The account of former US vice-president Joe Biden, who is the current Democratic Party presidential candidate in the November election, was also hacked. "We detected what we believe to be a coordinated social engineering attack by people who successfully targeted some of our employees with access to internal systems and tools," Twitter's support team said on Wednesday.

The attackers posted tweets that appeared to promote a cryptocurrency scam. The fake tweets offered to send USD 2,000 for every USD 1,000 sent to an anonymous Bitcoin address.

Bitcoin is a popular vehicle for this type of scam because once a victim sends money, the design of Bitcoin, with no institution in charge, makes it essentially impossible to recover the



funds, The New York Times report said.

The accounts, along with those of Obama, Kanye West, Kim Kardashian West, Warren Buffett, Bezos and Mike Bloomberg, posted similar tweets soliciting donations via Bitcoin to their verified profiles on Wednesday, CNN reported.

The posts all included the address of the same bitcoin wallet, which has seen as much as USD 112,000 pour into it over the last few hours. It is unclear if this money came from unsuspecting users or the scammers themselves, The Hill

reported.

"Everyone is asking me to give back, and now is the time," Gates' tweet said, promising to double all payments to a Bitcoin address for the next 30 minutes. All the tweets were subsequently deleted.

"Once we became aware of the incident, we immediately locked down the affected accounts and removed Tweets posted by the attackers," Twitter said.

"We have locked accounts that were compromised and will restore access to the original account owner only when we are certain we can do so securely."

Jack Dorsey, Twitter's chief executive, said in a post on Wednesday night that it was a "tough day for us at Twitter. We all feel terrible that this happened. We're diagnosing and will share everything we can when we have a more complete understanding of exactly what happened," The New York Times reported.

A spokesperson for Biden's campaign told The Hill that Twitter locked down the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee's account and removed the tweet "immediately following the breach". (Source: PTI)

Open Restaurants Program extended to October

NEW YORK (TIP): Mayor de Blasio, on July 17, extended the City's overwhelmingly popular Open Restaurants program until the end of October, giving nearly 9,000 participating restaurants two extra months to serve diners in safe, socially distant outdoor spaces. The Mayor also unveiled 26 more locations for the weekend expansion of outdoor dining options under an initiative that combines two popular programs, Open Streets and Open Restaurants.

The program expands restaurant seating options onto car-free streets for select corridors throughout the five boroughs. Restaurants on these corridors will go farther away from the curb than other Open Restaurants participants, and the rest of the streets will be open to pedestrian traffic and emergency vehicles. Selected corridors will be operational on Friday from 5-11 P.M., and Saturday and Sunday from

Mayor announces more locations for expanded dining on open streets

noon to 11 P.M. The 26 new locations bring the citywide total to 47 participating streets.

The City will continue to work with the restaurant industry to ensure there is clarity on the guidelines for roadway seating setups.

"Open Restaurants has given New Yorkers more than just a meal away from home - it has given our city a sign that better times are ahead," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "I'm proud to give small businesses another two months to get back on their feet, and I'm looking forward to enjoying a meal on our expanded Open Street program soon."

"Our Open Restaurants initiative has been a tremendous team effort and we are excited to give more restaurants -- in places like Forest Hills, Queens and

University Heights in the Bronx -- additional room to serve their customers and put people back to work," said DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg. "We thank Mayor de Blasio, the teams from DOT and our sister agencies, and all the BIDs and other neighborhood organizations which have been working with us to make outdoor dining part of an expanded Open Streets program."

The first round of Open Restaurant locations, announced July 2nd, focused on streets that are already participating in the Open Streets program, and on corridors represented by organizations that have worked with DOT on street closures in the past. This second tranche of locations includes additional applicants from partners and restaurant groups new to DOT.

United States, U.S. Attorney James P. Kennedy, Jr. announced. The charges carry a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison and a maximum of life.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Misha A. Coulson, who is handling the case, stated that according to the complaint, the defendant attempted to enter the United States at the Peace Bridge Port on Entry just before midnight on June 25, 2020. Nagra was driving a commercial truck with Ontario, Canada license plates.

According to an electronic manifest, the truck was carrying a shipment of 55 storage containers.

The commercial truck was referred to the Vehicle and Cargo Inspection System for a non-intrusive x-ray exam. The x-ray showed inconsistencies of the cargo within the entire trailer. As a result, the truck was referred to the Peace Bridge warehouse loading dock for physical examination. During the physical exam of the crates, Customs and Border

Protection Officers recovered multiple packages of vacuum sealed bags containing a green leafy substance, which field tested positive for the presence of marijuana. Approximately 8,320 vacuum sealed packages of suspected marijuana weighing approximately 9,472 pounds were removed from the original shipment containers. The marijuana is valued at approximately \$20,000,000. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Governor Cuomo Announces New Regulations for Bars and Restaurants in NYC

ALBANY, NY (TIP): New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo on July 16 announced new regulations for bars and restaurants in New York City to ensure they are complying with state social distancing and face covering orders. As part of the 'Three Strikes and You're Closed' initiative, any establishment that receives three violations will be closed for business. Egregious violations can result in immediate loss of liquor license or closure before a third strike. Additionally, any establishment facing disciplinary charges by the State Liquor Authority will have its name and location posted publicly and updated on a weekly basis. If the state is alerted to similar noncompliance in other regions of the state, these restrictions will be extended to those areas immediately.

The Governor also announced that all restaurants and bars statewide will be subject to new requirements that they must only serve alcohol to people who are ordering and eating food and that all service at bar tops must only be for seated patrons who are socially distanced by six feet or separated by physical barriers. Under current law, only establishments that serve food are permitted to serve alcoholic beverages. Citizens who see violations or are concerned can report complaints, including photos, to the State Liquor Authority at www.sla.ny.gov.

The Governor also announced that a decision will be made on New York City entering phase four by July 17th. If New York City is approved to enter phase four on Monday, the state will



New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo on July 16 announced new regulations for bars and restaurants in New York City

not allow any additional indoor activity, such as malls and cultural institutions.

The Governor also announced that travel form compliance went up to 92 percent after the state announced fines for failure to complete the form. Earlier this week, the Governor announced out-of-state travelers from the 22 designated states with the highest infection rates must provide local authorities with contact information upon entering New York to help enforce quarantining or they'll face a fine of up to \$2,000 if they don't supply that information.

The Governor also updated New Yorkers on the state's progress during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. He confirmed 769 Additional Coronavirus Cases in New York State - Bringing Statewide Total to 404,775.

New Jersey Issues Updated Quarantine Advisory for Travelers from 22 States

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): New Jersey Governor Murphy advised individuals traveling to New Jersey from additional states with significant community spread of COVID-19 to quarantine for a 14-day period from the time of last contact within the identified state. The updated advisory includes four additional states - Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio, and Wisconsin - with Delaware removed from the list. The travel advisory applies to any person arriving from a state with a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents or a state with a 10 percent or higher positivity rate over a 7-day rolling average.

As of Tuesday, July 14, there are currently 22 states total that meet the criteria: Alabama; Arkansas; Arizona; California; Florida; Georgia; Iowa; Idaho; Kansas; Louisiana; Minnesota; Mississippi; North Carolina; New Mexico; Nevada; Ohio; Oklahoma; South Carolina; Tennessee; Texas; Utah; and Wisconsin.

"We must remain vigilant and committed to our collective effort of beating COVID-19 and reducing the rate of transmission throughout New Jersey," said Governor Murphy. "In order to continue moving forward with New Jersey's restart and recovery process, I strongly urge individuals arriving from these 22 states to self-quarantine and proactively get a COVID-19 test to



New Jersey Governor Murphy advised individuals traveling to New Jersey from additional states with significant community spread of COVID-19 to quarantine for a 14-day period from the time of last contact within the identified state.

prevent hotspots from flaring up across our state."

Travelers and those residents who are returning from impacted states should self-quarantine at their home, hotel, or other temporary lodging. Individuals should leave the place of self-quarantine only to seek medical care/treatment or to obtain food and other essential items.

The state has reported 13,691 confirmed deaths and 1,974 probable coronavirus fatalities since the outbreak began March 4. As officials reported 32 more deaths and 254 more cases on Thursday, July 16, Garden States death toll rose to 15,665 known and probable fatalities with 176,501 total positive tests.

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By Mina Surjit Singh

Whether we fall by ambition, blood or lust, Like diamonds, we are cut with our own dust. - John Webster

Alchemy, by definition, is a seemingly magical process of transformation, creation or combination, a medieval precursor of chemistry concerned with the transmutation of matter and with trying to find a medicine that could cure any disease. In the context of modern day reality overwhelmed by violence, it could well be a search for the philosopher's stone that could alter the anatomy of violence.

Violence - the very word conjures up nightmarish visions of sadistic pleasures that challenge the very basis of human dignity and love. It is an endemic 'pandemic' that is slowly consuming the world more rapidly than any monstrosity hitherto known. One sees it all around now more than ever before and it is disturbing to know that life and the promise it holds out for us can be so fragile. When one wakes up every day to the reality of a host of injuries and losses on account of territorial disputes, manslaughter, murder, suicide, rape, domestic violence, lynching, acid attacks et al, the human spirit can be severely undermined. When the impact of a thappad (slap) reverberates through concentric circles to land squarely on a face uplifted in trust; when one hears the onomatopoeic Chhapaak of carelessly splashed acid or slush landing on an unsuspecting victim once too often, the alchemy of violence is born.

A random survey shows that the incidence of violence and trauma - acute, chronic or complex - in our country is as high as one per minute. The tragic deaths of Sushant Singh Rajput, Jayaraj and his son Bennix, George Floyd, the viciousness in the Galwan valley and other such horrifying incidents of unimaginable brutality, are all pretty much symptomatic of what ails contemporary civil society. While acute trauma results from a single incident and chronic trauma is the outcome of prolonged abuse, complex trauma arises

AS I SEE IT

How violence makes an alchemic impact

The notion of power behind the perpetuation of cruelty may be understood as a battle between the violator and his prey. It is a double-edged sword whereby the victim can either turn into a groveling, sniveling, emotional and physical wreck, or rise phoenix-like above his/her humiliation and transfigure into a determined combatant ready to take on the aggressor through dignified retaliatory action or role reversal.

from exposure to traumatic events, often of an invasive, interpersonal nature. Besides, there are a host of other



Acts of brutality: George Floyd's death and other such horrifying incidents are symptomatic of what ails contemporary civil society

afflictions and ailments that threaten to invade our bodies and mind without any warning and their possible prognosis can leave one gravely distressed. Thappad, Chhapaak and the other illustrations mentioned above thus metamorphose into multivalent symbols that float like leitmotif through most narratives of belligerence, with aggression figuring at the bottom of the pyramid of violence and brutality. So, it is important to not only keep oneself informed about the remedial options available and seek the assistance of healthcare professionals, psychotherapists, law enforcing agencies, NGOs etc., but also to generate public awareness and support against such hydra-headed insecurities. Positive action in the face of grave adversity can often alter the basic structures of emotion.

Violence works in several ways and at several levels - emotional, sexual, verbal and physical. In cases of interpersonal relationships and 'trauma bonding' - a strong emotional attachment between the abuser and the abused through intermittent cycles of reward and punishment - the perpetrator develops a stranglehold over his victim by eliciting

fear and gratitude for being allowed to survive. But if the abuser gets away with impunity day after day, brutality begins

to worm its way into his psyche so insidiously that he is ready to bare his teeth at the slightest hint of resistance or provocation from the stricken. Therefore, the whole notion of power behind the perpetuation of cruelty may be understood as a battle between the violator and his prey. It is a double-edged sword whereby the victim can either turn into a groveling, sniveling, emotional and physical wreck, or rise phoenix-like above his/her psychosomatic humiliation and transfigure into a determined combatant ready to take on the aggressor through dignified retaliatory action or role reversal. Violence, thus, has an alchemic power. While it can galvanize the victim into constructive action for oneself, by some extraordinary alchemy, it can also invest the sufferer with greater resolve to take up the cause of others similarly positioned. Conversely, the transgressor can either be contrite and seek redemption or sink further into the pits of depravity, even necrophilia sometimes and consequently be filled with self-loathing (Manto's Toba Tek Singh) to a point of self-annihilation. What needs to

be remembered then is that, when the thin line between passion and reason gets completely obliterated and the oppressor loses all sense of continence, the effect of the hand that inflicts the blow can very often boomerang on the striker himself and destroy him.

Violence, per se, is multi-causal. Whether villainy is in a habitual offender's DNA or triggered by unhealthy competition, whether it is self-inflicted or provoked by an external agency, whether it is related to socio-economic, socio-cultural or religio-political dynamics, or whether it is driven by fear, anxiety, revulsion, anger or revenge, it is self-destructive. If resentment keeps simmering for too long, it threatens to erupt like a volcano and destroy all that is beautiful, leaving behind a trail of cinder and ash. As such, before raising a hand to deliver a fatal blow, the striker must wait for the iron to cool down rather than blow the bellows harder. Humans are no punching bags to vent frustration and inadequacies on. Nor are they percussion instruments to be slapped and banged with rhythmic regularity by warped minds to produce gruesome strains!

Since our physical appearance is our first introduction to our social milieu, the desire to feel and look good is a natural human desire. Ergo, the maintenance of good mental and physical health, should remain our primary concern. The contribution of healthy physical and nutritional habits to our well-being and our ability to face the world with equanimity thus can never be overemphasized. Hence, to ensure that things don't fall apart and the center holds, seek if distressed and you shall stumble upon a solution; talk if in need of help and you'll get a sympathetic ear; send out a smoke signal and you'll be rescued.

(The author is Emeritus Professor of English, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India) / Tribune, India

GUEST COMMENT

Changes to U.S. visa rules might do more harm than good to US economy in the long term

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump seems bent on pursuing controversial immigration policy measures following the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, visa issuance to students enrolled in universities or programs that are conducted entirely online for the fall 2020 semester will be stopped; such students will not be permitted to enter the U.S. The federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency also advised that active students currently in the U.S. enrolled in programs that would be administered in online mode are required to leave the country or transfer

Visa politics: On Trump's immigration policy

to a university with in-person instruction to remain in lawful status. If not, ICE cautioned, they risk the initiation of removal proceedings or similar immigration consequences. Palpable ripples of anger across the U.S. education system took the form of lawsuits, led by Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to block the ICE directive. This is the latest twist in an ongoing immigration policy crackdown by the Trump administration, which includes a halt in the issuance of visas for skilled workers, or H-1B and their dependents, visas for intra-company transfers, or L-1 and their dependents, and several other visa categories as well as a halt in green card processing, all until the end of the

calendar year.

Taking a step back, the evolving Trump immigration paradigm leaves several big questions unanswered. First, while an argument, however harsh and myopic, could be made that the U.S. economy has suffered a battering in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and a key to recovery is to protect U.S. jobs from being cornered by foreign workers, what could the possible rationale be to imperil the lives of foreign students - all of them admitted to universities on merit, and none of them posing an immediate threat to jobs? Second, given that market forces of demand and supply have led to the U.S. economy being suffused with immigrant workers across sectors for many decades, how

could the Trump administration now posit that its local population has adequate skilled labor to do the jobs that millions of Indians, Chinese and other foreign workers have so efficiently been doing all this while? Unless Mr. Trump is planning to massively overhaul the U.S. higher and professional education systems to imbue Americans with technical know-how and a culture of advanced learning, it may be futile to wall off large swathes of the economy to those capable of delivering value in such jobs. If Mr. Trump is only doing this to shore up his election campaign through political signaling, then it is the economic prospects of the very people he claims to be fighting for that he will damage in the longer term. (The Hindu)

The standoff and China's India policy dilemma



By Antara Ghosal Singh

“Despite all the jingoism and rhetoric propagated through its official media, China is actually in a serious dilemma over its India policy. As we, in India, seek to reset ties with Beijing in the post-Galwan era, we should take note of the ongoing Chinese debate on India, factor in its many internal contradictions and perceived vulnerabilities vis-à-vis India, and leverage the same to our benefit.”

For China, which has long been preoccupied with its relentless pursuit to approach the center of the world and in managing a turbulent relationship with the United States, the June 15 incident of a violent face-off between Chinese and Indian troops at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), causing casualties on both sides, came as a big jolt. It brought the national focus back on an otherwise not-so-popular topic of China-India relations. The development took China's strategic community by storm, while the intense debate and discussions that followed, rather than generating a consensus, brought out China's many dilemmas vis-à-vis India.

On one side of the debate are China's top India watchers such as Lin Minwang and Zhang Jiadong, from Fudan University, and Li Hongmei from the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) among others, who believe that the present conflict is not an "accident" but an "inevitable result" of what they perceive as "India's long-standing speculative strategy on the China-India border". From Doklam to Kashmir to India's "unending infrastructure arms race" at the LAC, they say, Beijing was "fed up" and "had to teach India a lesson".

Their key argument is that China-India relations hold no great prospect in the current international situation. There is no possibility of a negotiated settlement of the border dispute any time soon. India is already a "quasi-ally" of the U.S. with no scope for reversal. With opportunities for cooperation at the global level diminishing, regional competition intensifying and the earlier system of effective management of

“As New Delhi seeks to reset ties with Beijing, it must take note of the ongoing Chinese debate on India”, says the author.

bilateral differences crumbling beyond control, periodic violent conflicts, they predict, are the "new normal" in China-India ties.

China, they argue, should reconsider its prevalent strategic thinking that India is not its main strategic challenge and, therefore, peace needs to be maintained in its direction as much as possible. Only by daring to fight, by showing strong determination, the will and the ability on the western frontier can China effectively deter its adversaries on the eastern coast. This is also, what they called, the right way to resolve China's primary contradiction, that is the China-U.S. problem, by first breaking "its arms and legs".

To deal with a resurgent India, Chinese hardliners suggest a policy of "three no's": "no weakness, no concession and no defensive defense". In other words, China should take all opportunities to crack down on India, take the initiative to hit it hard whenever possible. This, it is argued, will not damage China-India relations; on the contrary, it will make it more stable. Didn't the 1962 China-India war help China to maintain peace and stability on the western front for a long time and directly eliminate American and Soviet ambitions to use India to contain China? In this backdrop there is renewed interest among certain sections of the Chinese strategic community to: keep India under control by destabilizing the entire border region, creating tension across the board, from the McMahon Line in the east to the Aksai Chin area in the west; take the initiative to attack and seize territories under India's control from Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh, and weaken India internally, by supporting the cause of Maoists, Naga separatists and Kashmiris.

However, on the other side of the debate are Chinese political thinkers and professors such as Zheng Yongnian and Yu Longyu among others, who in their analysis of the Galwan Valley incident, have been somewhat critical about China's policies towards India, which they say remain mostly tactical, of a "reactive nature" and are characterized by a "tit-for-tat" approach without any clear strategic intent. This, according to them, stokes extreme nationalism in India and unites the otherwise divided nation against China, which not only harms China's interests but might eventually draw China into an untimely military conflict.

They criticize those vying to "teaching India a lesson" as being "short-sighted" and not "psychologically prepared for the rise of India". China, they argue, lacks understanding of the fact that India, as a rising power, is very important to China and will be increasingly crucial in the future, with China-India relations evolving as the most important pair of relations after China-U.S. links.

If China-India ties are damaged



beyond repair, they warn, India alone or in association with other countries will cause "endless trouble for China". For instance, an openly hostile India will use every possible means to prevent China from reaching the Indian Ocean. On the other hand, the decoupling of China-India relations will further strengthen the "anti-China alliance" between the U.S., Japan, Australia, Vietnam, Indonesia and other countries, who will actively take the initiative to reshape global industrial chains, use the Indo-Pacific Strategy to check and balance China's military and economic power, and expand international organizations such as the G-7 to weaken China's influence in international affairs.

On a similar note, various commentaries in the Chinese press highlight that downgrading China-India relations to the level of India-Pakistan relations or a 'Kashmirization' of the China-India border is easier said than done as this will require a complete reversal of China's present LAC policy of being "reasonable, profitable and economical".

Strategically too, they say, it is "unwise" for China to take the initiative to get into a comprehensive military conflict with India - "a big country with comparable military strength"- at this point in time. The general view among these military analysts is that if China has an advantage in terms of psychology, equipment, and logistics mobilization, India too has advantage on various fronts such as deployment, supply line, practical war experience, topography, and climate, among others. If India's disadvantage remains in the fact that its capital lies well within the bombing range of China, China's key disadvantage is its particularly long supply lines. Therefore, if the conflict ends in a short period of time, it will benefit China. But if it is prolonged, China will be disadvantaged.

If a war starts, they argue, India will make all efforts to prolong it as long as possible, and the U.S. is likely to help

India to attain this objective. Even if the two sides ended in a tie, in India it will be counted a victory and the national morale will rise sharply; on the contrary, in China, the morale will decline if it cannot beat India decisively. Therefore, in its effort to "teach India a lesson", they fear, China might lose more than it would gain.

The overall consensus within this group is that it is still not the time to 'resolve' the India problem. Instead, China, for now, should strive to make India retreat without a military conflict, maintain basic peace and stability at the borders, and, at the minimum, not deliberately push it towards the U.S. Meanwhile, China simultaneously carries out its strategy of weakening India internally by leveraging its social and political differences, completing its strategic encirclement, improving troop deployment in the Tibet region to secure the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and stationing Chinese troops in the Gwadar Port (Arabian Sea), so as to secure China's Indian Ocean sea routes, among other interests. In the words of another Chinese strategist, Yin Guoming, rather than winning a war, China should aim at attaining a comprehensive and overwhelming advantage in geopolitics vis-à-vis India, which cannot be altered by war.

To sum up, despite all the jingoism and rhetoric propagated through its official media, China is actually in a serious dilemma over its India policy. As we, in India, seek to reset ties with Beijing in the post-Galwan era, we should take note of the ongoing Chinese debate on India, factor in its many internal contradictions and perceived vulnerabilities vis-à-vis India, and leverage the same to our benefit.

(The author is a Researcher at the Delhi Policy Group (DPG). She is a graduate from Tsinghua University, China and has been a Chinese language fellow at the National Central University, Taiwan. She can be reached at antara@dpg.org.in)

UN lists Pak Taliban leader Mehsud as global terrorist

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terror group's leader Noor Wali Mehsud has been designated as a global terrorist by the UN for participating in the financing, planning and perpetrating acts on behalf of and in support of entities associated with al-Qaida. The UN Security Council's 1267 ISIL and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee added Mehsud (42) to the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List on Thursday, subjecting the Pakistani national to an assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo. — PTI

Nepal planning to resume flight services from August 5

KATHMANDU (TIP) : The Nepal government is planning to resume domestic and international flight operations from next month with the country making steady progress in its fight against the coronavirus outbreak.

The Tourism Ministry is working on a tentative plan to start domestic flights from August 5 and international flights from August 17, an official close to Minister Yogesh Bhattarai told PTI. The first round of flights will be to and from capital Kathmandu, he said.

The number of active coronavirus cases in Nepal dropped to about 6,000 this week, while the recovery rate remains impressive at 66.12 per cent. In total, the Himalayan nation has reported 17,445 COVID-19 cases.

The COVID-19 death toll rose to 40 on Friday after a 73-year-old man's death due to coronavirus complications was confirmed. The deceased was a diabetic and suffered from a heart condition.

The Tourism Ministry will recommend the COVID-19 Crisis Management Centre—headed by Deputy Prime Minister Ishwor Pokharel—to resume flight operations from next month, the official said.

A cabinet decision is required to resume the flight services. The Nepal government had suspended air travel in the third week of March to contain the spread of the virus.

However, charter flights were operated to deliver medical equipment and for repatriation.

In the last week, Nepal witnessed more cases of recovery than the number of new infections.

The resumption of air services is expected to give a much-needed boost to the tourism industry which has struggled due to the pandemic. Thousands of Nepalese in the tourism sector have lost jobs and many enterprises have shut shop.

According to the World Travel and Tourism Council's 2018 report, Nepal's tourism sector directly and indirectly employs about 10.5 lakh people, generating revenue of over 24,000 crore Nepali Rupees. PTI

Pakistan's coronavirus cases reach 2,57,914, death toll climbs to 5,426

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan's coronavirus cases on Thursday reached 2,57,914 after 2,145 more people tested positive for the COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, the health ministry reported.

According to the Ministry of National Health Services, 178,737 people recovered so far across the country.

On Wednesday, 40 more COVID-19-related deaths were reported during the last 24 hours, taking the total number of fatalities to 5,426.

The total number of active coronavirus cases in Pakistan was 73,751, according to the ministry.

Out of the total infections, Sindh have 108,913 cases, Punjab 88,539, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa 31,217, Islamabad 14,402, Balochistan 11,322, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) 1,771 and Gilgit-Baltistan 1,750 patients.

Another 24,262 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours. Maximum 11,060 tests were done in Sindh followed by Punjab with 7,493, Islamabad 2,710, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa 1,875,



Balochistan 499, PoK 494 and Gilgit-Baltistan 131 tests.

The total number of tests conducted so far is 1,652,183.

There is no patient on ventilators in PoK and Balochistan. Only 330 vents were occupied across Pakistan out of 1,825 allocated for COVID-19. PTI

Over 700,000 marooned as flash floods wreak havoc in Bangladesh



DHAKA (TIP): Flash floods triggered by incessant rainfall have left over 700,000 people marooned in Bangladesh, while inundating hundreds of villages and pushing the water levels of 14 rivers above the danger level, according to the media reports.

The overall flood situation in Bangladesh has worsened in many districts in the country's north and north-eastern regions, causing immense suffering to people. A total of 14 rivers were flowing above the danger level on Monday, according to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre. In Jamalpur, Kurigram and Gaibandha, more than 500,000 people were left marooned until Tuesday morning as fresh areas were flooded, leaving people and domestic animals in a crisis situation, the Dhaka Tribune reported. In Jamalpur, the Brahmaputra, called Jamuna in Bangladesh, was flowing 99 centimetres above the danger mark at Bahadurabad point, it said. The floods triggered by incessant rains left around

300,000 people marooned in 30 unions and four municipalities.

Floodwater began to recede after the first phase of the flood when it had marooned around 400,000 people in 49 unions and eight municipalities in Jamalpur. However, the flood situation again intensified in the past few days, the report said. In Kurigram, around 200,000 people were marooned and the low lying areas in the basin of four main rivers in the district were flooded, it said. Arif-ul-Islam, the executive engineer of Kurigram Water Development Board (WDB), told the Dhaka Tribune that the Brahmaputra river would continue to rise until the next 48 hours but Teesta and Dharla would begin to recede.

"The district administration has allocated 100 tonnes of rice and 1,800 packets of dry food and those are being distributed among the flood-affected people," said Mokhlesur Rahman, district's relief and rehabilitation officer Gaibandha. PTI

Pak court gives last chance to Nawaz Sharif to appear in corruption case

LAHORE (TIP): A Pakistani anti-corruption court has given a final chance to former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, currently in London for medical treatment, to appear before it on August 17 in a graft case, failing which he may be declared a proclaimed offender.

The 70-year-old embattled three-time premier is currently in London for treatment after he was diagnosed with an immune system disorder.

He left for the UK in November after the Lahore High Court granted him a four-week permission to go abroad for treatment.

The notice issued by the Accountability Court of Islamabad in the Toshakhana (treasure house) corruption case was displayed at Jati Umra and Model Town residences of Sharif on Monday.

"Nawaz Sharif committed offence of punishable under Section 9 read with Section 10 of the National Accountability Ordinance 1999 and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused has absconded," stated the notice.

"Proclamation under section 87 CrPC is hereby made that the said accused Nawaz Sharif is required to appear before this court to answer the said reference on Aug 17," the notice added.

The Accountability Court last month issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against Sharif in the Toshakhana case. Sharif is accused of obtaining luxury cars from the treasury house by paying just 15 per cent of the price of these vehicles.

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IRS NEWS

IRS: Seniors, retirees not required to take distributions from retirement accounts this year under new law



WASHINGTON (TIP): The Internal Revenue Service today reminds seniors and retirees that they are not required to take money out of their IRAs and workplace retirement plans this year.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and

Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, waives required minimum distributions during 2020 for IRAs and retirement plans, including beneficiaries with inherited accounts. This waiver includes RMDs for individuals who turned age 70 ½ in 2019 and took their first RMD in 2020. Roth IRAs do not require withdrawals until after the death of the owner.

What if I already took my RMD?

If an individual has already taken an RMD in 2020, including someone who turned 70 ½ during 2019, the individual will have the option of returning the distribution to their account or other

qualified plan.

Since the RMD rule is suspended, RMDs taken in 2020 are considered eligible for rollover. Therefore, RMDs can be rolled over to another IRA, another qualified retirement plan, or returned to the original plan.

An IRA owner or beneficiary who has already received an RMD in 2020 can also repay the distribution to the distributing IRA no later than Aug. 31, 2020, to avoid paying taxes on that distribution.

IRS Notice 2020-51 also provides that the one rollover per 12-month period limitation and the restriction on rollovers to inherited IRAs do not apply to this

repayment.

The CARES Act provisions apply to most retirement plans, including traditional IRAs, SEP IRAs, SIMPLE IRAs, 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans, 457(b) plans, profit sharing plans and other defined contribution plans. The RMD suspension does not apply to qualified defined benefit plans.

Where can I find more information?

More information on the CARES Act and retirement plans, including FAQs, can be found on at Coronavirus-related relief for retirement plans and IRAs questions and answers.

BEWARE TAX SCAMS

IRS unveils 'Dirty Dozen' list of tax scams for 2020; Americans urged to be vigilant to these threats during the pandemic and its aftermath

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Internal Revenue Service has announced its annual "Dirty Dozen" list of tax scams with a special emphasis on aggressive and evolving schemes related to coronavirus tax relief, including Economic Impact Payments.

This year, the Dirty Dozen focuses on scams that target taxpayers. The criminals behind these bogus schemes view everyone as potentially easy prey. The IRS urges everyone to be on guard all the time and look out for others in their lives.

"Tax scams tend to rise during tax season or during times of crisis, and scam artists are using pandemic to try stealing money and information from honest taxpayers," said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. "The IRS provides the Dirty Dozen list to help raise awareness about common scams that fraudsters use to target people. We urge people to watch out for these scams. The IRS is doing its part to protect Americans. We will relentlessly pursue criminals trying to steal your money or sensitive personal financial information."

Taxpayers are encouraged to review the list in a special section on IRS.gov and be on the lookout for these scams throughout the year. Taxpayers should also remember that they are legally responsible for what is on their tax return even if it is prepared by someone else. Consumers can help protect themselves by choosing a reputable tax preparer.

The IRS urges taxpayers to refrain from engaging potential scammers online or on the phone. The IRS plans to unveil a similar list of enforcement and compliance priorities this year as well.

An upcoming series of press releases will emphasize the illegal schemes and techniques businesses and individuals use to avoid paying their lawful tax liability. Topics will include such scams as abusive micro captives and fraudulent conservation easements.

Here are this year's 'Dirty Dozen' scams:

PHISHING: Taxpayers should be alert to potential fake emails or websites looking to steal personal information. The IRS will never initiate contact with taxpayers via email about a tax bill, refund or Economic Impact Payments. Don't click on links claiming to be from the IRS. Be wary of emails and websites? they may be nothing more than scams to steal personal information.

IRS Criminal Investigation has seen a tremendous increase in phishing schemes utilizing emails, letters, texts and links. These phishing schemes are using keywords such as "coronavirus," "COVID-19" and "Stimulus" in various ways.

These schemes are blasted to large numbers of people in an effort to get personal identifying information or financial account information, including account numbers and passwords. Most of these new schemes are actively playing on the fear and unknown of the virus and the stimulus payments. (For more see IR-2020-115.)

FAKE CHARITIES: Criminals frequently exploit natural disasters and other situations such as the current COVID-19 pandemic by setting up fake charities to steal from well-intentioned people trying to help in times of need. Fake charity scams generally rise during times like these.

Fraudulent schemes normally start with unsolicited contact by telephone, text, social media, e-mail or in-person using a variety of tactics. Bogus websites use names similar to legitimate charities to trick people to send money or provide personal financial information. They may even claim to be working for or on behalf of the IRS to help victims file casualty loss claims and get tax refunds.

Taxpayers should be particularly wary of charities with names like nationally

known organizations. Legitimate charities will provide their Employer Identification Number (EIN), if requested, which can be used to verify their legitimacy. Taxpayers can find legitimate and qualified charities with the search tool on IRS.gov.

THREATENING IMPERSONATOR PHONE CALLS: IRS impersonation scams come in many forms. A common one remains bogus threatening phone calls from a criminal claiming to be with the IRS. The scammer attempts to instill fear and urgency in the potential victim. In fact, the IRS will never threaten a taxpayer or surprise him or her with a demand for immediate payment.

Phone scams or "vishing" (voice phishing) pose a major threat. Scam phone calls, including those threatening arrest, deportation or license revocation if the victim doesn't pay a bogus tax bill, are reported year-round. These calls often take the form of a "robocall" (a text-to-speech recorded message with instructions for returning the call).

The IRS will never demand immediate payment, threaten, ask for financial information over the phone, or call about an unexpected refund or Economic Impact Payment. Taxpayers should contact the real IRS if they worry about having a tax problem.

SOCIAL MEDIA SCAMS: Taxpayers need to protect themselves against social media scams, which frequently use events like COVID-19 to try tricking people. Social media enables anyone to share information with anyone else on the Internet. Scammers use that information as ammunition for a wide variety of scams. These include emails where scammers impersonate someone's family, friends or co-workers.

Social media scams have also led to tax-related identity theft. The basic element of social media scams is convincing a potential victim that he or she is dealing with a person close to them that they trust

via email, text or social media messaging.

Using personal information, a scammer may email a potential victim and include a link to something of interest to the recipient which contains malware intended to commit more crimes. Scammers also infiltrate their victim's emails and cell phones to go after their friends and family with fake emails that appear to be real and text messages soliciting, for example, small donations to fake charities that are appealing to the victims.

EIP OR REFUND THEFT: The IRS has made great strides against refund fraud and theft in recent years, but they remain an ongoing threat. Criminals this year also turned their attention to stealing Economic Impact Payments as provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Much of this stems from identity theft whereby criminals file false tax returns or supply other bogus information to the IRS to divert refunds to wrong addresses or bank accounts.

The IRS recently warned nursing homes and other care facilities that Economic Impact Payments generally belong to the recipients, not the organizations providing the care. This came following concerns that people and businesses may be taking advantage of vulnerable populations who received the payments. These payments do not count as a resource for determining eligibility for Medicaid and other federal programs. They also do not count as income in determining eligibility for these programs. See IR-2020-121 for more.

Taxpayers can consult the Coronavirus Tax Relief page of IRS.gov for assistance in getting their EIPs. Anyone who believes they may be a victim of identity theft should consult the Taxpayer Guide to Identity Theft on IRS.gov.

contd on Page 32

Sikh community in US to work for development of Punjab

About 70 eminent Sikh leaders from across the country participated in the virtual meeting with India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu on July 13



Grab of the virtual conference of Sikh communities with India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu

Picture / courtesy twitter@SandhuTaranjitS

WASHINGTON (PTI): The Sikh community in the US vowed to work for the development of Punjab, particularly in areas of education and environment, as they hailed the outreach efforts of the Indian Embassy here in resolving their issues.

The Sikhs in America are willing to invest in the development of Punjab, eminent Sikh American businessman Gary Grewal told PTI after the first-ever virtual meeting of the community with India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu last week.

About 100 eminent Sikh leaders from across the country participated in the virtual meeting with Sandhu, who organized the event as part of his outreach with the community.

"He encouraged us to do other good things. God has blessed us here, we should share with others...offering scholarships to students. Everybody (from the Sikh community) was very happy to be at the meeting. There was a

lot of sharing of ideas and thoughts," Grewal said, adding that many members of the community also discussed the reopening of the Kartarpur Corridor with Pakistan.

"I appreciated that Ambassador Sandhu has invited the Sikh community members for this dialogue and it will be important there is concrete follow up to these suggestions which can engage many to contribute positively for the betterment of the younger generation in Punjab," said Dr Rajwant Singh, president of EcoSikh, and co-founder, National Sikh Campaign.

He said it was important that the vast Punjabi and Sikh diaspora is engaged in rebuilding Punjab and create a brighter future for the state.

"We should be looking toward to future and India-US relations have great potential. Ambassador Taranjit Sandhu is the right person to move these forward," said Surjeet Sidhu, an eminent Sikh American.

"I am committed to using technology for uplifting human lives. I'll be thrilled to bring technology and technical jobs to Punjab in a real practical way," tweeted Kuldip S Pabla after the event.

Sonia Dhami, a trustee of the Sikh Foundation and Fine Arts Commissioner for the city of Cupertino, said one of the ways they can work together was in the field of publications on Sikh arts, literature, religion and heritage.

According to Dr Singh, Sandhu invited the members on the call to support students in the rural areas and sponsor scholarships for education.

The Sikh Human Development Foundation, a charity organization based in Washington, the NRI Sikhs have given scholarships for higher education to 7,300 students from low-income families in Punjab and other neighboring Northern Indian States in the last 20 years, Singh said.

The results had been thrilling as most

of these students have graduated and have found jobs, he said, adding that he suggested the initiative needed to be expanded with the support of the worldwide Punjabi and Sikh community.

EcoSikh had offered to plant more forests in other parts of India to mitigate the effects of climate change and was ready to partner with the Central and state governments on this challenge facing Punjab and India, he said.

Ecosikh has worked closely with Punjab governmental agencies on environmental issues and the state government has adopted its idea of planting 550 trees in each village in Punjab.

Nikki Guninder Kaur, a professor and author from Colby College, pointed out that there was ignorance about Guru Nanak in the country, asserting that it should be the top priority of the Sikh community to work to spread the message of Guru Nanak. (Source: PTI)

CORONAVIRUS CASES

India surges past 1 million cases with record one-day spike

NEW DELHI (TIP): India on Thursday became the third country in the world — after the United States and Brazil — to hit a million Covid-19 infections, with 36,247 new cases taking the country's tally to 1,004,652, and 690 new fatalities putting the disease death toll in the four-and-a-half months of the outbreak at 25,594.

Experts estimate the next million to take less than a month — the doubling rate stands at 20.6 days — and say the focus now needs to shift to rural parts of the country that traditionally have been beyond the reach of adequate health care mechanisms, and where new hot spots are now feared to pop up.

On Thursday, India had 343,268 active cases and the case fatality rate (CFR) — the proportion of people who succumbed to the illness from among known infections — was 2.5%. The US, which has 3,648,250 cases and 140,518 deaths, has a fatality rate of 3.9%; and Brazil, with 1,978,236 cases and 75,697 infections, is at 3.8%.

India's journey to a million cases took 137 days, and half of these were in a hard nationwide lockdown announced in the early days of the outbreak — a strategy that officials and experts said bought the country precious time to set up isolation centres, add hospital beds and beef up testing infrastructure. With crippling economic costs piling up, the country began unlocking in June, when the outbreak was on a sharp upward trajectory.

In the last week, however, India



has added an average of 30,076 cases a day, up from 23,895 a day in the seven-day period before that. At least two states, Bihar and Assam, announced they will be reimposing lockdowns while Uttar Pradesh — the state with the highest population — said it will follow a weekend shutdown.

At this rate, Covid-19 infections are on track this year to surpass the roughly 2.4 million tuberculosis infections recorded in India in the 12 months of 2019, and lead to a comparable number of deaths. TB, widely regarded as the deadliest infectious disease in India, led to the deaths of around 79,000 people, according to the Union government's India TB Report 2020, although the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates this number to be over 400,000.

"With nearly 400,000 active Covid-19 cases, we will never be able to have a long enough lockdown to get the cases to 100s," said Bhramar Mukherjee, the head of biostatistics at University of Michigan, among a team of academics from three American universities that predicted India would hit 1 million cases by July 15 after the lockdown began to lift.

Mukherjee stressed on the need to step up testing and closely analyse real-time data in order to head off the outbreak. "It is important to identify states and metros at nascent stages of growth and impose strong measures, including punctuated modulated lockdown. This cannot be done when infections are already leading to large case-counts. What you are seeing today happened two weeks ago," she added.



DELHI RIOTS: FACT-FINDING PANEL SAYS BJP LEADERS 'INCITED' VIOLENCE

NEW DELHI (TIP): A fact-finding report on the north-east Delhi riots released on Thursday by the Delhi Minorities Commission (DMC) pointed fingers at BJP leaders for allegedly "inciting" people through speeches during the Assembly elections. Rubbing the report, Delhi BJP spokesperson Harish Khurana accused the minorities panel of levelling baseless allegations against the saffron party.

The 130-page report, already submitted to Lt Governor Anil Bajjal and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, in its findings also alleged "inaction" on the part of Delhi Police. Delhi Police Additional PRO Anil Mittal said, "We have not received any report from the Delhi Minorities Commission so far."

The police said they have a robust public grievance redressal system. They had also launched helpline numbers in this regard for those who want to lodge their complaints or to address their issues of concern. Delhi BJP spokesperson Harish Khurana denounced the report.

"This is a political report. Does it mention councillor Tahir Hussain who is in jail in connection with the riots?" he asked.

Stressing that the police has said that BJP leaders had no role in the riots, Khurana accused the minorities commission of levelling baseless allegations against the saffron party. "They should respect the law and let it take its own course," Khurana said.

The report was released at the DMC office by chairman of the Commission, Zafarul Islam Khan, and MR Shamshad who headed the 10-member fact-finding committee. The key findings of the report noted: "repeated incitement" to violence.

No postal ballot for electorate above 65 years in Bihar polls: EC

NEW DELHI (TIP): Amid political row over the government's decision to include more number of voters to have postal ballot facility, the Election Commission of India on Thursday decided not to issue notification extending the facility to electors above 65 years of age in the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections and byelections due in near future.

It claimed the decision was taken in view of the logistic constraints, paucity of manpower and safety protocols of Covid-19.

In an order issued by the poll panel, it said specially-abled voters, who are above 80 years, and those involved in essential services and the COVID-19 positive patients in home/institutional quarantine, can only vote by postal ballot.

The poll panel in its order said, considering the challenges due to "logistic constraints and paucity of manpower", and also in view of the decision to limit the number of electors at each polling station to 1,000, "The Commission has decided not to issue the notification to extend the facility of postal ballot to the electors above 65 years of age in the coming General Elections in Bihar and byelections due in the near future."

It, however, said the facility of optional postal ballot to electors who are above 80 years of age, PWD Voters, the electors engaged in essential services and voters who are COVID-19 positive/suspect in quarantine (home/institutional) can opt for postal ballot in Bihar assembly elections and other bypolls.

DIDN'T GIVE UNHINDERED ACCESS TO JADHAV: INDIA SLAMS PAKISTAN

NEW DELHI (TIP): After a second consular access given to Kulbhushan Jadhav by Pakistan on Thursday, 16 July, India, hit back saying the Indian officers were not given unimpeded, unhindered and unconditional access to the former Indian Navy officer currently in Pakistan's custody.

In the second consular access to Jadhav, two consular officers of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad met Jadhav at 3 pm, Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

Pakistani officials with an "intimidating demeanour" were present in close proximity of Jadhav and consular officers despite the protests of the Indian side, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

"The Consular Officers could not engage Kulbhushan Jadhav on his legal rights and were prevented from obtaining his written consent for arranging his legal representation," the MEA alleged.

The MEA was informed by the officers that the access being offered



by Pakistan was neither meaningful nor credible and that they left the venue after lodging a protest.

The development comes just days before the 20 July deadline for Jadhav to file the review petition for reconsideration of his death sentence and conviction.

"Pakistan provided second consular access to Kulbhushan Jadhav at the Indian request today. Two consular officers of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad were provided unimpeded and uninterrupted consular access to Jadhav at 1500 hrs," a statement issued by the Pakistan Foreign

Ministry earlier said.

Pakistan's Additional Attorney General Ahmed Irfan on 8 July had announced that Jadhav has refused to file a petition for review.

India had slammed Pakistan's claims and called them "a farce that has been in play for the last four years". India alleged that Jadhav has been coerced into not filing a review petition against his conviction.

Jadhav, a retired naval officer, was arrested by Pakistan on 3 March 2016 and accused of being an Indian spy and a terrorist. He was tried by a military court, convicted and sentenced to death in early 2017. India took Pakistan to the ICJ over the case.

"We have been pursuing through diplomatic channels full and effective implementation of the ICJ judgment in the case of Kulbhushan Jadhav. The media statement made by Pakistan today in the case seeks to mask its continuing reticence to implement ICJ judgment in letter and spirit," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had said on 8 July.

Gehlot vs Pilot: Rebel MLAs face disqualification from Rajasthan Assembly

JAIPUR (TIP): Rajasthan Speaker has issued notices to Sachin Pilot and 18 other rebel Congress MLAs after the party sought their disqualification from the state assembly.

Sacked deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot and the other MLAs were asked to respond to the notices by Friday. The notices were issued on Tuesday.

The MLAs had defied a whip and did not attend its legislature party meetings held on Monday and Tuesday.

"Notices have been issued to 19 rebel MLAs, including Sachin Pilot, yesterday," Speaker C P Joshi told PTI to Wednesday.

Sources said the notices were sent after the chief whip of the Congress in Rajasthan Assembly, Mahesh Joshi, wrote to the Speaker, seeking proceedings against the rebel MLAs in accordance with the 10th Schedule of the Constitution.

The Congress also cited past Supreme Court rulings to seek their disqualification.

Among those sent notices are Vishvendra Singh and Ramesh Meena, who were sacked along with Pilot from the state cabinet after their rebellion against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

Others include Deepender Singh Shekhawat, Bhanwar Lal Sharma and Harish Chandra Meena, who had given statements to the media challenging the Gehlot government.

The chief whip alleged in his complaint that the MLAs deliberately conspired against the Congress, acting openly against its

PILOT CAMP MOVES HC

JAIPUR (TIP): Former Rajasthan deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot and his team of 18 lawmakers on Thursday approached the Rajasthan high court's Jaipur bench to seek cancellation of the disqualification notice served on them by assembly speaker CP Joshi, insisting that the anti-defection law could not be invoked against them for disagreeing outside the House with some government decisions and policies.

Pilot's decision to move the Rajasthan high court is seen by Congress leaders as a signal that he intends to pursue his battle with CM Ashok Gehlot, and underlines his growing distance with the party that removed him on Tuesday as the head of its state unit and as deputy CM of Rajasthan after differences came to a head last weekend.

The hearing was deferred after Pilot's camp - represented by senior advocates Harish Salve and Mukul Rohatgi - filed an amended petition in the evening, incorporating additional grounds of challenge to its earlier plea filed before a single-judge bench.



interests.

They indulged in activities "blatantly prejudicial" to the continuation of the state government, the letter to the Speaker said.

Mahesh Joshi also wrote that the MLAs "deliberately absented" themselves from the meeting of the Congress Legislature Party held on Monday and, despite reminders, failed to attend the second meeting

the next day.

The rebel MLAs allegedly made statements to the media in an "openly hostile and prejudicial" manner against the interests of Congress and its government in Rajasthan.

Sachin Pilot was on Tuesday sacked as deputy chief minister and the state Congress president after he did not show up at the Congress Legislature Party meetings.



INDIA ASSERTS IT WON'T ALLOW CHANGE IN LAC

NEW DELHI (TIP): India and China will give each other about a fortnight for further disengagement before carrying forward the ongoing formal military talks, even as New Delhi asserted that there is no change in India's position on the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Sources in the defence and security establishment said both sides would keep a watch on each other to see how much disengagement is being done as decided during the Corps Commander level talks Tuesday. This would entail daily hotline talks at the Chushul-Moldo meeting point in Ladakh.

Sources also said both sides would work out a joint verification process since disengagement at PP (patrol point) 14, 15 and 17A is to happen beyond visual range.

Sources further said the next Corps Commander level talks will be held only after the meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs, scheduled next week.

Earlier in the day, the Army and External Affairs Ministry (MEA) described the process of disengagement as "intricate and complex", which requires "constant" verification.

The MEA said the disengagement process currently underway in the Western sector is specifically aimed at addressing face-off situations and close-up deployments of troops along the LAC.

International flights to France, US resume within 'air bubbles'

NEW DELHI (TIP): Air France and United Airlines of the US will operate a limited number of international flights under so-called "air bubble" arrangements with India, and negotiations are underway with Germany and the UK to reach similar agreements, civil aviation minister Hardeep Puri said on Thursday.

Later, a statement by the government said the arrangement with Germany has been "established" and Lufthansa will be operating the flights.

A bilateral air bubble refers to a travel corridor between two countries that wish to reopen their borders and re-establish connections with each other. International flights to and from India have been suspended since March 23 due to the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic.

Puri said bilateral air bubbles were the only way forward for international travel to resume during the pandemic



Cong seeks FIR against Shekhawat, suspends two party MLAs over horse-trading charges

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a murky turn of events in the Rajasthan Congress crisis on Friday, the party cited some audio tapes to accuse two of its own lawmakers and union minister Gajendra Shekhawat of horse-trading to topple the Ashok Gehlot government and demanded an FIR against the Union Water Resources Minister.

The Congress also suspended two MLAs, Bhawarlal Sharma and Vishvendra Singh, from the primary membership of the party subject to investigation into the tapes by the special operations group constituted in the state for the purpose.

Congress media in-charge Randeep Surjewala released alleged conversations between Shekhawat and Congress MLAs and demanded that Shekhawat be booked, and if necessary, even arrested for the attempts to "conspire to destabilise the stage government".

The BJP was quick to dismiss the matter with state unit chief Satish Poonia saying, "What can anyone say when the Chief Minister's Office becomes the centre of circulation of



fake news. These are malicious attempts at character assassination, and the Congress can't put its own house in order."

Surjewala said the Congress had demanded a probe into the tapes saying party's chief whip in the state Mahesh Joshi had written to the police to take cognisance of the matter.

The fast-paced developments come hours before the Rajasthan High Court is to hear petitions of rebel Congress MLAs led by Sachin Pilot challenging the disqualification notices issued to them by speaker CP Joshi under the anti-defection law.

India's maternal mortality ratio dips to 113

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has dropped by 7.4 per cent in 2016-18, but it is still almost double the Sustainable Development Goal target set by the WHO.

India's MMR in 2016-18 has been 113, which was 122 in 2015-17, according to the Sample Registration System's (SRS) estimate released by the Registrar General of India Thursday.

Maternal mortality ratio is the number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births. Since it is considered rare, deaths of three years are pooled together to get an estimate.

Also, since maternal deaths are mostly preventable, a high number of maternal deaths indicate inequities in accessing quality healthcare.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN COVID TIMES

By Mabel Pais

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center's (NJPAC's) Community Engagement team has started a new series of social justice initiatives this summer. This begins with two series of events -- both of them virtual - that will address these issues.

The first series is of online panel discussions around issues of race, equity and social justice.

"Democracy, Voting, Census: A Conversation about Power" was the first of these. It was a Zoom video conference event on July 6 at 7 p.m. that NJPAC hosted with colleagues at the New Jersey Institute of Social Justice and the Newark Branch of the NAACP. It was moderated by Andrea McChristian, Law & Policy Director for the Institute.



March for Democracy, Voting, Power

Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

The goal for this event was to ensure that everyone understands the importance of taking part in civic life, and how to harness the power that we have as citizens, right before New Jersey's next election, like completing the Census (and encouraging others to do so as well!), hosting a candidate's forum, and advocating for criminal justice reform with our elected officials.

A cohort of activist thought leaders came together as panelists for this inaugural event. They included



A'Dorian Murray-Thomas
Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

A'Dorian Murray-Thomas, the founder and CEO of SHE Wins, a social action organization for middle and high school girls in Newark, who is also, at 23, the youngest person ever elected to the Newark Board of Education;



Shennell McCloud Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

"Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it."

Arundhati Roy

Shennell McCloud, the Executive Director of Project Ready, an education advocacy group;



Henal Patel Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

Henal Patel, Director of the Democracy & Justice Program at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice; and

"Conversations about justice, equality and access have always been an integral part of NJPAC's role as an anchor cultural institution. As America's most diverse performing arts center in terms of programming, staff and audiences, these values are embedded in our heart and soul."

- John Schreiber, President-CEO, NJPAC



Denise Quijada Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

Denise Quijada, Census and Partnership Manager for Sadie Nash Leadership Project, which promotes leadership and activism in young women.



Andrea McChristian Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

Andrea McChristian, Law & Policy Director for the Institute, moderator

The Arts Center has formed a Social Justice Programming Task Force, to workshop ways we can examine the state of civil rights in our state and our nation, and how we can move progress forward.

The second series, which represents an evolution of NJPAC's long-running PSEG True Diversity Film Series into the PSEG True Diversity Film Club. This series always focused on issues-based films; now it will highlight works that address race and social justice. To keep things safe during the pandemic, the Film Club is moving toward a book-club inspired model: Every month a film will be picked, and the public is invited to screen that film a week in advance of the event.

This is how it is done: For example, the documentary "13th", the first selection, can now be screened for free on Netflix, even if you're not a subscriber, or on YouTube.

Then, once all have watched the film, participants and observers get together on a Zoom video conference to discuss it, with a moderator who can bring context and insight to what we've seen. Our first entry, Ava DuVernay's searing documentary "13th", about the relationship between the abolition of slavery (established by the 13th amendment to the Constitution) and the mass incarceration of African American men, will give us many avenues to discuss inequality in our criminal justice system. Rick Thigpen, PSEG's Senior Vice President, Corporate

"Dialogue can open a door. But to walk through that door, you have to actually 'do' something."
- Donna Walker Kuhne, Senior Advisor

- NJPAC's Community Engagement

Citizenship, and the chairman of the PSEG Foundation, will host the first discussion on July 20 at 7PM. To join this live conversation via Zoom, you must register at www.njpac.org

There will be another panel conversation, and another film club meeting, every month.

About NJPAC's Community Engagement

NJPAC's Community Engagement is committed to being a resource for all who seek to educate themselves about the need for social justice, and to make their own voices heard. The organization will do its part to register voters, encourage Census participation, and make the contact information of our representatives in Trenton and in Washington D.C. easily available to anyone who wishes to speak to those in power about what their community needs. Links to all these resources are at www.njpac.org.

About NJPAC

From interns to ushers, artists to donors, NJPAC is the most diverse performing arts center in the nation with the best people on the planet. They come from many backgrounds. They've taken many journeys to get here. And they're all proud to be part of the NJPAC community. Those who work at NJPAC today embrace that same desire for systemic societal change. At NJPAC, they're ready to fight for it.

NJPAC located in downtown Newark, N.J., prior to COVID-19, has been America's most diverse performing arts center, and the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey - where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. NJPAC brings diverse communities together, providing access to all and showcasing the state's and the world's best artists while acting as a leading catalyst in the revitalization of its home city. Through its extensive Arts Education programs, NJPAC is shaping the next generation of artists and arts enthusiasts. NJPAC has attracted nearly 10 million visitors (including over 1.7 million children) since opening its doors in 1997, and nurtures meaningful and lasting relationships with each of its constituents.

Get Social! Follow NJPAC Online:

Website: <http://www.njpac.org/>

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Hashtag: #NJPAC

Facebook: [facebook.com/NJPAC](https://www.facebook.com/NJPAC)

YouTube: NJPACtv

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

NYIFF 2020 Goes Virtual

By Mabel Pais

Special Tribute to Irrfan Khan, Spotlight on Manoj Bajpayee's Career, and One Year of "Article 15"

Plus Focus on Malayalam Cinema with opening and closing films, both directed by women filmmakers

The New York Indian Festival (NYIFF), the country's largest and longest-running Indian festival, celebrates its 20th year with its first Virtual Edition (July 24 to Aug 2, 2020) of Independent, art house, alternate, and diaspora films from India.

In the past the NYIFF program could only be experienced in New York's Manhattan. This year, 'NYIFF 2020: Virtual Edition' offers many films not only to audiences across North America but also globally.

The festival features 12 narrative films, 4 documentaries and 30 shorts (both narratives and documentaries) on a range of subjects and languages. The films are in Assamese, Bengali, Haryanvi, Hindi, English, Ladakhi, Maithili, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali and Tamil. The festival, in its Virtual Edition, runs on nyiff.moviesaints.com.

Each screening of the feature length narrative or documentary film will be followed by a conversation with the filmmaker and the cast members. Some of the Q&As will be moderated by film personalities who are NYIFF alumni. The audience will have an opportunity to interact with the cast through the Q&A.

Over the years, the festival has held New York premieres of a wide range of films, many of them critically acclaimed, including "Monsoon Wedding", "The Namesake", "Slumdog Millionaire", "Shahid", "Fandry", "Dum Laga Ke Haisha" and "Gangs of Wasseypur".

Special Features

The Indian film industry lost an outstanding actor and a wonderful human being, Irrfan Khan, this year. NYIFF will pay a tribute to him by reminiscing about his work in "The Namesake". Joining in will be director Mira Nair and actor Kal Penn. Returning to NYIFF is Manoj Bajpayee who talks about his career, his directors and his experiences. The festival will be hosting a Special Spotlight on Anubhav Sinha's "Article 15" which completed one year in June this year. An incisive look at caste discrimination in India, the film was both a commercial and critical success in India. Member of Parliament Mr. Shashi Tharoor will open the panel sessions by moderating the "Run Kalyani" post-screening Q&A.

Amongst the special features is a conversation with acclaimed actor Manoj Bajpayee, a NYIFF favorite with five of his films screened at the film festival - "Bhonsle", "Gali Guleiyan", "Aligarh", "Gangs of Wasseypur" and "Chittagong". He won the Best Actor award at NYIFF for his role in "Gali Guleiyan".

OPENING NIGHT



A scene from "Run Kalyani" Photo / Courtesy NYIFF 2020

Run Kalyani: Dir. Geetha J, 2019, Malayalam w/Eng subtitles, July 24, 1h40m

NYIFF 2020 opens with Geetha J's Malayalam film "Run Kalyani," a poetic and realist drama about duties, dreams and desire. "Run Kalyani" draws you into the world of its protagonist Kalyani, a young woman who works as a cook, while also taking care of her ailing aunt. Kalyani's daily routine is accompanied by an

Indian cover of Maurice Ravel's "Bolero" playing in the background, giving the film a lyrical tone.

CLOSING NIGHT



A scene from "Moothon" Photo / Courtesy NYIFF 2020

Moothon: Dir. Geethu Mohandas, 2019, Malayalam w/Eng subtitles, Aug 2, 1h50m

The festival will close on August 2 with Geethu Mohandas' "Moothon" - a film about love and loss that travels from the quiet, lush beaches of Lakshadweep to the mad hustle bustle of the streets of Mumbai. Produced by Anurag Kashyap, "Moothon" premiered at last year's Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

The film features a career defining performance by Malayalam movie star Nivin Pauly. It also stars Roshan Mathew (Kashyap's "Choked"), Shashank Arora ("Titli") and Sobhita Dhulipala ("Made in Heaven").

This is Mohandas' second film to play at NYIFF. In 2013 NYIFF programmed her National Award winning "Liar's Dice" and Nawazuddin Siddiqui won the best actor award for the film.

CENTERPIECES

This year NYIFF hosts two centerpieces - both documentaries: "Son Rise" and "Aunty Sudha, Aunty Radha".

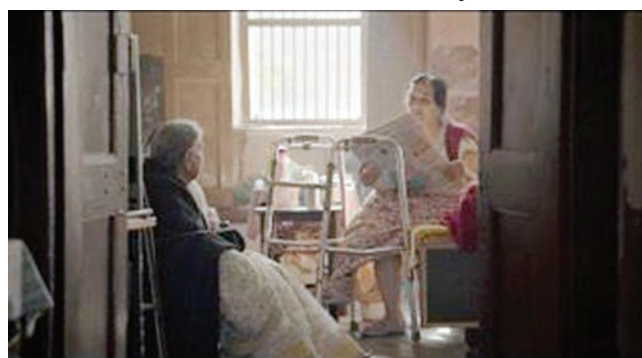
Son Rise: Dir. Vibha Bakshi, Hindi/English with English subtitles, July 28, 49m



A scene from "Son Rise" Photo / Courtesy NYIFF 2020

Director Vibha Bakshi's National Film Award winner "Son Rise" is a powerful documentary that explores how patriarchy is so deep rooted in parts of India, especially in the state of Haryana. But "Son Rise" works on a positive message, reflecting on several efforts being made in Haryana by officials and private citizens to provide young women with greater opportunities.

This is Vibha Bakshi's second film at NYIFF. Earlier the festival programmed her film "Daughters of Mother India" which won the best documentary award.



A scene from "Aunty Sudha Aunty Radha"

Photo / Courtesy NYIFF 2020

Aunty Sudha, Aunty Radha: Dir. Tanuja Chandra, 2019, Hindi w/Eng subtitles, July 29, 48m42s

Director Tanuja Chandra's heartfelt documentary "Aunty Sudha, Aunty Radha" explores the lives of her two paternal aunts - sisters and widows, who live together in an ancestral house in a village in Uttar Pradesh. The film explores issues of old age in India with touches of humor and warmth.

Feature Narrative Films

Aani Maani (Hindi/ Urdu), dir. Fahim Irshad
Ahaa Re (Bengali), dir. Ranjan Ghosh
Gamak Ghar (Maithili), dir. Achal Mishra
Kastoori (Hindi/ Marathi), dir. Vinod Kamble
Knock (Bengali, English), dir. Sudhanshu Saria
Lorni- the Flaneur (Khasi), dir. Wanphrang Diengdoh

Moothon (Malayalam, Hindi), dir. Geethu Mohandas

Nimtoha (Nepali), dir. Saurav Rai

Run Kalyani (Malayalam), dir. Geetha J

Trijya (Marathi), dir. Akshay Indikar

The False Eye (Malayalam), dir. Rahul Nair

The Prologue (Bengali), dir. Chandrasish Ray

Feature Documentary Films

Aunty Sudha, Aunty Radha (Hindi), dir. Tanuja Chandra

Son Rise (Haryanvi, English), dir. Vibha Bakshi

Two Flags (Tamil, French, English), dir. Pankaj Rishi Kumar

Yeh Freedom Life (Hindi), dir. Priya Sen

The Shorts program is divided into four groups: Queer Perspectives; Connection, Explores; Social Ideals & Illusions; and A Collection of Short Documentaries.

To learn more and for updates, visit iaac.us and nyiff.moviesaints.com

ABOUT INDO-AMERICAN ARTS COUNCIL (IAAC):

The IAAC supports all the artistic disciplines in classical, fusion, folk and innovative forms influenced by the arts of India. Its focus is to help artists and art organizations in North America as well as to facilitate artists from India to exhibit, perform and produce their work in New York. For more information, visit iaac.us.

ABOUT THE NEW YORK INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL (NYIFF):

NYIFF was launched in the fall of 2001 as a response to the September 11th terror attacks on the city's landmark buildings. The idea was to encourage New Yorkers to come back to theaters and enjoy films as a community activity.

NYIFF is the oldest, most prestigious film festival screening premieres of feature, documentary and short films made from, of, and about the Indian subcontinent in the Independent, arthouse, alternate and diaspora genres. Seven days of screenings, post-screening discussions, industry panels, award ceremony, special events, nightly networking parties, red carpet galas, media attention and packed audiences build an awareness of Indian cinema, entertain & educate North Americans about the real India, and add to the amazing cultural diversity of New York City. For more information, visit nyiff.moviesaints.com

ABOUT MOVIESAINTS:

MovieSaints is a 360 degrees Distribution Solutions Provider for Independent films with its own p-VOD (Premium Video-on-Demand) service. To learn more, visit moviesaints.com

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



Shekhar Kapur predicts death of 'star system', Rs 100 crore club

Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur has predicted the end of the 'star system', because of the closure of movie theatres during the coronavirus pandemic. Several big-ticket Indian films, such as the sports drama 83 and the action thriller Sooryavanshi have been postponed, while others such as Dil Bechara and Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl have been moved to streaming platforms.

On Tuesday, Shekhar declared on Twitter, "Theatres are not going to open for atleast a year. So all hype around first weeks business of 100+ crores is dead. So the theatrical Star System is dead." He added, "Stars will have to go to existing OTT platform or stream films themselves through their own apps. Technology is quite simple."

"In the current situation, OTT is the only way where people are able to consume films," actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui, who has a couple of films headed in that direction, told Hindustan Times recently. "Also, personally, I don't think it really matters to actors. And honestly speaking, they shouldn't be bothered about whether their films release on an OTT platform or in theatres. The fact that our films are able to release is, in itself, a big thing."

In an interview with India Today, filmmaker Anurag Kashyap said that theatres are self-serving. "I think both cinema and OTT will co-exist. My thing with the theatre owners is that, they think that the films that should have released in theatres and are coming out on OTT, and they are reacting to it."

SHAKUNTALA DEVI: VIDYA BALAN ESSAYS MATHEMATICS GENIUS

The trailer of Vidya Balan-starrer Shakuntala Devi is out. Directed by Anu Menon, the film is based on the life of Shakuntala Devi, the mathematical wizard, who was known for her ability to make incredibly swift calculations.

The trailer begins with a crowd loudly applauding Balan who plays the titular role of the 'human-computer' in the film. As the clip proceeds, we see her winning on the professional front as a mathematician with the world acknowledging her intelligence and ability to solve even the most complex mathematical equations within minutes.

The highest achievements of the genius strike when she registers her name in the Guinness World Records.

The trailer further then introduces Jisshu Sengupta as Balan's husband and their daughter portrayed by Dangal actor Sanya Malhotra. It also teases the story of a bitter-sweet relationship between the mother-daughter duo.

The film also stars Kai Po Che! actor Amit Sadh in a pivotal role.

The screenplay is written by Menon and Nayanika Mahtani, while the dialogues are penned by Ishita Moitra.

Shakuntala Devi was earlier slated to hit the big screens on 8 May but was postponed due coronavirus lockdown. The film will now premiere on Amazon Prime Video on 31 July.



TAMANNAAH BHATIA TO STAR IN THE TELUGU REMAKE OF LOVE MOCKTAIL

The latest buzz in the south film industry is that the Petromax actress Tamannaah Bhatia will be playing the female lead in the upcoming Telugu remake of Love Mocktail. The news reports also add that the Telugu remake of Love Mocktail will also star Satyadev. The film, Love Mocktail was a Kannada drama which proved to be a successful especially among the young fans and film audiences. On the work front, Tamannaah Bhatia featured in the magnum opus, called, Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy. The film was helmed by Surrender Reddy, and had Chiranjeevi in the lead.

The southern diva, Tamannaah Bhatia also featured in Petromax which was a horror comedy. In an interview with us, Tamannaah Bhatia also expressed her wish to work with Namma Veettu Pillai actor Sivakarthikeyan. The gorgeous diva is expected to feature in some interesting projects. The stunning south actress enjoys a massive fan following on her social media accounts. The actress has been sharing candid pictures on her Instagram account and the fans and followers of the actress are delighted to see the latest updates from the sultry siren.

The fans of south siren Tamannaah Bhatia are eagerly waiting to see her back on the big screen. The south actress Tamannaah Bhatia has featured in films like Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy, Petromax, F2: Fun and Frustration, Himmatwala, Ayan and Devi 2. Tamannaah Bhatia also featured in a peppy number in the Mahesh Babu film, Sarileru Neekevvaru.



COVID +VE BIG B SHARES TRIBUTE FOR DOCTORS FROM HOSPITAL

Actor Amitabh Bachchan has shared an appreciation post for doctors on Twitter. The actor was diagnosed with Covid-19 on Sunday and was admitted to Mumbai's Nanavati Hospital.

The actor, in his tweet, has paid a tribute to doctors for their selfless service to humanity. "Pristine white their layered dress ; dedicated to serve they be ; god like incarnations they ; companions of the sufferer they ; erased their ego have ; to us they have embraced in care ; they be the divine destination ; they fly the flags of humanity," he wrote in his tweet.

Amitabh's son, actor Abhishek Bachchan; daughter-in-law, actor Aishwarya Rai; and granddaughter Aaradhya have also been diagnosed with the novel coronavirus. While Abhishek was admitted to the hospital with him, Aishwarya and Aaradhya are in quarantine at home.





Jim Carrey's TV show 'Kidding' cancelled after two seasons

Showtime comedy-drama, starring Jim Carrey, will not return for a third season, the network has announced.

According to Deadline, the show, created by Dave Holstein, aired its second season earlier this year on the premium cable. Carrey played Jeff, aka Mr Pickles, an icon of children's television, who also anchors a multimillion-dollar branding empire. But when his family begins to implode, Jeff finds no fairy tale or fable or puppet will guide him through this crisis, which advances faster than his means to cope. "After two seasons, Kidding has concluded its run on Showtime. We are very proud to have aired this imaginative, critically-acclaimed and rewarding series, and we would like to thank Jim Carrey, Dave Holstein, Michael Aguilar, Michel Gondry and the entire cast and crew for their brilliant and tireless work," the network said in a statement.

The series marked Carrey's first regular TV role since his days on the 1990s sketch show *In Living Color*. The project also reunited Carrey with *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* director Michel Gondry.

HAVE A PERVERSE ATTRACTION TO CHAOS: CATE BLANCHETT

Actress Cate Blanchett says she has a "perverse attraction to chaos", and revealed that she and her husband Andrew Upton tend to take on more than they can handle. In an interview to Radio Times, the actress confessed that she "surfs" through her hectic lifestyle for months before breaking down from stress, reports dailymail.co.uk.

"I think I have a perverse attraction to chaos. Both my husband and I freelance, I have four children... I think the way I deal with chaos is to surf it until it's been going on for six months and then you burst into tears," she said, adding: "But it's always the small things in life that make you burst into tears. It's never over the major things, because you can somehow deal with those issues. It's the little things, like the car not starting."

Blanchett, 51, added there is "emotional" chaos in the couple's home because their children Dashiell, 18, Roman, 16, Ignatius, 11, and Edith, five, all have strong personalities. She said: "My husband and I have been together for a long time. It's wonderful, but it takes work. We're always biting off more than we can chew — but that's what makes life interesting."

At present, Blanchett is staying in East Sussex with her family, where she thinks they will remain for the near future.



KYLIE JENNER WORE A MAXI DRESS WITH CUTOUTS FOR A DAY AT THE BEACH

On Tuesday, the Kylie Cosmetics founder shared photos of herself wearing a unique bandana-print maxi dress.

"Thank you God for another beautiful day," she captioned the Instagram post.

The Dion Lee dress was designed with a knot in the front, cutouts across the chest, an open back, and an asymmetrical hem. The \$990 dress was on sale for \$693 at the time of writing.

Jenner paired the maxi dress with white Fendi sunglasses and Nike x Off-White Air Force 1 sneakers.

In addition to sharing a handful of pictures in an Instagram post, she also posted more photos on her Instagram story.

If you look closely, you'll see that the 22-year-old beauty mogul accessorized the dress with a black chain belt.

In the last few weeks, Jenner has been sharing lots of photos of her summer outfits, including all the looks she wore during her vacation in Utah.

While she was staying at the Amangiri, a luxury desert resort frequented by celebrities, Jenner posed in a see-through Rick Owens gown, as well as an Erika Maish bra and skirt set that was made with over 1,000 glass beads, according to a press release shared with Insider.



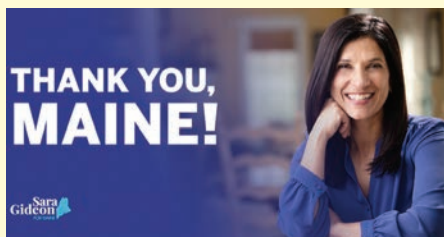
ARMIE HAMMER, ELIZABETH CHAMBERS SPLIT AFTER 10 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

Actors Armie Hammer and Elizabeth Chambers have decided to part ways after being married for a decade. Hammer, 33, and Chambers, 37, announced their split in a joint statement posted on their respective Instagram accounts.

"Thirteen years as best friends, soulmates, partners and then parents. It has been an incredible journey, but together, we've decided to turn the page and move on from our marriage," the actors said. "As we enter into this next chapter, our children and relationship as co-parents and dear friends will remain our priority. We understand this news lends itself to public dialogue, but in the interest of our children and our family, we're asking for privacy, compassion and love during this time," they added.



Indian Origin Senate Candidate Sara Gideon Wins Democratic Primary from Maine



Thank you to everyone who has supported our campaign to elect a senator who will fight for Mainers-not special interests, Gideon said in a tweet after her victory: Gideon.

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian origin Democrat Sara Gideon, the speaker of the Maine House of Representatives, on Tuesday July 14 formally became the Democratic nominee to challenge Sen. Susan Collins of Maine.

"We did it! Thank you to everyone who has supported our campaign to elect a senator who will fight for Mainers-not special interests," Gideon said in a tweet after her victory.

"We are facing unprecedented challenges right now. The coronavirus pandemic continues to threaten our health, our safety, and our economy. And a broken Washington fails to take action because politicians put special interests and partisan politics before the people they're supposed to represent. If we are going to come together and make real progress to improve the lives of people here in Maine and across the country, then we need new leadership. Because, after 24 years in Washington, Senator Collins has become part of that broken system, putting special interests and her political party first", she further said in a statement. *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Indian Businessman Sentenced for Drug Importation, Smuggling, and International Money Laundering

PITTSBURGH, PA(TIP): A citizen of India was sentenced in federal court for one count of conspiracy to import Schedule II and Schedule IV controlled substances, one count of conspiracy to smuggle misbranded drugs, and one count of international money laundering conspiracy, United States Attorney Scott W. Brady announced July 9. On July 7, 2020, Chief United States District Judge Mark R. Hornak sentenced Jeetendra Harish Belani, a/k/a Jeetu, 37, of Nagpur, India, to time served followed by three years of supervised release. Belani has been detained for approximately 13 months following his arrest in the Czech Republic on June 3, 2019. Belani, who will be removed to India following his release from federal custody, was also ordered to forfeit \$100,000.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian Origin Rik Mehta Wins GOP New Jersey Senate Primary

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): Former U.S. Food and Drug Administration official Dr Rik Mehta has won the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate from New Jersey and will take on incumbent Democrat Cory Booker in the general election in November.

Mehta defeated another Indian American Hirsh Singh by 12,532 votes, 39%-34%. Mehta is the first Asian American to win a statewide primary election.

"Thank you to voters who voted for me and the Republican and conservative leaders statewide who embraced our campaign from the start as the only one capable of attracting new voters to the Republican ranks, defeating Cory Booker in November, and lifting down ballot candidates in key congressional, special legislative, county, and local races", Mehta said in a statement.

Dr. Rik Mehta is a biotech entrepreneur, innovator, healthcare policy expert and a licensed pharmacist and attorney. Trained at world-renowned Rutgers University as a pharmacist and lawyer, Dr. Mehta worked at the United



Mehta is the first Asian American to win a statewide primary election

Photo / courtesy Facebook

States Food and Drug Administration as a Consumer Safety Officer to advance policies to expedite and increase access to quality, affordable drugs and health

care. He also enforced against pharmaceutical companies taking millions of illegal prescription opioids off the market.

Indian American World Renowned Microbiologist Ananda Mohan Chakrabarty Passes Away



Chakrabarty was part of a landmark 1980 U.S. Supreme Court decision that said forms of life created in the laboratory can be patented

CHICAGO (TIP): Indian American Microbiologist Ananda Mohan Chakrabarty, who is most notable for his creation of a biology-based solution for cleaning up toxic spills using *Burkholderia cepacia*, or *B. cepacia*, passed away July 10 in Illinois. Chakrabarty, 82, was an Emeritus distinguished professor of microbiology and immunology at the University of Illinois College of Medicine (UIC).

Chakrabarty earned his PhD at the University of Calcutta in India in 1965 and then moved to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). After six productive years in Urbana, Chakrabarty moved to upstate New York where he introduced plasmid mediated biodegradation work to the General Electric Company, which was making its first move toward bio and environmental microbiology.

In his days as a young scientist at General Electric, Chakrabarty developed the *B. cepacia* bacterium in his laboratory. The bacterium has the ability to break down crude oil into simpler substances that can serve as food for aquatic life. *B. cepacia* was the subject of a landmark 1980 U.S. Supreme Court decision that said forms of life created in the laboratory can be patented.

In "Diamond vs. Chakrabarty," the U.S. Supreme Court held with a five to four vote that living, man-made microorganisms are patentable. The court ruled that patents could be issued for "anything under the sun that is made by man." Many say that Chakrabarty's battle for patent protection paved the way for future patenting of biotechnological discovery.

In 1979, Chakrabarty moved to the University of Illinois College of Medicine, and he remained at UIC until retiring in 2018. His large and productive laboratory group of Ph.D. students, postdocs and sabbatical visitors continued work with the molecular biology of plasmid-bearing *Pseudomonas* capable of metabolizing man-made toxic organic agents. An area of medically important research in Chakrabarty's lab was the biosynthesis of alginate by the human infectious *Pseudomonas*. Chakrabarty's fame as the name on the first patent for a recombinant microbe led to a second career as an expert and lecturer on legal issues of patenting and intellectual property rights of biological significance. He sat on many American and international committees and taught in workshops for American and international judges on these matters. For his achievements in genetic engineering technology, he was awarded the prestigious civilian Padma Shri by the government of India in 2007. He was for many years a global roving ambassador for UIC.

Indian Couple arrested for laundering over \$400,000 on behalf of India-based phone scammers

ATLANTA (TIP): Federal agents have arrested husband and wife Mehulkumar Manubhai Patel and Chitali Dave for laundering over \$400,000 on behalf of India-based phone scammers.

"Criminal India-based call centers sought to prey on vulnerable members of our community and steal from them by misleading them over the phone," said U.S. Attorney Byung J. "BJay" Pak. "Those, like Patel and Dave, who allegedly launder money in the United States on behalf of foreign-based fraudsters, are the linchpins of those schemes."

According to U.S. Attorney Pak, the charges, and other information presented in court: Criminal India-based call centers defraud U.S. residents, including the elderly, by misleading victims over the telephone utilizing scams such as Social Security and tech support scams. As part of their Social Security scam, India-based callers pose as federal agents in order to mislead victims into believing their Social Security numbers were involved in crimes. Callers threatened arrest and the loss of the victims' assets if the victims did not send money. The callers directed victims to mail cash to aliases used by other members of the fraud network, including Patel and Dave. As part of the tech support scam, callers allegedly induced victims to send money in exchange for supposed technical support for their computers. The callers then provided nothing in return. At times, callers misled the victims into providing remote access to their computers and the callers would access the victims' bank accounts.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



OXFORD UNIVERSITY COVID-19 VACCINE HOPES RISE WITH STRONG TRIAL RESULTS

LONDON (TIP): Researchers at the University of Oxford believe they may have a breakthrough in their search for a COVID-19 vaccine after the team discovered that the jab could provide “double protection” against the deadly coronavirus following early stage human trials, according to media reports in the UK.

Blood samples taken from a group of UK volunteers given a dose of the vaccine showed that it stimulated the body to produce both antibodies and “killer T-cells”, a senior source from the trial was quoted by ‘The Daily Telegraph’ as saying.

The discovery is promising because separate studies have suggested that antibodies may fade away within months while T-cells can stay in circulation for years.

However, the source cautioned that the results, while “extremely promising”, did not yet prove that the Oxford vaccine provides long-lasting immunity against the deadly virus.

“I can tell you that we now know the Oxford vaccine covers both bases – it produces both a T cell and an antibody response. It’s the combination of these two that will hopefully keep people safe. So far, so good. It’s an important moment. But we still have a long way to go,” the source said.

Another source close to the team described the presence of both antibodies and T-cells as a “double defence” against COVID-19.

QUARANTINE RULES FOR ARRIVALS EASED IN RUSSIA

MOSCOW (TIP): Russian authorities have lifted the mandatory two-week self-quarantine for those arriving as part of easing coronavirus restrictions. Starting Wednesday, both Russian and international travelers will have to either provide Covid test results at the border or take a test within three days of arrival in Russia. Self-quarantine will remain mandatory for those who test positive for the virus or whose health deteriorates upon arrival.

Meanwhile, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has committed to hold an independent inquiry into the government’s handling of the Covid pandemic, some time in the future.

Meanwhile, The US, UK and Canada have accused Russia of trying to steal coronavirus vaccine research as the pandemic surges across the world, with Brazil announcing it has surpassed two million confirmed cases.

The virus has killed more than 585,000 people, infected more than 13.6 million and crippled the global economy since emerging late last year, and the world’s hopes have turned to a vaccine to end the onslaught. In the latest positive sign, British media reported on Thursday that an Oxford University trial had shown its prototype vaccine generated an immune response against the virus.

But hours later, the UK’s National Cyber Security Centre said a hacking group called APT29 had targeted British labs conducting vaccine research to “steal valuable intellectual property”.

The agency said it was “almost certain (95%+) that APT29 are part of the Russian Intelligence Services” and its targeting of researchers was “highly likely (80-90%)” to “collect information on COVID-19 vaccine research”.

Global COVID-19 cases top 13.94 million, 592,690 dead

More than 13.94 million (13,949,385) people have been reported to be infected by the novel coronavirus globally and 592,690 have died. Infections have been reported in more than 210 countries and territories since the first cases were identified in China in December 2019. Also, as many as 7,711,525 people have recovered from the infectious disease.

Meanwhile, Brazil, which is the second worst-hit country after the United States, crossed the 2 million mark in terms of cases on Thursday. As many as 76,000 people have died in the country so far. The US, on the other hand, shattered its daily record for coronavirus infections on Thursday, reporting more than 77,000 new cases as the number of deaths in a 24-hour period rose by nearly 1,000. More than 138,000 Americans have died from COVID-19 so far and a total of 3,576,157 are infected.

No servers, no tables: Israeli cafe is pandemic-friendly

As restaurants worldwide struggle to stay open in the coronavirus era, a new Tel Aviv noodle chain offers a pandemic-friendly approach: meals on the go with no human contact. Fast food cafeterias where customers ordered from vending machines, known as automats, once flourished in New York and other cities around the world in the 20th century. The Go Noodles branch, which opened last week, offers a similar experience that is fully digital. Customers order via application or touch-screen monitors at the store and provide their cellphone number. When their food is ready, they get a text message with the code to one of several glass-paned lockers lining the back wall of the restaurant. There are no tables, no servers, and little risk of contagion. Customers can pick up takeout orders without coming within 6 feet (2 meters) of any restaurant employees. Israel sets new weekend shutdown to fight coronavirus surge

Israel imposed a new

TRACKING THE VIRUS

GLOBAL

Cases	Deaths
13,949,385	592,690

INDIA

Cases	Deaths
1,003,832	25,602



BRAZIL'S COVID-19 TALLY CROSSES 2 MILLION; DEATH TOLL AT 76,000

SAO PAULO (TIP): A thousand deaths a day. Since late May, three months after Brazil’s first reported case of the coronavirus, it has recorded more than 1,000 daily deaths on average in a gruesome plateau that has yet to tilt downward.

On Thursday evening, the federal health ministry reported that the country had passed 2 million confirmed cases of virus infections and 76,000 deaths.

Even as cases wane somewhat in the biggest and hardest-hit Brazilian cities, the virus is peaking in new locations across the largest country in Latin America.

Experts blame denial of the virus’ deadly potential by President Jair Bolsonaro and lack of national coordination combined with scattershot responses by city and state governments, with some reopening earlier than health experts recommended.

An interim health minister untrained in the field is presiding over pandemic response. Bolsonaro himself is sick with Covid-19 after repeatedly flouting



social distance recommendations and undermining local leaders’ restrictions on activity.

Brazil’s roughly 7,000 Covid-19 deaths in each of the last seven weeks is equal to several airplanes packed with Brazilians crashing every day, former health minister Luiz Henrique Mandetta told The Associated Press.

“People have become callous,” Mandetta said. “When you say, ‘Yesterday there were 1,300 deaths,’ people say, ‘OK, then it didn’t go up. It was 1,300 people the day before, too.’” Brazil’s nearly 2 million cases is second only to the United States and experts believe the number to be an under count due to widespread lack of testing.

weekend shutdown on Friday and tightened a series of coronavirus curbs to lower infection rates, amid growing public anger over the government’s handling of the crisis. People would be allowed to leave their homes this weekend but malls, shops, pools, zoos and museums would shut from Friday afternoon

until Sunday morning, the government said in a statement. Full weekend lockdowns that could confine people to their homes may be imposed by July 24, after the government gains parliamentary approval for that, Israel Radio reported. Meanwhile, Urumqi, the capital of China’s far western region

of Xinjiang, cancelled hundreds of flights on Friday, after the report of its first coronavirus case in about five months fuelled concerns of a potential new outbreak. Epidemic control measures led to the cancellation of more than 600 scheduled flights at Urumqi Diwopu International Airport.

Queen Elizabeth knights 100-year-old fundraising captain

WINDSOR (TIP): Queen Elizabeth II knighted Captain Tom Moore on Friday, recognising the 100-year-old for lifting the spirits of the nation during the gloom of the Covid outbreak by raising over \$40 million for health workers. The World War II veteran raised a record sum of 33 million pounds (\$41 million) by walking 100 laps of his garden with the aid of a walking frame in April in the run-up to his birthday. The queen honoured Moore at an investiture at Windsor Castle, using her knighting sword. Showing self-depreciating humour, the Yorkshireman became a symbol of British endurance in the face of the adversity of the Covid crisis. Reuters

Jumbos retire: British Airways bids adieu to Boeing 747s

LONDON (TIP): The “queen of the skies” will no longer don the red, white and blue of the Union Jack after British Airways retired its fleet of Boeing 747s on Friday as a result of the pandemic. The airline, which was the world's biggest operator of the 747-400 model, had already planned to ground its fleet of 31 of the iconic wide-bodied jets in 2024. But the pandemic, which has seen most of the world's planes grounded, has hastened its journey into retirement, especially as forecasters predict that passenger numbers will remain lower than normal, potentially for years to come. AP

Police in Moscow detained over 130 people during protests

MOSCOW (TIP): Police in Moscow detained over 130 people during a protest against the constitutional reform that allows President Vladimir Putin to remain in power until 2036.

Moscow police said Thursday they detained 139 protesters and charged 62 of them with violating protest regulations. The OVD-Info rights group that monitors arrests and detentions in Russia put the figure at 147. Several hundred people gathered in central Moscow on Wednesday to rally and leave signatures on a petition contesting the results of a nationwide vote on a set of constitutional amendments that extend Putin's rule, redistribute executive powers within the government, prioritise Russian law over international law and outlaw same-sex marriage.

The changes elicited a lot of criticism, and so did the week-long vote organised in the midst of the coronavirus outbreak, with independent observers and media outlets reporting numerous violations and incidents of suspected rigging.

The rally was organised by the activists of the “No!” campaign that advocated for voting against the reform. It was not authorised by the city authorities. AP

Will not be bullied by US, says China

BEIJING (TIP): China isn't seeking to confront or replace the United States as the world's top technological power, but will fight back against “malicious slander” and attacks from Washington, a foreign ministry spokesperson said Friday, responding to a litany of recent accusations from the Trump administration.

Hua Chunying said China's chief concern was improving the livelihoods of its citizens and maintaining global peace and stability, despite what critics say is an increasingly aggressive foreign policy that looks to expand Chinese influence in the military, technology, economic and other spheres.

“As an independent sovereign state, China has the right to safeguard its own sovereignty, security and development interests, to defend the achievements made by the Chinese people with hard work, to refuse any bullying and injustice against China, and to fight back against malicious slander and attacks by



‘WILL SAFEGUARD SOVEREIGNTY’

As an independent sovereign state, China has the right to safeguard its own sovereignty, security and interests to defend the achievements made by the Chinese people with hard work, to refuse any bullying and injustice against China, and to counter attacks by the US. — Hua Chunying, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson

the US against China,” Hua told reporters at a daily briefing.

Her comments came in response to a speech Thursday by Attorney General William Barr in which he cautioned American business leaders against promoting policies favourable to Beijing.

He asserted that China at the beginning of the pandemic had not only dominated the market on protective gear, exposing American dependence on Beijing, but had also hoarded supplies and blocked producers from exporting them to countries in need. — AP

EU'S GREENHOUSE GAS STRATEGY FAILS TO PLUG METHANE HOLE

BRUSSELS (TIP): The European Union does not plan to crack down on planet-warming methane emissions from gas imports despite pressure from oil companies, activists and academics, according to its draft strategy and sources familiar with the matter.

While the EU plans to impose carbon dioxide (CO2) taxes on imports of energy intensive goods, critics say the world's biggest gas importer is not targeting suppliers of the fuel hard enough in its methane strategy due to be unveiled this year.

This comes despite an unlikely alliance of big oil firms, environmental activists, investors and researchers pushing the bloc to plug this hole in its methane plan and punish gas producers that fail to rein in their emissions.

While the EU regulates methane emissions from gas burned in the bloc, it doesn't regulate emissions during the production or transport of gas imported by Europe. That means those emissions don't show up in the tally of greenhouse gases linked to Europe's gas-fuelled power plants, nor are they counted in the EU's climate goals.

The draft methane plan, which may be subject to change, says the European Commission will propose legislation requiring gas firms to better monitor and report methane emissions, but it does not include setting methane standards for imported gas.

The Commission, the European Union's executive, declined to comment on unpublished documents.

Campaigners say the omission of imported emissions risks undermining the EU's climate policy as methane is 100 times more potent than CO2 when it first goes into the atmosphere.

“Setting clear product standard requirements on all gas sold in the EU's internal market is essentially a global



climate opportunity with significant potential to curb global methane emissions from oil and gas quickly,” said Poppy Kalesi, global energy policy director at the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF).

It teamed up with seven European oil firms - BP, Eni, Equinor, Repsol, Royal Dutch Shell, Total and Wintershall DEA - to ask Brussels to address what they see as a blind spot in its climate plans.

Sources familiar with the Commission's thinking say it has not shifted its position on regulating methane emissions from imported gas since compiling the draft.

Gas production is associated with emissions of methane, which leaches into the atmosphere from leaky pipelines and infrastructure at oil and gas fields.

The EU imported about 80% of the gas it consumed last year.

Almost three-quarters of its imports came from Russia, Norway and Algeria, with Russia's Gazprom by far the biggest non-EU supplier.

Methane is 100 times more powerful than CO2 as a global warming gas, but it degrades while CO2 remains in the

atmosphere. Over a 20-year period, methane is 86 times more powerful though that drops to 34 times over 100 years.

Satellite Findings

Analysis of satellite imagery and other aerial surveillance over the past few years has shown that oil and gas industry leaks are responsible for far more of the methane in the atmosphere than previously thought.

The Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change, whose members have 30 trillion euros (\$34 trillion) of assets under management, wrote to the Commission in May asking it to propose rules this year to ban gas with a methane leakage rate in upstream supply chains of more than 0.25% by 2025.

U.S. lobby groups EDF and the Rocky Mountain Institute, the Florence School of Regulation research centre and the European oil companies also wrote to the Commission in May, recommending “a methane intensity-based performance standard applied to the upstream segment of the supply chains from 2025”. Reuters

Taiwan holds drills to beat back invasion amid China tensions

TAICHUNG (TAIWAN) (TIP): Taiwan's air, sea and land forces conducted live-fire exercises simulating the repulsion of an invading force on Thursday, with President Tsai Ing-wen saying it showed their determination to defend the democratic and Chinese-claimed island.

F-16 and domestically made Ching-kuo fighter jets launched strikes and tanks raced across inland scrub, firing shells to destroy targets on the beach. About 8,000 personnel took part in drills, held on a coastal strip near Taichung in central Taiwan.

The drills, dubbed "Han Kuang," are Taiwan's main annual exercises. This year's come as China has stepped up its military activity around the island, including flying fighters and bombers close to what Beijing calls its "sacred territory".

"The Han Kuang exercises are a major annual event for the armed forces, evaluating the development of combat abilities.

"Even more, it lets the world see our determination and efforts to defend the country's territory," Tsai told the troops.

Tsai, who won re-election by a landslide in January, pledging to stand up to China, has made military modernisation a priority. Taiwan unveiled its largest defence spending increase in more than a decade last year.



"As I have said, national security does not rely on bowing and scraping but on solid national defence. All our officers and soldiers are the core of that," she added.

Although Taiwan's military is well-trained and well-equipped with mostly US-made hardware, China has huge numerical superiority and is adding advanced equipment such as stealth fighters and new ballistic missiles.

China sees Taiwan part of "one China" and has never renounced the use of force

to bring the island under its control.

Taiwan is one of a growing number of flashpoints in the US-China relationship. Beijing routinely denounces Washington's support for the island.

China has stepped up pressure on Taiwan, saying Tsai is pushing for the island's formal independence — a red line for Beijing. She says Taiwan is already an independent state called the Republic of China, its official name. Reuters

Reconnaissance plane crashes in eastern Turkey, 7 killed

ISTANBUL (TIP): Seven Turkish security personnel were killed when a reconnaissance plane crashed in eastern Van province, state-owned Anadolu news agency quoted the interior minister as saying on Thursday.

Suleyman Soyly said the plane crashed on a mountain at an altitude of 2,200 feet (670 metres). The dead included the two pilots, Anadolu quoted him as saying.

Accident investigators are working to determine the cause of the crash, NTV said.

Broadcaster NTV quoted Soyly as saying that the last contact from the plane was received at 10.32 pm (1932 GMT) on Wednesday.

The plane disappeared from radar 13 minutes later.

Turkish security forces have been fighting Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants in southeast Turkey in a conflict which has killed more than 40,000 people. The PKK took up arms against the Turkish state in 1984, waging an insurgency for autonomy in the largely Kurdish southeast. Reuters

Climate change makes freak Siberian heat 600 times likelier

LONDON (TIP): Nearly impossible without man-made global warming, this year's freak Siberian heat wave is producing climate change's most flagrant footprint of extreme weather, a new flash study says.

International scientists released a study Wednesday that found the greenhouse effect multiplied the chance of the region's prolonged heat by at least 600 times, and maybe tens of thousands of times.

In the study, which has not yet gone through peer review, the team looked at Siberia from January to June, including a day that hit 100 degrees (38 degrees Celsius) for a new Arctic record.

Scientists from the United Kingdom, Russia, France, Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland used 70 climate models running thousands of complex simulations comparing current conditions to a world without man-made warming from the burning of coal, oil and gas.

They found that without climate change the type of prolonged heat that hit Siberia would happen once in 80,000 years, "effectively impossible without human influence," said study lead author Andrew Ciavarella, a scientist at the UK Met Office.

But the researchers who specialise in these real-time studies to search for fingerprints of climate change in extreme events usually do get their work later published in a peer-reviewed journal and use methods that outside scientists say are standard and proven. World Weather Attribution's past work has found some weather extremes were not triggered by climate change. AP

Australia expands wage subsidy scheme as Covid-19 cases surge

SYDNEY (TIP): The Australian government is injecting a further A\$1.5 billion (\$1.1 billion) into a wage subsidy programme to counter rising unemployment as the country posted the biggest rise in coronavirus cases since early April.

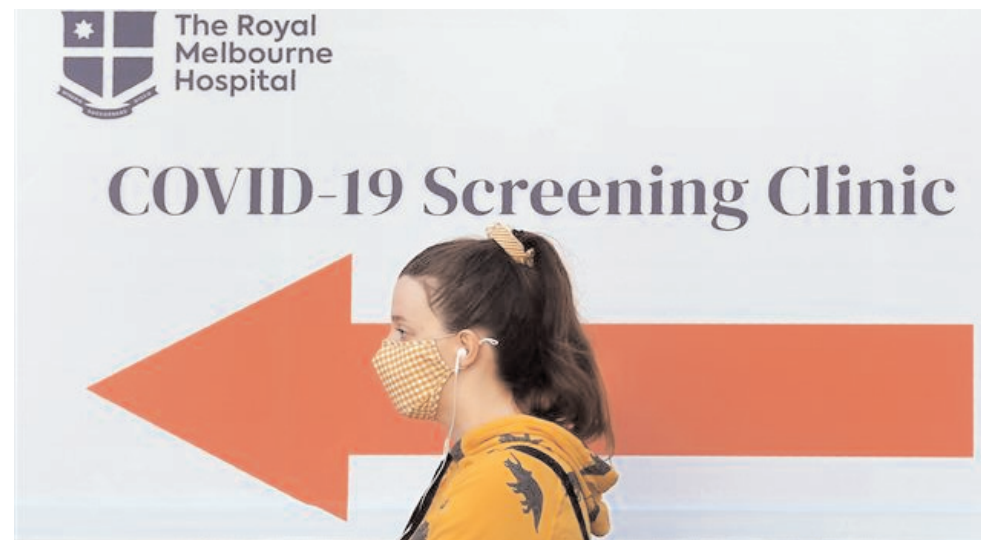
Australian officials reported 327 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday, a surge that was almost entirely due to the state of Victoria, which posted its biggest ever one-day rise in infections.

Victoria, Australia's second-most populous state, has been isolated from the rest of the country for more than a week following a fresh outbreak of the disease. The 4.9 million residents in its capital, Melbourne, have been ordered to stay home except for essential business.

"If you want to get out of these sort of restrictions as fast as possible, then we all have to play our part," Victoria state Premier Daniel Andrews said, urging people to get tested and limit exposure to others.

Australia has recorded nearly 11,000 cases of COVID-19, including 113 deaths. That remains well below many other countries, but a spike in the number of cases in recent days has worried officials.

The economy has taken a substantial



hit and is headed for the country's first recession in almost three decades. A further shutdown in Victoria would tighten the screws further.

The government on Thursday announced it would spend A\$1.5 billion (\$1.1 billion) to substantially extend a program to subsidise the wages of apprentices. The funds will more than double the number of apprentice workers covered, to around 180,000 across all industries and to run until March next year, instead of September as originally planned.

That decision gives the first indication of how Prime Minister Scott Morrison plans to prop up the economy beyond September when a broader A\$60 billion wage subsidy package is still due to expire.

Morrison welcomed data out on Thursday showing that jobs grew by more than expected in June - rising by 210,000, compared with declines in April and May and analyst expectations of a 112,000 increase - as evidence his government's support packages were working. Reuters

12 THINGS MEN LOVE MOST ABOUT WOMEN

Isn't it just impossible to understand what's going in a man's mind? Aren't the sudden changes in behaviour hard to deal with? Maybe he doesn't love you anymore, Oh God Why? Maybe, in the daily chores of life, you've taken his love for granted. Let's try and solve this matter with a few secrets unknown to most women. Take the advice of an experienced astrologer to help you steer in the right path to find the love of your life.

Find out what your guy is missing in you. Who knows, you might just find the key to your man's heart, again!

Aries

The fearlessness of an Aries woman can steal the heart of any guy out there! Bold, confident and fearless, what isn't a turn-on here? This lady has no rules, she does what she likes and what she wants and this trait is the most attractive and charismatic one, leaving guys going gaga over her.

Taurus

A Taurean woman lives with a very positive attitude towards life. She is a fun-loving and care-free person and this is what makes her a charmer. Her innocence, kindness and simplicity leaves guys thinking, does such a woman actually exist?

Gemini

Men just love the vivaciousness of the Gemini woman. Her energetic attitude and smart conversations keep men tied around them, even without trying. Her sexy conversational skills also leave men wanting more!

Cancer

This passionate and romantic lady leaves no way out for a guy. With a combination of a loving nature and warm attitude, guys find her hard to resist. After all, where will they find such a passionate and caring lover!

Leo

Guys fall for the Leo woman owing to their bright and confident



personality. Intelligence is a turn on any day, and when a guy will see it teamed up with a playful and lively nature, how on earth can he miss out on her?

Virgo

A stable, modest, loving and intelligent woman is the dream of every man; precisely why men find a Virgo woman hard to resist. Her seducing tactics leave guys craving for more.

Libra

Winning the heart of a Libran woman is no easy task; one hell of a challenge I must say. This trait makes the lady quite desirable among men. The well groomed Libran lady is, as astrology describes, always in balance. The lady is very righteous and does not fear in admitting her mistakes. A rare find, isn't she?

Scorpio

These ladies are intense and passionate to the extent that they can easily make a guy crave for them. That's quite the reason why men find her hard to let go. Very confident and independent, these women simply make heads turn when they walk across! Guys are fond of her intense, secretive and mysterious nature. For what is hard to get is what the human lays his eyes on!

Sagittarius

Free as a bird; a Sagittarian woman has no limits. She does what she likes, when she likes and how she likes. This independent way of living her life attracts a lot of male attention. Of course what a sight it is to see a care-free, self dependent and happy woman living her life, on her terms!

Capricorn

The hilarious sense of humour of a Capricorn woman is what men can't easily find elsewhere. Her confidence to take her love affairs in her own hands instead of going by the so called rules of dating leaves men thinking what a unique and special woman she is.

Aquarius

Men love the Aquarian intelligence. Quirky, smart and independent, this lady manages to charm men just with this. Their love for freedom and hard to get attitude attracts men the most.

Pisces

The mysterious and sensual style of a Pisces woman attracts men. They simply love finding out new things about her. A Piscean woman is sensitive and passionate, it just takes the right amount of time and energy to reach that deep and men love to invest time in such a woman.



By Tript Arora

CONNOISSEUR'S CHOICE



Yellow lentil pancake or moong dal cheela

Everyday we think about what to eat in breakfast, which should be healthy as well as filling. Being the first meal of the day, breakfast should be well balanced as to give energy to you through out the day.

Therefore Moong dal Cheela (Savoury pancakes,) with the goodness of vegetables is high on protein and less on Carbs, make a perfect breakfast choice. I have added capsicum, carrot, curry patta leaves, green chillies and coriander leaves. You can add any vegetable of your choice. I have added sour curd to give it a punch, but Vegans can add lemon juice to it. It can be made with 1 to 2 drops of oil only and without oil also in a non stick pan. So all the weight watchers can also eat without guilt. Paired with green chutney, tamarind chutney or Tomato sauce it tastes heavenly. Protein rich and with the goodness of vegetables, this Moong Dal Cheela is a perfect breakfast option.



We Need

1 Cup Moong Dal (yellow Dal), 1" Ginger, 4 Cloves garlic (optional), 3 green chillies, 2 Tbsp curd / or 1 Tbsp lemon juice, 1 Green Capsicum, 1 Carrot, 6 to 7 leaves of Curry patta, 2 Tbsp Coriander leaves chopped, 1 Tsp Turmeric powder, 1 Tsp Black pepper powder, 1 Tbsp Coriander powder, Salt to taste, Oil for Brushing the pan.

Here We go

- Wash Moong dal till water runs clear. Soak it overnight or atleast for 2 hours.
- Drain it in the morning and add it to a Grinder jar along with ginger, 2 green chillies, garlic pods, curd / lemon juice, turmeric powder and salt. Grind all the ingredients into fine paste. Add water to make it into pouring consistency. The Pancake or Cheela batter is ready.
- Take out this mixture in a bowl. Now finely chop Capsicum, curry leaves, 1 green chilli and coriander leaves. Finely Grate carrot.
- Add all the above vegetables to the Moong Dal Cheela batter. Mix well.
- Put a nonstick pan on medium flame and brush it with little (1 drop is sufficient) oil. Pour one ladle full of Cheela batter in the nonstick pan and spread it in a round shape by rotating the ladle in a circular motion spreading it to make a 6" diameter.
- Cover the pan with a lid. When the upper side looks dry, flip the Cheela or pancake to cook from the other side. When golden spots appear on both sides, the pancake is ready to serve. Pair it green chutney, tomato sauce or tamarind chutney or any other chutney of your choice.

Tips

Grind the Moong dal to a very fine paste. Batter should be of pouring consistency.

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Keep Your Skin Healthy And Glowing During Rainy Season

Exfoliate Your Skin

To unclog the skin pores and get rid of the dead skin cells, you need to exfoliate your skin. You can use mildly abrasive kitchen ingredients like coffee, papaya, yogurt, tea bag, baking soda etc. to do the same and stimulate the growth of new skin cells.

Do Not Forget to Clean

Cleaning is very important. If possible, do it at least thrice a day during monsoon season to avoid excess dirt accumulation and fungal infection. To clean your skin and open its pores, you can use rose



water, lemon, aloe vera, apple cider vinegar etc.

Tone your Skin

Leaving your skin pores open can again lead to accumulation of dust

in them resulting in acne breakouts. So, toning is essential. Natural toners like lemon juice, cucumber water and green tea can be used to remove the leftover dirt and close the skin pores.

Hydrate Your Body And Avoid Makeup

Drinking a lot of water can flush out toxins from the body and can keep pimples and acne at bay. On the other hand, applying makeup can clog your skin pores during monsoon. In case, you have to wear makeup, ensure that you remove it before going to bed.

HIGH PROTEIN VEGETABLES

Vegetables are the cornerstone of any healthy eating pattern. They are packed with vitamins and nutrients your body needs to function at its best. Not all vegetables are high in protein compared to other foods like legumes, dairy or meat, but the ones on this high-protein vegetable list pack a punch compared to other veggies.

Protein is important for many body parts, from your hair to your muscles, and is crucial in keeping the structure of your body healthy.

Green Peas

1 cup: 8.6 g protein

Peas are a super versatile vegetable that is surprisingly packed with protein. It is also a good source of fiber, with 35% of the daily recommendation per cup. Add peas to your favorite pasta, stir-fry or soup tonight for a nutrition and protein boost.

Spinach

1 cup: 5.2 g protein

Along with being the second highest protein vegetable on this list, spinach has a lot going for it. It is full of nutrients like vitamin A, vitamin K and vitamin C, which support a healthy immune system, protect vision, promote healthy blood flow and more.

Artichokes

1 cup: 4.8 g protein

Like many other vegetables on this list, artichokes are packed with protein, fiber and many other nutrients. They can be enjoyed canned or fresh.

Sweet Corn



1 cup: 4.7 g protein

Contrary to what some may think, sweet corn is a healthy food with impressive nutrition. Similar to green peas, it is a good source of fiber (12% of the RDA per cup) which helps keep you full and satisfied, especially when paired with protein.

Avocado

1 cup: 4.6 g protein

There are so many reasons to enjoy avocados, from help with weight loss to boosting your heart health. Along with protein, avocados are a good source of potassium and fiber.

Asparagus

1 cup: 4.3 g protein

Asparagus is a high-protein, low-carb vegetable with an impressive amount of several nutrients. It is a great source of folate and vitamin A, which are important for cell

growth, vision and healthy skin.

Brussels Sprouts

1 cup: 4 g protein

Brussels sprouts pair fiber and protein with several vitamins and nutrients to keep you feeling full and nourished. Not to mention, they have health benefits ranging from keeping you mentally sharp to fighting cancer and lowering blood pressure.

Mushrooms

1 cup: 4 g protein

Mushroom's meaty flavor sets it apart from other vegetables. Not only is the flavor great, but also these fungi are higher in protein than several vegetables. Along with protein, mushrooms are packed with B vitamins and for those mushrooms grown under UV light, vitamin D, which is a nutrient that many people are not getting enough of.



SIMPLE LIFESTYLE TIPS TO REDUCE BLOATING

The current health crisis has restricted us to our homes and limited our movements, too. But not getting enough exercise can lead to the body feeling bloated. If not treated, it can also lead to pain and uneasiness. Which is why, it becomes especially essential to eat healthy and also exercise on a regular basis.

So if you have been feeling bloated, here are some simple tips which are sure to make you feel better:

- Consume lots of fresh vegetables and green vegetables: Consuming carrots and beetroots is considered good for the body. But ensure that you wash them well with warm water along with a pinch of salt first. You can also eat steamed salads instead of raw. Gourds, such as ridge gourd, bottle gourd, bitter gourd, are great additions to your diet as they are high in antioxidants, vitamin A and C.
- Avoid excess intake of tea and coffee: They tend to dehydrate the body. But you can opt for herbal teas with cinnamon, cardamom, tulsi, neem, lemon as they increase the body's ability to fight against any infections and are immunity boosters. Haldi dhoodh is one of the best options. Turmeric is a natural antibiotic and antiseptic agent.
- Include dry fruits: Almonds, walnuts, pista, chia seeds, flax seeds are a great source of protein and omega 3 fatty acids.
- Physical exercise: Exercise regularly so that your mind and body feel fresh and energised. During monsoons, it is advised to exercise indoors.
- Include anti-inflammatory and anti-viral foods: Anti-viral foods are rich in compounds that help reduce water retention in the body. You can opt for foods like ginger which is rich in gingerol, garlic which is rich in allicin, turmeric which is rich in curcumin, tulsi which is rich in eugenol, neem which is rich in azadirachtin, and triterpenoids-rich lemongrass.

People with high cholesterol should eliminate carbs, not saturated fat: Study

Following a study on hypercholesterolemia, researchers have suggested that people with the condition should eliminate carbohydrates from their diet instead of fats. Familial hypercholesterolemia is a genetic disorder that causes people to have cholesterol levels 2-4 times higher than the average person.

Organisations, including the American Heart Association, have suggested they avoid eating food from animal sources, such as meat, eggs, and cheese, and to avoid coconut oil.

An international team of experts on heart disease and diet, including five cardiologists, reviewed dietary guidelines for people with familial hypercholesterolemia. They say they couldn't find any justification for health experts to recommend a low saturated fat diet.

"For the past 80 years, people with familial hypercholesterolemia have been told to lower their cholesterol with a low saturated fat diet," said lead author David Diamond, professor and heart disease



researcher at the University of South Florida. "Our study showed that a more 'heart healthy' diet is one low in sugar, not saturated fat," Diamond added.

Diamond and his co-authors say following a low-carb diet is most effective for people at increased risk of heart disease, such as those who are overweight, hypertensive and

diabetic.

Their findings are consistent with another paper recently published in the "Journal of the American College of Cardiology," which provided strong evidence that food that raises blood sugar, such as bread, potatoes, and sweets, should be minimized, rather than tropical oils and animal-based food.

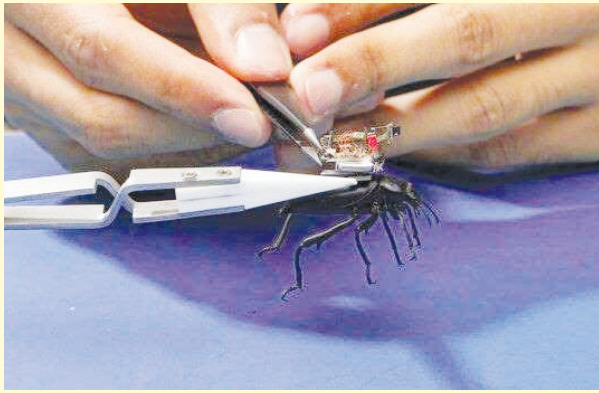
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Scientists fit beetles with tiny camera backpacks that reveal insect secrets

We have a new innovation in the scientific quest to create high-tech itsy-bitsy backpacks for animals. Fruit flies, pigeons and bees have had their moments. Now it's time for beetles that wear tiny panoramic cameras.

"We have created a low-power, low-weight, wireless camera system that can capture a first-person view of what's happening from an actual live insect or create vision for small robots," said University of Washington's Shyam Gollakota, lead author of a paper on the system published in the journal *Science Robotics* on Wednesday.

The university released a video that highlights how the camera works by streaming black and white footage to a phone. The app also lets the researchers command the camera to rotate for panoramic views.

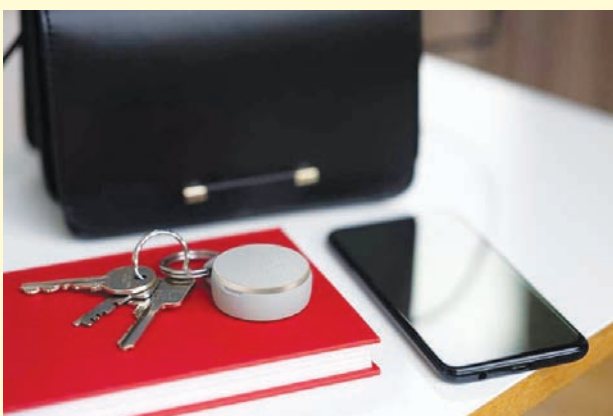
The team tested the backpack on a death-feigning beetle and a Pinacate beetle and monitored them to make sure they could move unfettered. The beetles didn't seem to be bothered by the small amount of extra weight and they lived for over a year after the project ended.

Vodafone's Curve is a GPS tracker to help find lost items

Vodafone now has its own tracker known as Curve, meant to help you keep track of personal items like keys, phones and even pets, the company announced today. The cellular carrier seems to be emulating Tile with its offering of a Bluetooth tracking device, but takes the product a couple steps further by also giving it GPS, WiFi and cellular capabilities.

The average person loses four items per month, mostly keys, according to a statement from Vodafone. Curve is meant to help you keep track of regularly misplaced items by showing the item's location and sending alerts to your phone based on the items' movement.

While it's not a tiny sticker like Tile offers, Curve is a small, circular device about 16.4 mm tall and 42.1 mm that comes with a keyring. Once Curve is attached to the item you want to keep track of, open the Vodafone Smart App to see the item's location on a map. You can use the app to map "zones," and set alerts for when the Curve device enters or leaves a zone. Unlike Tile's devices, Curve contains a Vodafone Smart SIM that provides connection and roaming -- which comes at no extra cost if you subscribe to a SIM connectivity plan. Vodafone says Curve's four different tracking technologies help keep better track of items.



DON'T DOWNLOAD IOS 14 AND IPADOS 14 JUST YET

Apple just released the iOS 14 and iPadOS 14 public beta. Now, anyone with a compatible iPhone or iPad can get an early preview of the features that everyone else will get this fall. If you're willing to put up with occasional bugs and issues, you can install and help test it right now. But should you? My sage advice: wait until September.

Even though the shiny new features in iOS 14 and iPadOS 14 are incredibly tempting, it's probably best that you hold off on installing the beta right now.

Here are four reasons you should wait

Some apps are going to break

In order to add new features and capabilities to iOS 14 and iPadOS 14, Apple has to make changes to the code that app developers use to build against. It's because of those changes that during the beta process, before developers can publicly release updates to fix any issues, that some apps will undoubtedly break.

A simple Twitter search just a couple of hours after the public beta went live returns complaints about a banking app and the UK's Sky TV are both broken on iOS 14. I scrolled through maybe 10 tweets before I found those examples. Surely, there are more. Complicating matters is the fact that Apple releases several beta updates throughout the preview period and anyone of those updates can include changes that break an app. So even if your banking app works just fine on Public Beta 2, there's no way to know if Public Beta 3 will break it.

Battery life is always the last thing that gets better

I have one of Apple's Smart Battery cases, but I rarely use it. At least, until I start testing the next version of iOS when it becomes metaphorically glued to my iPhone. I can't say for certain, but it always feels as if during the beta program Apple focuses on implementing and improving features for the majority of the time. Then as September gets closer, with it the official release, the focus switches to improving battery and getting it back to where it was pre-beta.

There will be random restarts and bugs

It's a given. Apple isn't done working on iOS 14 or



iPadOS 14 and there are going to be issues that slip through (use the Feedback feature to report them!) or that Apple knows about, but plans to fix in a future build.

For example, just this morning I tried to change songs in Apple Music while AirPlaying to a nearby speaker. The moment I touched the next button, my screen went black and I saw the Apple logo.

A few seconds later, my phone was back up and running with no issue. But instances like this, although infrequent, can be annoying, frustrating and, depending on what you're doing at the time, could potentially cause you to lose work.

Going back to iOS 13 isn't ideal

It is possible to uninstall iOS 14 and roll back to a more stable operating system, but even that comes with a big downside -- you'll have to factory restore your iPhone or iPad. That means you'll either have to start again, as if your device is brand-new, or if you created a backup before installing the beta, use that as a restore point.

Either way, you'll probably lose some data -- maybe even a lot of data -- and that's not something any of us want to deal with.

Even if you hold off on installing iOS 14 right now, you can get acquainted with some of its best features now. Here are the biggest changes to the home screen, privacy controls and a new-to-iPhone video tool called picture-in-picture.

XIAOMI DIVES INTO ANDROID TV DONGLES WITH A 1080P-CAPABLE MI TV STICK

Xiaomi has launched several new products at an event today, including an Android TV-powered portable streaming device called the Mi TV Stick. You can plug it into any screen to access your favorite streaming services -- just take note that the device itself is only capable of streaming media up to 1080p in resolution, making it direct competitor to affordable streaming devices like the Roku Express. Since it's powered by Android TV, the device is capable of running apps like Netflix on its own and can give you access to a lot of other applications available on Google Play.

That said, the Mi TV Stick has the latest Chromecast technology, so you can also cast content from your devices to a bigger screen. It's powered by a quad-core Cortex A53 processor, has 1GB of RAM and 8GB of internal storage and supports both Dolby and DTS audio compression technologies. The stick comes with a Bluetooth remote control, which you can use to issue voice commands through a Google Assistant button or to quick launch Netflix and Amazon Prime through their dedicated buttons.

Aside from the TV Stick, Xiaomi has also launched a 34-inch curved gaming monitor at the event. It has a 3,440 x 1,440 resolution (WQHD) display, a 21:9 aspect



ratio, a 144Hz refresh rate for fast response times and AMD's FreeSync Premium technology that synchronizes graphics with the monitor refresh rate. Xiaomi has yet to reveal the devices' prices, but its products are typically on the affordable side. Unfortunately, the company couldn't confirm to Engadget whether they'll be available in the US.

Mukesh Ambani loses over \$2 billion, drops down four places in the billionaires list

Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani was having a dream run at the stock market which resulted in him rising fast to the sixth rank in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. But during the Reliance Annual General Meeting, the stocks of the company fell by over 6%, making Ambani lose over \$2.5 billion in wealth, dropping down four places to the 10th spot in the billionaires list.

Ambani with a total wealth of \$69 billion, has fallen behind Warren Buffet, Larry Page, Elon Musk, Sergey Brin all of whom he had beaten just in the last few days.

Reliance Industries stocks were trading at Rs 1973.3 at 2 pm on Wednesday when the AGM began, but during the next one and half hours by the time markets closed, the stocks were down to Rs 1842.35. On Thursday morning, Reliance share price stood at Rs 1851.90.

The fall in stocks came despite the fact that Reliance Jio got a \$4.5 billion investment from Google, in the last of its investments for Jio Platforms.

During the AGM, Ambani also spoke about the delay in the deal with Saudi Aramco, which could have triggered the fall in stocks. He said that while the Saudi Aramco deal for equity investment in the O2C business has not yet taken off as per the original timeline, Reliance values the two decade long relationship with Saudi Aramco and is very committed to a long term partnership.

"One of the key reasons for the stock to correct post the AGM was the management's commentary that the Saudi Aramco deal has not progressed as per expectations and that the company will spin off their O2C business into a separate subsidiary. RIL and Saudi Aramco had signed a non-binding letter of intent in August 2019 wherein Saudi Aramco was looking at picking up a 20% stake in the O2C business at an enterprise value of \$75 billion," Jyoti Roy, DVP- Equity Strategist at Angel Broking told Business Today.

Other analysts too agreed.

BILLIONAIRES	WEALTH
Jeff Bezos	\$179 billion
Bill Gates	\$117 billion
Bernard Arnault	\$95.1 billion
Mark Zuckerberg	\$91.2 billion
Steve Ballmer	\$74.9 billion
Warren Buffet	\$72.2 billion
Larry Page	\$71.7 billion
Elon Musk	\$70.6 billion
Sergey Brin	\$69.5 billion
Mukesh Ambani	\$69 billion



- During the Reliance Annual General Meeting, the stocks of the company fell by over 6%, making Ambani lose over \$2.5 billion in wealth.
- Ambani with a total wealth of \$69 billion, has fallen behind Warren Buffet, Larry Page, Elon Musk, Sergey Brin all of whom he had beaten just in the last few days.

"Deal with Saudi Aramco had not progressed as per the original schedule. Everyone was expecting a positive announcement on the deal progress. All other announcements are already known apart from google investment, plan to build affordable 4G smartphone and potential deployment of 5G services next year," Abhijeet Bora, Senior Research Analyst at Sharekhan told Economic Times.



COVID-19 CRISIS: IMF CHIEF SAYS GLOBAL ECONOMY 'NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET'

WASHINGTON (TIP): Global economic activity is picking up after an unprecedented decline this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, but a second major wave of infections could trigger more disruptions, the International Monetary Fund's top official said.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said the fiscal costs of actions aimed at containing the pandemic and mitigating its economic fallout were driving up already high debt levels, but it was premature to start withdrawing needed safety nets.

"We are not out of the woods yet," she said in a blog posting ahead of Saturday's virtual meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors from the Group of 20 major economies.

The IMF last month further slashed its 2020 global output forecasts, predicting a 4.9% contraction and weaker-than-expected recovery in 2021.

Georgieva said \$11 trillion in fiscal measures by G20 members and other countries, as well as massive central bank liquidity injections, have put a floor under the global economy.

Even so, dangers lurked, she said, including a major new wave of infections, stretched asset valuations, volatile commodity prices, rising protectionism and political instability.

Some countries lost more jobs in March and April than had been created since the end of the 2008 global financial crisis, and many of those jobs will never return, Georgieva said.

Air India to send staff on leave without pay for up to five years

NEW DELHI (TIP): National carrier Air India Limited's board of directors approved a leave without pay (LWP) scheme for its permanent employees for a period of six months to two years, which is extendable up to five years, in a bid to cut costs during the current pandemic.

"This Scheme (LWP) is being introduced for grant of leave without pay & allowances for permanent-employees, for a period of six months (extendable upto 5 years) or for a period of two years(extendable upto 5 years)at the discretion of the Management," Air India said in a staff notice on 14 July.

A copy of the notice has been reviewed by Mint. "(The) Board of Directors in its 102nd meeting held on 7th July,2020 has approved a Scheme whereby employees can opt to take Leave Without Pay ranging from six months or for two years and the same can be extendable upto five years (copy of the Staff Notice attached)," the notice said.

It added that the Scheme authorises the airline's chairman and managing director to pass an order whereby an employee could be sent on leave for six months or for a period of two years extendable upto five years, depending upon factors like suitability, efficiency, competence, quality of performance, health of the employee, redundancy, etc.



China becomes first economy to grow since coronavirus pandemic

China became the first major economy to grow since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, recording an unexpectedly strong 3.2 per cent expansion in the latest quarter after anti-virus lockdowns were lifted and factories and stores reopened.

Growth reported Thursday for the three months ending in June was a dramatic improvement over the previous quarter's 6.8 per cent contraction - China's worst performance since at least the mid-1960s. But it still was the weakest positive figure since China started reporting quarterly growth in the early 1990s.

"We expect to see continuous improvement in the upcoming quarters," Marcella Chow of JP Morgan Asset Management said in a report.

China, where the coronavirus pandemic began in December, was the first economy to shut down and the first to start the drawn-out process of recovery in March after the ruling Communist Party declared the disease under control.

"The national economy shifted from slowing down to rising in the first half of 2020," the National Bureau of Statistics said in a statement.

Economists say China is likely to recover faster than some other major economies due to the ruling Communist Party's decision to impose the most intensive anti-disease measures in history. Those cut off most access to cities with a total of 60 million people and suspended trade and travel - steps later imitated by some Asian and European governments as the virus spread.



India's exports fall 12.41%, imports by 47.5% in June

Contracting for the fourth straight month, India's exports declined by 12.41 per cent to USD 21.91 billion in June mainly due to drop in shipments of petroleum, textiles, engineering goods, and gems and jewellery items.

Imports too plunged 47.59 per cent to USD 21.11 billion in June, leaving a trade surplus of USD 0.79 billion, compared to a deficit of USD 15.28 billion in the same month of the last year, according to the data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Wednesday. During April-June 2020, exports fell by 36.71 per cent to USD 51.32 billion, while imports shrank by 52.43 per cent to USD 60.44 billion.

The trade deficit stood at USD 9.12 billion during the two months of the current fiscal.



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 July 20 - July 26, 2020

ARIES: Ganesha says you make many new purchases and maybe even invest in a new home. The family is growing and you look for a bigger and brighter place to accommodate the new additions. There is also personal evolution and you grow in credibility, popularity and authority. There is new love too and the unattached could take it to the next level.

TAURUS: Ganesha says there will be professional and personal success. Ganesha urges you to make the most of this phase. Your energy levels are at a peak. You also attain a sense of fulfilment and self-realization as marital and other bonds of love are honoured. You have done a lot of soul-searching and the results are visible. You progress at work and earn plaudits.

GEMINI: Ganesha says nothing seems unattainable with the kind of mindset and attitude you have created within you. Ganesha is truly pleased. You make steady progress and burn the track on all cylinders. The gains of this period will be long-lasting, pleasing, profound and deep-rooted. You find the time to delve into the spiritual and meditative aspects of life.

CANCER: Ganesha says life's meaning, law, research, philosophical pursuits and questions of justice will keep you busy and on the go. You may find your dormant energies and your spiritual powers awakening. But, despite this metaphysical path, you still mesh beautifully with others. There is mutual affection, love, respect and regard from your peer group.

LEO: Ganesha says you have achieved true mental balance and poise and this is visible. This is an exciting period. Your ingenuity and fresh approach will inspire truly stupendous work. Ganesha blesses you. You are oozing with confidence. You push ahead in all areas of work and make money and also powerful professional links. You manage to optimize your resources and make tremendous headway in all your undertakings.

VIRGO: Ganesha says your confidence and caring will be at an all-time high and this lends that extra quality to your interactions with friends, colleagues and family. Having achieved your targets, you look at the lighter, more pleasant side of life. You decide to have fun, relax. Along with pleasure and recreation, you also network with serious intent. Those in the electronic media and in creative pursuits with applause for their originality. Ganesha blesses you.

LIBRA: Ganesha says there are emotional issues to be wrestled with as you find the time to spend with the family. You love the family and cannot bear being away for any length of time. There is a lot of socializing with family members, loved ones and friends. You are filled with self-belief and hope for the future. You will be bold, creative and assertive. There is profound material and spiritual progress.

SCORPIO: You have many supportive relationships. This can be a spectacular period and a harbinger of things to come. Both socially and professionally, you are at full strength. Ganesha wishes you more happiness. The intensity of the phase increases. You are surrounded by people and if you are in films or politics you can make the most of the situation.

SAGITTARIUS: Your popularity soars like an American eagle. There are new developments, true growth, and a larger role in the community. You look inwards, there is self-analysis and introspection, and also great financial gains. If in business, this could be a great period. You grow and make substantial progress. The only hitch could be the illness of a parent or an elder relative.

CAPRICORN: You will be called out to assist and you enjoy helping others, particularly family, but all this can be hugely taxing. Take care not to get drained out. Nurture your stamina with the right diet, exercise, antioxidants and massage. Ganesha is watching over you.

AQUARIUS: There will be several challenges facing you this period. I have never spoken about this in the past but times have changed and maybe it is time to speak about changing lifestyles. There is no need to behave like an ostrich in such matters. People are different with different orientations and no one has the right to judge another's lifestyle. Ganesha blesses you whatever you are.

PISCES: Ganesha says those with a proclivity for alternate sexuality will come out in the open about their feelings for someone they have been attracted to for a long time. This will most certainly be tough as we know how narrow society's moral stance is. The focus will be on communication, understandings and misunderstandings, passion and sex.

Birthday Horoscope July 20 - July 26, 2020

July 20: Ganesha says reality may be hard to take today, what with all the tension that's in the air or the worries you're carrying around inside you. All that may cause you to want to escape. But don't gloss over any facts.

JULY 21: The Moon will probably bring an important change of mind or viewpoint now or in the weeks ahead. Focus your attention on learning, but with an emphasis on what's useful, practical.

JULY 22: Though you don't like surprises, you

may have no choice but to accept them, like when someone in your circle makes plans that require you to step out of your comfort zone. Changing your look is risky.

JULY 23: Avoid investing too much energy, emotional or otherwise, in home base; otherwise, you're likely to stir up more trouble than you've bargained for and will not be satisfied with the results.

JULY 24: Yesterday's tensions or uncertainties give way to new happiness where affectional ties

are concerned, even if there is a tendency to go overboard. You can be generous, but to a fault.

JULY 25: Congeniality is the predominant effect of this favourable time frame. Creative imagination is an outstanding asset. By combining the two, you can make things happen, as if by magic.

JULY 26: Be careful about being compassionate towards those who don't deserve it. Your sympathies may be too easily exploited or misplaced

TEEJ FESTIVAL

Teej is celebrated to memorialize the union of Goddess Parvati and Lord Shiva. On the festival of Teej, married women observe fasts and pray to Goddess Parvati. They fast for a long and healthy life of their husbands. Unmarried women fast to get a husband like Lord Shiva. Teej is mainly celebrated in the northern and western parts of India.

Teej 2020 Dates

- Hariyali Teej Thursday, 23 Jul 2020
- Tritiya Tithi Begins - 07:22 Pm on 22 Jul 2020; Tritiya Tithi Ends - 05:03 Pm 23 Jul 2020
- Kajari Teej Thursday, 06 Aug 2020
- Tritiya Tithi Begins - 10:50 Pm on 05 Aug 2020; Tritiya Tithi Ends - 12:14 Am on 07 Aug 2020
- Hartalika Teej Friday, 21 Aug 2020
- Tritiya Tithi Begins - 02:13 Am on 21 Aug 2020; Tritiya Tithi Ends - 11:02 Pm 21 Aug 2020

Types of Teej

Teej festivals are traditionally observed by women to celebrate the monsoons, on the third day of Shravan maas and on the third day of the waning and waxing moon of the Indian month of Bhadrapada. Women also pray to goddess Parvati seeking the wellness of their husband, children and their own self. The types of Teej are

Haryali Teej

This festival is celebrated in the beginning of monsoon. As "Haryali" means "greenery" in Hindi, this festival celebrates the greenery, good harvest and prosperity. Women usually wear green clothes on this day and worship the moon, Goddess Radha and Lord Krishna.

Kajari Teej

This is on the third day of the Shravan month. Women sing devotional songs and worship the neem tree on this day.

Hartalika Teej: It lasts three days. Women observe fasts for the entire three days, the second day being the one without water or Nirjara. This is observed for the long life of their husbands.

Haryali Teej - A day for Greenery

Haryali Teej, as per the Hindu calendar, is celebrated on the 3rd day of the bright fortnight (Shukla Paksha) in the Shravan maas. Hariyali Teej is also called Singhara Teej. The Hindi word "Hariyali" means "greenery" since this time is monsoon time in India, the earth gets draped in greenery after the season of summer.

The rituals of Hariyali Teej are highly significant to newly married women. These women visit their maternal homes and are gifted with Shringar items like Bindi (forehead accessory), Sindoor (vermilion), bangles, Mehendi (henna), etc. Also, jewelry and clothes are gifted to the mother-in-law of the women by their parents.

On the Teej day, married women worship Goddess Parvati. Special fairs, dances, swings, and folk songs are performed on the day of the festival. Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and northern parts of India are some of the places where Hariyali Teej is celebrated on a large scale.

Kajari Teej - A day for rejuvenating love

Kajari Teej also known as Kajli Teej, is celebrated on the third day of the dark half or Krishna Paksha in the Hindu month of Bhadrapada. Kajari Teej celebrations last two days and



sometimes even continue up to the birthday of Lord Krishna or the festival of Janmashtami.

Goddess Uma (another form of Goddess Parvati) is worshiped on this day. During Kajari Teej, married women observe fast, also known as Teej Vrat, to please Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. By doing the Kajari Teej Vrat, women pray for the health, wellbeing and along life for their husbands. The Shingar (usually done with Bindi, Sindoor, Mehndi, Bangles, etc) represents love and respect for her husband or her fiancé.

Hartalika Teej - Praying for God's blessings

Hartalika Teej this is the most important one out of the three. Hartalika is a combination of "harit" and "aalika" which means "abduction" and "female friend" respectively. As per the Hindu calendar, Hartalika Teej is celebrated on 3rd day of the Shukla Paksha in the Hindu month Bhadrapada.

According to the legend of Hartalika Teej, the friend of Goddess Parvati took her to the thick forest so that her father can't marry her to Lord Vishnu against her wish. The morning time is considered good to perform Hartalika Puja. If morning Puja is not possible due to some reason then Pradosh time is also considered good to perform Shiva-Parvati Puja. Teej Puja should be done after taking early bath and getting dressed up with fine clothes. Sand made Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati should be worshipped and the legend of

Hartalika should be narrated during the Puja.

Although the rituals of Hartalika Teej are almost same as other Teej Vrat, there are, however, some differences, these are as follows;

Important Rituals

- Women observe this Teej Vrat on the day of Hartalika Teej.
- A Nirjala Vrat (ie, without water) is observed on this Teej.
- People who observe fast on Teej stay awake the entire night.
- Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati are worshiped on the day of Hartalika Teej.

Legends and History

The word "Teej" literally means "third" and is usually the third day after the full moon or new moon night. Therefore, it is celebrated on the advent of monsoons on the third day after the full moon or new moon night.

According to Hindu mythology, it is believed that Goddess Parvati was a great admirer of Lord Shiva, and had a keen desire to marry him. Goddess Parvati observed fasts and prayed to Lord Shiva for a hundred years so that he becomes happy and that he would marry her. She had 108 births to become a form in which Lord Shiva would accept her. Happy from her dedication, Lord Shiva decided to fulfill her wishes and married her on this day.

Hence, it is believed that celebrating and worshipping Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati on this day will bless a woman with marital bliss, good health of husband and children, and harmony in married life. This auspicious day is to celebrate Goddess Parvati and her true dedication towards Lord Shiva.

While Hindu married women celebrate this festival for the well being of their husbands, the young unmarried girls pray to get a good husband like Lord Shiva. On this day, the women decorate their houses extensively with flowers and lights; they also apply henna on their hands and wear new clothes and traditional jewelry. They worship the Vat, or banyan tree.

Decorated swings are hung on the trees everywhere in the city and the women take turns to swing on them while they sing Teej songs in praise of Goddess Parvati. They also visit the temple, and offer flowers, fruits, coins, and a special prayer is narrated to the women also known as "Teej Vrat Katha", without which this festival is incomplete. During the Teej puja, a lamp is a light throughout as a symbol of their devotion and dedication to the Gods. At the end of the day, they sing praise to Goddess Parvati and wait for their husbands. A special sweet is known as "Ghewar" is also prepared during this time. this sweet is only available each year during this time of the Teej festival.

Other beliefs

During monsoons, an insect, which is the Red velvet mite (Trombidium) also known as "Teej" is Hindi appears from the ground. But there is no evidence if the mite is named after the festival or vice versa.

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Trump has not ruled out sanctions on Chinese officials: White House

WASHINGTON(TIP): President Donald Trump has not ruled out further sanctions on top Chinese officials that could come in addition to actions taken this week to punish China for its handling of Hong Kong, a White House National Security Council spokesman said on Wednesday, July 15.

The Hong Kong Autonomy Act, which Trump signed on Tuesday, allows him to impose sanctions and visa restrictions on Chinese officials and financial institutions involved in the imposition of China's new national security law in Hong Kong.

Bloomberg reported Trump had ruled out additional sanctions on top Chinese officials for now to avoid escalating tensions.

National Security Council spokesman John Ullyot noted Trump last week issued sanctions against Chinese Communist Party (CCP) officials for their treatment of minority Uighur Muslims.

"In no way has he taken anything off the table with respect to further sanctions of party officials for actions in Hong Kong or on other issues. Any suggestion otherwise by anonymous sources is flat out wrong," Ullyot said.

White House discussions are ongoing about potential targets for sanctions and no final decisions have been made, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Among names being pushed is Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam, who has backed implementation of the security law, the source said.

The New York Times reported later Wednesday that the Trump administration was considering a sweeping ban on travel to the United States by CCP members.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the legislation Trump signed and an executive order ending Hong Kong's special status under U.S. law were justified.

"General Secretary Xi Jinping made a choice to violate the Chinese Communist Party's promises to Hong Kong that were made in U.N.-registered treaty. He didn't have to do that and he made that choice," Pompeo told reporters.

Pompeo noted on Twitter later on Wednesday that Trump said the United States would "place a special emphasis" on admitting Hong Kong residents as refugees. "We stand with the Hong Kong people," Pompeo said.

(Source: Reuters)

George Floyd family sues Minneapolis officers charged in his death

The civil rights lawsuit seeks compensatory and special damages in an amount to be determined by a jury

MINNEAPOLIS (TIP): George Floyd's family filed a lawsuit on Wednesday, July 15, against the city of Minneapolis and the four police officers charged in his death, alleging the officers violated Floyd's rights when they restrained him and that the city allowed a culture of excessive force, racism and impunity to flourish in its police force.

The lawsuit came the same day that members of a city charter commission took public comments on a proposal to dismantle the Minneapolis Police Department. Many residents strongly favored putting the proposal to a citywide vote in November.

The civil rights lawsuit, filed in the US District Court in Minnesota, was announced by attorney Ben Crump and other lawyers representing Floyd's family members. It seeks compensatory and special damages in an amount to be determined by a jury. It also asks for a receiver to be appointed to ensure that the city properly trains and supervises officers in the future.

"This complaint shows what we have said all along, that Mr Floyd died because the weight of the entire Minneapolis Police Department was on his neck," Crump said in a statement. "The city of Minneapolis has a history of policies, procedures and deliberate indifference that violates the rights of arrestees, particularly Black men, and highlights the need for officer training and discipline."

Crump said the lawsuit seeks to set a precedent "that makes it financially prohibitive for police to wrongfully kill marginalized people-especially Black people-in the future".

Mayor Jacob Frey's office said he could not comment on pending litigation. Interim City Attorney Erik Nilsson said the city is reviewing the lawsuit and will respond to it.

Floyd, a Black man who was handcuffed, died on May 25 after Derek Chauvin, a white police officer, pressed his knee against Floyd's neck for nearly eight minutes as Floyd said he could not breathe. Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter. Three other officers at the scene-Tou Thao, Thomas Lane and J Kueng-are charged with aiding and abetting both second-degree murder and



manslaughter.

All four officers were fired the day after Floyd's death, which set off protests that spread around the world and turned into a national reckoning on race in America.

Floyd's death also sparked calls to abolish the Minneapolis Police Department and replace it with a new public safety department. A majority of City Council members support the move, saying the department has a long history and culture of brutality that has resisted change. The proposal requires a change in the city charter. Most callers to the first hour of a public hearing on Wednesday evening urged the charter commission to let voters decide.

The lawsuit comes on the same day that a court allowed public viewing by appointment of video from the body cameras of Lane and Kueng. A coalition of news organizations and attorneys for Lane and Kueng have been advocating to make the videos public, saying they would provide a more complete picture of what happened. The judge has not said why he is not allowing the video to be disseminated more widely.

According to documents in the state probate court, Floyd is survived by 11 known heirs-five children and six siblings. They live in Texas, North Carolina, Florida and New York. All but one of Floyd's children are adults. He has no living parents or grandparents.

Kaarin Nelson Schaffer, named last week as the trustee for Floyd's family, is the plaintiff in the federal lawsuit.

The lawsuit takes issue with police policies and training. It says that even though neck restraints can be deadly, the police department allowed them to be used in situations in which deadly force was not warranted. After Floyd's death, Police Chief Medaria Arradondo said the type of restraint Chauvin had used was not authorized.

The lawsuit also contends that the city acted with "deliberate indifference" when it came to allowing police to use excessive force. It says the city ratified practices that allowed officers to treat Black community members differently and it fostered a culture in which officers were not penalized for bad actions.

"It really is about trying to change the culture and behavior of policing," Crump said at a news conference. "We would have hoped that George Floyd did not have to sacrifice his life to bring about these changes. But now we are here, and we are at a tipping point."

Last year, Minneapolis agreed to pay USD 20 million to the family of Justine Ruszczyk Damond, an unarmed woman who was shot by an officer after she called 911 to report hearing a possible crime happening behind her home.

(Source: AP)

contd from page 12

IRS unveils 'Dirty Dozen' list of tax scams for...

SENIOR FRAUD: Senior citizens and those who care about them need to be on alert for tax scams targeting older Americans. The IRS recognizes the

pervasiveness of fraud targeting older Americans along with the Department of Justice and FBI, the Federal Trade Commission, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), among others.

Seniors are more likely to be targeted and victimized by scammers than other segments of society. Financial abuse of seniors is a problem among personal and

professional relationships. Anecdotal evidence across professional services indicates that elder fraud goes down substantially when the service provider knows a trusted friend or family member is taking an interest in the senior's affairs.

Older Americans are becoming more comfortable with evolving technologies, such as social media. Unfortunately, that

gives scammers another means of taking advantage. Phishing scams linked to Covid-19 have been a major threat this filing season. Seniors need to be alert for a continuing surge of fake emails, text messages, websites and social media attempts to steal personal information.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

KUTCH: INDIA'S WILD WEST

The Kutch region of Gujarat is sometimes described as India's "wild west." This immense stretch of largely barren and harsh desert landscape apparently spans more than 40,000 square kilometers, and is one of the country's largest districts. Its name, Kutch (or Kachchh), refers to the fact that it alternates between wet (submerged during the monsoon season) and dry.

Much of Kutch consists of seasonal wetlands known as the Great Rann of Kutch (famous for its salt desert) and smaller Little Rann of Kutch (famous for its Wild Ass Sanctuary). The Great Rann, located in the far north, borders Pakistan and occupies a part of the Thar desert which also extends into Rajasthan. Hence, Kutch is comprised of many migrant communities from not only Pakistan (Sindh) and the Marwar region of Rajasthan but also further afield, including Persia (Iran). Kutch was ruled by the Jadeja dynasty of Rajputs, one of the oldest Hindu dynasties, for hundreds of years until India became a republic.

Bhuj: Capital of Kutch Region

Bhuj, the capital city of Kutch, is an excellent launching point for exploring the region. It's readily accessible by train (most conveniently from Mumbai, 15 hours), bus, and flights.

City's Royal Heritage

The city was ruled for hundreds of years by Jadeja dynasty kings, who established themselves there in the 16th century. It spreads out around a hill called Bhujia Dungar (which Bhuj is named after). Atop the hill sits Bhujia Fort, constructed by king Rao Godaji to protect the city from intruders. Six major battles took place after it was built, most of them during 1700–1800 AD and involving Muslim raiders from Sindh and the Mughal rulers of Gujarat.

Mandvi: Seaside Ship Building

The port town of Mandvi, on the west coast of Kutch around an hour from Bhuj, is worth visiting to see its fascinating 400-year-old shipbuilding yard. The building takes place along the banks of the Rukmavati River in town, near where the river merges into the Arabian Sea. There you'll be able to see ships in various stages of construction.

The Ship Building Process

Each ship takes two to three years to complete, and the construction requires different specialist knowledge at each stage. Many of the workers are ex-sailors. The wood that's used comes from Burma or Malaysia. When the ships are finished, they're towed by small boat to the Gulf where diesel engines are installed in them.

What's particularly interesting is how seepage is prevented from entering the boats from the small gaps around the nails in the wood. Cotton wool is stuffed into the gaps and it expands when wet to fill the holes!

Kutch Villages and Handicrafts

Gujarat's Kutch region is renowned for its handicrafts, produced by the very talented artisans in its villages. Many of the famous arts, such as bandhani tie die and ajrakh block printing, originate from Pakistan. Migrants brought these arts



with them when they came to Kutch more than 350 years ago. The Muslim Khatri community specializes in both these arts. In addition, arts such as embroidery, weaving, pottery, lacquer work, leather work, mud and mirror work, and rogan art (a type of painting on fabric) are prevalent in the region.

Great Rann of Kutch and Salt Desert

Apart from handicrafts, most people who visit Kutch do so to see the Great Rann of Kutch—an arid expanse that lies to the north of the Tropic of Cancer. Much of it is made up of salt desert, covering around 10,000 square kilometers and stretching close to the Pakistan border. It's particularly eerie and magical at sunset, and especially under the stars on a full moon night. Making it even more astonishing, the salt is submerged underwater during the main monsoon season in India.

The Great Rann is inhabited by various village communities, many who have migrated from Pakistan (including many Muslim Sindhis) and the Marwar region of western Rajasthan. It remained largely cut off and unexplored until after the 2001 earthquake, when the government raised awareness about it and its resources. Traditions have been sustained due to the local production of handicrafts, including embroidery and block printing.

Little Rann of Kutch and Wild Ass Sanctuary

The barren desolate landscape of the Little Rann of Kutch lies to the southeast of the Great Rann. The entrance is best approached from Ahmedabad, 130 kilometers away, rather than Bhuj.

The Little Rann is most famous for its Wild Ass Sanctuary. It's the largest wildlife sanctuary in India, and as its name suggests, it's home to the Indian wild ass—an endangered creature that looks like a cross between a donkey and a horse. There are plenty of birds in the area as well.

ENGLAND VS WEST INDIES

JOFRA ARCHER BREAKS BIO-SECURE PROTOCOLS, OUT OF 2ND TEST

England's Jofra Archer was ruled out of the second Test against the West Indies and sent into five days of isolation on Thursday for breaking "bio-secure protocols" aimed at stopping coronavirus infections, the England and Wales Cricket Board said. Both teams have been living in secure "bubble" sites at the Ageas Bowl, the venue for last week's first Test, and Emirates Old Trafford where the final two matches of the series will take place, in a bid to combat the spread of COVID-19.

The fast bowler apologised for putting his teammates in "danger", although the nature of the breach was not disclosed. His removal from the squad was announced just three hours before Thursday's scheduled 1000 GMT start in Manchester.

"I am extremely sorry for what I have done," Archer, who played in last week's first Test, said in an ECB statement.

"I have put, not only myself, but the whole team and management in danger. I fully accept the consequences of my actions, and I want to sincerely apologise to everyone in the bio-secure bubble."

Archer, who had been retained in the squad while fellow quicks James Anderson and Mark Wood were rested, will now undergo five days of self-isolation. He will need to test negative twice for COVID-19 before his isolation period is lifted.

"The West Indies team have been made aware and are satisfied with the measures that have been imposed," the ECB statement.

It is understood Archer's breach of the rules took place sometime after Sunday's end of the first Test at Hampshire's Ageas Bowl and before the squad arrived at Old Trafford.

An ECB spokesman could not confirm if Archer



would face further disciplinary action in addition to missing the second Test.

But the breach is likely to provoke an angry response from officials at Lord's after they made strenuous efforts to persuade both the West Indies and Pakistan to tour England this season against the backdrop of more than 44,000 deaths in Britain during the pandemic.



KHAWAJA, MAXWELL IN AUSTRALIA'S 26-MEMBER PRELIMINARY SQUAD FOR ENGLAND TOUR

MELBOURNE (TIP): Australia on Thursday announced a 26-strong preliminary squad for a yet-to-be-confirmed limited-overs tour of England, naming the likes of Glenn Maxwell and Usman Khawaja along with some uncapped players with an eye on the currently-uncertain T20 World Cup.

In a statement, CA said announcing the squad is "a positive step, albeit not a definitive one" as it works for a return to international cricket amid the COVID-19 pandemic. England have already hit the restart button with an ongoing Test series against the West Indies.

"A final decision on the tour has not been made and constructive discussions between Cricket Australia, the England and Wales Cricket Board and all relevant government agencies remain ongoing," the CA statement read.

A final squad will be announced if the tour, comprising three ODIs and three T20 Internationals, is confirmed for September.

The preliminary list features the regulars along with the likes of Maxwell, who hasn't played for the country since October last year after taking a break to deal with some mental health issues.

Khawaja too has not been a particular favourite in white-ball cricket for a while now. He missed out on a CA contract for the first time in five years earlier in April.

Chelsea win to boost Champions League chances

LONDON (TIP): An underwhelming Chelsea boosted their chances of a spot in next season's Champions League, overcoming a slow start to beat relegated Norwich City 1-0 at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday. Olivier Giroud scored with virtually the last touch of the first half as Chelsea consolidated third place in the Premier League and moved four points above Leicester City and Manchester United in the battle for a top-four finish.

Four games a day confirmed for 2022 World Cup

LONDON (TIP): FIFA World Cup fans will be able to watch an unprecedented four games a day on television, spread out over 11 hours, during the group stage of the Qatar 2022 tournament after the schedule was confirmed today. The early games will kickoff at 1pm local time (3.30pm Indian time) with the fourth match starting at 10pm local time. The opening game will be played on November 21, and the final on December 18.

Real Madrid seal 34th La Liga title to extend record

Real Madrid sealed the La Liga title on Friday, with a game left in the season, after beating Villarreal 2-1 at home. Karim Benzema gave Los Blancos the lead in the first half and then doubled the tally from the penalty spot. Villarreal hit back with a late goal and came very close to equalising in the second half with a flurry of chances late on but Madrid goal-keeper Thibaut Courtois showed great presence under the bar to keep Los Blancos in front. Marco Asensio had a goal disallowed in stoppage time but Zinedine Zidane's team held on to seal a win that gave them an unassailable lead at the top of the table over arch rivals FC Barcelona.



The Catalan club lost at home against a 10-man Osasuna side, who scored in second half injury time to secure a famous 2-1 win. Lionel Messi equalised in the second half after an early goal by Jose Arnaiz, but Roberto Torres scored a late winner to sink Barcelona's title hopes.

This is Madrid's first league title since the 2016-17 season, and the second under the stewardship of manager Zidane. Just like in 2017, Real have managed to stop bitter rivals Barca from completing a hat-trick of league titles. The side from the capital has now won the league 34 times, as compared to Barcelona's 26 titles.

With this victory, Real Madrid have now won 10 games on the trot, winning every match since the league restarted after the forced break due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Serena Williams to play the new Top Seed Open in August

Serena Williams will return to the court for the first time since the start of the coronavirus pandemic when she competes at the inaugural edition of the Top Seed Open in Lexington, Kentucky beginning Aug. 10, the WTA said on Thursday.

It will mark the 23-time Grand Slam champion's first match since she helped Team USA defeat Latvia in Fed Cup play in Everett, Washington in February.

Another U.S. Open champion, fellow American Sloane Stephens, will also compete at the event, the WTA said.

Last week, the WTA confirmed the addition of events in Prague, Czech Republic and Lexington to its provisional calendar, which now features 21 tournaments.

The WTA Tour, suspended since March due to the pandemic, last month announced it would resume in Palermo, Italy on Aug. 3.

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