



The

INDIAN



1 Indian American Weekly: Since 2006

PANORAMA

EVER TRUTHFUL

VOL 14 ISSUE 30 • NEW YORK / DALLAS • JULY 24 - 30, 2020 • ENQUIRIES: 646-247-9458

www.theindianpanorama.news

AMERICA UNITED AGAINST COVID-19

KEEP SAFE

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

KEEP AMERICA SAFE

The INDIAN PANORAMA

Invites articles and advertisements for India's Independence Day special edition to be published on August 14.

Last date for submission of articles: Aug 2
Last date for booking space for advertisement: Aug 7

Email articles to editor@theindianpanorama.com
Email advertisements to salujaindra@gmail.com

For any question, please call 646-247-9458

STAY SAFE AND BLESSED

COVID-19 Coronavirus

COVID-19 Worldwide Update Page 21

Green Card waitlist for Indians is more than 195 years: US senator



A Green Card, known officially as a Permanent Resident Card, is a document issued to immigrants to the US as evidence that the bearer has been granted the privilege of residing permanently

WASHINGTON (TIP): The backlog for an Indian national to get permanent residency or Green Card is more than 195 years, a top Republican senator has said, urging his Senate colleagues to come out with a legislative resolution to address this problem.

A Green Card, known officially as a Permanent Resident Card, is a document issued to immigrants to the US as evidence that the bearer has been granted the privilege of residing permanently. Senator Mike Lee said on Wednesday that the current Green Card policy did nothing for the child of an

contd on Page 2

US maintains 'tremendous cooperation' with India on Chinese border aggression: Amb Juster

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Trump administration has maintained close contact and "tremendous cooperation" with India on the latest Chinese border aggression, America's top envoy in New Delhi has said, asserting that the last six months have been unprecedented in terms of the bilateral relationship.

The troops of India and China have been locked in a standoff in several areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh since May 5. The situation deteriorated last month following the Galwan Valley clashes that left 20 Indian Army personnel dead.

"For now, (we are) watching the issues on the Northern border of India in which China has raised disputes throughout the



US Ambassador to India Ken Juster.

Photo / Twitter@USAmbIndia

Western sector, but also in the central and East. Throughout all of this, we've had very close contact with our Indian counterparts and quite frankly, tremendous cooperation," US Ambassador to India Ken Juster said on Wednesday in his address to the virtual India Ideas' Summit organized by the US India Business Council.

The ambassador's remarks came two days after US Defense Secretary Mark Esper described the Chinese military's aggressive activities in the region as "destabilizing".

Esper also said the US was "very closely" monitoring the situation between India and China along the Line of Actual Control. *contd on Page 2*

Randhir Jaiswal Assumes Charge as Consul General of India in New York



A 1998 Indian Foreign Service officer, Randhir Jaiswal, on July 19, assumed charge as Consul General of India in New York

I.S. SALUJA

NEW DELHI (TIP): Ambassador Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, on July 19, assumed charge as Consul General of India in New York. He has succeeded Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty who remained Consul General from April 2017 to June 2020.

Ambassador Jaiswal's last posting was as Joint Secretary cum Social Secretary to the President of India Ramnath Kovind. A 1998 Indian Foreign Service officer, Jaiswal headed the foreign affairs office of the Rashtrapati Bhavan and advised the President on India's foreign policy. *contd on Page 3*



U.S. records over 1,000 new coronavirus deaths for a second day in a row

Over 142,000 lives have been lost to the virus in the United States over the last five months, the highest in the world.

WASHINGTON (TIP): The deaths from the novel coronavirus in the United States rose by more than 1,000 for a second day in a row on Wednesday, July 22, including a record one-day rise in fatalities in Alabama, Nevada and Texas, according to a Reuters tally.

The United States has not seen back-to-back days with over 1,000 lives lost since June 5-6. Weeks after cases began to surge, 23 states are now seeing fatalities also rise, according to a Reuters analysis of deaths for the past two weeks compared with the prior two weeks.

While deaths are rising in the United States for a second week in a row, they remain well below levels seen in April, when on average 2,000 people a day died from the virus.

One hard-hit Texas county is storing bodies in refrigerated trucks after COVID-19 deaths doubled in the span of a week.

contd on Page 2

Community Stalwart Peter Bheddah Passes Away

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): Mr. Peter Bheddah, a community stalwart in the Tri-State area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, passed away on July 21. He was 80.

A man of charitable disposition and generous to a fault, Mr. Bheddah was driven by an overriding impulse to help the needy. He delved deep into his own pockets and worked tirelessly to provide the much-needed succor to the needy in the US as well as India.

Mr. Bheddah was associated with a number of organizations, and won recognition for his community work from all quarters. He was a recipient of one of the highest civilian honors of US- the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, besides many other awards.

Several community and business organizations and individuals have mourned the death of Mr. Bheddah who leaves behind his wife Dorothy, two daughters, and grandchildren. *Read Tribute on page 11.*



A community leader and a philanthropist, Mr. Peter Bheddah passed away at 80, at his Port Washington, NY residence on July 21.

The **INDIAN PANORAMA**
EVER TRUTHFUL

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER:

Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja

VICE PRESIDENT:

Chitagam Saluja

CHIEF EDITOR:

Prof Indrajit S. Saluja

CONSULTING EDITOR :Deepak Dwivedi, Chairman,
Bhaskar Group, Delhi**ASSISTANT EDITOR:**

Bidisha Roy

SPL. REPORTER UNO:

H.S. Panaser

GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:

Om Parkash Malik

DIRECTOR**ADMINISTRATION:**

Gauri Beri

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Baldev Singh / BJ Videos

Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction

Jay Mandal,

Mohammad Jaffer,
SnapsIndia

Mohammad Shahzad,

Zia Khan,

Nisha Rani

Vaaho Photographers,

Vijay Shah - Photo Journalist.

CORRESPONDENTS :**SACRAMENTO:**

Parminder S. Aujla

NEW YORK :

Chitagam

FRESNO:

Tarlochan Singh

DALLAS:

Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon

OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS LONDON

Nirpal Singh Shergill

SPL CORRESPONDENT**DELHI BUREAU CHIEF:**

Ashishpal Singh

CHANDIGARH:

Manjit Sidhu

LUDHIANA:

A.S. Arora,

R.P.Sharma

DALLAS BUREAU CHIEF & VP

Lovliien Kaurr

972-330-3139

editor@theindianpanorama.com

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South

Richmond Hill, NY 11419,

Tel: 646-247-9458

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.com

DISCLAIMER

THE INDIAN PANORAMA ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CLAIMS MADE IN ADVERTISEMENTS. WE ONLY SELL SPACE. VIEWS PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPER ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE NEWSPAPER. ALL RIGHTS ARE RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IN WRITING FROM THE INDIAN PANORAMA IS PROHIBITED.

contd from page 1

US maintains 'tremendous cooperation' with India on Chinese border aggression: Amb Juster

"We have seen post the (India) visit of the President several further conversations between the President and the Prime Minister. The Secretary (of State) has spoken on numerous occasions with (External Affairs) Minister Jaishankar. I think it's really solidified their relationship," Juster said.

Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun had spoken not just with Foreign Secretary Harshvardhan Shringla but also with a range of counterparts in the Indo Pacific region, he said.

Juster said there had been a host of ministerial-level interactions between the two countries, including the one between Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross.

"The two countries also had a strategic energy partnership meeting. It is showing the breadth and the depth of the issues that the two countries work on together," he said, adding: "I think because of the intensity of the last six months, we've really had a new level of comfort in dealing with each other, a degree of trust and respect to get things done."

"I remember, issues we had and repatriation flights, where we had to get cooperation, not just from the Home Ministry and the Ministry of External Affairs but also at the local levels with state officials and with police officers. It shows the importance of these individual relationships" he said.

Through all of this and the intensity of the last six months and the range of emotions from an incredibly successful presidential visit to dealing with lockdown and all the urgent issues that came out of that, "we've really transformed a strategic partnership into a comprehensive global strategic partnership," Juster said.

"As Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said recently, what may be the most important partnership of the 21st century. So that's really what I think the last six months have done to solidify this relationship," the top American diplomat said. (Source: PTI)

Green Card waitlist for Indians is more than 195 years: US senator

immigrant whose dead parent's Green Card application was ultimately denied because his or her job was no longer available.

"Someone from India entering the backlog today would have to wait 195 years to receive an EB-3 green card. Even if we give their children this limbo status, none of them will have a prayer of becoming a US citizen," Lee said on the Senator floor.

In fiscal year 2019, Indian nationals received 9,008 category 1 (EB1), 2,908 category 2 (EB2), and 5,083 category 3

(EB3) Green Cards. EB1-3 are different categories of employment-based Green Cards.

Lee, the senator from Utah, was speaking on the legislation moved by Senator Dick Durbin that seeks to protect immigrant workers and their children who are stuck in the green card backlog.

"Green cards are critical in the lives of so many who are here on temporary work visas. The backlog puts families at risk of losing their immigration status as they wait year after weary year to finally make it through this green card backlog," Durbin said.

"Our bipartisan agreement would add critical protections that were not in the original bill for immigrant workers and their immediate family members who are stuck in the backlog. They would be able to switch jobs and travel without losing immigration status. And children of immigrant workers would be protected from aging out so they will not face deportation," he said.

The Lee-Durbin agreement would make three changes to the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act. First, it would immediately protect immigrants and their families who are stuck in the backlog by allowing them to "early file" for Green Cards.

This would allow workers to switch jobs and travel without losing immigration status and prevent the children of immigrant workers from "aging out" of Green-Card eligibility so they will not face deportation while they are waiting for a Green Card.

Second, the amendment would create a green card set aside for immigrant workers who are unable to "early file" because they are stuck in the backlog overseas.

Finally, the amendment would crack down on abuse of H-1B temporary worker visas by outsourcing companies by prohibiting a company from hiring additional H-1B workers if the company's workforce is more than 50 employees and more than 50 per cent temporary workers.

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. Companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and

China.

"While we continue to debate the best way to fix the Green Card backlog, let's make sure that no children of the affected families are harmed or deported. Just that simple. I offered a new bill, very simply stated, to protect children of immigrant workers act. This brief three-page bill would ensure that children do not age out while waiting for a Green Card," Durbin said.

"Imagine if you brought your children to the United States, worked on an H-1B visa and your children are waiting for you for the Green Card, you are paying for them to go to college because they don't qualify as American Citizens for any type of federal financial aid. You're making great sacrifices for them and then the day comes when they reach the age of 21 and they can be deported and your family divided," he said.

"Why would we want to let that happen?" Durbin asked.

Noting that he has met many of these young people, the senator said it breaks his heart to hear their story that they may reach a point where they age out and be deported.

"That's why I wanted to offer this specific single provision. There is no reason these children should be punished for a broken immigration system. It's not beyond our control to help them," he added. (Source: PTI)

U.S. records over 1,000 new coronavirus deaths for a second day in a row

Hidalgo County, at the southern tip of the state on the U.S. border with Mexico, has seen cases rise 60 percent in the last week, according to a Reuters tally, with deaths doubling to more than 360.

Crematoriums in the Hidalgo County area have a wait list of two weeks, a local official said, forcing the county to use five refrigerated trucks that can hold 50 bodies each.

Over 142,000 lives have been lost to the virus in the United States over the last five months, the highest in the world. Among the 20 countries with the largest outbreaks, the United States ranks sixth highest globally for deaths per capita, according to a Reuters analysis.

(Source: Reuters)

Get to the Point





The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL

A DELIGHTFUL READING EVERY WEEK

Widest Coverage

Your Trusted Partner in Business

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419, Tel: 646-247-9458
Dallas Edition - P.O. Box 121695, Arlington, TX 76012

www.theindianpanorama.news

New York Launches New Ad Campaign Aimed at Young People



The weekly average COVID-19 rate among 21 to 30-year-olds has increased to 13.2 percent from 9.9 percent, Governor Cuomo said

ALBANY, NY (TIP): New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo launched a new ad campaign aimed at young people. The weekly average COVID-19 rate among 21 to 30-year-olds has increased to 13.2 percent from 9.9 percent.

Cuomo also announced the results of an expanded testing initiative within the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision to test individuals 55 years and over. Of the nearly 4,000 individuals tested, 77 tested positive, resulting in a 1.9 percent infection rate.

The Governor also announced creation of a multi-agency task force to crack down on social distancing violations at restaurants and bars across the state. New York State Police and State Liquor Authority Chairman

Vincent Bradley will lead the effort, which will employ real time data to enhance enforcement efforts by rapidly deploying investigators to respond to dangerous social distancing violations as they happen. The Task Force will include investigators from the Department of Health, Department of Financial Services, Department of Motor Vehicles, Department of Taxation and Finance, the New York State Insurance Fund and the Department of Agriculture and Markets.

The Governor also reiterated his call for the federal government to provide funding for state and local governments.

The Governor also confirmed 811 additional cases of novel coronavirus, bringing the statewide total to 409,697 confirmed cases in New York State.

Indian American Ramayya Krishnan Reappointed Dean of Heinz College at Carnegie Mellon



During Krishnan's tenure, Heinz College has become home to a number of funded research centers that focus on data-driven decision-making in key societal domains

NEW YORK (TIP): Ramayya Krishnan has been reappointed to a third term as dean of the Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy.

Carnegie Mellon University Provost Jim Garrett announced the reappointment in an email to the university community, praising Krishnan for continuing to "push the boundaries of interdisciplinary research and education." He cited Krishnan's achievement in helping to found the School of Information Systems and Management, which with the School of Public Policy and Management "brought together multi-

disciplinary faculty in the fields of engineering, social science and information technology to form a college that is entirely distinctive in higher education."

Garrett said during Krishnan's tenure, Heinz College has become home to a number of funded research centers that focus on data-driven decision-making in key societal domains. Those research centers include: Traffic21, the Metro21: Smart Cities Institute, the Living Analytics Research Centre, the Digital Transformation and Innovation Center by PwC, the Initiative for Digital Entertainment Analytics and the Block Center for Technology and Society.

Randhir Jaiswal Assumes Charge as Consul General of India in New York



Ambassador Jaiswal (right), on arrival in New York, was received by the acting Consul General Shatrughna Sinha (left)

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

He had earlier served as Consul General of India in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Jaiswal is no stranger to New York. He had earlier worked as a Counselor at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York.

Speaking with the editor of The Indian Panorama on July 23, Ambassador Jaiswal spelt out in brief his priorities which include nourishing and strengthening the already strong bonds between India and US, and exploring new areas of cooperation and relationship in diverse fields of economy, trade, technology, and culture etc.

Ambassador Jaiswal added that serving the Indian Diaspora remains the primary focused concern of the Consulate. The strengthening of multi-stake holders relationship will be another priority, he said.






OMNI MORTGAGE CORP.
Residential | Commercial | SBA Loans

Andy Singh
516-441-7000
16 E. Old Country Road
Hicksville, NY 11801

Herman Singh
718-441-7000
118-18 101 Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

E-mail: herman@omnimortgage.com

Registered Mortgage Broker- NYS Dept of Financial Services
Loans arranged thru 3rd party providers



Anu Jain
NYS Licensed Realtor

A Trusted and Successful Name

**FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS!
BECAUSE TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE AND
YOU DESERVE THE BEST**

CALL NOW
(516) 728-4186
anujainrealtor@gmail.com
WWW.SEARCHHOMELONGISLAND.COM

RealtyConnectUSA The Best Move You'll Ever Make
175 Crossways Park Dr. W, Woodbury NY 11797. (516) 744- 9076

Indian-American Puneet Ahluwalia announces PAC for Lt Gov of Virginia race



Puneet Ahluwalia, 55, is an Indian-American Republican businessman

Photo / courtesy Twitter/@PuneetAhluwalia5

WASHINGTON (TIP): An Indian-American Republican businessman will run for the powerful office of Lieutenant Governor of Virginia and has launched a political action committee for it.

Puneet Ahluwalia, 55, in an e-mail to his supporters on Tuesday, announced: "I have taken the leap by launching the Proud American Political Action Committee to explore my run for Lieutenant Governor of Virginia."

A Political Action Committee (PAC) is a tax-exempt organization in the US that raises money privately to influence elections or legislation.

"I'm forming Proud American PAC because for those Virginians who believe, as I do, that America is the greatest nation in the world, but our political leaders are not living up to the promise of our great state," said Ahluwalia, who was a member of the Trump Campaign's Asia Advisory Committee in the 2016 presidential election campaign.

Delhi-born Ahluwalia migrated to the US in 1990. He serves as a consultant to businesses on client acquisition, marketing, and strategic affairs. His wife is from Pakistan and of Afghan heritage.

"As a person of color, I sympathize with those who are frustrated and angry about race in this country, but not for the same reasons as the progressive politicians in Richmond," Ahluwalia said, referring to Left-leaning groups.

"We need to launch a real discussion among all Virginians about race and the ways we can bridge the gap in opportunities, income, and education," he said.

In a press statement, the Proud American PAC said it will work to elect candidates who are aligned with the core principles that everyone is created equal, with personal dignity, and constitutional rights the government should never be allowed to take away.

"I believe with all my heart that American free market capitalism is the greatest engine of economic prosperity ever devised. But our economy has left too many people behind," he said.

"We can and we should do better by making it easier to start and fund small businesses in minority communities, encouraging greater job creation, organizing private internships for every Virginia high school graduate, helping people climb the economic ladder, improving schools, and modernizing our infrastructure," Ahluwalia said. (Source: PTI)

Indian American Sutapa Ghosh Stricklett Named USAID Asia Bureau Assistant Administrator

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald J. Trump has nominated Sutapa Ghosh Stricklett, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (Bureau for Asia).

Her nomination was sent to Senate July 22.

Sue Ghosh Stricklett is an attorney in private practice with over twenty-five years of experience in national security law and foreign affairs. The scope of her practice includes Foreign Corrupt Practices Act compliance, intellectual property licensing and technology transfer, U.S. dual-use and defense trade control licensing, and sanctions law enforcement. She has served as an Asia policy advisor to three Presidential campaigns and several



Sue Ghosh Stricklett is an attorney in private practice with over twenty-five years of experience in national security law and foreign affairs

major Indo-American advocacy organizations.

Ms. Stricklett hails from Queens, New York, and is a graduate of the State University of New York, Buffalo. She earned her J.D. from the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America.

Stricklett has been the general counsel for American Hindu Coalition, which says it is a non-partisan organization that says its aims is to "build a stronger America through Hindu Enlightenment Principles."

She is the author of several articles in US media advocating close relations with India and on "Trump's outreach to Hindu Americans, both before and after his election" with a slew of important appointments in his administration.

Sikh-American Store Owner Attack: Hate Crime Charge Added against the Attacker

Picture caption -Nearly three months ago, Breemen verbally accosted Mr. Singh and his wife in their store in Lakewood, CO, repeatedly telling them both to "go back to your country."

DENVER (TIP): Jefferson County District Attorney's Office has decided to add a hate crime charge against Eric Breemen for attacking Mr. Lakhwant Singh. Moving forward, Breemen will be charged with multiple counts-now including a bias-motivated crime-in the violent April 29 assault of Mr. Singh.

"I am so very grateful to everyone-Sikhs and non-Sikhs alike, from Lakewood, elsewhere in Colorado, across the country, and beyond-who have stood with me and my family in this incredibly difficult time," said Lakhwant Singh. "I appreciate the Jefferson County authorities hearing my story and, through these charges, recognizing the role that hate played in my horrible attack."

Nearly three months ago, Breemen verbally accosted Mr. Singh and his wife in their store in Lakewood, CO, repeatedly telling them both to "go back to your country." Immediately afterwards, in the parking lot outside the store, Breemen struck Mr. Singh with his



Nearly three months ago, Breemen verbally accosted Mr. Singh and his wife in their store in Lakewood, CO, repeatedly telling them both to "go back to your country."

car and left him for dead; he later described Mr. Singh as an "older Arab" to the officers who arrested him.

"The decision to add a bias-motivated charge against Breemen is a resounding victory not just for Mr. Singh, but for minority communities who are threatened by bias and bigotry every day," said Amrith Kaur, Sikh Coalition Legal Director. "Adding these charges sends a clear message: Hatred is not welcome in Jefferson County, and those

who are targeted for being different know that this community will acknowledge it and stand with them in solidarity."

The Sikh Coalition, along with support from local community members-including the leadership of Colorado Singh Sahba and the Colorado Coalition Against Hate-as well as the law firm of WilmerHale, has worked diligently over the past several weeks to push for the addition of this hate crime charge. Through these efforts, more than 2,600 people sent emails to Jefferson County District Attorney Peter Weir urging him to pursue a hate crime charge; in addition, 29 organizations joined a sign-on letter earlier this month urging for the same, and many others signed and delivered additional petitions from across the world. We extend our deep gratitude to all of the allies who came together to demand #JusticeForLakhwant.

The Sikh Coalition also helped raise awareness for this case through successful media coverage from the local to the national levels. We will continue to provide updates in this case and also work with Colorado authorities to minimize the risk of future attacks.

Indian-origin nurse in Singapore conferred with President's Award

SINGAPORE (TIP): A 59-year-old Indian-origin nurse in Singapore has been conferred with the President's Award for Nurses for serving on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kala Narayanasamy was among the five nurses given the award, the Ministry of Health announced on Tuesday.

Each recipient was awarded a trophy, a certificate signed by President Halimah Yacob and SGD 10,000 (USD 7,228).

Narayanasamy, who is the Deputy Director of Nursing at Woodlands Health Campus, was awarded for using infection control practices, which she learned during the 2003 severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak, in the current pandemic.



Kala Narayanasamy has been involved with the modernization of nursing in Singapore
Photo for representation only

She tapped on this experience to introduce workflows and standard operating procedures to convert wards at the Yishun Community Hospital to care

for COVID-19 patients.

"All that we learned from SARS, we can put into place now," the Channel News Asia quoted Narayanasamy who pointed the short time period to put such procedures in place.

She has been involved with the modernization of nursing in Singapore, with her past projects including the implementation of a self-checkout inventory management vending machine to track the usage of items.

She was also involved in the introduction of the use of a streamlined wound assessment process that provides accurate wound measurements and image capture.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Sara Gideon Endorsed by Joe Biden for U.S. Senate

NEW YORK (TIP): Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee and former Vice President Joe Biden announced his endorsement of Sara Gideon in the Maine U.S. Senate race, citing her record of fighting for Mainers by working to expand access to affordable health care, cracking down on the skyrocketing price of prescription drugs, and taking bold action on climate change.

"I want to congratulate Sara Gideon on her win in Tuesday's Democratic primary. This November, we need to restore the soul of America by ending the Presidency of Donald Trump. To do that, I need the help of every voter in Maine," said Joe Biden. "But ending the Trump nightmare is not enough. We can't just go back to the way things were. We need to make progress on health care, the climate crisis, criminal justice reform, our courts, and so much more. And to do that, I need Sara Gideon in the U.S. Senate. Sara has been a leader on expanding health care coverage and lowering costs. On fighting against opioids and fighting for working families. She's taken on the drug companies and she's fought for the environment. I support Sara Gideon for U.S. Senate and hope you will too."

"I'm so honored to have Vice President Biden's support in this race and I know that together, we will make real progress on the issues that matter most to Mainers," said U.S. Senate candidate Sara Gideon. "Here in Maine, we've fought to expand access to affordable health care, passed meaningful prescription drug reform, and set ambitious goals to fight climate change - and that's the kind of leadership Mainers and Americans need in Washington. The future of our country is at stake in this election, and I'm proud to stand with Joe Biden to win back the White House and flip the Senate in November."

Sara has visited all sixteen counties in Maine over the course



Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee and former Vice President Joe Biden announced his endorsement of Sara Gideon in the Maine U.S. Senate race

of her campaign, holding in-person and virtual events to meet and talk with voters about their concerns and challenges they face. Sara has been endorsed by over 75 elected officials from across Maine, as well as the Maine AFL-CIO, Maine State Building and Construction Trades Council, Maine State Association of Letter Carriers, the Massachusetts and Northern New England Laborers District Council (LiUNA MNNELDC), the Painters and Allied Trades International Union District Council 35, the Human Rights Campaign, the League of Conservation Voters Action Fund, the Natural Resources Defense Council Action Fund, NARAL, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, End Citizens United, and Everytown for Gun Safety.

Indian American Scientist Sanjiv Sam Gambhir, Pioneer in Molecular Imaging, Passes Away



The professor and chair of radiology at Stanford was a global leader in advancing techniques for molecular imaging and early cancer detection.

NEW YORK (TIP): Sanjiv Sam Gambhir, MD, PhD, professor and chair of radiology at the Stanford School of Medicine and an internationally recognized pioneer in molecular imaging, died July 18 of cancer. He was 57.

The Virginia and D.K. Ludwig Professor of Cancer Research, Gambhir dedicated his career to developing methods of early disease detection, ushering in a new era of molecular imaging to flag signals of disease in its nascent stages. He was director of the Canary Center at Stanford for Cancer Early Detection, director of the Stanford and director of the Molecular Imaging Program at Stanford.

"Sam was a true visionary and a scientist of the highest caliber. His research and innovations have, with no uncertainty, founded modern medicine's approach to early disease diagnostics and will continue to guide the future of precision health," said Lloyd Minor, MD, dean of the School of Medicine. "Sam's contributions to Stanford, to human health, to the science of diagnostics and to the many lives he has touched and impacted throughout his career have been immeasurable."

Within the field of radiology, Gambhir was known for the development of positron emission tomography reporter genes, which can flag molecular activity that signals something's gone awry in the body.

To colleagues far and wide, he was known as a leader and scientist with sprawling expertise and a work ethic to aspire to. More than that, colleagues said he was a kind and generous friend, a nurturing mentor and a catalyst for collaboration.

On the eve before his death, he was awarded the Dean's Medal, the School of Medicine's highest honor, for his "revolutionary contributions to biomedicine and to human health." In tandem with the honor, Minor announced that a new professorship, the Sanjiv Sam Gambhir Professorship in Translational Medicine, would stand as a tribute to Gambhir's remarkable career "to further recognize his unwavering leadership, compassion and commitment to science and medicine."

Indian American CBS reporter Nina Kapurdies in moped accident in New York



Before joining CBS New York as an on-air reporter, Kapur had worked at News 12 Connecticut since 2017

NEW YORK (TIP): Nina Kapur, a 26-year-old Indian origin reporter in New York, died after she fell from a moped that had been rented from Revel, a popular moped sharing service.

The accident, which a company spokeswoman said was believed to be the first fatality involving a Revel moped, happened about 5:30 p.m. Saturday, July 18 near the intersection of Franklin and India Streets, the police said, in the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn - a mostly residential area that is dotted with neighborhood bars and restaurants.

Kapur was a passenger on a scooter that was being operated by a 26-year-old man. According to authorities, the moped was northbound on Franklin Street when "the operator swerved for an unknown reason" and the two "fell to the roadway as a result." Kapur was taken to Bellevue Hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

"Reporter Nina Kapur joined the team in June 2019 and was known for her contagious smile and love for storytelling," the station announced in a video tribute. Before joining CBS New York as an on-air reporter, Kapur had worked at News 12 Connecticut since 2017. "News 12 staff members are remembering Kapur for her incredible work ethic, as well as her sense of humor and smile," a statement from the station said. Nina, a native of Newtown, Pa. is survived by her mother, Monica, father, Anup, and her 24-year-old brother, Ajay.

Indian Origin Uttam Dhillon Named Interpol Washington Director

WASHINGTON (TIP): Attorney General William P. Barr announced July 20 that Uttam Dhillon will become INTERPOL Washington Director after Wayne Salzgeber returns to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security following his over two-year detail serving as INTERPOL Washington Director, effective August 1. INTERPOL Washington, the U.S. National Central Bureau, is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice and is co-managed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

As INTERPOL Washington Director, Mr. Dhillon will act on behalf of the Attorney General as the official U.S. representative to INTERPOL, the world's largest International Criminal Police Organization, and its 194 member countries, leading the U.S. Government's efforts to share and exchange international criminal investigate, border security and humanitarian assistance information across the INTERPOL communications platform, and be responsible for all personnel and assets dedicated to INTERPOL Washington's mission of supporting domestic and international law enforcement and border security operations around the globe.

Mr. Dhillon is a dedicated public servant who has served in the Department of Justice, the White House, DHS, Congress, and as a career federal prosecutor. Dhillon was appointed Acting Administrator of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), on July 2, 2018, and for nearly two years led a workforce of over 15,000 and oversaw a budget of \$3.2 billion. He was responsible for DEA's enforcement, intelligence, administrative, and regulatory activities worldwide. He previously served on the Board of Directors for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and is co-chair of the IACP Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Committee. Prior to joining the DEA, he served as Deputy Counsel and Deputy Assistant to the President of the United States.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Former Acting Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration Uttam Dhillon has been named New Interpol Washington Director

Indian American Professor Venkatesan Guruswami named 2020 Simons Investigator



Guruswami is currently an Associate Professor in the Computer Science Department at Carnegie Mellon University.

NEW YORK (TIP): Venkatesan Guruswami, a Carnegie Mellon University professor of Theoretical Computer Science, has been named a 2020 Simons Investigator by the New York-based Simons Foundation.

Venkatesan Guruswami's research has led to major advances in the theory of error-correcting codes, approximate optimization, pseudorandomness and related complexity-theoretic and mathematical aspects. His work on list decoding has yielded codes with minimum possible redundancy for correcting worst-case errors. His recent works include notable progress on polar codes, deletion-correcting codes, codes for cloud storage and constraint satisfaction problems.

The Simons Foundation names investigators each year who are outstanding scientists engaged in mathematics, physics, astrophysics, computer science, or several related fields. The designation, which comes with \$100,000 per year for five years and is renewable for a second five-year term, is meant to support outstanding theoretical scientists in their early years, when they are establishing creative new research directions, providing leadership to the field and effectively mentoring junior scientists.

Venkatesan Guruswami received his bachelor's degree in Computer Science from the Indian Institute of Technology at Madras in 1997, and his PhD in Computer Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2001. From 2002 to 2009, he was a faculty member at the University of Washington. He was a Miller Research Fellow at UC Berkeley from 2001 to 2002, and was a member in the School of Mathematics at the Institute for Advanced Study from 2007 to 2008.

He currently serves on the editorial boards of the SIAM Journal on Computing, IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, and the ACM Transactions on Computation Theory, and was program committee chair for the 2012 Computational Complexity conference. He was an invited speaker at the 2010 International Congress of Mathematicians. He is a recipient of the Presburger Award (2012), Packard Fellowship (2005), Sloan Fellowship (2005), NSF CAREER award (2004), ACM Doctoral Dissertation Award (2002), and IEEE Information Theory Society Paper Award (2000).

Skypass Foundation Charters First U.S. Airline to Repatriate Indian Citizens during Pandemic



The one-way flight took off in the July 22 evening from Newark Airport in New Jersey heading to the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi

NEWARK, NJ (TIP): The Skypass Foundation, part of the Dallas-based Skypass Group of Companies, chartered a United Airlines plane Wednesday, July 22 to repatriate more than 150 Indian citizens stranded in the U.S. because of the pandemic. The one-way flight took off in the evening from Newark Airport in New Jersey heading to the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi.

Priority was given to seniors and families with young children who needed to return to India for urgent medical treatment or death emergencies and to those with expired U.S. visas. Other

Indian citizens eligible to travel, based on the Embassy of India's rules and regulations, were also on the flight.

"The Skypass Group has served the South Asian community for more than three decades," said Founder & CEO Victor Abraham. "While we have been deeply impacted during this pandemic, our mission has always been to transport passengers back to their homes so that they can be reunited with their families, especially during these turbulent times."

On July 4th, another private charter flight (Etihad Airways) transported 300 passengers from Chicago to Mumbai.

Employees and their families of some of the top global technology and professional services companies were on that flight, which was the first passenger charter plane approved to repatriate stranded citizens from the U.S. to India.

The Skypass Foundation, as part of its mission & humanitarian activities complementing its efforts to provide resources, education and support to those impacted by major medical challenges, has led both these efforts. The Foundation collaborated with both public and private sector agencies in the U.S. and India to accomplish these undertakings.

Twenty Young Adults Test COVID-19 Positive after attending House Party in New Jersey

New Jersey's death toll from the coronavirus rose to 15,730 on Thursday, July 23 with 177,887 total cases in a little less than five months

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): There are major coronavirus concerns in Monmouth County in New Jersey after hundreds of people were potentially exposed to the virus at a huge house party in Middletown. Authorities say that party, where there was alleged underage drinking, took place on West Front Street on July 11.

At least 20 young adults between the ages of 15-19 contracted the virus either while there or from someone who was there. "If you think your child may have attended such a party or participates in sports or any other group activity that may have included anyone potentially exposed, please ask them to self-quarantine for 14 days to monitor for signs and symptoms," the Middletown health department said in a statement. "If they become ill, they should self-



isolate and contact your family physician. We encourage you to have your child tested for COVID-19."

The local health department said it was conducting contact tracing to narrow down the extent of the cluster. However, "responsiveness has been less than satisfactory, with many refusing to

answer our question," the health department said.

New Jersey's death toll from the coronavirus rose to 15,730 on Thursday, July 23 with 177,887 total cases in a little less than five months - though the outbreak here continues to slow, with the Garden State standing alone as the only state in the U.S. that has seen its number of new cases drop the last two full weeks.

Thursday marks the 15th straight day New Jersey has reported fewer than 50 new deaths in one day.

Xavier University School of Medicine Aruba approved by NY State



XAVIER UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
ARUBA

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): Ravi Bhooplapur, President of Xavier University School of Medicine, Aruba announced that on July 17th, 2020, the New York Board of Regents voted to approve Xavier University School of Medicine Aruba to place students in long-term clinical clerkship in New York State for 7 years. This is the longest term of approval that can be given to an International Medical School.

This great achievement makes Xavier as only one of seven Caribbean Medical Schools to be approved by New York State Education Department. Xavier is ranked as a top ten medical school in the Caribbean by Money Inc. Magazine in 2018 and has a 96% USMLE first time passing rate.

Under the leadership of Chancellor Dr. JG Bhat and Chairman of the Board Mr. Edwin Casey and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Arun Dubey, Xavier University School of Medicine Aruba is committed to providing high quality affordable medical education to everyone.

President Bhooplapur wants to thank the Board of Trustees for their unwavering support and the entire academic team for their tireless work in achieving this great accomplishment.

Along with approval from New York State Education Department, Xavier University School of Medicine Aruba is one a few schools to hold full accreditation from both ACCM and



Ravi Bhooplapur

CAAM-HP. The United States Department of Education, through its National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA), recognize both ACCM and CAAM-HP as approved accrediting bodies.



Air India to operate 180 flights between India and USA

NEW YORK (TIP): Air India will operate 180 flights between India and USA under Vande Bharat Mission during the period of July 22nd to August 31, 2020.

Flights will operate to/from New York, Chicago, Newark, San Francisco and Washington DC, and will offer connections to Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore, Kochi, Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

Bookings will open from New York, Chicago and San Francisco effective July 18th, 2020.

Tickets will be available for sale through Air India website, booking offices and authorized Travel Agents.

New York State Education Department approval allows:

- o **Xavier graduates to enter residency training in New York**
- o **Xavier students to complete all 72 weeks of clinical training in New York teaching hospitals**

Mayor De Blasio announces Citywide Testing Capacity of 50,000 tests per day



"Widespread testing and tracing is the key to reopening our city safely," said Mayor Bill de Blasio

NEW YORK (TIP): The City will now have the capacity to test up to 50,000 New Yorkers per day, Mayor de Blasio announced, July 23, building on the city's commitment to test, trace, and treat all positive cases of COVID-19. The City will also now activate the next stage of its hyper-local response in the Rockaways and Sunset Park. The first two-week pilot initiative, launched in the Tremont, Bronx neighborhood, tested over 7,400 New Yorkers. All 200 positive cases received immediate, on-site counseling, allowing them to immediately safely separate and receive assistance through supportive services, such as food and financial counseling

"Widespread testing and tracing is the

key to reopening our city safely," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "Getting tested isn't just about taking care of yourself-it's a civic duty to your fellow New Yorkers. We have made testing as fast and convenient as possible to ensure New Yorkers have the tools they need to protect themselves and their loved ones."

Test & Trace Program Metrics

The Test & Trace Corps is the City's comprehensive effort to test, trace, and treat every case of COVID-19. Through a partnership with NYC Health + Hospitals and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Corps allows the City to immediately isolate and care for those who test positive for the virus and then rapidly track, assess, and quarantine anyone they may have infected.

The Test & Trace Corps is aiming to reach at least 90% of all positive cases and have at least 75% of all cases complete intake and isolate.

For the week ending July 18th, the Test & Trace Corps successfully reached 89% of all cases. Seventy-one percent of these cases who were reached completed intake. These completed interviews have allowed tracers to identify and reach more than 2,137 symptomatic people and help them quickly isolate, potentially preventing as many as 5,000 new COVID-19 cases in New York City.

GRADE CONSTRUCTION

CIVIL ESTIMATOR(S) WANTED

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

Basic Requirements:

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

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

Specific Duties and Responsibilities:

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

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

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

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

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

Education and Experience Requirements:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Organized individual committed to performing duties with detail and accuracy.

Compensation:

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

Send resume to: Ralph@gradeconstruction.net



By George Abraham

History continues to repeat itself. It was Karnataka, then Madhya Pradesh and now Rajasthan that is embroiled in a power struggle that could delegitimize an election and undermine the will of the people. What is taking place in India's political landscape before our very own eyes does not bode well either for democracy or the institutions that support it.

Sachin Pilot undoubtedly was considered one of the future promises for the Congress party that is increasingly lacking any long-term vision or strategic planning. There is little doubt that the party is mired in the past without necessary grassroots support or needed financial resources. More and more, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, who has rescued the party from its dire straits in the '90s, appears to be in a caretaker mode. The indecision of the Party hierarchy to fill the void created by the resignation of Rahul Gandhi as Party president has consequences far and beyond, and the Rajasthan crisis plainly points to that.

Having said that, I am as confused and perplexed as anyone how a bright young man like Sachin Pilot who has become a Member of Parliament at the age of 26 and a Central Minister by 32 appeared to have walked away from a party that nurtured him and made it possible to scale these greater heights. When this crisis started, he held the positions of the PCC President as well as that of the Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan. It is indeed a phenomenal rise for a young man at the age of 42, especially in a country where the patriarchy and age-old wisdom still holds the key to power and prestige.

It says a lot more about this generation who have become narcissists in their thinking and self-indulging in their behavior. When one decides to devote his/her lifetime in public service, it is a huge commitment that deserves appreciation and community support. However, the objective is to 'serve' the people, without arrogance and rashness, who entrusts their confidence and votes them into powerful offices. Mr. Sam

AS I SEE IT

What Sachin Pilot fiasco teaches Congress

"The RSS has powerful ideologues, ideology, and cadre, which fuels and propels the BJP. Until the Congress party makes an earnest effort to create a new cadre of leadership from the grassroots who are truly committed to the dearly held values and principles of the party, those who parachuted to the top using their patronage and money will continue to be easy prey for BJP's nefarious political games", says the author.



The feud between Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot and his deputy Sachin Pilot has led to a serious thinking within the Congress Party about analyzing reasons for such conflicts and their resolution

Pitroda, who helped transform India's Telcom sector, said recently, "Values, Character, and fundamentals matter the most in life and leadership. What do you believe in, defines you? Are you for posts and positions or selfless service to people?"

Today, the number of young leaders in the Congress party lacks any devotion to the ideals that governed the party for a century or more. Even in the best of times, the party had its share of crisis. History is replete with fights by these erstwhile leaders on issues and winning or losing their arguments. However, those conflicts were ideological and often mirroring their deeply held beliefs and reflecting their passion for justice and fairness.

However, What the Scindias and Pilots are fighting for? Are they advocating any policy differences or expressing concerns that the democracy itself is in peril under Modi-Shah duo or frustrated at the party's lackadaisical approach to bring the issue into focus? Are they in rebellion because the Congress party has not provided adequate support for the cause of migrant laborers? Or the party has failed to highlight the rising unemployment among the youth? Or they are fleeing the party because it has drifted away from the cherished principles?

It is none of the above! It is simply blind ambition, hunger for power and greed driving a section of the youth in the Congress party today. It is not

difficult to see that these folks owe their rise in power and visibility to patronage. Rahul Gandhi once said about Jyotiraditya Scindia that he could walk into his home any time of the day. Their proximity has indeed defined their places in the political landscape; however, they appear to have betrayed their trust for sheer opportunism.

If we recollect, many of these young leaders quickly applauded Prime Minister Modi when Article 370 was revoked. There is a clear indication now that many of them are softening their stand towards the philosophy of Hindutva. The BJP's assault on secularism through the weaponization of Hindutva is paying off, as many of them are even reluctant to defend those core party principles. There is a slow drift towards 'majoritarian thinking', and any minority accommodation is increasingly seen in a negative light. That explains how easily they could transform their mindset switching to BJP.

The RSS has powerful ideologues, ideology, and cadre, which fuels and propels the BJP. Until the Congress party makes an earnest effort to create a new cadre of leadership from the grassroots who are truly committed to the dearly held values and principles of the party, those who parachuted to the top using their patronage and money will continue to be easy prey for BJP's nefarious political games.

(The author is a former Chief Technology Officer, United Nations, and the Vice-Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA)

GUEST COMMENT

What had initially appeared to be an intra-Congress tussle in Rajasthan has turned into a 'Congress vs BJP' slanging match after the emergence of audio clips in which Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat is purportedly heard having a conversation with a Congress MLA and a BJP leader about toppling the Ashok Gehlot government. The state's Special Operations Group has promptly registered a couple of FIRs on a complaint by the Congress. An impartial, time-bound inquiry is needed to verify the authenticity of the recordings and unearth the underlying conspiracy, irrespective of which political party is at fault, even as

Rajasthan slugfest: Need for impartial probe into horse-trading allegations

Shekhawat has denied that the clips have his voice. The development has provided ammunition to the Congress to accuse the ruling BJP at the Centre of horse-trading. The onus is on the NDA government to convince all and sundry that it has no hand in the goings-on in the border state.

Attempts to subvert democracy and the electoral process have become far too common in recent years. Several states have witnessed post-poll machinations and short-lived governments, with the latest casualty being Madhya Pradesh. The Congress

had wrested power from the BJP by winning the 2018 MP Assembly polls, but the latter turned the tables on the ruling party earlier this year with the help of some obliging MLAs. In Goa and Manipur, which produced hung Assemblies in 2017, the BJP formed the government despite having won fewer seats than the Congress. Last year, the long-drawn-out Karnataka 'nataka' and the Maharashtra muddle also amounted to a betrayal of the voters' mandate.

Whenever a government finds itself on shaky ground, the clamor for strengthening or reviewing the anti-

defection law gets louder. Indeed, loopholes in this law enable unscrupulous elected representatives to switch loyalties as whopping sums of money allegedly change hands. With the power struggle in Rajasthan set to get uglier inside as well as outside the courts, the credibility of the parties concerned has come under sharp scrutiny. How the major players acquit themselves will demonstrate their respect, or lack of it, for democracy.

(Tribune, India)

The BJP's hegemonic narrative



By Zoya Hasan

“Since 2014, the BJP’s stated objective of a Congress-free India has seen attempts to unsettle and unseat Congress governments in several States. One of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s first statements after taking over as the chairman of the BJP’s election campaign committee in 2013 was the declaration that getting rid of the Congress would be “the solution to all problems facing the country”. “The Congress party is a burden on this nation,” he said. Since coming to power in 2014, the BJP has been using various means, notably money power and the coercive power of state agencies, to achieve this goal by bringing down elected Congress governments in State after State.”

Ever since the colossal defeat of the Congress in the 2019 general election, there has been a ceaseless debate in the media and in political circles about the future of the Congress party. The defection of Jyotiraditya Scindia to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the replication of a similar script by Congress leader Sachin Pilot has intensified this debate which centers around the leadership, organizational and ideological challenges confronting the Congress. After Rahul Gandhi's resignation as Congress President in July 2019, the party has witnessed disintegration in States including Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Several prominent leaders have quit the party

and joined the BJP. Defections, splits and electoral decline are not new phenomena in the party's long history, but the crisis the Congress faces in the wake of two massive defeats in the last two Lok Sabha elections is unprecedented and has clearly been aggravated by its inability to resolve the leadership issue.

A clutch of young(ish) leaders close to Mr. Gandhi have resigned. These leaders have caught the media's attention more than many others who have quit in the last one year. The narrative in sections of the media built around these rebellions is that the Congress mishandled the crisis and the concerns of these leaders regarding the party's functioning. The dominant argument is that the Congress lacks inner party democracy and hence cannot keep young leaders in its fold. Sections of the mainstream media blame Mr. Gandhi for the crisis and want him to vacate space to make way for other leaders.

Two important dimensions

Big-ticket leaders leaving the Congress should be a matter of concern for the party. But to view Mr. Pilot's rebellion in Rajasthan as only the result of failure of leadership and organizational politics misses two important dimensions of this crisis. Mr. Pilot was willing to sacrifice the government, of which he was the Deputy Chief Minister until a few days ago, because he has differences with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. Even though he says he is not joining the BJP, Mr. Pilot does not put much distance between himself and the party. Mr. Pilot made it clear that he was unwilling to settle for anything less than the chief ministership even though he has the support of just 18 MLAs. Mr. Pilot is heading a minority faction but making claims to the top job is a sign of the neoliberal times we live in where ambition trumps commitment to party and ideology.

The narrative in sections of the media that younger leaders are not allowed to grow in the Congress is not evident from the career graphs of some of these leaders. They had been given top posts by the Congress. That they still chose to rebel is an aspect disregarded in the narrative built up around them. Many of them are exiting the Congress with alacrity because the party is out of power and is not in a position to offer the loaves and fishes of office to leaders waiting in the departure lounge. When the party was in power it could adjust and accommodate conflicting interests and ambitions in multiple ways but it is much harder to do so in Opposition. The BJP, on the other hand, is routinely able to attract disgruntled leaders to its side. Arguably, it has given in to Mr. Scindia's huge demands in Madhya Pradesh to attract Mr. Pilot in Rajasthan. The bottom line is this: Mr. Pilot's escapade into Haryana couldn't have taken off without the BJP's support. His jaunt to ITC's Best Western can't be passed off as a struggle for inner party democracy in the Congress.

The second and more important dimension of the Rajasthan crisis is the



Sachin Pilot, the challenger and Ashok Gehlot, the challenged present a picture of disarray in Congress Party

concerted effort mounted by the ruling party to topple the Congress government in the State. The pursuit of this single-minded objective amid the pandemic has been given short shrift in the loud narrative of sections of the media. Since 2014, the BJP's stated objective of a Congress-free India has seen attempts to unsettle and unseat Congress governments in several States. One of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first statements after taking over as the chairman of the BJP's election campaign committee in 2013 was the declaration that getting rid of the Congress would be "the solution to all problems facing the country". "The Congress party is a burden on this nation," he said. Since coming to power in 2014, the BJP has been using various means, notably money power and the coercive power of state agencies, to achieve this goal by bringing down elected Congress governments in State after State.

Hunt for power

We have seen many States witnessing a change of guard. In 2016, in Arunachal Pradesh, the BJP backed the rebel Congress faction when deep cracks surfaced within the ruling party. The BJP lost the election but managed to replace the Congress government with its own in Karnataka (in 2019) and in Madhya Pradesh (in 2020). In 2019, the Congress emerged the single largest party in Goa, but the BJP was quick to cobble together a coalition and form a government. Now Rajasthan is on the cusp of change though the game is not over yet.

In Goa, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, scores of Congress legislators were allegedly lured into deserting the Congress which enabled the BJP to gain power after losing in elections. These reports are in the realm of speculation but one thing is clear: the BJP is not short on resources for financing defections given its absolute power at the Centre. The Association of Democratic Reforms estimates that a whopping 95%

of all electoral bond money before the 2019 election went to the BJP. The Congress received less than 10% of bond money. The loss of so many State governments further reduces the party's financial power and the opportunity to generate funds.

Although the BJP disclaims authorship of this long-running drama, Rajasthan's political crisis has underlined once again its unscrupulous hunt for power. Given its enviable record in forming governments through political defections, the perception that a government with a clear majority is being deposed may not really matter to the party. However, it should matter to the media. But the media spotlight is not on the BJP's dubious methods of destabilizing elected governments, but on the disarray in the Congress, which allows the BJP to get away even with constitutional transgressions. Thus far, the Congress has managed to save its government in Rajasthan. Regardless of the final outcome, an obvious conclusion to draw from this crisis would be that the Congress party has to put its house in order to stop further desertions and breakup. It has to bring an end to the unmitigated drift and elect a new president and begin the process of rebuilding the party.

That so many in the media have seen Mr. Pilot's unhappiness with the Congress as an example of a talented politician being forced to jump ship to the BJP shows that the BJP's narrative is completely hegemonic. That so many in the political class (including Congress politicians) and the media are echoing the same line (as though it's a party line), and are willing to overlook the majoritarian might of the BJP, the illegitimacy of the power grab, and the wholly unjustified attempt to dislodge an elected government betokens a debasement of politics and a disregard for democratic norms that should concern us all.

(The author is Professor Emerita, Centre for Political Studies, JNU)

Thai serial killer cremated after decades as museum display

NONTHABURI (THAILAND) (TIP): For decades, some Thai parents warned their naughty children that if they didn't behave, Si Ouey would come eat their livers.

If the threat of a ghostly visit from the executed child killer, long called a cannibal, proved ineffective, those children could always be taken to see Si Ouey.

After all, his mummified corpse — gnarled and blackened — for years stood on display in a glass case in the Forensic Museum at Bangkok's Siriraj Hospital.

In recent years, however, doubts were raised about whether the man called Thailand's first serial killer was given justice and a campaign was launched to at least give him a proper funeral.

On Thursday, six decades after his execution, that finally happened.

Nine Buddhist monks at a temple north of Bangkok chanted prayers and paper flowers were placed in front of Si Ouey's coffin, which was then moved to the crematorium, where the head of the Corrections Department lit the fire. Hospital officials as well as residents of a town where he once lived looked on.

Si Ouey, a Chinese immigrant who worked as a gardener, was reportedly caught red-handed in 1958 in a forest in Rayong province burning the body of a 8-year-old boy who had disappeared on an errand.

Police were quick to pin on him at least five previous unsolved murders of children dating back to 1954, some in other provinces. Lurid newspaper accounts detailed how he supposedly relished eating their hearts, livers and intestines.

Si Ouey was said to have told police that he acquired a taste for human flesh during World War II, when as a Chinese soldier in a unit besieged by the Japanese he survived by eating the bodies of those killed in battle.

He was tried and found guilty of murder and executed by firing squad on September 16, 1959. He was 32.

His body was then handed over to Siriraj Hospital for what was described as medical study. His story soon became a regular staple of horror books and B-movies.

The truth about Si Ouey's case, however, is difficult to confirm.

Police at the time had a reputation for beating confessions out of suspects, and popular newspapers dished out tabloid-style sensationalism. Si Ouey was also at a disadvantage because he was a poor immigrant, arriving from China in 1946 at age 19. Thailand's military governments at the time were keen to stir up anti-Chinese sentiment in the Cold War atmosphere and often blamed immigrants for crime and unrest.

Doubts about Si Ouey's guilt only garnered much interest in the past decade, after several television documentaries pointed out discrepancies in the evidence. (AP)

Bangladesh restructures health services over COVID-19 scam

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh's health services on July 23 witnessed a major restructuring following a scam over COVID-19 tests.

Dr ABM Khurshid Alam has been appointed as the new director general of the directorate general of health services (DGHS), a health ministry spokesman said.

The new DGHS chief was currently serving as the surgery department head of state-run Dhaka Medical College Hospital, it said. The official said the ministry simultaneously appointed a new DGHS director entrusting him with the charge of overseeing hospitals and clinics. The new appointments come hours after the government said that it had scrapped the contractual agreement and appointment of Abul Kalam Azad as the chief of the DGHS, a key agency in the fight against the pandemic.

Azad preferred an honourable exit by resigning from his position amid allegations of irregularities.

The scams came to light after two private facilities allowed by Azad's office to test COVID-19 and treating patients found to be involved in faking the tests.



Their owners and senior officials of the two private facilities are now under police custody for investigations.

Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam in a statement said the restructuring was not enough and health

minister Zahid Malek should resign as well due to the scandal.

Bangladesh on Thursday reported 50 deaths due to the coronavirus, taking the country's toll to 2,801. The country has witnessed 216,110 COVID-19 cases so far. PTI

Quetta gurdwara handed over to Sikhs after 73 years



QUETTA (TIP): The government in Pakistan's Balochistan province has handed over a 200-year-old gurdwara to the Sikh community after a period of 73 years, a media report said on July 23.

The Siri Guru Singh Gurdwara located on Masjid Road in the centre of the city has been used as APWA Government High Girls School since 1947, said the Dawn news report.

"Restoring gurdwara as a place of worship for the Sikh community is a historical decision of the Balochistan government," Denesh Kumar, provincial parliamentary secretary and Adviser to the Chief Minister on Minority Affairs, said on Wednesday.

The students who were studying in APWA Government Girls High School have been asked to seek admission to nearby schools.

Sardar Jasbeer Singh, chairman of

the Sikh Community Committee in Balochistan, welcomed the move and described it as a "gift from the Balochistan government to the Sikh community living in the province".

"The Sikh community of the province is very pleased that our ancient gurdwara has been handed over to us by the government of Pakistan and the Balochistan High Court after 73 years and now we are able to continue our religious practice there," Dawn news quoted Singh as saying.

Around 2,000 Sikh families live in Balochistan.

Earlier in February this year, the Balochistan government had handed over a 200-year-old temple in Zhob to the Hindu community.

The temple had been converted into a government boys' school, which has now been shifted to another building.—IANS

Afghan girl grabs AK-47 and kills Taliban terrorists to avenge parents' murder

KABUL (TIP): An Afghan girl shot dead two Taliban militants and injured several others after they dragged out her parents from their home and killed them for supporting the government, officials said on July 20.

The incident happened last week when insurgents stormed the home of Qamar Gul, a teenager from a village in the central province of Ghor, Gulf news reported.

The terrorists were looking for her father, the village chief, local police head Habiburrahman Malekzada told the media.

Her father was a government supporter, which is why the terrorists went to his house and dragged him out, Malekzada said.

When his wife resisted, the Taliban militants killed the couple outside their home, Malekzada said.

"Qamar Gul, who was inside the house, took an AK-47 gun the family had and first shot dead the two Taliban terrorists who killed her parents, and then injured a few others," he said.

Gul is aged between 14 and 16, according to different officials. It is common for many Afghans not to know their precise age.

Several other Taliban militants later came to attack her house, but some villagers and pro-government militiamen drove them away after a gunfight. In recent months, the militants have stepped up attacks on security forces despite agreeing to peace talks with Kabul. IANS

PETER BHEDDAH : The Man with the milk of human kindness



Peter Bheddah was always the best dressed male around



Peter Bheddah wearing the Ellis Island Medal of Honor

BY PROF. I.S. SALUJA

My friend, Peter Bheddah is no more. His being no more means a lot to many people whose lives he touched. His being no more means a loss of world for his wife Dorothy and their daughters, and their grandchildren. His being no more means those who were running soup kitchens will probably miss his charity, until, of course, Dorothy decides to continue with the generosity Peter displayed.

Nothing pleased my friend more than serving people, particularly helping out the needy and the underprivileged. I know of his support to various organizations engaged in serving the poor in the communities. Peter would not hesitate for a minute if he was convinced that his money was being spent for a good cause.

I recall my conversation with him after he received the coveted highest civilian award for immigrants-the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. I asked him how he felt receiving the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and he replied: "another gift for the service I have been doing to community". The Ellis Island Medal of Honor, America's highest honor for immigrants, is a well-deserved, long overdue award bestowed in May 2012 on Peter Bheddah who has devoted 35 years of his life serving humanity.

The New Yorker, with origins in Gujarat, India, has been active in charitable activities and has held positions of responsibility in service projects and community organizations, both in India and the US.

Peter, a Jain Kutchi from Gujarat whose real name was Chhotalal Vijpal Bheddah, came to America as a student in 1960 after his college in Chennai. He started a business dealing in electronics. IDC Marketing started by him in 1972 from Manhattan grew to do millions of dollars of business annually in electronics wholesale trade selling telephones, television sets, VCRs, Sony Walkmans, cameras, etc. It was also the first Indian American company in the line. While business prospered, Bheddah never lost track of what he set out to achieve: to help the needy. He has delved deep into his own pockets and has worked tirelessly to provide the much needed succor to the needy in the US as well as India.

Having inherited altruistic genes from his grandfather who had set up hospitals and schools in their native place in Kutch, Bheddah's own charitable activities started in 1994 when he originated and promoted the concept of assisting the less fortunate through India Association of Long Island (IALI). He has since been a Grand Sponsor every year and has obtained truckloads of food for IALI's annual food drive. This has helped IALI to provide the Interfaith Nutrition Network, which operates 14 soup kitchens for the homeless people.

After the 2001 earthquake in Bhuj, Kutch, Bheddah visited the devastated area with President Bill Clinton. His commitment to the humanitarian cause has resulted in supporting projects worth \$1,000,000 for rebuilding the region. The hospital in Bhujpur established by his



Peter and Dorothy at the family hospital in Gujarat



Peter and Dorothy at Interfaith Nutrition Network, which operates 14 soup kitchens for the homeless people. Bheddahs donated huge sum annually to INN

forefathers in 1929 was demolished after the quake. However, with his efforts, a new 9,000 sq foot hospital was opened in 2006. The 20-bed Bheddah Hospital serves 23 villages with excellent medical care. He also built 500 houses and two schools in Kutch.

Bheddah was a past president and a director of the Nargis Dutt Memorial Foundation based in Long Island. The fundraising and completion of projects during his presidency (1992-94) have been unsurpassed on many counts. Over the past 30 years, the New York chapter of the Nargis Dutt Memorial Foundation has provided financial support for 50 projects worth more than \$5,000,000. Numerous Indian hospitals have received equipment for detection and treatment of cancer for needy patients; Bheddah actively supported those efforts.

He was active for the last 35 years in a wide variety of community and service organizations. He was a trustee and past president of the Gujarati Samaj of New York. He was a trustee of the Samaj for 2009-2012. During his two-year term from 2001 to 2002, he was credited with raising a substantial amount of money and restructuring the finances of the Samaj.

Peter Bheddah's association with and leadership of many organizations and institutions will always be remembered.

Mr. Bobby Kumar Kalottee, one of his close friends, recalled his long association with Mr. Bheddah and said he always

looked upon him as an elder brother who encouraged him to continue to serve community and humanity, no matter what obstacle some may try to place in his way. Mr. Kalottee who was filled with grief at Mr. Bheddah's passing away, lamented that the Indian American community had lost a leader, a guide, a philosopher and a friend.

Another old time friend of Peter, Subhash (Sam) Kapadia recalled how Peter was the one who helped him set up his business. He said Peter was the one who guided and helped him in his business when nobody was willing to help him.

There are many who were helped and guided by Peter. The man was kindhearted, of charitable disposition and, at times, generous to a fault. When comes such another?

My heart goes out to his family who were so used to him. My heart goes out to his best friends- Shiv Dass, Subhash Kapadia, Bobby Kumar Kalottee who will find an emptiness in life with him having gone.

And, as for myself, I have lost a friend and a patron.. Life will not be the same again.

I pray for eternal peace to the departed soul. I pray for strength to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss. And, to friends and admirers of Peter, of whom I am one, I will suggest we carry forward his message and legacy which will be our true tribute to him.



Peter and wife Dorothy with President Bill and Hillary Clinton

Closure of more Chinese embassies 'possible', says Trump as US shuts down consulate in Houston

WASHINGTON (TIP): The US does not rule out the possibility of closing more Chinese diplomatic missions in the country, President Donald Trump has said, hours after Washington ordered the closure of Beijing's consulate in Houston to "protect American intellectual property and private information".

The US move came amid a growing number of disputes between the two countries over Beijing's increasingly aggressive actions that have led Washington to take strong actions, including closing the consulate in Houston, according to senior Trump administration officials.

The consulate in Houston, Texas, is one of five Chinese diplomatic missions in the US, not counting the embassy in Washington DC.

The US move came after the Justice Department said hackers working with the Chinese government targeted firms developing vaccines for the coronavirus and stole hundreds of millions of dollars worth of intellectual property and trade secrets from companies across the world.

"As far as closing additional embassies, it's always possible," Trump told reporters on Wednesday, July 22, during a daily press briefing at the White House when asked if he is looking at closing more Chinese diplomatic missions in the US.

The US State Department in a brief statement on Wednesday said it had "directed the closure of the People's Republic of China (PRC) Consulate General Houston, in order to protect American intellectual property and American's private information".

State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said the US would not tolerate the PRC's violations of its sovereignty and intimidation of its people, just as it has not tolerated the PRC's unfair trade practices, theft of American jobs, and other egregious behavior.

She said Trump "insists on fairness



"As far as closing additional embassies, it's always possible," Trump told reporters on Wednesday, July 22, during a daily press briefing at the White House

and reciprocity in US-China relations".

During the press conference, Trump referred to the news reports of fire in the Chinese Consulate in Houston apparently due to burning of documents in its courtyard.

"You see what's going on. We thought there was a fire in the one that we did close. And everybody said, 'There's a fire. There's a fire.' And I guess they were burning documents or burning papers, and I wonder what that's all about," he said. Meanwhile, testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday, Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun gave a context to the decision to close the Houston consulate.

"We find the US-China relationship today weighed down by a growing number of disputes, including commercial espionage and intellectual property theft from American companies; unequal treatment of our diplomats, businesses, NGOs, and journalists by Chinese authorities; and abuse of the US academic freedom and welcoming posture toward international students to steal sensitive technology

and research from our universities in order to advance the PRC's military," he said.

"It is these factors which led the President to direct a number of actions in response, including yesterday's notification to the PRC that we have withdrawn our consent for the PRC to operate its consulate in Houston, Texas," Biegun said.

The move to shut down the Chinese consulate in Houston was welcomed by top American lawmakers.

Senator Ben Sasse, a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, alleged that the Chinese Communist Party's consulate in Houston is a massive safe house for "Chi-Comm spies".

"It's absolutely the right call to shut it down. We ought to be throwing even more of Chairman Xi's agents out of the country," he said.

Congressman Michael McCaul, a Republican leader on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said Chinese consulate in Houston is the epicenter of the Chinese Communist Party's ongoing research theft in the US, particularly for

stealing sensitive information to build up their military.

"The CCP's recent targeting of US coronavirus vaccine research underscores the threat of this consulate's malign activity in Houston, a biomedical research and technology hub itself. I am hopeful this action will deal a significant blow to the CCP's spy network in the US and send a clear message that their widespread espionage campaigns will no longer go unchecked," he said.

In an interview to Fox News, Congresswoman Liz Cheney described it as a strong step. "It is a very important sign that we are seeing steps like this one, steps like the President's sanctions against the people in the government of China who are responsible for Uighurs and the concentration camps as well as for what's going on in Hong Kong," she said.

Democratic Senator Robert Menendez, a Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, asked: "When China 'retaliates', as they have said they will, what will be our next move?"

Reacting strongly to the US move, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin on Wednesday termed it as an "unprecedented escalation" and warned retaliatory measures.

Both the US and China were locked in a political and strategic conflict in recent months on a host of issues including the origin of the coronavirus, China's decision to implement its national security law in Hong Kong and deepening trade frictions.

Beijing apparently is looking at options to order the closure of the US Consulate in Wuhan or in Hong Kong, where the Chinese officials had accused the US of backing the anti-China protests.

Apart from the Chinese embassy in Washington, Beijing has an office at the United Nations and consulates in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago.

US House Passes Legislation Including Indian American Congressman's Amendment Urging China to End Its Military Aggression toward India

WASHINGTON, DC (TIP): On Tuesday July 21, the U.S. House passed its annual National Defense Authorization Act which included Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi's bipartisan amendment regarding Chinese aggression toward India along the Line of Actual Control.

"Through the passage of today's

bill, the House has sent a clear, bipartisan message that the Government of the People's Republic of China must peacefully de-escalate the situation along the Line of Actual Control with India," said Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi.

"China's military provocations of India are unacceptable, and the

peaceful resolution of their border standoff will help restore greater security to the Indo-Pacific region. Through this vote, the US House of Representatives has reaffirmed the readiness of the United States to stand with our allies and partners like India against Chinese military aggression." Congressman Krishnamoorthi further added.



Rep Raja Krishnamoorthi

Democratic leaders scoff at emerging GOP coronavirus aid plan, promise it won't pass

WASHINGTON (TIP): Democratic leaders on Thursday panned the emerging Republican package for coronavirus relief, calling it an "unserious" proposal that won't pass Congress.

"What we have seen so far falls very short of the challenge that we face in order to defeat the virus, and in order to open our schools and open our economy," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said on Thursday. "We have to act. And what they're proposing falls far short."

Senate Republicans reached a tentative agreement with the White House on Wednesday for a proposal expected to cost \$1 trillion that will include \$105 billion for schools, \$16 billion for testing and a new round of direct payments to individuals. Millions of Americans will see their unemployment benefits decrease if Congress can't find a way to extend the boosted payments by the end of the week.

Trump appeared to concede on Thursday that he won't get one of his top priorities, a reduction in the payroll tax, which had lacked the needed support even in his own party. He took to Twitter to criticize Democrats and his own party for not including the tax reduction.

Senate leadership had previously acknowledged that their proposal is a starting point for talks with Democrats. There have been few bipartisan talks so far.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck



"It appears the Republican legislative response to COVID is un-unified, unserious, unsatisfactory," says Sen. Chuck Schumer, the minority leader

Schumer, D-N.Y., called the Republican plan "a partisan bill that will never become law just so they can muster up the courage to negotiate."

Schumer: Republicans are 'so divided' they cannot come up with a coronavirus plan

JULY 23, 2020 2:36

"It appears the Republican legislative response to COVID is un-unified, unserious, unsatisfactory. The Republican disarray and dithering has seriously, potentially deadly

consequences for tens of millions of Americans," said Schumer, whose party has filibuster power to block legislation in the Senate.

The Republican legislation hasn't been made public yet. GOP leaders are still working to resolve party divisions that have prevented them from coming up with a position to begin negotiations with Democrats. Coronavirus cases in the United States have topped 4 million, according to the latest NBC News count.

The Democratic-led House passed a

broader \$3.4 trillion bill in May to address the pandemic.

Schumer slammed Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell for insisting on liability protections for businesses as well as hospitals, schools and other entities as they re-open.

"Seriously? Leader McConnell has made corporate immunity the centerpiece of the Republican response?" Schumer said. "Once again the Republican Senate is far more comfortable providing relief to big corporations than relief to workers and families."

Schumer said the next package must address unemployment benefits, food assistance, rental assistance, hazard pay to essential workers, bolstering hard-hit communities and ensuring a secure election this fall.

Republican negotiators have signaled that they would address the ongoing pandemic through a variety of legislative measures, which both Democratic leaders rejected as just a series of "disjointed proposals."

"We cannot piecemeal this," said Pelosi.

Schumer added, "We have to address it as a totality."

Both were adamant about extending the \$600 benefit for unemployment insurance that runs dry this week.

"Our unemployment provision has kept millions out of poverty, millions," Schumer said. (NBC News)

1.4 million seek jobless aid, first increase since March

WASHINGTON (TIP): The number of laid-off Americans seeking unemployment benefits rose last week for the first time since the pandemic struck in March, evidence of the deepening economic pain the outbreak is causing to the economy.



eligible for the first time. That figure isn't adjusted for seasonal trends, so it's reported separately.

The resurgence of confirmed viral cases across the country has forced some businesses to close a second

time or to impose tighter restrictions on customers in response to state mandates. The resulting pullback in business activity has hindered job growth and likely forced additional layoffs.

The federal government's USD 600 weekly benefit for laid-off workers - which is in addition to whatever jobless aid a state provides - is the last major source of economic help from the USD 2 trillion relief package that Congress approved in March. A small business lending program and one-time USD 1,200 payment have largely run their course.

Members of Congress are negotiating another aid package that might extend the USD 600 benefit, though likely at a lower level. Because of the USD 600 weekly federal benefit, roughly two-thirds of the unemployed are receiving more in aid than they earned at their former jobs, research has shown - a finding that's led Republicans to argue that it is discouraging people from returning to work. (Source: AP)

The rise in weekly jobless claims to 1.4 million underscores the outsize role the unemployment insurance system is playing among the nation's safety net programs - just when a USD 600 weekly federal aid payment for the jobless is set to expire at the end of this week.

All told, the Labor Department said Thursday that roughly 32 million people are receiving unemployment benefits, though that figure could include double counting by some states. Some economists say the figure is likely closer to 25 million.

Last week's pace of unemployment applications - the 18th straight week it's topped 1 million - was up from 1.3 million the previous week. Before the pandemic, the number of weekly applications had never exceeded 700,000.

An additional 975,000 applied for jobless aid under a separate program that has made self-employed and gig workers

Installation of Executive of Rotary Club of Jericho Sunrise held



Members of Rotary Club of Jericho Sunrise

LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP): The following are the officials of Rotary Club of Jericho Sunrise who were installed on July 17.

President - Priya Suri; Vice

President - Dr Meenu Heda Maheshwari; Secretary - Dr Shaifali Rametra; Joint Secretary - Sarita Hirani; Treasurer - Sangeeta Bahl, and Sergeant at Arms - Sandita Parker.

CORONAVIRUS CASES

Day after highest recovery, India adds record 49,310 new Covid-19 cases; tally close to 1.3 million

NEW DELHI (TIP): India on Friday recorded 49,310 new cases of the coronavirus disease, another high after a record over 45,000 cases in a day on Thursday. According to Union health ministry data, the number of Covid-19 cases have now reached 12,87,945.

The number of active cases in the country are 4,40,135, while 8,17,208. The country also recorded 740 fatalities in the last 24 hours, which pushed the death toll to 30,601, according to health ministry data.

Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Telangana, Bihar, Assam, Delhi, Odisha, Kerala and Gujarat contribute to around 75 per cent of the record single-day spike.

The country had recorded 45,720 cases and 1,129 fatalities in a day on Thursday. It crossed the 12-lakh mark, just three days after it went past the 11-lakh milestone.

However, the health ministry said that as many as 29,557 Covid-19 patients have recuperated in a 24-hour span till Thursday morning, the highest recorded in a day so far, taking the recovery rate to 63.18 per cent.

Sustained efforts by the Centre, states and union territories (UTs) are resulting in more effective containment, aggressive testing, and prompt and efficient clinical treatment strategies, it had said.

The number of tests for detection of Covid-19 also crossed the 15-million mark. A total of 1,50,75,369



samples have been tested up to July 22 with 3,50,823 samples being tested on Wednesday, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) officials said.

In Punjab, Rs 5K fine for violating home isolation

Covid patients violating home isolation rules in Punjab will have to shell out a fine of Rs 5,000 instead of Rs 2,000 earlier, according to new guidelines announced by Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh.

At present, 951 patients are in home isolation across the state. The owners of eateries violating physical-distancing norms will be slapped a penalty of Rs 5,000. Those breaching minimum-distancing

and permitted-strength regulations at social gatherings would invite a fine of Rs 10,000, as per the guidelines announced via a video-conference to check the spread of the pandemic in the state.

Under the existing guidelines, commercial establishments are liable to pay Rs 2,000 for violation of physical-distancing norms. For buses and cars, such violations are punishable by Rs 3,000 and Rs 2,000 fine, respectively. In case of auto-rickshaws and two-wheelers, the fine is Rs 500. The fresh penalties are in addition to Rs 500 each announced in May for not wearing a mask and spitting at public places. An average 5,000 violators are challaned daily for not wearing masks across Punjab.



NIT ADMISSION NORMS EASED IN VIEW OF COVID

NEW DELHI (TIP): The HRD Ministry announced a relaxation in the admission criterion for NITs and centrally funded technical institutions in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, doing away with the requirement of minimum 75 per cent marks in Class XII board exams. "Due to the prevailing circumstances, the Central Seat Allocation Board (CSAB) has decided to relax the eligibility criterion for admissions to NITs and other centrally funded technical institutions," Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" tweeted.

"JEE Main-2020 qualified candidates will now need to obtain only a passing certificate in Class XII examination, irrespective of the marks obtained by them," he further said. For admissions to NITs and other centrally funded technical institutions, apart from qualifying the JEE-Main, the eligibility was to secure a minimum of 75 per cent marks in Class XII board exams or rank among the top 20 percentile in their qualifying examinations.

IT ministry to ban more apps over links with China

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has decided to ban several mobile applications, mostly of Chinese origin, officials familiar with the matter said.

The applications — Helo Lite, ShareIt Lite, Bigo Lite and VFY Lite — have been removed from the Google playstore and Apple app store, the officials said. The government had, in a similar move last month, banned 59 applications, including popular video app TikTok, in the backdrop of a India-China standoff in Galwan Valley, in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed.

PM Modi gives Ladakh its first central university; will have a Centre on Buddhist Studies

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greenlighted the plan for the first central university in Ladakh with a Centre on Buddhist Studies, a move that comes just about a fortnight before the first anniversary of the parliamentary enactment that led to the creation of Ladakh as a union territory.

The proposed central university will offer degrees in all courses such as liberal arts and basic sciences except engineering and medical education.

PM Modi's in-principle approval came at a meeting convened on Monday to review the steps taken by the government over the last one year in the union territories of Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir and outline the priorities for the Centre over the next few months to improve the lives of people. Union home minister Amit Shah, external affairs minister S Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and all top officials attended this meeting.

On 5 August last year, the Centre had moved Parliament to strip the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir of its special status in the Constitution and create the two union territories. The Centre had then promised that the Union Territory status would lead to an improvement in the security situation in the centrally-administered territories and put the focus back on development.

Source: HT

GOVT SANCTIONS PERMANENT COMMISSION TO WOMEN OFFICERS IN INDIAN ARMY

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Ministry of Defence has issued the formal government sanction letter for grant of Permanent Commission (PC) to Women Officers in the Indian Army, paving the way for empowering Women Officers to shoulder larger roles in the organisation, said Indian Army spokesperson.

The order specifies grant of permanent commission to Short Service Commissioned (SSC) Women Officers in all ten streams of the Indian Army i.e Army Air Defence (AAD), Signals, Engineers, Army Aviation, Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME), Army Service Corps (ASC), Army Ordnance Corps (AOC), and Intelligence Corps in addition to the existing streams of Judge and Advocate General (JAG) and Army Educational Corps (AEC).

Their Selection Board will be scheduled as soon as all affected SSC women officers exercise their option and complete requisite



documentation.

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court had granted one more month to the Centre to implement its verdict directing that permanent commission be given to all serving SSC women officers in the Army. The top court's direction came on an application filed by the Centre seeking six months' time for implementation of the verdict citing the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the hearing, the Centre told the bench that decision making on the issue is at a final stage and only formal orders remain to be issued.

In a landmark verdict on February 17, the top court had directed that women officers in the Army be granted permanent commission and command postings, rejecting the Centre's stand of their physiological limitations as being based on "sex stereotypes" and "gender discrimination against women".

It had earlier directed the Centre that within three months, all serving SSC women officers have to be considered for Permanent Commissions irrespective of them having crossed 14 years or, as the case may be, 20 years of service.

The top court had noted that Indian Army has sanctioned 50,266 posts for officers, while the posts currently occupied are 40,825 including 1,653 by women officers.

It had noted that there is shortage of 9,441 officers in the Indian Army.

There are total of 1,653 women officers which is a miniscule 4 % of the total strength of commissioned officers in the Army, it had said.

Rajasthan HC puts off verdict in Pilot vs Gehlot case, tells speaker to maintain status quo

JAIPUR (TIP): The Rajasthan high court on Friday ordered status quo to be maintained in the disqualification case against Sachin Pilot and 18 other dissident Congress MLAs.

With this order, the court has barred Speaker CP Joshi from acting on the July 14 disqualification notices. The order came after the high court agreed to Pilot's request to make Centre a party to the case. The application was moved by Pilot on the ground that Tenth Schedule's constitutional validity was under challenge and therefore, the Union of India was a necessary party.

Pilot and 18 other dissident MLAs had challenged a disqualification notice given by the Speaker in the high court. The notice was given on the request of Congress' chief whip who said Pilot and his supporters did not attend the party's CLP meetings.

The Pilot camp, however, argued that a party whip applies only when the assembly is in session.

In the last hearing, the high court had asked the Speaker to wait for its verdict on Friday before taking any action against Team Pilot.

But Joshi had moved the apex court to challenge the "direction" given to his office by the court. He had contended in his petition that the court cannot interfere in legislative matter, and that the action against the dissident MLAs should be decided by his office.

The notice was given on the request of Congress' chief whip who said Pilot and his supporters



did not attend the party's CLP meetings. The Pilot camp, however, argued that a party whip applies only when the assembly is in session.

The apex court, which heard the matter through video-conferencing, said that issue raised in the plea filed by the Speaker required "prolonged hearing" as it involved "larger question" related to the democracy and how it will survive.

"As the high court has already heard the matter after prolonged arguments and reserved the order, we are not staying the passing of the order, however, whatever order is passed, shall be ultimately subject to the outcome of this petition," the bench comprising

justices Arun Mishra, B R Gavai and Krishna Murari, said and fixed the matter for hearing on July 27.

The high court, meanwhile, accepted another application filed by Pilot to include the Union government in the list of respondents. Pilot had contended that Tenth Schedule's constitutional validity was under challenge and therefore, the Union of India was a necessary party now.

The dissident Congress MLAs led by Pilot had challenged their disqualification notices through a writ petition which was taken up by a bench of Rajasthan High Court, comprising Chief Justice Indrajit Mahanty and Justice Prakash Gupta, and arguments were held.

NEW PM WEBSITE TO BE ACCESSIBLE IN 6 UN, 22 INDIAN LANGUAGES

NEW DELHI (TIP): The government on Thursday sought proposals from agencies to redesign the Prime Minister's official website which will be available in six UN languages and 22 scheduled Indian languages.

The current website of the Prime Minister is accessible in 12 languages.

The government looks to engage a qualified and experienced agency having experience in the field of design, development and maintenance of websites, according to a request for proposal (RFP) floated by National e-Governance Division (NeGD).

"...the agency would be required to prepare a detailed software requirement specification, provide end-to-end managed service for development and maintenance of the website and localise the PM India portal into 22 official Indian languages and six official United Nations languages," the RFP document said.

The six UN languages are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

The list of Indian languages includes Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

Northeast can be country's growth engine, says PM

NEW DELHI (TIP):

The North-East has the potential to become the country's growth engine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday, noting that peace was now being established in the entire region.

He stated this at the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the Manipur water supply project via a video link.

While blockades have become part of history in Manipur, the era of decades of violence has ceased in Assam, the PM said in his address. In Tripura and Mizoram too, youths have abandoned the path of violence and the Bru-Reang refugees were moving towards a better life, he added.

The PM said the government was making efforts to improve connectivity in the North-East, be it highways, laying of rail tracks or upgrading airports. He said the North-East had the potential to replace country's bamboo import with local production. "There is a huge demand for incense sticks in the country, but for this, India imports bamboo worth crores of rupees every year," the PM said. A lot of work was being done to change this situation, he said.



MM Joshi denies charges in Babri demolition case

LUCKNOW (TIP): Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Murlu Manohar Joshi on Thursday denied all charges against him in the 1992 Babri Masjid demolition case, and dubbed them as fabricated and politically motivated.

Joshi, 86, appeared before the special Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court to record his statements through video conferencing from his residence in New Delhi. Lawyer KK Mishra represented Joshi in the CBI court in Lucknow.

"During the court proceedings, Joshi answered around 300 questions," Mishra said.

Judge Surendra Kumar Yadav of the CBI court ordered that a PDF file of Joshi's statements be sent to the central agency's Delhi office via email. The court also ordered CBI to get Joshi's statement signed by him and sent back to the CBI court.

On Friday, senior BJP leader LK Advani, 92, will appear before the CBI court via video link from his



residence in New Delhi to record his statements.

With Advani's statement, the CBI court will complete recording statements of all 32 accused in the Babri Masjid demolition case, barring Shiv Sena leader Satish Pradhan, who has tested positive for Covid-19 and is under quarantine in Mumbai. The court has fixed July 28 for Pradhan to record his statements.

Another accused, Om Prakash Pandey of Uttarakhand, is absconding for the last 16 years and the CBI court has issued orders to seize his property.

Ex-CJI Gogoi, Scindia enter key House panels

NEW DELHI (TIP): Former chief justice of India, Ranjan Gogoi, has been made a member of Parliament's standing committee on external affairs while NCP leader Sharad Pawar has entered another key House panel—defence—in a major restructuring of the panels, largely to accommodate 65 MPs of the Rajya Sabha.

Rajya Sabha chairman Venkaiah Naidu also nominated former union minister and BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia, who is now in the human resource development panel which will also have BJP's Vinay Sahasrabudhe as the new chairman. The shuffle in the HRD panel comes at a crucial time when the Covid-19 pandemic has altered the traditional education landscape, forced millions of students to go online, deferred key competitive exams and also when the NDA government is set to unveil its new education policy.

Fortis ex-promoter granted bail

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Delhi High Court on Thursday granted bail to former Fortis Healthcare promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh in a case related to alleged misappropriation of funds at Religare Finvest Limited. Shivinder will have to furnish a personal bond of Rs 1 crore and produce two sureties of Rs 25 lakh each.

India toughens import rules for bidders from bordering nations

NEW DELHI (TIP): India has placed curbs on bidders from bordering nations on grounds of national security, a government statement said on Friday, a move aimed at restricting imports from China.

The restrictions were imposed a day after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged India to focus on domestic supply chains and reduce its dependence on China as Washington's ties with Beijing deteriorate dramatically.

Making Music In Covid Times

By Mabel Pais

JTOLE SUMMER JAZZ WORKSHOPS PRESENTS FREE CONCERT

SUNDAY, JULY 26 AT 6 P.M.

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS) JTole Summer Jazz Workshop will present a free concert on Sunday, July 26 at 6:00 p.m. via the online platform Zoom.

Over 80 students will join some of the top musicians and educators in the country for an evening of jazz featuring two big bands and eight combos performing the music of Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Duke Pearson, Thelonious Monk, Mary Lou Williams, and more.

Special guests include Sean Jones, Chair of Jazz at Peabody Conservatory and Jazz Education Network President; Kenny Rampton, Founder of Jazz at Lincoln Center and Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center's Jazz Outreach Initiative; Tia Fuller, Professor of Saxophone at Berklee School of Music; Rodney Green, Educator, Composer, and Sound Designer; Michael Dease, Professor of Trombone at Michigan State University; and Helen Sung, Composer, Performer, and Educator.

clinics on Women in Jazz, Composition, and How to be a Professional.

"We have been able to keep our students playing, engaged, learning new concepts, recording, and making music together during Covid-19. We have an amazing faculty who hold our students to high standards while making it fun," Tolentino said.

"Our summer jazz workshop is providing unique opportunities for young jazz students across the country, in the comfort of their homes, to learn directly from some of the best jazz artists in the world," said Artistic Director Helen H. Cha-Pyo. "The workshop is one of the highlights of our overall summer camp programming," said Peter H. Gistelinck, Executive Director of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts. "Now that we have all of our offerings online, this is the perfect opportunity to invite all Jazz lovers nationwide to join us for this special event!"

Zoom login for the July 26 concert is available at www.NJYS.org. For more information, call (908) 771-5544.

About NJYS

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS), founded in 1979, is a tiered orchestral program offering ensemble education for students in grades 3-12 across New Jersey. NJYS has grown from one orchestra of 65 students to over 500 students in 15 different orchestras and ensembles, including the internationally recognized Youth Symphony. NJYS ensembles have performed in venues including the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Carnegie Hall, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. NJYS has received numerous prestigious awards for its adventurous programming from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) and has had six European tours, including participation in the Summa Cum Laude International Youth Festival and Competition (Vienna), winning First Prizes in July 2014 and 2017.

Now in its 42nd season, NJYS continues to achieve musical excellence through intensive

“ We have been able to keep our students playing, engaged, learning new concepts, recording, and making music together during Covid-19. We have an amazing faculty who hold our students to high standards while making it fun.”

- Julius Tolentino, Educator-Saxophonist



instruction and high-level performance. Under the guidance of a talented team of conductors, coaches, and teaching artists, students are immersed in challenging repertoire, learning the art of ensemble playing, and exploring their potential in a supportive and inclusive environment. NJYS remains committed to programming works by diverse composers and featured 20th century African-American and women composers such as Duke Ellington, George Walker, Yvonne Desportes, Emma Lou Diemer, Julia Perry, and Florence Price this past season.

The NJYS is a program of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA). WIPA is New Jersey's largest non-profit performing arts education organization serving over 1,500 students of all ages and abilities through a range of classes and ensembles. In addition to the New Jersey Youth Symphony, programs include the Paterson Music Project and Performing Arts School.

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

Led by award-winning saxophonist Julius Tolentino, the JTole Summer Jazz Workshop faculty joining the star-studded lineup of guest artists include Dave Schumacher and Jason Anderson, woodwinds; David Gibson, brass; and Shamie Royston and Matt Slocum, rhythm section. The two-week workshop includes video creation; a master class series partially funded by the Jazz Education Network; and

“ Now that we have all of our offerings online, this is the perfect opportunity to invite all Jazz lovers nationwide to join us for this special event!”

- Peter H. Gistelinck, Exec. Dir., WIPA

JUSTICE WARRIORS IN DOC FILMS

By Mabel Pais

Michael Moore's Free Gift In Covid Times

"I think the **BIG CRISES** of our time is (that) our minds have been manipulated to give power to **ILLUSIONS**. We shifted to measuring growth, not in terms of how **LIFE** is enriched, but in terms of how life is **DESTROYED**."

- Vandana Shiva, Indian Physicist-Social Activist

"As we suffer through one health and environmental crisis after another, it is clear we can no longer simply solar-panel-and-windmill our way out of this emergency."

-Michael Moore & Jeff Gibbs, Filmmakers

"PLANET OF THE HUMANS"

FILM ASKS HARD QUESTIONS ABOUT FAILURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT TO HALT CLIMATE CHANGE AND SAVE PLANET

Michael Moore, Academy Award®-winning filmmaker, on April 21, the eve of Earth Day, released a new documentary film on his RUMBLE Media label - and continues to offer it as a free gift in the midst of the global pandemic. "Planet of the Humans" is directed by filmmaker and environmentalist Jeff Gibbs.

Moore and Gibbs decided that with the American public - and much of the world - confined to their homes and suddenly having to consider the role humans and their behavior have played in our fragile ecosystems, the moment was urgent for the film's release.

Released on the eve of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and in the midst of the global Covid-19 pandemic, "Planet of the Humans" takes a harsh look at how the environmental movement has lost the battle through well-meaning but disastrous choices, including the belief that solar panels and windmills would save us, and by giving in to the corporate interests of Wall Street.



Vandana Shiva, physicist, social activist

Photo / Rumble Media/planetofthehumans.com



Abandoned Wind Power Turbine Ruins

Photo / Rumble Media/planetofthehumans.com

Directed by Jeff Gibbs and Executive Produced by Moore, the film examines if we've been on the "wrong road" with so-called "green energy" that is anything but green.

"We have ignored the warnings, and instead all sorts of so-called leaders have steered us away from the real solutions that might save us," says Moore, who holds the all-time box office record for documentaries. "This movie takes no prisoners and exposes the truth about how we have been led ASTRAY in the fight to save the planet, to the point where if we don't reverse course right now, events like the current pandemic will become numerous, devastating and insurmountable. The feel-good experience of this movie is that we actually have the smarts and the will to not let this happen - but only if we immediately launch a new environmental uprising."

Jeff Gibbs, the writer/editor/director of "Planet of the Humans", has dared to say what no one will - that "we are losing the battle to stop climate change because we are following environmental leaders, many of whom are well-intentioned, but who've sold out the green movement to wealthy interests and corporate America." This film is the wake-up call to the reality which we are afraid to face: that in the midst of a human-caused

extinction event, the so-called "environmental movement's" answer is to push for techno-fixes and band-aids. "It's too little, too late," says Gibbs. "Removed from the debate is the only thing that 'might' save us: getting a grip on our out-of-control human presence and consumption. Why is this not 'the' issue? Because that would be bad for profits, bad for business."

"Have we environmentalists fallen for illusions, 'green' illusions, that are anything but green, because we're scared that this is the end - and we've pinned all our hopes on things like solar panels and wind turbines? No amount of batteries are going to save us, and that is the urgent warning of this film."

This compelling, must-see movie - a full-frontal assault on our sacred cows - is guaranteed to generate anger, debate, and, hopefully, a willingness to see our survival in a new way-before it's too late.

The podcast has now amassed more than 9 million downloads in its first four months.

To watch the film and for more information, visit planetofthehumans.com

KEY CREDITS:

Jeff Gibbs, Writer, Editor, Director
Ozzie Zehner, Producer
Michael Moore, Executive Producer
Length: 1h 40m

Advocate

"With their Sundance-premiering **ADVOCATE** they've (the filmmakers) created an in-the-trenches portrait of this unapologetic firebrand... A remarkable character. A warrior for justice who's spent her entire adult life taking punch after punch, she forever gets up undaunted to fight another day."

- Filmmaker Magazine

"For us, socially and politically engaged filmmakers, her rebellious spirit and radical zeal were an inspiration. But we could never do what Lea does; most people couldn't."

- Rachel Leah Jones & Philippe Bellaiche, Directors-Producers

"ADVOCATE" DOCUMENTARY COMING TO POV MONDAY, JULY 27

Oscar®-shortlisted for Best Documentary Feature and PGA-nominated for Outstanding Producer of Documentary Motion Pictures

With power and purpose, Israeli attorney Lea Tsemelchampions the fight for Palestinian rights

Lea Tsemel defends Palestinians: from feminists to fundamentalists, from non-violent demonstrators to armed militants. As a Jewish-Israeli lawyer who has represented political prisoners for five decades, Tsemel, in her tireless quest for justice, pushes the praxis of a human rights defender to its limits.

As far as most Israelis are concerned, she defends the indefensible. As far as Palestinians are concerned, she's more than an attorney, she's an advocate.

"ADVOCATE" follows Tsemel's caseload in real-time, including the high-profile trial of a 13-year-old boy - her youngest client to date - while also revisiting her



Lea Tsemel counsels a Palestinian client

Photo / Home Made Docs

landmark cases and reflecting on the political and professional significance of her work as well as the personal price one pays for assuming the role of "devil's advocate."

Rachael Leah Jones and Philippe Bellaiche first met Lea 25 years ago. By then, the once anonymous firebrand law student who, after the 1967 war, had fearlessly distributed flyers on campus warning her fellow Israelis to end the occupation or risk a vicious cycle of violence - was already a household name.

For the filmmaker duo, a year of documenting was like gathering a lifetime of evidence. This evidence attests not only to the wrongs of occupation but also to the faults of those who try to resist it, the failings of

those who try to defend them, and the fundamental flaws of a legal system that purports to serve justice but in fact serves the powers that be.

Tsemel spoke truth to power before the term became trendy and she'll continue to do so after fear makes it unfashionable. As such, she's a model we're hard-pressed to preserve in Israel/Palestine, and elsewhere.

On the one hand, she's the boy calling the Emperor naked, i.e. exposing the underbelly of Israeli security jurisprudence: the occupier is judging the occupied. On the other hand, she's the boy with his finger in the dam, doing her utmost to uphold the rule-of-law before the flood of injustice drowns us all. As one military court judge once put it: "If Lea Tsemel didn't exist, we'd have to invent her."

Unlike the seminal works of recent years ("The Law in These Parts", "The Gatekeepers", "Censored Voices"), this is a female-centered story. Lea is almost always the only woman, or the only leftist, or the only Jew - in the room. For the past two decades, the filmmakers have watched Lea work with a mixture of awe and admiration, marveling at the fact that interrogators still infuriate her, prosecutors still madden her, judges still frustrate her, verdicts still disappoint her - and clients still break her heart.

KEY CREDITS

Directed by Rachel Leah Jones, Philippe Bellaiche
Produced by Philippe Bellaiche, Rachel Leah Jones // Home Made Docs Plus Several Independent Producers
Length: 1hour 48minutes

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



'Enough': Filmmaker Anubhav Sinha 'resigns from bollywood'

Filmmaker Anubhav Sinha, on Tuesday evening, announced in a tweet that he has "resigned" from Bollywood. But what exactly prompted Mr Sinha to take the decision appears uncertain but his tweet suggests that he's had "enough": "Enough! I hereby resign from Bollywood. Whatever the f*** that means." In subsequent tweets, Mr Sinha wrote: "Bollywood was, Hindi films will." Anubhav Sinha's tweets sum up the emotion that he has dissociated himself from the term "Bollywood" but will continue to be part of the Hindi film industry, making critically acclaimed films like he does. The filmmaker even changed his Twitter profile name to "Anubhav Sinha (Not Bollywood)."

Anubhav Sinha's tweet of "resignation" was preceded by similar tweets from his fellow filmmakers Sudhir Mishra and Hansal Mehta. "Bollywood chhodo (quit Bollywood)," tweeted Mr Mishra, to which, Hansal Mehta replied: "Chhor diya (have quit). It never existed in the first place." In their tweets, Anubhav Sinha, Sudhir Mishra and Hansal Mehta named the film legends whose work inspired them to be filmmakers - Satyajit Ray, Raj Kapoor, Guru Dutt, Ritwick Ghatak, Bimal Roy, Mrinal Sen, Hrishikesh Mukherjee, K Asif, Vijay Anand, Javed Akhtar, Tapan Sinha, Gulzar, Shekhar Kapur and Ketan Mehta were on the list. They also hailed new era filmmakers such as Anurag Kashyap, Nikkhil Advani, Neeraj Ghaywan and for making "Indian cinema."

PHONE BHOOT: KATRINA, SIDDHANT CHATURVEDI, ISHAAN KHATTER TO STAR IN HORROR-COMEDY

Actors Katrina Kaif, Siddhant Chaturvedi and Ishaan Khatter are set to team up for the first time in Phone Bhoot. Touted to be a horror-comedy, the upcoming project will be bankrolled by Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani's Excel Entertainment. The makers made the announcement on Monday by sharing a clip featuring the three actors.

"Darna allowed hai, as long as you're laughing along the way. #PhoneBhoot, ringing in cinemas near you in 2021," the production house wrote on social media. Farhan Akhtar also tweeted, "The one stop shop for all bhoot related problems, #PhoneBhoot ringing in your nearest cinema in 2021"

Directed by Gurmeet Singh, Phone Bhoot has been written by Ravi Shankaran and Jasvinder Singh Bath. It is expected to go on floors later this year and is scheduled for a 2021 release.

On the other hand, Katrina Kaif is awaiting the release of Sooryavanshi during Diwali this year. Ishan Khatter's The Suitable Boy is set to release on Netflix soon. Siddhant Chaturvedi has Bunty Aur Babli 2 in his kitty.

RICHA CHADHA SHOOTS A SCI-FI SHORT FILM AT HOME



Using her phone, Bollywood actor Richa Chadha has shot a science-fiction short film titled 55 kms/sec at home. She was guided by filmmaker Arati Kadav of Cargo fame.

Talking about 55 kms/sec, Richa said in a statement, "Arati is an engineer turned filmmaker. She has an interesting vision. She is good at science fiction stuff as well as portraying human connections. I loved collaborating with her and actor Mrinal Dutt. This was a challenging shoot as we had to do everything ourselves, from hair and makeup to recording sound. But it was well worth the effort. I am happy that we were able to create something thought-provoking and beautiful even in these grim times."

55 kms/sec is about living in a world that is on edge. Besides Richa Chadha, the short film saw several people joining forces.

Talking about working remotely on the short film with multiple people, Arati Kadav said, "While we are all bracing ourselves for the new normal, we made this short film as a fun exercise. It was a great idea. My team and I saw it as a way of continuing to work to cheer ourselves up. I met some spectacular and fantastic people on our virtual set. We are happy that we all could remotely come together for something that was a warm, beautiful, humbling, and unifying experience."



BHUMI PEDNEKAR FEELS LIKE A QUEEN IN ATHLEISURE

Move over, guys. 'Queen' Bhumi Pednekar is here. The 30-year-old actress dropped a stunning photo of herself in trendy athleisure, captioning it with just three emojis. The first one is a crown, because she feels like a queen, clearly; the second one is the red heart emoji followed by sparkles.



Bhumi's Instafam instantly showered her with a whole lot of love for her athleisure look - she jazzed up her look with metallic purple eye shadow, matte lip colour and simple hoop earrings. Varun Dhawan, who was to co-star with Bhumi Pednekar in Mr Lele (now postponed indefinitely), cheered for her and dropped the fire emoji. So did several Instagram users, who also commented: "Wow, just wow."

Bhumi Pednekar recently celebrated her birthday and her quarantine birthday party kind of looked like this: "With everything happening around us, am so so overwhelmed by the love that everyone has shown... Thank you so much," she wrote.



RUSSELL CROWE: SHOULD HAVE GIVEN MORE TIME TO KIDS

While speaking on a famous talk show, the 56-year-old actor shared that the Covid-19 pandemic has given him a new "perspective" on his relationship with his kids.

Crowe has sons Charles, 16, and Tennyson, 14 with former wife Danielle Spencer.

"I look back, and I think I should have given more time (to my children). It's tricky. I have this big job, and my entire work life takes place overseas. It worries me greatly that I didn't spend enough time with them," he said.

"If you're on a big movie like 'Robin Hood' and you're physically getting the crap beaten out of you every week, you come to the weekend, and all they (his sons) see of you is this lump on the couch. I know a lot of people have had hard times during this period, and I feel deeply for them, but my perspective, simply being able to stay at home, is such a privilege," he added.

The actor has vowed to do better in the future.

KIM KARDASHIAN ASKS FOR 'COMPASSION AND EMPATHY' AFTER KANYE WEST'S TWEETS

Kim Kardashian West on Wednesday opened up about her husband Kanye West's bipolar disorder, calling on the media and public to show "compassion and empathy" in light of the rapper's recent erratic behavior. West launched his presidential campaign Sunday in a rambling speech where he made bizarre comments about abolitionist Harriet Tubman, revealed he had wanted to abort his now seven-year-old daughter, and broke down in tears.

He featured in headlines in recent days for his tweets, later deleted, that accused his wife and mother-in-law of trying to lock him up, and suggested he is seeking a divorce.

Reality TV star Kardashian West wrote in lengthy Instagram stories that she had been reluctant to speak publicly about how her husband's illness had affected his family "because I am very protective of our children and Kanye's right to privacy.

"But today, I feel like I should comment on it because of the stigma and misconceptions about mental health," said the 39-year-old.

Kardashian West said in her post: "Those that understand mental illness or even compulsive behaviour know that the family is powerless unless the member is a minor."

"People who are unaware or far removed from this experience can be judgmental and not understand that



the individual themselves have to engage in the process of getting help no matter how hard family and friends try." She said she understood that, as a public figure, West's words were subject to criticism and could evoke "strong opinions and emotions."

But she added that he is a "brilliant and complicated person who on top of

being an artist and a black man, who experienced the painful loss of his mother ... has to deal with the pressure and isolation that is heightened by his bi-polar disorder.

"Those who are close with Kanye know his heart and understand his words sometimes do not align with his intentions."

AMBER HEARD ACCUSES JOHNNY DEPP OF THROWING BOTTLES LIKE 'GRENADES'

Amber Heard alleged in a British court on Wednesday that ex-husband Johnny Depp threw "30 or so bottles" at her as if they were "grenades or bombs" during a drunken and frenzied assault in Australia in March 2015 that also saw him accidentally sever part of his finger.

Taking the witness box for a third day at the High Court in London during Depp's libel case against a British tabloid, the actress refuted his allegation that it was she who lost her temper and that she had injured him.

Heard has described her stay in Australia with Depp as akin to a "three-day hostage situation," during which Depp was "completely out of his mind and out of control" following a binge on drugs and alcohol. Heard has said that she feared for her life while at the rented property on Australia's Gold Coast during a visit while Depp was filming the latest "Pirates of the Caribbean" film.

The incident is central to The Sun's labeling of Depp in an April 2018 article as a "wife-beater." The publication's defense relies on 14 allegations made by Heard of violence by Depp between 2013 and 2016, in settings as varied as the rented house in Australia, his private island in the Bahamas and a private jet.



CONTRACTED COVID-19 AFTER NOT WEARING MASK 'ONE TIME', SAYS ANNA CAMP

Pitch Perfect star Anna Camp has revealed she had caught coronavirus earlier this year after she didn't wear a mask 'one time' in public. In an Instagram post on Tuesday, the 37-year-old actor detailed about her symptoms and urged people to wear face masks.

"I was incredibly safe. I wore a mask. I used hand sanitizer. One time, when the world was starting to open up, I decided to forgo wearing my mask in public. One. Time. And I ended up getting it," she wrote.

Camp said even though people are comparing COVID-19 with the flu, the virus was "absolutely not that". "Completely losing my sense of smell and taste without knowing when or even if they will return is extremely disorienting," she added.



Dr. Frederick M. Ruffen Audiologist

Restoring your ear power

CELEBRATE THE SOUNDS OF YOUR LIFE

***Hearing Aid Evaluation * Hearing Aid Repair**
***Tympanometry * Ear Wax Removal**

- Complete Audiological Evaluations
- Tympanometry and Acoustic Reflex Testing
- Hearing Aid Evaluations
- Advanced Ear Mold Selection Skills
- Swim Plugs, Musician Plugs, etc.
- Wide Selection of Hearing Aids
- Hearing Aid Accessories
- Assistive Listening Devices
- Amplified Telephones
- Complete Hearing Help Care for Hearing Aids
- Quarterly Cleanings and Hearing Aid Checks
- Hearing Aid Repair, Loss/Damage and Loaner Services
- Yearly Evaluations
- Computerized Expert Fitting of Hearing Aids

If you are missing the sounds of your life call to schedule a **FREE** hearing screening.
TOLL FREE: 1-800-924-7413

LOCATIONS

Nassau University Medical Center 2201 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow, NY 11554 Phone: 516-296-2704 Fax: 516-572-8885	30 Roosevelt Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542 Phone: 516-759-0008 Fax: 516-759-0013	680 Broadway, Massapequa, NY 11758 Phone: 516-541-4353
--	--	---

OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT / WALK INS WELCOME

EAST WEST OPTICIANS

Authorized Dealer of Rayban, Prada, G.A., Versace, Flexon & Much More.....

*Eye Exam
*Contact Lens
*Eye Glass
*Sunglass

MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED

263-18 Hillside Avenue, Floral Park, N.Y. 11004
Phone: 718-335-6000; 718-533-6664
Phone / fax: 718-457-5988, Phone /Text:718-514-0025

Order Online: www.eastwestopticians.com
Email: anilguptaus@yahoo.com
Mon to Sat : 12.00 P.M to 7.00 P.M. Sunday with Appt.

Basic Computer Training

Office

W P O A X

Phone : 347-510-9393

Learn

PC and Mac Repair

CELL PHONE REPAIR

QuickBooks Training! **ENROLL NOW!**

Learn English

EXPERT Tutoring Center

MATH * SCIENCE

LEARN IPHONE / IPAD / MAC / PC REPAIR

IELTS

109-20 101 Ave, Richmond Hill, NY

ATLAS ROLL OFF CORP.

DISPOSAL SITE

OPEN Monday - Friday 6.30 AM to 4.00 PM
Saturday 6.30 AM to 1.30 PM

For construction Debris,
Demolition & Cleanouts

Located at 895 Essex Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208
Just 5 minutes from JFK

Roll Off Container Service
10, 15, 20, 30 & 40 Yards

Serving all the five boroughs of New York Since 1983
NYC BIC LIC #711

Reasonable low rates ** All major credit cards accepted

718-345-6451



Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro rides his motorcycle at the Alvorada, amid the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) outbreak, in Brasilia, Brazil.

DESPITE INFECTION, BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO TAKES SPIN, CHATS UP WORKERS

BRASILIA (TIP): Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro refused to let his case of coronavirus keep him down Thursday, going for a spin on a motorcycle and chatting maskless with a team of groundskeepers outside the presidential palace.

Bolsonaro, 65, has been in quarantine at the Alvorada Palace in Brasilia since testing positive for the new coronavirus on July 7. He had to cancel upcoming travel plans after a new test came back positive again Wednesday.

The far-right leader admitted in a live Facebook video Thursday that he was feeling "a bit wretched at being imprisoned here."

Photographs captured him taking a motorcycle for a spin on the palace grounds, stopping at one point to talk to a team of groundskeepers raking leaves -- despite his positive test result and the fact that neither he nor the workers appeared to be wearing face masks. The president's office told AFP it "will not be commenting" on the pictures.

Bolsonaro, who has been called a "Tropical Trump," has repeatedly defied social distancing guidelines. He regularly hit the streets for rallies by his supporters even as the pandemic exploded in Brazil.

The South American country has the second-biggest outbreak in the world, after the United States, with nearly 2.3 million infections and more than 84,000 deaths.

Brazil registered its two highest daily numbers of new infections Wednesday and Thursday, with 67,860 and 59,961, respectively.

Bolsonaro, who has compared the virus to a "little flu" and condemned the economic impact of stay-at-home measures to contain it, said on Facebook he was feeling "great."

"You have to be careful, but there's no reason to live in terror," he said.

"We're concerned with protecting lives, but the collateral damage from these (stay-at-home) policies is going to kill a lot more people than the virus."

Critics condemned the presidential outing.

AUSTRALIA'S VICTORIA REPORTS MOUNTING DEATH TOLL DURING LOCKDOWN

Australia's Victoria state reported a mounting death toll from the coronavirus, weeks after a surge in cases sent Melbourne into a second lockdown.

Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews reported six deaths, all of them connected to aged-care facilities, and 300 new cases on Friday. That took total deaths in the state to 55.

The number of new infections is down from 403 yesterday and Wednesday's record of 484.

The spike has forced around 5 million people in Melbourne back into a six-week lockdown, and masks became mandatory in the city this week.

Andrews yesterday announced payments to encourage people to get tested and stay at home, after data showed almost all those feeling unwell didn't isolate between first feeling sick and getting a test.

World Covid-19 cases top 15 million, 631,926 dead

While pharma firms race to develop a vaccine to treat the coronavirus disease, the number of people infected with Covid-19 has crossed over 15 million. A total of 15,439,456 have so far contracted the disease while 631,926 fatalities have been recorded across the globe, according to latest figures released by Johns Hopkins University.

India now has the second highest daily Covid-19 case count after the United States. Between July 16 and July 22, India registered 269,969 new infections against Brazil's 260,962 which -- the second and third most daily cases in the world.

However, the US continues to report the maximum number of new cases with nearly half a million new cases (478,899) coming in the past week.

The embassy of Israel in India on Thursday said that the two nations will jointly develop rapid testing kit which will give the Covid-19 report in less than 30 seconds.

"A special planned flight from Tel Aviv to New Delhi is set to carry a high ranking Ministry of Defence, R&D team which has been working with India's chief scientist K. Vijay Raghavan and DRDO to develop rapid testing for #Covid_19 in under 30 seconds," the embassy tweeted.

5 nations have 50% of global cases

Five worst-hit nations account for more than half of the world's total Covid-19 infections and deaths. The nations with most cases are United States with 4,034,831 cases, Brazil with 2,287,475 confirmed cases, while India has 1,238,798 cases, followed by Russia and South Africa with 793,720 and 408,052 cases respectively.

Face masks now compulsory in UK shops, supermarkets

The Boris Johnson government in the UK has made it mandatory for people to wear a face mask while visiting shops, supermarkets, indoor shopping centres and transport hubs. The country so far has reported

TRACKING THE VIRUS

GLOBAL

Cases
15,439,456 | Deaths
631,926

INDIA

Cases
12,87,945 | Deaths
30,601



WHO, AFRICA CDC EXPLORE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE FOR COVID-19

Traditional medicine could have a role to play in containing the spread of coronavirus. As the pandemic spreads rapidly in Africa, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention have launched an effort to explore such a possibility.

The new advisory panel will support countries in clinical trials, other research, and development of traditional therapies, reported The New Indian Express (TNIE) quoting Associated Press (AP).

A WHO statement said traditional medicine "has many benefits" and the continent has a long history of its use.

WHO Africa chief Matshidiso Moeti says the research "must be grounded in science."

Several countries showed interest after Madagascar's president promoted a local herbal concoction as part of the island nation's pandemic response, TNIE reported.

Australia reports highest coronavirus deaths in 3 months, infections climb

Australia reported its highest daily number of coronavirus-related deaths in three months on Thursday as new infections continued to climb in its second most populous state. Victoria



state said it had confirmed another 403 infections, while five people had died from the virus in the last 24 hours. The fatalities, including a man in his 50s, mark the country's biggest one-day rise in COVID-19 deaths since late April. "This demonstrates the growing toll this terrible virus is taking on our community," Health Minister Jenny Mikakos told reporters in the state capital, Melbourne.

With authorities unable to bring new infections below triple digits, residents in Melbourne and most of the state are now required to wear masks outside of their homes. Nationally, Australia has recorded about 13,000 coronavirus cases with a death toll of 128.

298,721 confirmed cases of the coronavirus disease.

Brazil registers nearly 60,000 new coronavirus cases

Brazil registered 59,961

additional cases of the new coronavirus on Thursday, the second-highest daily jump after a record on Wednesday, bringing total confirmed cases to nearly 2.3 million in the world's

worst outbreak outside the United States.

Brazil's Health Ministry also reported 1,311 more deaths from COVID-19, pushing the official death toll past 84,000.

Greece: Firefighters race to stop blaze during lull in wind

ATHENS (TIP): Firefighters and water-dropping aircraft were fighting a blaze for a second day in southern Greece on July 23 that forced evacuations and a night-long battle to save seaside homes.

The Fire Service said the blaze outside the southern city of Corinth had been contained and that there was no "active front" early Thursday but more than 250 firefighters, four planes and four helicopters were putting out flames as winds were expected to pick up later in the day.

Several seaside areas were evacuated late Wednesday, in an area that has many summer homes and is popular with retirees.

Most evacuated residents were bussed to nearby beaches and no injuries were reported.

The fire burned farmland as well as pine and olive trees and gutted or seriously damaged around 10 homes, local officials said. AP

China planes flying near island daily: Taiwan

TAIPEI (TIP): China is sending military planes near Taiwan with increasing frequency in what appears to be a stepping up of its threat to use force to take control of the island, Taiwan's foreign minister said July 22.

Such flights are more frequent than reported in the media and have become "virtually a daily occurrence," Joseph Wu told reporters.

Along with Chinese military exercises simulating an attack on Taiwan, the flights by China are causing major concern for Taiwan's government, Wu said.

"What it is doing now is unceasingly preparing to use force to resolve the Taiwan problem," Wu said.

China claims the self-ruling island democracy as its own territory and threatens to use the People's Liberation Army to bring it under its control. The sides split in a civil war in 1949 when Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists fled to the former Japanese colony as the Communist Party took control in mainland China. — AP

UK to open citizenship for Hongkongers in January

LONDON (TIP): Britain's route to citizenship for almost three million people in Hong Kong will open in January 2021, and applicants will not need a job to come to the country, interior minister Priti Patel said on Wednesday. "We are planning to open the Hong Kong British National Overseas Visa from January 2021," Patel said in a written statement to parliament. Reuters

Australia reports highest coronavirus deaths in 3 months, infections climb

SYDNEY (TIP): Australia reported its highest daily number of coronavirus-related deaths in three months on July 23 as new infections continued to climb in its second most populous state.

Victoria state said it had confirmed another 403 infections, while five people had died from the virus in the last 24 hours.

The fatalities, including a man in his 50s, mark the country's biggest one-day rise in COVID-19 deaths since late April.

"This demonstrates the growing toll this terrible virus is taking on our community," Health Minister Jenny Mikakos told reporters in the state capital, Melbourne.

With authorities unable to bring new infections below triple digits, residents in Melbourne and most of the state are now required to wear masks outside of their homes.

Nationally, Australia has recorded about 13,000 coronavirus cases with a death toll of 128.

Mountain to climb

The rise in new infections came after Australia began relaxing strict containment measures imposed in mid-March.

While the social distancing rules - which limited mobility of residents and shuttered businesses - slowed the spread of COVID-19, Australian Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said it has taken a heavy toll on the economy.

The government reported its biggest budget deficit since World War Two on Thursday after committing to fiscal stimulus of around A\$289 billion, or 14.6% of gross domestic product (GDP).

The budget swung into a massive deficit of A\$85.8 billion (\$61.3 billion) in the year-ended June 2020 compared with an earlier forecast for a surplus,



Victoria's state premier Daniel Andrews speaks during a press conference in Melbourne on July 22, 2020. AFP

Frydenberg said.

The shortfall will climb further next year, hitting A\$184.5 billion in 2020-21.

"Australia is experiencing a health and economic crisis like nothing we have seen in the last 100 years," Frydenberg told reporters in Canberra.

"Our economy has taken a big hit and there are many challenges we confront. We can see the mountain ahead."

Setbacks to recovery

Analysts expect the economy will rebound in coming months as life returns to some sort of normal, though much depends on whether authorities can keep a lid on new virus outbreaks in Melbourne and Sydney, its two biggest cities, a Reuters poll found.

Victoria has for more than two weeks required nearly 5 million people to stay home unless leaving for permitted

essential reasons.

Residents who do not wear facemasks are liable to fines of A\$200.

State police said they will show some discretion over the coming week, though state Premier Daniel Andrews urged people to comply, citing the cases of four children hospitalised with COVID-19.

"We all need to work together, doing simple things, doing, large and small things, each of us to protect each other," Andrews told reporters in Melbourne.

"It's all about the small things, the small improvements in our internal processes, and in terms of compliance across the Victorian community that add up."

Authorities in Australia's most populous state, New South Wales are also on high alert for new cases despite the border with Victoria being closed. Reuters

Tsunami warning cancelled after 7.8-magnitude earthquake strikes off Alaska

ANCHORAGE (ALASKA) (TIP): A magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck near the Alaskan peninsula late July 22, shaking buildings, but there were no immediate reports of injuries and the U.S. National Tsunami Warning Center canceled an earlier warning of potentially hazardous waves.

In Kodiak, the largest community in the earthquake area on an island south of Anchorage, some residents posted video on social media of people walking up to the high school, which was serving as a shelter, and of sirens sounding alarms.

The quake struck off the coast, 105 km (65 miles) south-south east of Perryville, Alaska, at a depth of 28 km, according to the US Geological Survey (USGS).

It had prompted the Tsunami Warning Center to issue a warning for the coastal areas of south Alaska, the Alaskan Peninsula and Aleutian Islands.

About two hours later, just after midnight, the center canceled the warning and said: "Check with local officials for all clear."

Jeremy Zidek, spokesman for the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, said emergency officials were trying to contact people in all the affected communities.

The closest is Sand Point, a town of about 1,000 on another island off the tip of the Alaskan Peninsula. Sand Point has evacuated and sounded its emergency sirens, Zidek said.

"I believe that there's some damage from the shaking, but they have not been able to confirm that," he said. He added he had heard no reports of serious injuries.

Other towns had sounded their alarms and started evacuations, he said. It was unclear what damage may have occurred. "Tomorrow they'll get up and take stock of the damage in their communities," said Zidek. "They can't see anything in the dark, anyway."

In Homer, a Kenai Peninsula town of about 5,800 people, residents in low-lying areas were told to use the city's high school as a shelter, according to local public radio there. Public radio showed a short video of cars streaming from the beach spit to higher ground. Reuters

China launches independent, unmanned Mars mission

Wenchang (China) (TIP): China launched an unmanned probe to Mars on Thursday in its first independent mission to visit another planet, a bid for global leadership in space and display of its technological prowess and ambition.

People watch from a beach as the Long March 5 Y-4 rocket, carrying an unmanned Mars probe of the Tianwen-1 mission, takes off from Wenchang Space Launch Center in Wenchang, Hainan province, China, on July 23, 2020. China Daily via Reuters



Undiagnosed virus infections could be 27 times higher in S Korea's Daegu city: Study

SEOUL (TIP): A small South Korean survey of people with no history of COVID-19, but living in a city with the most cases, showed that roughly one in 13 had antibodies to the novel coronavirus, indicating the virus may have spread more widely than thought.

The study said based on the survey, roughly 185,290 people could have contracted the virus in Daegu city, which is the country's fourth-largest city with a population of 2.5 million.

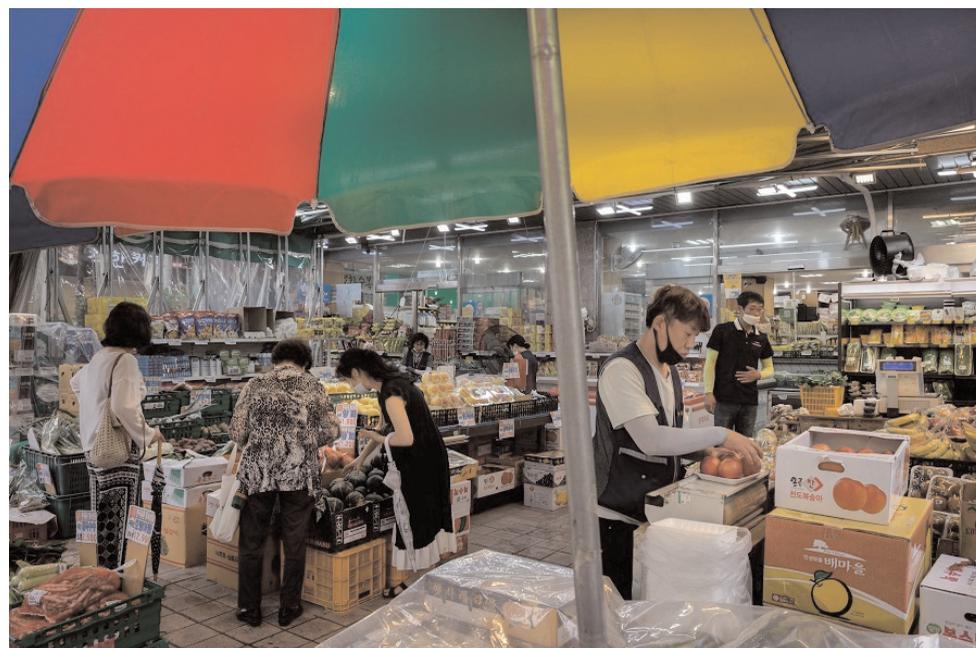
"It was estimated that the number of undiagnosed missing cases may be 27-fold higher than the number of confirmed cases based on PCR testing in Daegu," the study said.

Daegu city recorded 6,886 coronavirus cases alone as of June 6, said the study published online in the Journal of Korean Medical Science (JKMS) on July 16, but announced by the journal on Tuesday night according to local media.

The study done between May 25 and June 5 followed 198 people in Daegu city who had never been tested for COVID-19, and found 15 of them, or 7.6 per cent, had antibodies.

That is a much higher infection rate than that found in a survey of more than 3,000 people in South Korea that excluded Daegu, in which only one person showed neutralising antibodies to the novel coronavirus earlier this month.

Health authorities urged caution over



the study, considering the small specimen size and a use of rapid antibody test kits with 92 per cent specificity.

"We do estimate there are more infections than the confirmed patients in Daegu. We are in talks with the city to conduct antibody tests for some 3,300 people to estimate the size," Jeong Eun-kyeong, Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) director, told a briefing on Wednesday.

Antibody, or serology, tests show

whether a person has been exposed to the virus. Similar studies have shown infection rates ranging from 0.1 per cent in Tokyo to 17 per cent in London and 5.2 per cent in Spain nationwide.

South Korea, an early success story in containing the virus among its 51 million population after a severe outbreak in Daegu in March, has reported 13,879 cases and 297 deaths. The country is now battling small but persistent clusters of infections with 63 new cases reported on Tuesday. Reuters

Brazil president Bolsonaro still tests positive for virus

BRASILIA (TIP): Brazil's government says President Jair Bolsonaro is still testing positive for the coronavirus following his July 7 announcement.

The positive test on July 20 came after a follow-up check on July 15. The government says he remains in good health.

The World Health Organisation says the median time from onset to clinical recovery for mild cases is approximately two weeks.

The government say Bolsonaro will keep holding videoconferences instead of face-to-face meetings. He had to cancel a trip to northeastern Brazil. At least four members of Bolsonaro's Cabinet have been diagnosed with coronavirus.

Bolsonaro repeatedly dismissed the disease as a "little flu" and often mingled in crowds, sometimes without wearing a mask. He is treating his COVID-19 with the anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine, although it has not been proven effective against the virus and can be dangerous for some people.

Brazil's government says the country has recorded more than 2 million confirmed cases of coronavirus and more than 81,000 deaths. That's second only to the United States in both categories, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. -- AP

Armed man holds 10 bus passengers hostage in Ukraine

LUTSK (UKRAINE) (TIP): An armed man seized a bus and took 10 persons in it hostage in northwestern Ukraine on July 21, launching an hours-long standoff with the police, the Ukrainian authorities said.

The police earlier had put the number at 20. It was unclear how many people had been on board. The police sealed off the centre of Lutsk. The assailant is armed and carrying explosives, they said. He threw a hand grenade that failed to explode at officers and shot at them twice.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said negotiations with the man are underway. The man called the police and demanded that top Ukrainian officials release statements on their social media pages calling themselves terrorists. The police have identified him as Maksim Krivosh (44). -- AP

Student files first climate change lawsuit against Australian govt

SYDNEY (TIP): A 23-year-old student has filed a lawsuit against Australia's government alleging it has failed to disclose climate change-related risks to investors in the country's sovereign bonds, in the first such action against the Australian government.

According to the litigation filed on Wednesday, Kathleen O'Donnell claims

investors who buy Australian government bonds should be made aware of the risks the country faces due to climate change that might make it difficult for Australia to pay back its debt.

The litigation comes amid a global call for a "green" recovery in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic and as many large investment managers pledge their

commitment for net zero carbon emissions by 2050 across their entire portfolio. Climate change has long been a hot button issue in Australia, becoming even more so since last summer when intense wildfires raged for about four months across large parts of the country, killing 33 people and millions of animals.

"Australia is materially exposed and

susceptible" to climate change risks, according to the statement filed with the Federal Court of Australia in Victoria state. "Accordingly, (a) those risks are material to an investor's decision to trade in exchange-traded Australian government bonds (e-AGBs) and (b) an investor is entitled to be informed of those risks." - Reuters

STRAWBERRY FACE PACKS FOR GLOWING SKIN

It's time to give a fruity treat not just for your palette but for your skin as well. Strawberries do wonders for your skin. Being rich in nutrients, you can expect Strawberry to perform miracles for your skin. These strawberry tales have been around since Roman and Egyptian eras and they used them for medicinal properties especially for acne treatment.

It has been proven that strawberries with their antioxidants, astringent and anti-inflammatory properties help slowing down aging process, treat burns and offer best form of UV protection.

Being rich in alpha-hydroxylic acid, Strawberries help get rid of dead skin cells.

Strawberries and fresh ceam mask

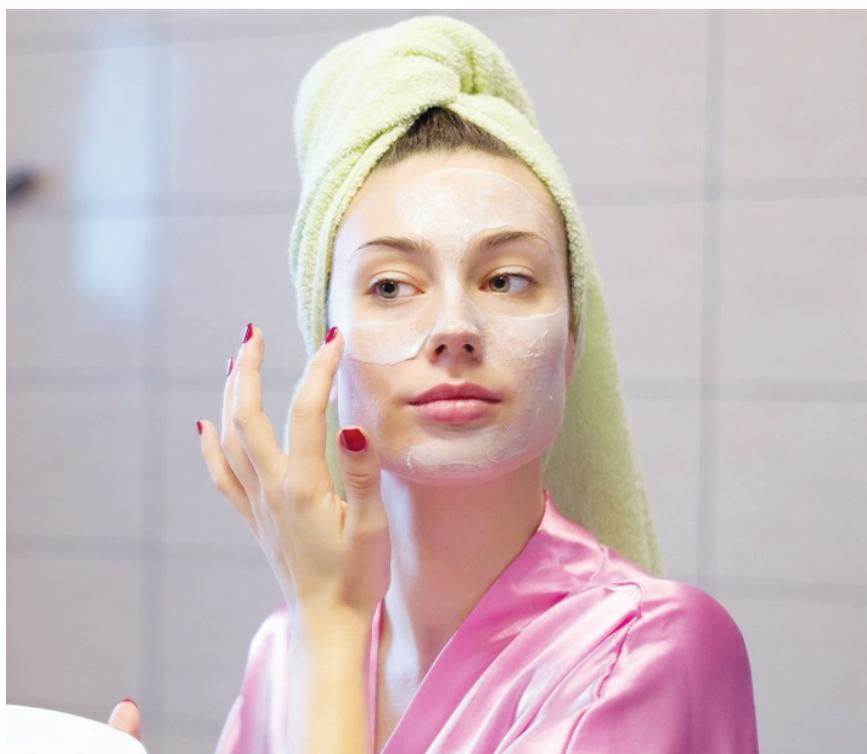
Take strawberry puree, mix with fresh cream (dry skin) or yogurt (oily skin) and add a tablespoon of honey. Apply all over face, and leave it on for 10 minutes and wash with warm water. You can deep freeze and store this mask like how I regularly do. This Mask helps reduce Acne.

Strawberries & Lime Face Pack

Helps in de-tanning your skin and lightens pigmentation marks on your skin. Mix strawberries and a tablespoon of limejuice. Apply all over face for 15 minutes and wash off with warm water.

Strawberry & Chocolate Mask

Mash strawberries along with a



tablespoon cocoa powder and honey. Apply on face for 15 minutes and wash off with warm water. It helps to make you skin glow and also makes it soft.

Honey and Strawberry Face Mask

Mash few strawberries with fork until it turns into a smooth paste. Add a tablespoon of honey and apply this mask for 15 minutes and wash with warm water. Honey is an anti - oxidant that helps to fight skin impurities and acne.

Blemish prone skin Strawberry Mask

Mash quarter cup of ripe banana

and strawberries, add to it, a quarter cup of sour cream or yoghurt and a tablespoon of honey. Apply all over face; let it on for 15 minutes before washing it off with warm water.

Rice flour and Strawberry Face Pack

Blend a few strawberries with a tablespoon of rice flour. Apply on face for 15 minutes before washing it away.

Strawberry Scrub

Slice up a berry and rub it all over your face, its alpha hydroxyl acids have excellent exfoliating ability. Let it sit on your face for a minute and wash off.

Colour your lips pink with beetroot

Start by washing the beetroot thoroughly with water. Then, peel the outer layer off. Cut the beetroot into small slices and put it into the food processor. Grind the beetroot completely till there is a visible watery residue.

Make sure that you do not add water to the beetroot as it will dilute the vibrancy of the color.

Carefully strain the juice of the grated beetroot, and make sure that no bits and pieces make their way into it. Transfer it immediately into a clean container to store it for future use. Here, I have used an old lip balm case to store the tint. The container or jar that you are using has to be cleaned and sterilized. To make sure that the case is clean, wipe off any residual product that might be present, wash it thoroughly and sterilize with rubbing alcohol.

Add about a teaspoon of coconut oil to the beetroot tint. If you are looking for a sheer lip color, you can add a little more coconut oil. If you end up using less than a teaspoon of oil, then the formula of the lip tint will turn out to be dry and flaky on your lips. You can replace the coconut oil with honey or beeswax, as they do an excellent job at moisturizing lips.

Now use a clean spoon or toothpick to blend the mixture well. Place the container in the refrigerator and wait for the tint to solidify before using. As this lip tint is completely natural and free from preservatives,



you'll need to store it in the refrigerator to make it last longer.

As soon as it is applied, the lip tint appears to be soft pink in color. But once it oxidizes in a few minutes, your lips will take on a gorgeous reddish-plum tint, which looks stunning on any skin tone! You can dab it once for a softer, more natural look or layer it for more intensity.

Apply your all-natural lip tint as often as possible and you can have softer, pinker lips in a week.



By Tript Arora

CONNOISSEUR'S CHOICE



Quick masala chicken

Masala chicken is usually loaded with lots of onion and tomatoes. But my quick masala chicken is devoid of both. There is an interesting story behind this recipe. On Saturday evening after a hectic day at the office, I came home tired. Usually I make something special on Saturday evenings to celebrate the weekend. My dear hubby had taken out chicken from the refrigerator and thawed it. And I was in no mood to cook. So I thought let me churn out a recipe which can be made quickly and will tingle the taste buds too. I went to the kitchen, looked at the chicken and I had a Eureka Moment! I always store peeled garlic and grated ginger in a Tupperware container in my fridge. And those were the saviours. I made ginger, garlic and green chilli paste; marinated the chicken in it along with lemon juice in sarson ka tel (Raw Mustard oil). Usually I smoke Mustard oil before using it in any recipe. But as I told you I was too tired that day so used it as it is. But the taste it gave to the chicken was amazing. Simply finger licking good. (Excuse me for using the KFC phrase). The recipe I made to simplify my dinner turned out to be everyone's favorite. This inspired me to share my quick recipe with you, Spicy and Quick Masala Chicken.



We Need

600 gm Chicken, 10 cloves Garlic, 2" Piece Ginger, Juice of one lemon, 1 Green Chilli, ½ Tsp freshly ground black pepper, 1 Tsp Red Pepper Powder, 1 Tsp Turmeric Powder, 1 Tsp Kashmiri Chilli Powder, 2 Tbsp Raw Mustard oil /without smoking/ straight from the bottle, 2 Tsp of cream or Malai, Salt to taste, 2 Tbsp of Chopped Coriander for garnishing.

Here We go

- Wash and clean Chicken. Put diagonal cuts on the surface of the chicken.
- Add ginger, garlic, green chilli and lemon juice to a grinder and make a paste. In a mixing bowl add mustard oil, turmeric powder, red chilli powder and salt.
- Mix everything together. The spices will turn into a beautiful red colour because of raw mustard oil.
- Add ginger, garlic, green chilli and lemon juice paste to the oil and spices mix. Also add malai or cream. Mix everything together.
- Now Add chicken pieces and mix thoroughly so that every chicken piece is coated with spices. Marinate it for half an hour.
- After half an hour, heat a pan and add marinated chicken to it. Mix well and cover. Keep the flame on low. Let it simmer.
- Occasionally keep on turning the chicken so that it doesn't burn on any side.
- Add Kashmiri red chilli powder after 10 minutes of cooking. We will slow cook it for around 15 minutes or till done.
- When the chicken is done add chopped coriander and switch off the flame.
- Serve it along with any salad and enjoy Quick Masala chicken as snack or enjoy it with any bread.

Tip

Take tender small chicken for this recipe. Don't add any water during cooking. The chicken will cook in its own juices.

You Can reach me at: www.triptasfoodtunnel.com
Email: triptasfoodtunnel@gmail.com
Instagram: [@triptasfoodtunnel](https://www.instagram.com/triptasfoodtunnel)

HERE'S WHY YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE PALPITATIONS LIGHTLY

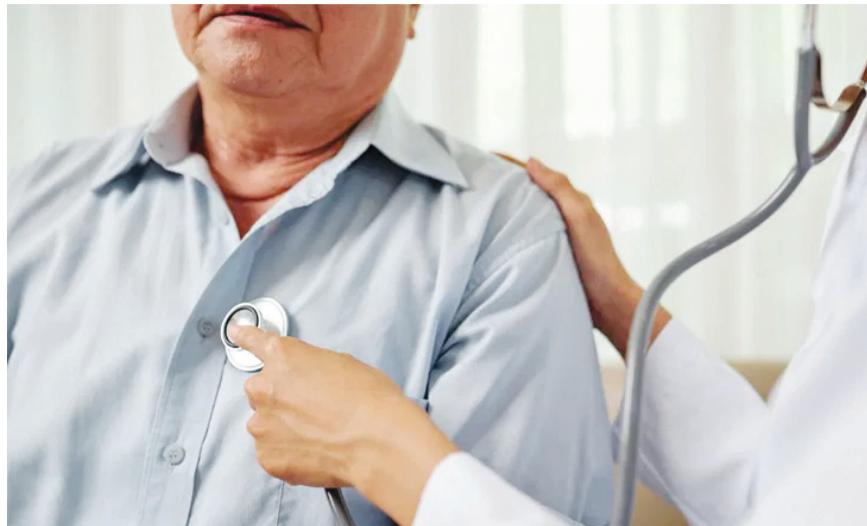
Palpitation is an irregular, rapid, skipped or strong heartbeat. While some people experience it very rarely, others may feel these sensations quite often. These palpitations are caused due to certain disturbances in the heart's normal rhythm and can lead to the heartbeat becoming too fast or too slow.

It usually happens when one is stressed out, anxious, physically exhausted or is suffering from some illness. Consuming large amounts of caffeine or alcohol dehydration, hyperthyroidism, certain medications such as cough medicine, diet pills or recreational drugs can also trigger irregular heartbeats.

Some palpitations occur due to a slightly increased duration of contraction in the atria i.e. the upper chamber of the heart, leading to the skipping of a beat. It can also occur due to atrial fibrillation which is a rapidly irregular heart beat caused due to abnormal electrical activity in the atria. Just like the upper chamber of the heart, contractions in the lower chamber i.e. ventricles also cause palpitations.

How are they diagnosed

It is difficult to diagnose palpitations and their seriousness because they generally come and go and may not last for a longer duration. Therefore, it is important to consider certain factors before seeking medical advice. These include monitoring the heartbeat (whether it is too fast or slow), checking for symptoms such as dizziness, syncope (fainting), chest pain or shortness of breath, frequency and duration of palpitations.



They are diagnosed through a physical examination, blood tests or electrocardiogram (ECG). In case the patient has a racing pulse or dizziness, an electrophysiology study can be recommended. For more advanced cases of palpitations, a 24-hour monitoring can be conducted to assess the heart's rhythm through a Holter monitor.

How can they be managed

Simple palpitations or the ones that are harmless can be managed by undertaking the following precautions:

- Quit smoking
- Reduce or quit the consumption of alcohol
- Get adequate sleep
- Avoid stress or anxiousness
- Engage in deep breathing techniques to regulate your breathing and reduce stress
- Drink enough fluids to keep yourself well hydrated
- Eat regular meals as low blood sugar can trigger palpitations

Palpitations and Arrhythmia

In a healthy heart, the heart rate is between 60 to 100 beats a minute. When there is a palpitation, the rate fluctuates either too fast or too slow, and while palpitations are mostly harmless, in certain cases, they can be the sign of an underlying heart problem such as cardiac arrhythmia.

Arrhythmia occurs when the electrical impulses that coordinate heartbeats do not function properly, resulting in the heart to beat irregularly. The slow heart rate is known as bradycardia and the fast one is called tachycardia. While in some people, arrhythmias may cause the heart to skip or add a beat with no effect on overall health or the ability to lead a normal life, in certain cases they can be life-threatening. When left undiagnosed or untreated, they can hinder the heart's pumping ability, causing fatality.

Therefore, while palpitations are commonly experienced by everyone, they should not be ignored.



Why you should add pumpkin seeds to your diet?

We all know the importance of making healthy choices, but owing to our fast paced lives, all of us have taken unhealthy shortcuts at some point. However, it is never too late and you can always switch to healthier alternatives — and pumpkin seeds are great to begin with. Packed with the goodness of health, the green coloured seeds are also a great snacking option to keep those mid-day hunger pangs at bay.

Take a look at why you should add pumpkin seeds to your diet.

Enriched with Omega-3

Pumpkin seeds are one of the best sources of Omega-3 fatty acids, which is an essential fat required by the body. However, our body can't produce it on its own, which is why one is advised to consume foods that help meet the body's requirement. A handful of pumpkin seeds every day can serve that purpose. Not only that, apart from cell maintenance, Omega-3 fatty acids are also known to improve heart health, reduce inflammation and prevent obesity.

Regulates cholesterol

Cholesterol, which is of two types, good cholesterol or high-density lipoprotein (HDL) and bad cholesterol or low-density lipoprotein (LDL), is produced by our liver. LDL builds up in the walls of our arteries, resulting in blockages that can lead to a heart attack or stroke. While, HDL, serves as a maintenance crew of artery walls; removing bad cholesterol and recycling them. Pumpkin seeds are a great way to maintain the balance of cholesterol in our body.

Rich in antioxidants

Pumpkin seeds are rich in antioxidants due to their PUFA and lipophilic antioxidant content. Antioxidants remove unwanted waste substances known as free radicals. These are molecules with unpaired electrons. Free radicals affect cell proteins, DNA, and cell membranes by stealing their electrons through a process called oxidation.

So, you can't miss out on this superfood which is low in calories and packed with nutrients. These tasty seeds can add some crunch to your salads and soups as well. Whichever way you choose to have them, adding them is always a good idea.

Obesity, metabolic syndrome are risk factors for severe influenza: Research

Researchers recently found that metabolic syndrome increases the risk for severe disease from a viral infection.

The findings are based on a review of associated literature by researchers from St Jude Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. It has been published in The American Society for Microbiology.

Metabolic syndrome is a cluster of at least three co-occurring conditions that could lead to the risk of heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM). These conditions include excess abdominal fat, high blood pressure, excess blood sugar, abnormalities of lipids (including excess triglycerides and cholesterol), insulin resistance and a proinflammatory state.

Studies have also shown how obesity is linked with increased severity of influenza A, higher viral titers in exhaled breath and prolonged transmission of the virus, as per the report. Despite the fact that influenza vaccines generate robust antibody titers in obese subjects, obesity doubles the likelihood of developing influenza.

Besides the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also recently recognised obesity as a risk factor for severe illness caused by SARS-CoV-2. "This is



not surprising because excess body weight and fat deposition apply pressure to the diaphragm, which further increases the difficulty of breathing during a viral infection," the researchers were quoted as saying by the official website of American Society for Microbiology (ASM).

Not just excess weight, the literature review looked at a study on diabetes patients with confirmed cases of COVID-19. The study found these patients to be at a significantly higher risk for severe pneumonia compared to non-diabetic COVID-19 patients.

PAGE SPONSORED BY

DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



DR. SATISH ANAND
Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, AAPI National
E-Mail: sanandmd@gmail.com

GITANJLI ANAND
Former President, India Association of Long Island (IALI)
E-mail: gitanjianand@gmail.com



China launches independent, unmanned Mars mission

China successfully launched an unmanned probe to Mars on Thursday in its first independent mission to another planet, a bid for global leadership in space and a display of its technological prowess and ambition. China's largest carrier rocket, the Long March 5 Y-4, blasted off with the probe at 12:41 p.m. (0441 GMT) from Wenchang Space Launch Centre on the southern island of Hainan. The probe is expected to reach Mars in February where it will attempt to deploy a rover to explore the planet for 90 days.

If successful, the Tianwen-1, or "Questions to Heaven", which is the name of a poem written two millennia ago, will make China the first country to orbit, land and deploy a rover in its inaugural mission.

There will be challenges ahead as the craft nears Mars, Liu Tongjie, spokesman for the mission, told reporters ahead of the launch. "When arriving in the vicinity of Mars, it is very critical to decelerate," he said. "If the deceleration process is not right, or if flight precision is not sufficient, the probe would not be captured by Mars," he said, referring to gravity on Mars taking the craft down to the surface.

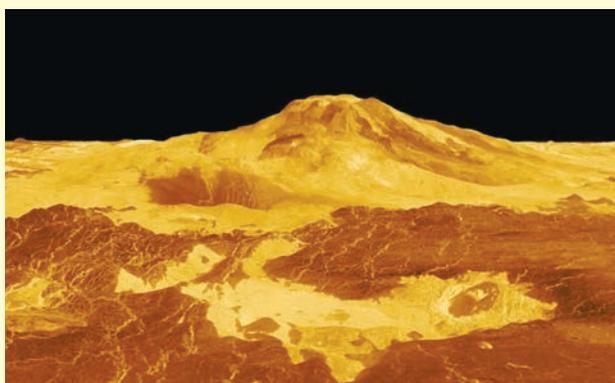
Venus has 37 active volcanic structures, scientists find

Venus is one of the hottest planets in our solar system after Mercury. Now, researchers have identified three dozen features on Venus, which they state could have been created by volcanism. If this is true then it will potentially reshape our understanding about the planet and its evolution.

The study was made possible by the help of computer simulations to model the formation and evolution of Venus' ring-shaped volcanic structures, called coronae, in detail. The study was led by geophysicist Anna Gu'licher of ETH Zu'rich in Switzerland.

Venus' coronae are formed by plumes of molten rock rising from the mantle up through the crust. This process is similar to how Earth's volcanos function. Interestingly, most of Earth's volcanism occurs along the boundaries of tectonic plates, but modern Venus doesn't seem to possess tectonic plates.

Co-author of the study Laurent Montési, a professor of geology at the University of Maryland, said that there are still active volcanos present on the planet. He adds that they might be dormant but not dead. Venus was earlier determined to be an inactive planet, however, now it is being said that the "interior is still churning and can feed many active volcanoes."



PUBG INTRODUCES TACTIC TO CATCH PLAYERS CHEATING: HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

On Wednesday, PUBG MOBILE introduced a new way to identify cheaters in a game. It is making it harder for cheaters by introducing a tactic called Safety Observation Period. By introducing this new tactic to the game, PUBG Mobile aims to maintain a fair gaming environment for all players.

PUBG Mobile is using artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) for the Safety Observation Period. The new system is designed in a way that it will automatically identify players who are attempting to gain unfair advantages by violating the game's end-user license agreement.

If a player tries to make unfair attempts in a game or once any triggering behavior is detected, the new tactic will remove them from the matching queue. All players in the game are strictly required to play the game under a Safety Observation Period.

PUBG Mobile states in a press release that during the Safety Observation Period players will not be matched with players who are not under safety observation or record any earnings or stats from their matches. Additionally, the players will also be unable to team-up or spectate message. They will



only be able to access limited game modes until the observation period.

It must be noted that if players damage the fair gaming environment while under observation, they will be banned.

Commenting on introducing this new tactic the PUBG Mobile Team states, "PUBG MOBILE's official

Operations Team is fully committed to continue guaranteeing an amazing game experience and treat all users equally and fairly." "By taking a closer look at players who don't respect the rules of the game and play fair, we're continuing to show our commitment to providing a fair gaming environment for all," the team adds.

HOW TO QUICKLY TRANSFER WHATSAPP CHATS FROM IPHONE TO ANDROID

Switching from an iPhone to an Android phone can be a little daunting for some as they will not be able to carry forward the backups of their WhatsApp chats along with them. This is because both Android and iOS maintain backups in different locations and in different formats. Android keeps the backups in Google Drive and iOS keeps the files in iCloud.

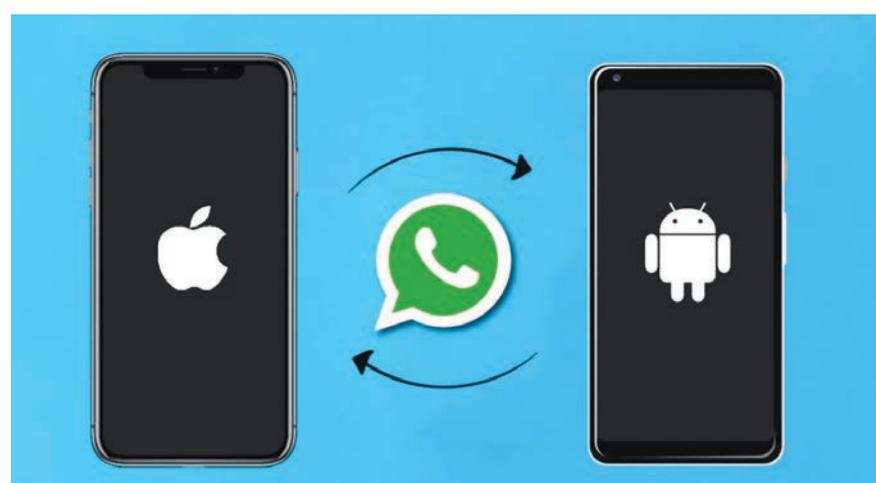
There is a workaround that lets you transfer your iPhone WhatsApp chats to the Android client. Take a look.

How to export WhatsApp chats from iPhone

- Open WhatsApp and swipe left on the chat you want to take to your new Android phone.
- Tap on the 'More' button and select the 'Export Chat' option.
- Now select the Mail option and enter your email address to send the mail.
- Repeat this process for all the chats you want to transfer to your new Android phone.

How to import iPhone WhatsApp chats to Android

- Download all of the WhatsApp exports from your mail to your Android phone.
- Install a fresh copy of WhatsApp



to your phone from the Play Store.

- Open WhatsApp and go through the setup process.
- During the setup process, you will be asked if you want to 'Restore' older chats, tap on 'Restore'.
- After the restore is complete, press the next button and start using your WhatsApp.

WhatsApp tips: How to exit and delete a group

Now that your chats have been transferred, you can setup your Android phone to keep taking automatic backups and saving them

to your Google Drive. Here's how you can setup automatic WhatsApp backups for Android:

- Open WhatsApp and tap on the three dots located on the top right corner.
- Tap on Settings and then tap 'Chats'.
- In the Chats section select the 'Chat Backup' option and tap on the 'Back up to Google Drive' option.
- Select the backup frequency and time.
- Choose the Google Account you want to backup your chats onto.
- Select if you want to include videos in your backups or not.

Google to approach CCI for approval on Rs 33,737 crore deal with Jio Platforms

Tech giant Google will approach the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to seek approval for its Rs 33,737 crore investment in Jio Platforms for a 7.73% stake, according to sources.

Google plans to approach the CCI for approval on the deal in the next two weeks, according to the sources privy to the development.

When contacted, Google and Reliance Jio did not comment on the matter.

The deal, which was announced on July 15 at Reliance Industries' annual general meeting, will see Google pick up 7.73% stake in RIL's technology venture Jio Platforms for Rs 33,737 crore. The partnership will also see the two parties cooperate on technology initiatives, including development of affordable smartphones.

California-based Alphabet Inc (parent company of Google) joined Facebook Inc, which opened the investment cycle in Jio Platforms by picking 9.99% stake for Rs 43,573.62 crore.

Last month, Facebook received CCI approval on its transaction that was carried out through a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary, Jaadhu Holdings LLC.

Reliance has sold a 32.8% stake in Jio Platforms Ltd – the unit that houses India's youngest but largest telecom firm Jio Infocomm and



apps – to 13 marquee firms including chipmaker Intel Corp and Qualcomm Inc, for over Rs 1.52 lakh crore.

Jio Platforms, which is also amassing a wide range of services from music streaming to online retail and payments, is expected to use its 388 million mobile phone subscribers as the cornerstone of an e-commerce and digital services business to rival Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart.

Google and Jio are partnering to build an operating system that could power affordable 4G and 5G smartphones. Also, JioMart, online shopping portal, and WhatsApp will be working closely to enable customers to seamlessly transact at

mom-and-pop stores.

Commenting on the partnership with Jio, Google CEO Sundar Pichai had said: "Through this partnership with Jio Platforms, we see the chance to have an even greater impact than either company could have alone. This partnership is a key part of the next chapter of investment in India... Our investment of \$4.5 billion in Jio is the first -- and the biggest -- investment we will make through this fund (of \$10 billion announced on July 13)."

On July 13, Google announced its 'Google for India Digitisation Fund', wherein it will invest Rs 75,000 crore (about \$10 billion) to accelerate India's digital economy over the next 5-7 years.



ASIA'S HOTTEST TECH STOCK SOARS 713% WITH BUY NOW, PAY LATER PLATFORM

The hottest stock in Asia since markets hit their nadir in March amid the peak of the coronavirus impact is an Australian payment company that is seeking to cash in on the global change in spending habits. Installment payment platform operator Afterpay Ltd. has surged 713% to become the top performer on the 1,574 member MSCI Asia Pacific Index since the gauge's March 23 low, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Flowing government stimulus, a shift to digital payments and stuck-at-home shoppers have bolstered expectations for the firm as it expands across the US, UK and Canada.

Afterpay's market value surged above A\$20 billion (\$14.3 billion) after underlying sales more than doubled and the company unveiled overseas expansion plans including deals with Apple Inc. and Google Pay. Better-than-expected credit quality and wider customer usage amid the pandemic prompted Morgan Stanley to almost triple its price target earlier this month.

While the stock's valuation "seems challenging, we think it is warranted by the global buy now, pay later platform that Afterpay is building out," the analysts wrote in a July 8 note. "We see greater adoption of e-commerce, given its accessibility and convenience, in a post-Covid world."

TikTok under scrutiny in Australia over security, data concerns

SYDNEY (TIP): Popular Chinese video app TikTok has been put under scrutiny in Australia after cyber experts raised issues of data breach, user privacy, and foreign intervention, a news agency reported. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said in a statement that his government was taking a "good look" at the Chinese app owned by ByteDance that has also come under US' radar over security concerns such as data harvesting using AI.

If Australia would feel that there's a need to take strict actions than the country is taking now, then the administration won't be shy about it, Morrison said on-air in a radio address in Melbourne. While the app flaunts over 800 million users worldwide, a ban on TikTok in Australia could be possible say experts, over the company's potential ties with China. The west now fears risks of geopolitical surveillance amid a thawing of bilateral relations with China, as earlier, the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that Donald Trump administration was considering banning the Chinese app over security concerns.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Government announced that it was examining the safety of the Chinese app citing "perceived risk" after the British government banned Huawei's 5G network.



Rush to safe haven assets pushes gold to Rs 50,000/10gm

Gold has touched a nine-year high of Rs 50,000 per 10 gram as global uncertainties triggered by Covid pandemic, weak dollar, low interest rates and stimulus programmes have increased the appetite for the yellow metal, considered a safe haven for investors during a period of uncertainty.



Standard gold on Wednesday rose to hit a record high of Rs 50,000 per 10 gram in Mumbai, reflecting firmness in the international market. It has surged nearly 40 per cent in the last one year, while Sensex showed a loss of 0.41 per cent at 37,871.52 (Wednesday closing) in the same period.

"A weak US dollar, EU leaders approving a recovery plan worth 750 billion euros, expectation of US Fed keeping interest rates near record low level till the end of 2022 and issues related to the virus getting prolonged are the key reason for the rally in precious metals," said Nish Bhatt, founder & CEO, Millwood Kane International.

Gold futures prices soared to a nine-year high of \$ 1,856.60 at London's trading session on Wednesday, rising to a level not touched since September 2011. Gold is traditionally used as a hedge against inflation and global economies are considering further stimulus to boost growth which may fuel inflation further.

Many gold analysts have now revised their price targets saying that prices could go up to Rs 65,000 per 10 grams in the next 18-24 months.

Qatar Airways sues, seeks \$5 billion from boycotting countries

Long-haul carrier Qatar Airways said on Wednesday that it launched international arbitration seeking at least \$5 billion from four boycotting Arab countries for blocking its flights from their airspace and their markets, years into a simmering political dispute between the nations. The Doha-based carrier did not elaborate where it initiated international arbitration against Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, all of whom launched a boycott of Qatar in June 2017 that continues today.

In a statement, the airline said the arbitration involved three separate agreements Qatar had with the boycotting nations: the Organisation of the Islamic Conference Investment Agreement, the Arab Investment Agreement and the bilateral investment treaty between the State of Qatar and Egypt. The decision by the blockading states to prevent Qatar Airways from operating in their countries and flying over their airspace is a clear breach of civil aviation conventions and several binding agreements they are signatories to, Qatar Airways CEO Akbar al-Baker said in a statement.

Shree Ganeshaya Namah



ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA

Nastur Bejan Daruwalla
is available for astrological
consultations.

He can be reached at
info@bejandaruwalla.com
and on phone

+91 8141234275
for astrological
queries

www.bejandaruwalla.com



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

Weekly Horoscope JULY 27 - AUGUST 2

ARIES: Ganesha says there will be fears of being misunderstood or wrongly judged. But you have to go with your gut feel. Try out prayer and meditation and ask your soul for answers. There could be many twists here and I do not want to make further generalizations as individual horoscopes can be like chalk and cheese - very different. This is an interesting period. Watch it closely.

TAURUS: You are in a better frame of mind now. There is more stability in your affairs and your thought processes. There is success at work and you have fun too. You enjoy the good life and seek out happy times with loved ones. This is a period when Venus is powerful and your sexuality and charisma are expressed easily. Those in films, fashion and media do well for themselves and win rewards and awards.

GEMINI: Ganesha says you are on a high and this is the time to capitalize on the good tidings of the period. There is grand success and accomplishment waiting for you. The period favors travels / meetings / conferences / interviews / trips / more brain power / contacts / communication / correspondence / contracts. Work and play will be enhanced in this period and so will the rewards. Ganesha asks you not to spare the horses!

CANCER: You are on the fast track to success. Your life is moving the way you want it to and this pleases you no end. You are happy and it shows. The mood is also contagious. There is travel, partnerships, attachments, romance and many new and fulfilling bonds. There is a new momentum powering you. This is indeed a great time to be and you are enjoying every moment of it.

LEO: Ganesha says you thrive on work, which you like, and you deliver the goods. There is domestic harmony too and many intimate moments with loved ones. If there is a significant other in your life, you will have a whale of a time together. You work hard to make the future as secure as possible. You are sensible enough to realize that even the best of relationships can break down when it is not manured well.

VIRGO: Ganesha says you look at new ideas and get extra creative. Those in the media do exceptionally well. This is the time for expansion in thought processes and a new focus. There is intimate bonding and a deep quest for a higher consciousness. Like Osho declared, you look to move from sex to super consciousness, from the root charka to the higher ones. You have lofty ambitions and do not want to be bogged down with just work and family.

LIBRA: Ganesha says you look to widen the limits of your mind. There is new intensity to your life. There could be power, status, and prestige. You will be worldly and yet detached or otherworldly. There will also be international travel and many new associations. Ganesha blesses you. You are filled with new ideas and are raring to go like a greyhound chasing a rabbit.

SCORPIO: Ganesha says you activate old friendships and are networking with frenzy. You also streamline office procedures and relationships with those you work with. You are looking at genuine, physical, mental, emotional expansion. You need wider horizons and a broader canvas for your ambitions. Finances will be more than adequate for all that you set out to do.

SAGITTARIUS: Ganesha says your own growth will be the most vital and you put all your energies into it. You also manage to take your work to the next level. If you are an artist, painter or writer, the accolades will flow like confetti. There are many sources of income and inspiration as you grow financially, emotionally and spiritually. This is a great period with growth and development in all aspects of life. Ganesha blesses you.

CAPRICORN: Ganesha says you will worry about the tiniest details and keep bothering about trifles. This can become an irritating habit. There may also be indiscretions in affairs of the heart as you sow your oats without caution. There are good times in store and it all depends on how you handle it. You can go overboard or go with the flow; it all depends on you.

AQUARIUS: Ganesha says there is the true realization of your work potential and there is applause for all the hard work that you have put in over the last period. Your professional skills and performance will be awesome. New projects / ventures / collaborations will be launched and successfully completed. You will find new ways to augment your income; there could be moonlighting and freelance ventures. Ganesha is happy for you as you realize your dreams.

PISCES: Ganesha says this is a period of progress and also some negativity. You can get ruthless which is not in your nature in the normal course. But you exhibit a determination and resolve rarely seen. You spend time in reflection and are interested in metaphysical matters. But, along with these diversions, you also busy yourself with the money angle. Both money and spirituality will hold your interest and attention.

Birthday Horoscope July 27 - August 2, 2020

July 27: Ganesha says intense feelings of attraction and desire impel you to break through reserves to seek satisfaction or get at the truth. If it's a family matter that needs transformation, others may bolt rather than dig deep.

July 28: If you forged a strong relationship yesterday, you'll be able to balance it with reason and stability today, especially at home. If it was on internal personal exploration, you'll feel it steady out today.

July 29: Now may be the time when all that's

gone on at home reaches a resolution, or someone announces an intention as a result. Evening moods, however, bring reckless responses from others involved.

July 30: You may want to believe in someone or be looking for peaceful fun, but explosive behavior from a partner or child destabilizes potential good times, including lunchtime anger or shopping feuds.

July 31: The power to improve matters lets you leave troubles behind and enjoy refreshing

interactions that make play and happy accord the primary directives. Touch base with a good friend far away.

August 1: Oh happy day! Positive outlooks, bright ideas, unexpectedly good options, and faith in the future ensure that good news and good views win out!

August 2: The morning holds the energy key to the day. There's a chance to follow up with action about a greater idea from yesterday, but don't commit later in the day.

NAG PANCHAMI

As the name suggests, the day is dedicated to the Naga Devta or the snake god. It is one of the significant days in Sawan, the auspicious month in the Hindu calendar. It is also one of the oldest festivals celebrated across India. Sawan or Shravan, in the peak rainy season, is dotted with vrats and pujas.

Sawan is dedicated to Lord Shiva and devotees observe 'Sawan Somwar' every Monday of the month that corresponds to July-August of the Gregorian calendar.

Nag Panchami is also known as Nag Chaturthi or Nagul Chavithi. In Gujarat, Nag Panchami is observed few days after most states and this year it will be observed on August 8. In Andhra Pradesh, the puja is done just after Diwali.

Nag Panchami timings

- Panchami Tithi begins at 2:34 pm on July 24
- Panchami Tithi ends at 12:02 pm on July 25

Nag Panchami vrat or puja

Many devotees observe fast and feed the poor on this day. People offer milk to the Nag Devta or the snake god as part of the rituals. People also decorate their houses with rangolis and make kheer as prasad or offering to the god. In India, devotees pray to several snake gods on Nag Panchami. Some among them are Ananta, Vasuki, Shesha, Padma, Kambala and Kaliya.

Nag Panchami and mythology

In Sanskrit, 'Nag' means snake and people worship the snake god to protect their families from the evil. According to mythology, a deadly snake 'Kalia' had been poisoning the waters of the Yamuna, making it difficult for the brijwasis (residents of Brij in Uttar Pradesh), to drink the water. Lord Krishna (an avatar of Lord Vishnu) destroyed Kalia and the snake god was forced to take back the poison from the river. Krishna had blessed him and said, people who pray and offer milk to the snake god on Nag Panchami will always be protected from the evil.

Why is milk offered to snakes on Nag Panchami?

There's a legend associated with this ritual. In a village, there lived a farmer and his wife, who had three sons and one daughter. Once while ploughing the field, one of the farmer's son ended up killing baby snakes that sought refuge under the ground. Enraged by the loss of her children, the mother snake bit the farmer, his wife and their sons. When the daughter of the farmer learnt about the death of her family members, she pleaded to the snake mother. She prayed to the God of serpents, offered milk to the snake mother and appealed to her to retrieve the lives of her family members. And since the baby snakes were killed unknowingly, the snake mother, pleased by the girl's devotion, forgave the farmer, his wife and their sons. Therefore, on this day, women offer milk to snakes to seek forgiveness for any wrong their family might have done to them, unknowingly.

What is the significance of Nag Panchami?

On the day of Nag Panchami, devotees offer milk to snakes and worship the God of serpents. Some of the most popular divine snake characters in the sacred



Hindu scriptures are Ananta, Vasuki, Shesha, Padma, Kambala, Karkotaka, Ashvatara, Dhritarashtra, Shankhapala, Kaliya, Takshaka and Pingala.

The Adi Shesha, also known as Shesha Nag, is believed to be a seven-hooded snake on which Lord Vishnu rests in Vaikuntha. Shri Rama's brother Lakshman and Shri Krishna's elder sibling Balrama are incarnations of the Adi Shesha in the human form.

And Vasuki is the snake that seeks refuge around Lord Shiva's neck. The Devas and the Asuras used the serpent as a churning rope around Mandara Parvat for obtaining Amrit, the nectar of immortality during Samudra Manthan. Therefore, snakes have always been an integral part of the Hindu belief system.

Thus, by worshipping snakes on Nag Panchami, devotees pay obeisance to this form of life on earth and seek their blessings.

5 Nagas and their prominent roles in Hindu mythology

Snakes has always played a prominent role when it comes to Indian mythology and folklore. In India and Nepal, there is a festival called 'Nag Panchami' dedicated to snakes that falls on the fifth day of Shravan month in the Hindu calendar. It is believed that worshipping snakes on the day helps to get rid of bad karma. On Nag Panchami, people worship snakes by sprinkling haldi-kumkum and offering flowers, milk, diyas and incense sticks. In Indian culture, snakes are portrayed as an entity of strength. Their nature of casting its skin represents rebirth, death, and mortality. Several Hindu gods and snakes are associated closely like Lord Shiva is depicted wearing a snake around his neck and Vishnu is seen

performing yoga nidra on Shesha nag. In 2019, Nag Panchami falls on August 5.

On the occasion of Nag Panchami, here's a look at five Nagas and their prominent roles in Hindu mythology.

Adishesha

Adishesha also called as Sheshanaga, is the king of nagas. Puranas mention Adishesha as the one who holds all planets and universe on his hoods and sings glories of Lord Vishnu. He is often depicted resting on Shesha. It is said that Shesha supports Kurma and when Kurma moved, Shesha yawned and the gaping of its jaws caused earthquakes. Shesha in Sanskrit implies 'remainder' - meaning when the world is destroyed at the end of Kalpa, Shesha remains as he is. As per Mahabharata, Shesha was born to sage Kashyap and his wife Kadru. Kadru gave birth to thousand snakes of which Shesha was the eldest.

Vasuki

The snake that we see around the neck of Lord Shiva is Vasuki. It is believed

that Shiva blessed Vasuki and wore him as an ornament. He is considered as the king of nagas and has a gem called Nagamani on his head. He is also mentioned in Ramayana and Mahabharata. The popular legend in which Hinduism is part was the 'Samudra Manthan', the churning of the ocean of milk. In the legend, devas and rakshasas were engaged in the churning of the sea in search of nectar to be immortal. Vasuki allowed the devas and rakshasas to use him as a rope to extract the ambrosia of immortality.

Kaliya

Kaliya was a poisonous snake living in the Yamuna river in Vrindavan. The water boiled and bubbled with poison for four leagues and no human or birds could go near the river. Kaliya was the resident of Ramanaka Dwipa but moved to Vrindavan by the fear of Garuda, the enemy of serpents. Garuda was cursed by a yogi he could not enter Vrindavan. Once when Krishna with his friends were playing on the banks of the river and accidentally the ball fell in the river. Krishna jumped in the river and Kaliya rose up with his hundred and ten hoods vomiting the poison. After a tiff with the snake, Krishna rose up from the bottom dancing on the head of Kaliya. The incident is remembered as the 'Kalinga Nartana' in South India.

Manasa Devi

Mansa Devi is a Hindu goddess of snakes worshipped mainly for the prevention and cure of snakebite and for fertility and prosperity. She is the sister of Vasuki and wife of sage Jaratkaru. She is depicted as a goddess sitting on a lotus, covered with or standing upon snakes. Sometimes she is also seen with a child on her lap.

Astika

Astika was the son of Jaratkaru and serpent goddess Manasa. According to Mahabharata, Astika saved the life of a serpent Takshaka, the king of snakes, during the Sarpa Satra. The snake sacrifice was organised to avenge the death of his father Parikshit due to snake bite of Takshaka. Astika convinced the king to end the victimisation of the serpent race. The day is said to be Shukla Paksha Panchami in the Hindu month of Shravan and since then the day is celebrated as Nag Panchami.

PAGE SPONSORED BY

ARISH K. SAHANI

Serving Since 1972

Please Call or Write for Your Insurance Needs

Arish K Sahani (Father)

Shiv Sahani (Son)

Priya Sahani Sood (Daughter)

718 - 271 - 1906

arish.sahani@gmail.com



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

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

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

WE THANK OUR CUSTOMERS FOR THEIR TRUST & LOYALTY
26 YEARS OF EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE

INDO US EXPRESS, INC.
HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK

WORLDWIDE COURIER FREIGHT-FORWARDER
DOMESTIC & LOCAL DELIVERY

CALL US AT: 212-447-5720 or FAX 516-932-3750
ALTERNATE NUMBER: 347-538-7041
OR EMAIL US: INDOUSEXPRESS@GMAIL.COM
www.indousexpress.com

GREAT SERVICE, 7 DAYS A WEEK, 365 DAYS A YEAR!
CALL ABOUT OUR SPECIAL RATES
 TO INDIA/WORLDWIDE

Indian Visa Center

VISA / OCI PIO / PASSPORT
APPLICATION ASSISTANCE CENTER
349 S. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801

DEEPAK BANSAL
Email: deepakbansalny@gmail.com
Cell: 516.304.8808 Fax: 516.218.8009

M&H Studio
ਮੁਲਤਾਨੀ ਸਟੂਡੀਓ ਬੇਗੋਵਾਲ ਵਾਲੇ

347- 901-6131 Wedding, B. Day, Ring Ceremony, 347-257-1595
Multi Cam Setup,
Live Coverage Jib Crane, Drone &
All Type of Photo Video Coverage

ਮੁਲਤਾਨੀ ਸਟੂਡੀਓ ਬੇਗੋਵਾਲ ਵਾਲੇ ਅਤੇ
ਗੁਰਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਹੋਠੀ ਨਿਉ ਯੋਰਕ ਵਾਲੇ
ਚਲ ਕੇ ਸੇਵਾ ਦੇ ਰਹੇ ਹਨ

Email: -gur193@yahoo.com Email: -gur293@gmail.com

Do you want to succeed in a very rewarding career?

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
IS HIRING
Do you want to capitalize on your ability to produce?
COME CHECK IT OUT!

CALL MR. ROHAN HANDA 718-286-1132 | 516-435-6120

Conveniently located at:
95-25 Queens Blvd., 4th Floor
Rego Park, N.Y. 11374

Rohan Handa
Executive Partner
New York Life

LADOO MATRIMONIAL
ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇ ਹੀ ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇ RISTHE HI RISTHE

We Provide Worldwide Services

Jetander Sapra
212-470-7175, 516-309-0236
ladoomatrimonial@gmail.com
jetandersapra@gmail.com
261-03, Hillside Ave, Floral Park-11004
www.ladoomatrimonial.com

Get to the Point

#1
Indian American Weekly Since 2006

The **INDIAN PANORAMA**
EVER TRUTHFUL
A DELIGHTFUL READING EVERY WEEK

Widest Coverage
Your Trusted Partner in Business
The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419, Tel: 646-247-9458
Dallas Edition - P.O. Box 121695, Arlington, TX 76012
www.theindianpanorama.news

R & R Dental Lab

86-24 Whitney Ave. Elmhurst, NY 11373

Tel. (718) 533-1611; (347) 808-7258

Email: rbarua1953@gmail.com



- We make all kinds of Acrylic, Metal and Flexite Dentures, applying high quality technology by experienced technicians.
- We repair, reline night guards etc.
- We do delivery and pick up. Quick delivery on the same day.
- EMERGENCY new dentures SAME DAY service

We are in Dentures Work for the last 40 years.
We GUARANTEE full satisfaction



SONU INSURANCE AGENCY INC.

Insurance, Money Transfer, Tax Preparation

Specializing in:

- Auto ● Home ● Business
- Construction
- Workers Compensation

TAX PREPARES- PERSONAL RETURNS (1040)
MONEY TRANSFER: Send money to India, Pakistan, Bangladesh



MASTER MOHINDER SINGH
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
Licensed Mortgage Loan Originator
Cell: 646-523-5092

CALL TODAY
OPEN 9 AM to 6 PM

113-09 101st Avenue (Opposite Gurdwara),
Richmond Hill, NY 11419
Phone: 718-847-1878/ 1885 Fax: 718-847-1879
Email: sonuinsurance@yahoo.com



77 North Broadway Hicksville, NY 11801
127-24 101 Ave. Richmond Hill, NY 11419
(516) 932-3400
www.hprealty1.com

- Residential & Commercial Real Estate
 - Single Family, Multi-family, Investment properties
 - Hotels/Motels, Gas Stations, Restaurants
 - Relocation Assistance - brokers licensed in
 - New York and Indiana
- Insurance Services
 - Home Life and Health
- Mortgages (provided by affiliate lenders)
 - New Purchase Refinance
 - Hard Money Loans Business/SBA Loan

**ARE YOU BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS?
IS THE BANK GIVING YOU A HARD TIME FOR MORTGAGE DEFERRAL OR FORBEARANCE?**

STOP FORECLOSURE!

CALL THE EXPERTS AT HP REALTY FOR MORTGAGE RELIEF ASSISTANCE



Pal Singh Dhillon
Licensed Real Estate Broker
QA Software Engineer, E-Pro Certified
Notary Public

(516) 304-2630

Jeet Dhillon
Licensed Real Estate Broker
New York and Indiana

(516) 830-0352

hprealty1@gmail.com



India's ILD Guidelines for lung diseases get USA, Asia Pacific global recognition

BY YASH GOYAL

NEW YORK / JAIPUR (TIP): Amid a lot of controversy on Coronavirus contracting human's lung power and a treatment to get fit, the American Thoracic Society, and Asia Pacific Society of Respiriology have approved Indian doctors' Guidelines on 'Interstitial Lung Diseases' (ILD) to diagnose a lung ailment out of others in one go.

In a communication, Kevin C. Wilson, MD, ATSE, Professor of Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine, Chief of Guidelines and Documents, American Thoracic Society, has written " I am pleased to inform you that the American Thoracic Society has agreed to endorse the document titled: Management of Interstitial Lung Diseases: A consensus statement of the Indian Chest Society (ICS) and National College of Chest Physicians (NCCP). This means that the following statement may be added to the footnotes of the document or the acknowledgements in the document: This document was endorsed by the American Thoracic Society on May 12, 2020."

There are at least 200 lung disorders and it is very difficult for an ordinary doctor to pinpoint the disease and its main cause. In view of this severity, the Doctors of Rajasthan's biggest Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Hospital and Medical College in coordination with over 40 doctors including a few from AIIMS in Delhi, have formulated guidelines for Interstitial Lung Diseases which has a nick name ILD.

Indian Chest Organizations-- Indian



Dr Sheetu Singh, a group leader and first author of ILD Guidelines and Associate Professor at SMS Hospital and Medical College in Jaipur

Chest Society and National College of Chest Physicians (NCCP) prepared the ILD guidelines as evolved the SMS doctors team led by Dr Sheetu Singh, associate professor in Medicine recently. The ILD manifesto was drawn after a national conference attended by experts from Indian and abroad in Jaipur last year.

Now after thorough studies and application of guidelines on ILD, the American and Asia Pacific Societies endorsed this for general use by any physician and experts all over the world, Dr Sheetu told a media group on Web page. In ILD normal lungs are shrunken and these fails to deliver oxygen to blood, but delay in diagnosis makes disease irreversible and patient has to remain on palliative care such as oxygen and bipap ventilator.



Dr Kevin Wilson of American Thoracic Society

The ILD includes the disorders like Interstitial pneumonia, Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, Rheumatoid lung disease, Nonspecific interstitial pneumonitis, Hypersensitivity pneumonitis, Cryptogenic organizing pneumonia (COP), Acute interstitial pneumonitis, Desquamative interstitial pneumonitis, Sarcoidosis etc.

"ILD is a rapidly increasing disease in India. In ILD lungs are so shrunken that lungs of patient are unable to deliver oxygen to body. Delay in treatment makes the disease irreversible and patient can meet the fatal end. Now we have guidelines to diagnose patients early and treat interstitial lung disease", says Dr Sheetu.

Besides Dr Sheetu as its First author and Dr Ganesh Raghu from USA and Dr Virendra Singh were Co- chair of the guidelines. Leading chest experts such



Dr Arta Azuma of, Professor Pulmonary Medicine. Nippon medical school, Tokyo Executive committee member, Asian Pacific society of Respiriology

Photo / courtesy author

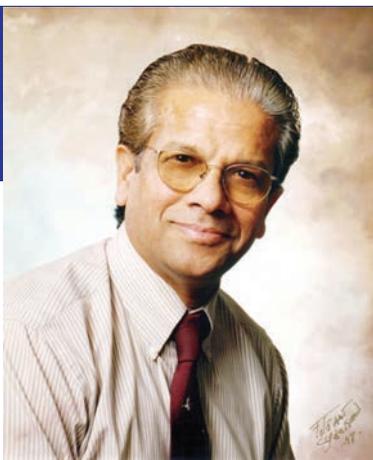
as Dr SK Jindal, Dr D Behera from PGI Chandigarh, Dr Randeep Guleria Director AIIMS Delhi, Dr Jarir Udawadia Beach Candy Mumbai, Dr Surya Kant KGMC Lucknow, Dr Deepak Talwar, Dr Rajadhar from Fortis Kolkata are among coauthors. These guidelines are published simultaneously in the two international journals Lung India and IJCDAS.

Dr Virendra Singh, renowned Asthma expert and Editor-in-Chief of Lung India magazine, claims, " The evidence-based guidelines will help respiratory physicians not only in India but also globally. It has a complete detail how certain investigations should be done to diagnose ILD accurately".

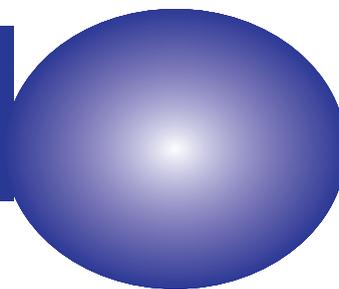


CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE

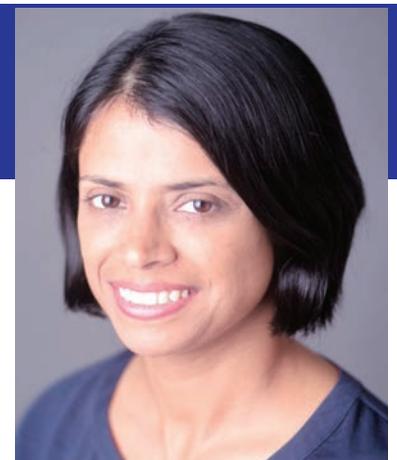
Dr. VK Raju and Dr. Leela Raju of the Eye Foundation of America will be glad to answer any eye related concerns of the readers of The Indian Panorama during this difficult period of Coronavirus onslaught



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



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



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

KHAJJJAR – INDIA'S MINI SWITZERLAND

Khajjiar is a small hilltown in Himachal Pradesh which is blessed with an abundance of scenic beautiful. Situated at an altitude of 6,500 feet, this place features vast dense forests, lakes and wide pasture lands. The town is known for the picturesque Khajjiar Lake, which is surrounded by forests of cedar trees. Another popular pilgrimage and tourist spot in Khajjiar is the Khajji Nag Temple, a 12th century shrine that worships a serpent deity. There are some really interesting adventure activities including paragliding, zorbing and horse-riding that you can enjoy in Khajjiar.

BEST TIME TO VISIT: Throughout the year, especially summer (April-June). January and February may see heavy rainfall and snowfall.

How to reach

BY AIR: Nearest airport is Gaggal airport (120 km) in Dharamshala

BY RAIL: Pathankot (118 km) is the nearest railway station and can be reached via trains from Delhi, Chandigarh and Bhatinda. Taxis are available from the station to Khajjiar.

BY ROAD: Khajjiar is easily accessible by road, from the major towns of Himachal Pradesh.

Khajjiar lake

Situated in the Chamba district, the scenic Khajjiar Lake is perched on a massive height of 1920 meters and presents a picture-perfect bird's eye view of the surrounding valley. Hailed as 'Mini Swiss', Khajjiar is famous for its paragliding and horse riding activities.

The waters of Khajjiar Lake sparkle against the blue of the sky, and you can enjoy it in a number of interesting ways - take a walk through the landscape as the sun goes down, or visit the Khajji Nag temple which features intricate wood carvings and a gilded dome. If you're lucky and the sky is clear, you can also catch a glimpse of Mount Kailash from Khajjiar Lake.

Kalatop Khajjiar Sanctuary

Thick deodar foliage, a plethora of wildlife, snowcapped mountains, carpets of verdant grasslands and easy on the eye streams of fresh water make up the Kalatop Khajjiar Sanctuary. Also called the Kalatop Wildlife Sanctuary, it is located in the picturesque hilly Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh.

The name Kalatop means 'black cap', which refers to the thick, black forest cover on the highest hilltop in the sanctuary. Situated a few kilometres away from the Chamba dam and Chamera reservoir on river Ravi, it is known to be rich in flora and fauna. Hundreds of small freshwater streams flow into the Ravi river north of the sanctuary. Kalatop Wildlife Sanctuary is the perfect weekend getaway destination, with very few places coming close to its natural charm.

The well laid out trekking and hiking trails in the Kalatop Khajjiar Sanctuary offer a pristine, mesmerizing experience of nature. Treks are arguably the best way to explore the beautiful untouched forests of the park area. Views of the towering and immaculate Pir Panjal range from the enigmatic Kalatop Wildlife Sanctuary resthouse is a breathtaking sight to immerse yourself in. The countryside landscape is sure to provide you with a sense of astonishment and wonder. Over the years, it has gained popularity as a scenic picnic spot and a great place for trekking and nature walks.



Khajjiar trek

The Khajjiar trek is a 14km trek through landscapes of Deodar and Pine trees interspersed with streams. While the sceneries and views are breathtaking, the trek can be a bit challenging.

It is best to do it in an organized structure on a format provided by your hotel or tour provider. Do take a guide or professional with you. Other than this, the Kalatop Wildlife Sanctuary is also ideal for trekking.

Golden Devi temple

The temple derives its name from the golden dome it houses. The temple is very close by to the Khajjiar lake and is quiet a popular tourist spot. It also has a golf course neighboring it, where one can find some scenic views amidst lush greenery.

Lord Shiva Statue

This is a magnanimous 85 ft statue of Lord Shiva, one of the tallest in Himachal Pradesh. It is polished in bronze and the glistening statue is a sight to behold. The nearby temple also holds a function in the months of June-July, while the statue looks all the more majestic, covered with snow during the winter months.

Adventure activities

Visitors can enjoy activities like horse-riding, Paragliding and Zorbing here. Horse riding is a common activity enjoyed in most areas in and around the town. Zorbing is a more upcoming sport in the area the huge meadows and valleys here provide an ideal place for the sport. However, one can enjoy zorbing here, only during the summer months.

IPL TO BEGIN IN UAE ON SEPT 19: BCCI SOURCES

NEW DELHI (TIP): The eagerly-awaited Indian Premier League (IPL) will start on September 19 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with the final slated for November 8, well-placed BCCI sources have told PTI.

While the IPL Governing Council will meet next week to chalk out the final details and approve the schedule, it is understood that the BCCI has informally intimated the franchises about the plan.

"IPL, in all likelihood, will start on September 19 (Saturday) and the final will be held on November 8 (Sunday). It is a 51-day window which will suit the franchises as well as the broadcasters and other stakeholders," a senior BCCI official told PTI on condition of anonymity on Thursday night.

The IPL has been made possible by the ICC's decision to postpone the October-November T20 World Cup in Australia owing to the COVID-19 pandemic due to which the host country expressed its inability to conduct the event.

While there was speculation that the IPL will start from September 26, the BCCI decided to advance it by a week in order to ensure that the Indian team's tour of Australia is not jeopardised.

"The Indian team will have a mandatory quarantine of 14 days as per the Australian government rules. A delay would have sent the plans haywire," the official said.

"The best part is that 51 days is



not at all a curtailed period and there will be much less double headers. We could stick to original five double headers in seven-week window," he added.

The Indians are set to play a four-match Test series against Australia starting December 3 in Brisbane.

It is expected that with each and every team needing at least a month's time to train, the IPL franchises will be leaving base by

August 20 which gives them exactly four weeks to prepare.

The cash-rich event was originally scheduled to start at the end of March but the COVID-19 pandemic and the travel restrictions that were put in place to contain the virus, led to an indefinite postponement.

However, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly maintained that the event would be held sometime this year.



LIVERPOOL CELEBRATE IN FRONT OF EMPTY KOP

LIVERPOOL (TIP): Liverpool's players finally got their hands on the Premier League trophy yesterday in a muted presentation ceremony in front of an empty Kop after a thrilling 5-3 victory over Chelsea in their last home game of the season. The club's first English title for 30 years had been sealed almost a month ago with seven games remaining, following a three-month stoppage because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Kenny Dalglish, the last Liverpool manager to deliver the title, presented the medals wearing a red face mask before handing the trophy to captain Jordan Henderson who raised it to the night sky as fireworks and tickertape filled the air. Sadly, because of the pandemic, the fans missed out on what would have been a momentous night at Anfield stadium. Despite the police's dispersal order, many fans did gather outside, letting off flares and fireworks.

54-year-old Mike Tyson making a comeback, to fight on Sept 12

He was once called the 'baddest man on the planet'. He was the most famous boxer of his time. He broke PPV records. He was controversy's favourite child. He had one punch knockout power. He is Mike Tyson.

'Iron' Mike left the fans of the sport bewildered with his ruthless aggression during fights. He was unstoppable during his early years as dominated the sport in the late 1980s and became the only heavyweight boxer to unify WBA, WBC, and IBF title. Tyson won his first 19 fights with a knockout (12 in the first round). He suffered a dip in the late 90s and early 20s. And finally left the sport in 2005. But is now set to make a comeback.

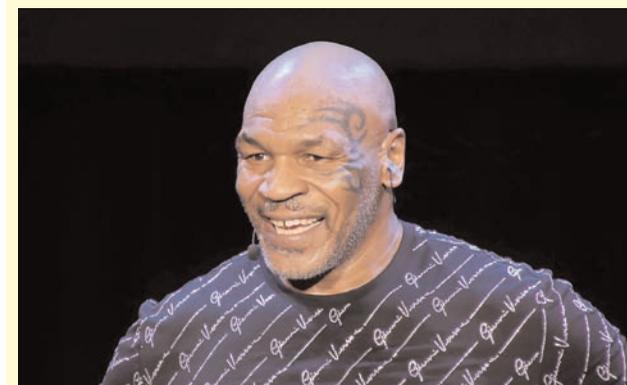
At the age of 54, Mike Tyson has decision to make a return to the boxing ring.

The former heavyweight champion will meet four-division champion Roy Jones Jr. in an eight-round exhibition match on Sept. 12 at Dignity Health Sports Park.

Tyson became the youngest heavyweight champion in history when he won the title in 1986 at age 20 and for a time was the most feared fighter in boxing. But his career became littered with distractions and he hasn't boxed since 2005 after losing his second straight fight.

He has occasionally teased a return with workout videos and it's finally scheduled to happen.

Jones, 51, won titles in the middleweight, super middleweight and light heavyweight before moving up to win the heavyweight title in 2003, becoming the first former middleweight champion to do so in 106 years.



Australia vs India: 14-day quarantine puts T20I series under scanner

NEW DELHI (TIP):

While India is set to play their first major international series in the post-COVID-19 era against Australia at the end of the year, the schedule for the same may need slight tweaking as Cricket Australia is looking for a window to fit in the three-match T20I series which was earlier set to be played in October prior to the now postponed T20 World Cup.

Cricket Australia Chief Executive Nick Hockley

made it clear that the '14-day quarantine period is well defined' for the visiting Indian team keeping in mind the government regulations, the schedule has seen a bit of a tumble as there seems to be no space for the T20I series in the current scenario.

Speaking to IANS, a BCCI official said that the matter is being discussed and considering that the 14-day quarantine is a must as per Cricket Australia and the government there, it is getting difficult to fit in the T20I series.

"The protocols in place in Australia are necessary on account of the pandemic and it's perfectly understandable. There are no two ways about that. We are all dealing with the challenges that the pandemic poses to us and the commitment with other boards regarding dates is a challenge that will prove difficult to meet in these circumstances and accordingly the dates and length of the tours may need to be tweaked and that may mean amending the number of matches. A 14-day quarantine means it would get reduced from the total length of the tour," the official explained.



WTA Finals, 10 other tennis tournaments in China canceled

Eleven mens and women's tennis tournaments planned for China in October and November -- including the WTA Finals -- were canceled Thursday amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Rather than try to move or reschedule any of those events, the ATP and WTA tours announced they were scrapping all of them after China's General Administration of Sport said that country would not host any international sporting events the rest of this year because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

"We are extremely disappointed that our world-class events in China will not take place this year," WTA Chairman Steve Simon said.

"We do, however, respect the decision that has been made," Simon said, "and are eager to return to China as soon as possible next season."

DO IT FOR THEM.



Get tested for COVID-19.

FREE, confidential and
safe. No insurance needed.

Visit [NYC.Gov/COVIDTest](https://www.nyc.gov/covidtest)



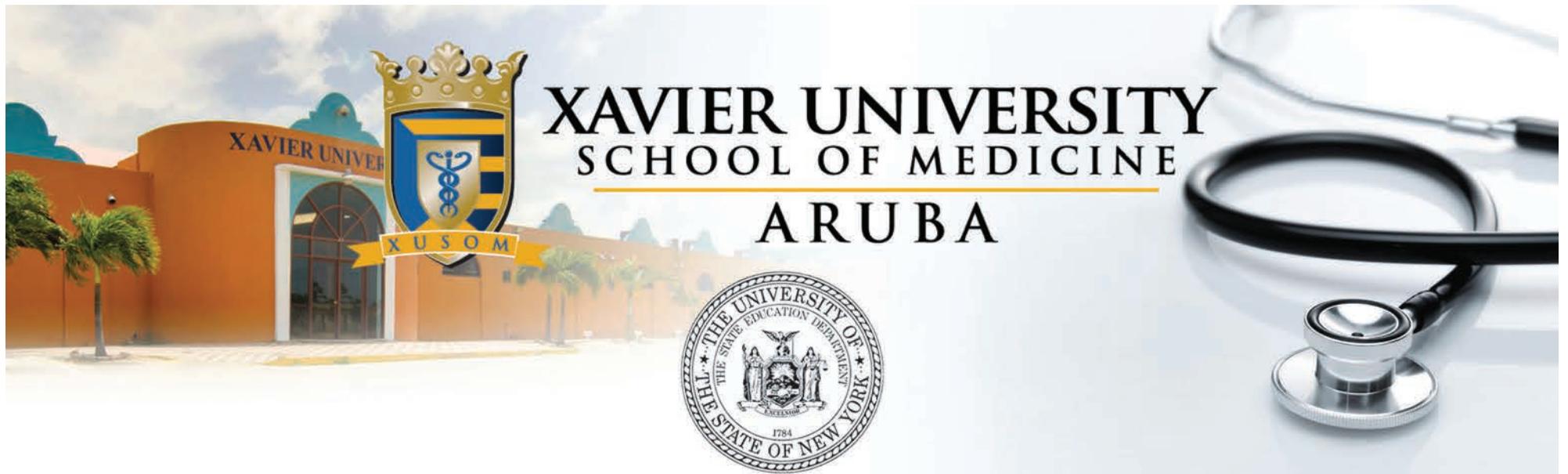
Get your child up to date on routine vaccinations now, not later.

Vaccines are safe, essential, and they protect your
child from illness and underlying health conditions.

Call your child's doctor today to make an appointment.
If you need to find a doctor, call **311**.
Your child may be eligible for free medical care,
regardless of your immigration status.



Bill de Blasio
Mayor
Oxiris Barbot, MD
Commissioner



**New York State Education Department Approves
Xavier University School of Medicine Aruba!**

With This Approval:

- ▶ Xavier Students are able to: Rotate for all 72 weeks in affiliated New York Teaching Hospitals
- ▶ Xavier Graduates are able to: Obtain Residency in New York State



Accepting Applications

No MCAT Required ♦ No Application Fee ♦ Three Start Dates per year

SEPTEMBER – JANUARY – MAY

Apply at: application.xusom.com

Other Accreditation & Recognition



- 4 Year MD Program
- 5.5 Year Pre-Med to MD Program
- 96% USMLE Step 1 Pass Rate

CALL OR VISIT US TODAY TO LEARN MORE

516-333 2224 - www.xusom.com - admissions@xusom.com