



The

INDIAN



# 1 Indian American Weekly: Since 2006

PANORAMA

EVER TRUTHFUL

VOL 14 ISSUE 27 • NEW YORK / DALLAS • JULY 03 - 09 , 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



God bless America

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY



COVID-19 Worldwide Update Page 2



Tribute to Davinder Pal Singh

Page 5



Tribute to Deepakbhai Dave

Page 5



Tribute to Saroj Khan

Page 7

# 'Era of expansionism has ended; it is time for development': Modi warns China

## Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, July 3 paid a surprise visit to Ladakh to assess the border situation.

I.S.SALUJA

LEH / NEW YORK (TIP): :Modi, who reached Leh in the morning of July 3, had a major strategic session with the army commanders, where the 14 Corps Commander gave a detailed view of the situation since May, how the standoff started and also how it looks like as of today in terms of the estimated strength of the soldiers and their machinery on both the sides.

The PM was greeted with slogans of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and 'Vande Mataram' by the soldiers, who also raised their arms.

Modi was also briefed about the evolving situation since May at Galwan Valley, Pangong Tso, Demchok and Hot Springs in the eastern Ladakh by Lt Gen Harinder Singh, who had led the Indian delegation in the three rounds of talks with his Chinese counterpart Major General Liu Lin.



Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi arrived on a surprise visit in Leh on Friday, July 3 to assess the situation on India's border with China. The eastern Ladakh has become a theatre of a prolonged standoff between Chinese and Indian troops.

Photo / Courtesy PTI

contd on Page 32

## Randhir Jaiswal to Succeed Sandeep Chakravorty as Consul General of India in New York

PRAKASH SWAMY



A 1998 Indian Foreign Service officer, Randhir Jaiswal has been named the Consul General of India in New York

NEW DELHI (TIP): Ambassador Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, currently Joint Secretary cum Social Secretary to the President of India Ramnath Kovind has been named as Consul General of India in New York following the transfer of Sandeep Chakravorty to New Delhi.

contd on page 30

## Ambani's JioMeet takes on Zoom

MUMBAI (TIP): India's Reliance Jio Platforms, which recently concluded a \$15.2 billion fundraise run, is ready to enter a new business: Video conferencing.

On Thursday, July 2 evening, the firm - backed by Mukesh Ambani, India's richest man - formally launched JioMeet, its video-conference service that looks uncannily like Zoom. Like Zoom and Google Meet, JioMeet offers unlimited number of free calls in high definition (720p) to users and supports as many as 100 participants on a call. But interestingly, it appears to not impose a short time limit on a call's duration.

contd on Page 30



Reliance Jio Platforms is taking on Zoom with JioMeet, which looks a lot like Zoom

## A heat wave forecast for the U.S. has scientists alarmed

### The coming heat is projected to affect huge stretches of the U.S., from eastern New Mexico and Colorado across the Central Plains and into the Northeast.

NEW YORK (TIP): A sustained blast of heat is expected to bake much of the United States with hotter-than-usual temperatures this holiday weekend, and forecasts suggest that the heat and the humidity could linger for several weeks.



world more frequent and more intense.

The coming heat is projected to affect huge parts of the U.S., from eastern New Mexico and Colorado across the central Plains and into the Northeast.

"The first half of July looks to have well-above-normal temperatures, at pretty high probabilities, beginning around the Fourth of July or slightly before," said Jon Gottschalck, chief of the Operational Prediction Branch at the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center. Some places are already sweltering under record conditions. Miami recently had its

contd on page 30

The extreme weather - the first major heat wave of the season - comes as many states are scrambling to contain the rampant spread of the coronavirus and resources are already strained. And while the pandemic presents some unique challenges this summer, experts say these extreme events will continue to pose public health risks because climate change is making heat waves around the



4th of July Celebration of Independence

Page 10-11



Confederate Symbols Removed Photo Feature Page 22-23

## Anupam Kher should be kicked out of BJP for using Guru Gobind Singh's words to describe Sambit Patra: Bittu



Congress MP Ravneet Singh Bittu on Thursday, July 2, strongly rebuked actor Anupam Kher for using the "sacred words of Guru Gobind Singh" to describe Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson Sambit Patra.

NEW DELHI (TIP): Congress MP Ravneet Singh Bittu on Thursday, July 2, strongly rebuked actor Anupam Kher for using the "sacred words of Guru Gobind Singh" to describe Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson Sambit Patra.

On Wednesday, Kher tweeted: "????????????????? !:) @sambitswaraj." Kher's tweet seemed to reference the fact that Patra was heavily criticized on social media after he posted a picture of a child sitting on his grandfather- who was shot dead in Kashmir on Wednesday, July 1-with the caption: "PULITZER LOVERS ??"

Bittu called Kher's tweet an attempt by RSS to dilute the "strong tenets of Sikhism." He tweeted: "How dare

@AnupamPKher use sacred words of Guru Gobind Singh ji to describe the spokesperson of BJP. It spoils the martial image of Sikhs. It is a bid of RSS to dilute strong tenets of Sikhism. PM Modi should tender immediate apology and kick out Kher and his wife from bjp."



# Global COVID-19 cases top 10.9mn, deaths 524,176



## AUSTRALIA STEPS UP POLICE PATROLS IN MELBOURNE'S VIRUS HOTSPOTS

**SYDNEY/MELBOURNE (TIP):** Australian police set up suburban checkpoints in coronavirus hotspots in Melbourne on Thursday and were considering using drones to enforce stay-at-home orders as authorities struggled to contain new outbreaks in the country's second-largest city.

More than 1,000 police set up posts around 36 suburbs, which returned to lockdown after a spike in new infections.

While the rest of Australia opened state borders and loosened social distancing restrictions, Melbourne's state of Victoria promised to fine those in the affected zones that breached curbs on non-essential movement.

Victoria reported 77 new cases, up slightly from the previous day and in line with weeks of double-digit daily increases.

The state government has also commenced an inquiry into enforcement of hotel quarantine for people returning from overseas amid worries some new infections came from people who had dodged the mandatory two-week isolation.

"I'm obviously concerned about the outbreak, and I'm pleased that the premier has taken the action he's taken by putting in place the lockdown for the outbreak in those suburbs," Prime Minister Scott Morrison said in a televised news conference, referring to the Victorian state government.

"We have seen some levelling (in new cases) although they remain at elevated levels and that is of concern and that means as the lockdown now is in place, we would hope to see those numbers fall again."

## OVER 1,60,000 CORONAVIRUS CASES REPORTED EVERY DAY IN LAST WEEK: WHO

**GENEVA (TIP):** The global coronavirus pandemic is accelerating, the World Health Organization said Wednesday, pointing out that June saw more than half of all cases reported since the start of the pandemic.

"For the past week, the number of the new cases has exceeded 160,000 on every single day," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual briefing.

"Sixty percent of all cases so far have been reported just in the past month," he said.

With over 5,11,000 deaths and more than 10.5 million known infections worldwide, the coronavirus pandemic is "not even close to being over", the WHO warned earlier this week.

Tedros reiterated that taking a "comprehensive approach" was the best way to rein in the virus.

Countries that have implemented a wide range of measures, including contact tracing, isolation, physical distancing and mask wearing "have suppressed transmission and saved lives", he said.

The UN health agency was therefore very concerned, he said, to see that a number of countries "have not used all the tools at their disposal and have taken a fragmented approach."

"These countries face a long, hard road ahead," he said.

He stressed that while the pandemic posed a scientific challenge, "it's also a test of character".

The overall number of global COVID-19 cases has increased to over 10.9 million, while the deaths have soared to more than 524,176, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

The US accounted for the world's highest number of infections and fatalities with 2,739,230 and 128,743, respectively, according to the CSSE.

Brazil came in the second place with 1,496,858 infections and 61,884 deaths.

In terms of cases, Russia ranks third (660,231), and is followed by India (604,641), Peru (292,004), the UK (285,268), Chile (284,541), Spain (250,103), Italy (240,961), Mexico (238,511), Iran (232,863), Pakistan (217,809), France (203,640), Turkey (202,284), Saudi Arabia (197,608), Germany (196,370), South Africa (168,061), Bangladesh (153,277) and Canada (106,643), the CSSE figures showed.

The other countries with over 10,000 deaths are the UK (44,080), Italy (34,818), France (29,878), Mexico (29,189), Spain (28,368), India (17,834) and Iran (11,106).

### UK to relax England's quarantine rules for summer travellers

Britain's government said it will lift its Covid-19 quarantine requirement for people arriving in England from countries including Germany, France, Spain and Italy from July 10.

A full list of countries covered by the relaxation would be announced on Friday, the country's transport ministry said.

Under the existing rules, travellers must self-isolate for 14 days on entering the country, something airlines and the travel industry have said will cost thousands of jobs and inflict further damage on the economy.

The government said it expected countries included on the quarantine-free list for England would reciprocate by relaxing their own travel restrictions.

Britain's foreign ministry would set out exemptions from its global advisory against "all but essential"

## TRACKING THE VIRUS

### GLOBAL

Cases  
**10,990,249**

Deaths  
**524,176**

### INDIA

Cases  
**625,544**

Deaths  
**18,213**



## COVID Strain In Beijing Outbreak May Have Come From Southeast Asia: Study

**SHANGHAI (TIP):** A strain of COVID-19 that has infected more than 300 people in Beijing since early June could have originated in South or Southeast Asia, according to a study by Harvard University researchers.

The outbreak in Beijing has raised concerns about China's vulnerability to a "second wave" of infections. The virus found in Beijing cases is an imported strain of COVID-19, according to the China Centre for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Harvard study, published on the preprint website medRxiv.org on Tuesday and which has still to be peer-reviewed, took three of the SARS-CoV-2 genome sequences collected in Beijing last month and compared them to 7,643 samples worldwide.

The three genomes showed the greatest resemblance to cases in Europe from February to May, and to cases in South and Southeast Asia from May to June.

They were also similar to a small number of infections seen in China in March, suggesting the strain could have



appeared first in China and then returned to the country three months later, the authors said.

"As the most recent cases in these branches are almost exclusively from South(east) Asia, this could suggest that the new cases in Beijing were re-introduced by transmissions from South(east) Asia," they wrote.

international travel from July 4. "Today marks the next step in carefully reopening our great nation," Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said. The devolved governments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own powers over public health issues.

Britain said it would require all travellers,

except those from the exempted countries, to provide their contact information including their travel history on arrival. People who have been in or transited through non-exempt countries will still have to self isolate for 14 days.

The Telegraph newspaper reported on Thursday the government would end coronavirus

quarantine rules for those arriving from 75 countries so that people can go on holiday.

The UK would also lift a ban on non-essential travel to nearly all EU destinations, the British territories including Bermuda and Gibraltar, and Turkey, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand, the Telegraph added.

# N.J. coronavirus deaths increase to 15,164 with 172,742 cases as outdoor gathering limit increases to 500

**TRENTON, NJ (TIP):** New Jersey on Friday, July 3, reported 58 new deaths attributed to the coronavirus and 386 new positive tests as the state continued to gradually lift restrictions by raising the limit on people allowed at outdoor gatherings from 250 to 500 in time for the July 4th weekend.

The new figures bring the statewide total to 15,164 known deaths related to COVID-19 - 13,308 lab-confirmed and 1,856 probables - with 172,742 known cases in nearly four months since the Garden State announced its first case March 4.

There were 1,028 patients hospitalized with the virus or under suspicion for it across 70 of New Jersey's 71 hospitals Thursday night - one more than the day before. One hospital did not report data.

Of those patients, 216 were in critical or intensive care and 167 were on ventilators - both the same as Wednesday. There were 95 coronavirus patients discharged Thursday.

Gov. Phil Murphy announced the numbers on Twitter.

Murphy also called on residents to keep wearing face coverings and practicing social distancing over the next few days, tweeting that COVID-19 "does not take holiday weekends off."

Once a coronavirus hotspot, New Jersey has seen its daily COVID-19 figures fall significantly and stabilize over the last two months after lengthy shutdowns.

Meanwhile, numerous other states, many of whom reopened more swiftly, have seen new cases and hospitalizations rise in recent days. There were 51,504 new



*NJ Gov Phil Murphy, on July 3, announced on Twitter that there were 58 new deaths attributed to the coronavirus and 386 new positive tests as the state continued to gradually lift restrictions. - File photo*

cases reported in the U.S. on Thursday, a new single-day record.

Florida has now surpassed New Jersey in total cases, dropping the Garden State to fifth among U.S. states. A densely populated state of 9 million residents, New Jersey ranks second in total deaths.

New Jersey has also seen its rate of retransmission stay below the key mark of 1 in recent weeks - meaning each infected resident passes the virus to fewer than one person. But the rate has increased in recent days. It was 0.87 as of Thursday.

The Garden State is currently in Stage 2 of its gradual reopening plans, with casinos, amusement parks, bowling alleys, playgrounds, indoor pools, museums, and libraries allowed to reopen with restrictions as of Thursday. Summer camps, summer school, and large outdoor graduation ceremonies can resume Monday.

But Murphy has postponed reopening indoor dining at restaurants and bars at

25% capacity, which was scheduled to start Thursday. He said it's still too dangerous because patrons are largely sedentary for a lengthy period of time and can't wear facemasks while eating.

With cases rising elsewhere, Murphy is also calling for travelers arriving from 16 states to self-quarantine for 14 days upon arrival, including New Jersey residents who visited those states.

Officials have said increases in new cases is partially because testing has vastly increased in recent weeks. They note that hospitalizations, the retransmission rate, and daily positivity are better indicators of how the state is managing the crisis because test results can lag.

There have now been more than 1.48 million tests conducted in the state since the outbreak here began.

## LONGTERM CARE

About 44% of New Jersey's COVID-19 deaths have been either residents or staff members of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

There have now been 36,503 cases across 557 of those facilities, according to the state's tracking website. That includes 24,212 residents and 12,291 staff members.

The total includes 80 more cases than were reported Thursday.

It also includes 6,533 lab-confirmed deaths. That number increases to 6,655 when you include deaths suspected to be related to COVID-19 - 6,537 residents and 118 staff members.

(Source: NJ.com)

## Deepakbhai Dave, Executive Director of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan dies of Cardiac Arrest



*The man of many parts Deepakbhai Dave was an institution in himself*

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Deepakbhai Dave, Executive Director of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan died of Cardiac Arrest on June 30. He was in his office at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan when he got the heart attack which proved to be fatal.

Deepakbhai Dave was a passionate promoter of Indian culture. Under his watchful eye, the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan became a center of excellence. His tremendous contribution will be remembered for ever.

A warm-hearted person, Dave ji was always oozing affection and goodwill.

**READ TRIBUTE ON PAGE 5**

# NY Media fraternity and community leaders condole death of Senior journalist and PTC ace anchor Davinder Pal Singh

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Senior journalist and PTC TV anchor Davinder Pal Singh died due to COVID-19 on Tuesday, June 30 in Chandigarh. He had contracted the deadly disease in Delhi about a month ago.

He was moved to a private hospital in Chandigarh, where he was kept on the ventilator for several days.

Davinder Pal Singh was posted in New York between 2016 and 2019. He was a sweet natured person who got along well with everyone. On a professional level, he was one of the most informed and knowledgeable journalists.

The news of his passing away shocked his media colleagues and the Indian American community, in particular the Sikh community leaders who were in regular contact with him.

A condolence meeting was organized



*Media fraternity and community leaders at the condolence meeting for Davinder Pal Singh at Richie Rich Palace, July 1*

to pay tribute to the dear departed, at Richie Rich Palace in Richmond Hill on July 1 which was attended by many who included Gurdwara Presidents, community leaders and mediapersons who paid rich tributes to Davinder Pal Singh.

The Punjabi Press Club proposes to institute an award in the memory of Davinder Pal Singh. Gurdwara Sant Sagar will be organizing a recitation of Sukhmani Sahib for peace of the departed soul.

Bhai Jaswant Singh offered prayers for peace to the departed soul.

Owner of Richie Rich Palace Jarnail Singh Gilzian hosted the condolence meeting, organized by Prof. Indrajit S Saluja and Gurinder Singh Hothi, a friend and colleague of Davinder Pal Singh at PTC.

**READ TRIBUTE ON PAGE 5**

## Indian American Medha Raj to lead Biden's digital campaign



Digital expert Medha Raj was once part of Pete Buttigieg's presidential campaign.

**MILWAUKEE (TIP):** Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden has tapped Medha Raj's talent for his digital campaign.

"Excited to share that I've joined Joe Biden's campaign as the Digital Chief of Staff," said Raj in a LinkedIn Post. "One hundred and thirty days to the election and we're not going to waste a minute!"

It was earlier reported that as the Digital Chief of Staff, Raj will "work across all facets of the digital department to streamline and coordinate how to maximize the impact of its digital outputs".

With the coronavirus pandemic sweeping America shifting the battle for the White House to online platforms, Raj is expected to play a key role in the Biden campaign.

According to latest polls, former Vice President Biden is leading Republican incumbent President Donald Trump by eight points. Trump rules the Twitter world, but loves campaign rallies.

Raj, a graduate in international politics from Georgetown University, and an MBA from Stanford University, was once part of the former South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg's presidential campaign. He dropped out of the race on March 1 and has endorsed Biden.

According to media reports, as part of its efforts to ramp up its digital operations, Biden campaign has also appointed Clarke Humphrey to act as deputy digital director for grassroots fundraising.

Humphrey previously worked on Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign. Christian Tom was named as the new director of digital partnerships.

They will be joined as the new digital organizing director by Jose Nunez, who comes from the presidential campaign of Indian-American senator Kamala Harris, who too has dropped out of the presidential race.

Biden, 77, secured the Democratic presidential nomination on June 5 by securing a majority of delegates to challenge Trump in the Nov 3 election.

He would formally accept his Democratic presidential nomination at the party's scaled back convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Aug 20 due to corona pandemic.

The convention will be broadcast live from Milwaukee, the Democratic National Convention Committee (DNCC) has announced.

## Two Indian Americans Siddhartha Mukherjee, Raj Chetty honored as 'Great Immigrants'

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Indian American Pulitzer Prize-winning physician author Siddhartha Mukherjee and Harvard economist Raj Chetty figure among 38 naturalized US citizens on Carnegie Corporation of New York's 2020 list of 'Great Immigrants' for their role in combating covid-19 pandemic.

New Delhi born Mukherjee has been honored for using "his communication skills to educate the public and build awareness about covid-19 through forums and his widely read essays."

Raj Chetty, also New Delhi born, makes the list for launching "a real-time data tracker to measure the economic impact of the pandemic and assisted decision-makers as they implemented new public policies."

The philanthropic foundation which since 2006 has celebrated "Great Immigrants, Great Americans" on America's July 4 Independence Day has this year highlighted the work of millions of immigrants "playing an essential role in the covid global health crisis."

A noted oncologist, Mukherjee has since 2009 served on the faculty of Columbia University, where he is associate professor of medicine and a practicing physician at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

Mukherjee's "The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer" was awarded the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction. It figures among one of the 100 most influential books written in English since 1923. In 2015, Ken



Indian American Pulitzer Prize-winning physician author Siddhartha Mukherjee and Harvard economist Raj Chetty figure among 38 naturalized US citizens on Carnegie Corporation of New York's 2020 list of 'Great Immigrants' for their role in combating covid-19 pandemic.

Burns turned it into a documentary titled "Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies."

In 2014, he was awarded the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian honors.

In May this year, Mukherjee was selected by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to serve on a 15-member Blue-Ribbon Commission focusing on improving tele-health and broadband access in response to the Covid-19 health crisis.

Chetty received his PhD from Harvard in 2003 at the age of 23 and is one of the youngest tenured professors in the university's history.

He has been named one of the top economists in the world by the New York Times and the Economist magazine. He was awarded a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship in 2012.

Chetty also directs Opportunity Insights, a research lab that aims to

identify barriers to economic and social mobility and develop scalable policy solutions to overcome them, the Corporation said.

"Chetty is optimistic about the potential of big data to inform policy and revive the American dream for the next generation, including immigrants - like his own family - who have long pinned their hopes on its promise," it said.

"For us and many immigrants, that's what America's all about. If you work hard, you can move up, you can do whatever you want. The sky's the limit," he was quoted as telling the Harvard Gazette.

A third of the 2020 honorees are helping the recovery from covid pandemic by serving as nurses and doctors, as well as scientists who are striving to find effective treatments and a vaccine, the foundation said.

Overall, the 2020 Great Immigrants represent 35 countries of origin and a wide range of contributions to American life, from human rights and computer science to art, business, education, health care, journalism, music, politics, religion, research, and sports.

Joining 600 previous outstanding immigrants, the 2020 honorees, who mark the 15th class of Great Immigrants, will be recognized with a full-page public service announcement in the New York Times on July 4 and through a social media tribute.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## Two Indian-Origin agricultural experts named by UN chief to scientific group for 2021 food summit



Scientific Group Members named by Guterres, a statement issued by the UN spokesperson said.

Lal, a preeminent Indian-American soil scientist, was named last month as the 2020 World Food Prize Laureate for developing and mainstreaming a soil-centric approach to increasing food production that conserves natural resources and mitigates climate change.

Lal serves as distinguished university professor of Soil Science and founding Director of the Carbon Management & Sequestration Center at The Ohio State University. A native of India and citizen of the United States, Lal has in his career of over 50 years and across four continents promoted innovative soil-saving techniques that benefited the livelihoods of more than 500 million smallholder farmers, improved the food and nutritional security of more than two billion people and saved hundreds of millions of hectares of natural tropical ecosystems.

Lele, the first woman to be awarded a Ph. D. in agricultural economics by Cornell University, was elected President Elect of the International Association of Agricultural Economists in July 2018. According to Lele's profile on her website, she has five decades of experience in research, operations, policy analysis, and evaluation in the World Bank, universities and international organizations.

Guterres, in collaboration with the United Nations (UN) Rome-based Agencies, will convene the Food Systems Summit in 2021, as a critical contribution to the Decade of Action to deliver the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## Indian-Origin Lawyer in UAE Helps Over 2,000 Fellow Citizens amid the Pandemic



Sheela Thomas, 41, has opened 2,200 files of distressed Indians hailing from states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar, who have lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to help them for their return to India, according to reports.

**DUBAI (TIP):**

An Indian-origin lawyer in the UAE has helped over 2,000 stranded and jobless blue-collar compatriots with free legal paperwork to facilitate their return back home, according to a media report on Saturday.

Sheela Thomas, 41, has opened 2,200 files of distressed Indians

hailing from states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar, who have lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to help them for their return to India, according to reports. "Their paper-work needs to be sorted. Many of their visas have expired, passports still stuck with employers who are not releasing them for some reason or the other. I am taking care of all this work," she was quoted as saying in the report.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

# Prabhjot Singh, Executive Editor of PTC TV pays Tribute to his junior colleague



Senior journalist and PTC TV anchor Davinder Pal Singh died due to COVID-19 on Tuesday, June 30

## "Bye Davinder Pal Singh

Saddened by this shocking reality that has taken away a very pleasant, versatile, thorough professional, and amiable friend and colleague. Davinder Pal Singh you will always live with us and we have so much to recall and feel cheerful about the time we spent together, both on and off screen. You were amazing. Of course Journalism has lost an icon. Kabaddi in general, and Punjabiya in particular, are also poorer in losing one of their great ardent supporters. You left behind a long and unending list of friends, admirers, colleagues and family members, including your affectionate father, who always took pride in making special dishes, especially pickles, for you. It is hard to imagine their loss as everyone was so affectionately attached to you. How could you leave all of them abruptly? It is not done. Anyways, wherever you are

, live peacefully and continue to disburse happiness and smiles as you have been doing all your life and let youngsters and colleagues take a leaf out of your professional book for work ethics and values. All the best for your new innings at the feet of the Almighty."

**Prof. Indrajit S Saluja , Editor The Indian Panorama said of his friend :-**

"No words can express my deep anguish and sense of loss to learn about the passing away of Davinder Pal Singh. 2 days before he died, on Saturday morning (NY time) Gurinder Hothi and I had a video chat with him. He sounded well and was optimistic about recovering soon. He said he would not go back to Delhi after his recovery, presumably because of his family concerns. Who knew it was going to be our last conversation.

What started as a professional collaboration in New York in 2016 soon turned out to be a friendship extending to my family. He was a part of my family. He



Davinder Pal Singh with Prof. Indrajit S Saluja interviewing Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, Consul General of India at New York



At the Holi/ Holi celebration organized by The Indian Panorama in March 2019. Seen, from L to R: Dr. V..K.. Raju, Prof. Indrajit Saluja, K.L. Sardana, Davinder Pal Singh

loved my kids and they doted on him. Tears welled in the eyes of my daughter Jaskiran when she learnt about his death. My sons Ashish and Chitagam , and daughter in law Madhu are shocked at the passing away of their uncle.

There are endless memories of my relationship with the man, and not one unpleasant one.

He was a reservoir of knowledge. I was surprised to find him a voracious reader. A perfectionist, he made sure all he did was excellent. His passion for work taught me a couple of lessons.

He was a giver, extremely generous and compassionate. He was a bundle of the best human qualities. He was saintly.

I had promised to see him on my next visit to India. The location is now changed. I will see him some day in God's Kingdom . Wait.

Shower your blessings on the world, as you are accustomed to doing, from your heavenly abode.

Grow where you are planted.

Miss you, my friend. Much love."

Political and community leaders in India pay tribute to Davinder Pal Singh

From Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal to Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh, several prominent personalities took to social media to extend condolences on the death of Davinder Pal Singh

**SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL | @OFFICEOFSSBADAL**

Deeply saddened to learn about the demise of young and dynamic journalist of PTC News, Devinder Pal Singh. My thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family, friends and colleagues. May the gentle soul rest in peace!

**HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL | @HARSIMRATBADAL\_**

Saddened to know about the untimely demise of a talented and promising journalist of PTC News, S. Davinder Pal Singh. My heartfelt condolences to his family & friends. May Gurusahib grant eternal peace to the departed soul

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB | @PUNJABGOVTINDIA**

Chief Minister @capt\_amarinder Singh expressed sorrow over the demise of Davinder Pal, senior journalist and anchor of PTC News. "May God grant him eternal peace and give the family strength to bear this loss", the Chief Minister said in his condolence message.

**BIKRAM MAJITHIA | @BSMAJITHIA**

Saddened by the untimely demise of senior journalist & anchor of PTC News Davinder Pal Singh. My deep condolences to his family. May Waheguru Ji grant peace to the departed soul.

**MANJINDER SINGH SIRSA | @MSSIRSA**

Shocked and pained to hear about the untimely demise of a young and bright journalist of PTC News, S. Davinder Pal Singh. My sincere condolences to his family. May Waheguru grant eternal peace to his soul.

# Former Consul General of India at NY Sandeep Chakravorty pays Tribute to Deepakbhai Dave

On my return to India on June 29, I woke up on June 30th morning with some devastating news from New York. Our beloved Deepak Dave, Executive Director of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan is no more. It is impossible to fathom this loss as he met me just before my departure at the Consulate in New York. He came to see me off along with Navin Mehta and Minesh Patel. In his own inimitable style he handed me a parting gift of a photograph which will now be his memory with us;

During my years in India in New York I got to work with Deepakbhai very closely, developing both institutional linkages between Bhawan and the Consulate as well a personal friendship. He was a great supporter of all our initiatives and invariably made an observation and comment every time we did something. Sometimes we did not realize where the Consulate ended and where Bhawan began, so thick have been our ties. We were always there for each other and whenever we had an issue or problem to solve, Deepakbhai was our go

to person.

A friendly, affable and patriotic person with deep love for India and Indian culture, his dream was to make the Bhawan the hub of Indian culture in New York. This is where our goals coincided and this strengthened our relationship.

His background in theater and acting always showed in his personality and work. His poetry recitation and shayari in his deep baritone voice was an important component of all our events, particularly the national days. I still remember the goosebumps he gave us during his recitations of Maithali Sharan Gupt's heart rendering "Pushp ki Abhilasha" at our events.

Our joint dream of having a theater production by him at the Consulate couldn't be realized, but we were able to get to it in some measure by hosting him in the lead role as "Khelando" in Chunilal Madia's thriller along with well know theater actors Raju Joshi and Vipul Vitlani as part of Vibrations, the Consulate's online theater festival. Khelando was Deepakbhai's last

performance and will be forever etched in our minds. Here is a link to that performance:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=648099906063266>

Always paying attention to detail, I recollect his hands on approach to getting things done. When last year we had to hold the release of Dr P. Jayaraman's book on "The Alwar Saints of Tamil Nadu", I put forward the idea that we should have a classy event with noted personalities. He easily convinced Chandrika Tandon ji to sing Bhakti sangeet and Swami Yuktatmananda and Shri Dyaneshwar Mulay to be speakers. The care and concern he had for nonagenarian Dr Jayaraman, who is a himself a doyen of Indian cultural studies, is something to feel proud about. I am not sure how Dr Jayaraman will take this loss.

The human and cultural scape of New York is poorer today with the passing away of Deepakbhai. We will all miss him and wonder about the ways of the world. For me it was deep personal loss as my entire family held great affection



Deepakbhai Dave was actively associated with the Consulate events. In this photograph at the Consulate taken on the occasion of observing martyrdom of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, he (third from left) is seen with Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, Consul General at New York (second from left) who admired and loved Deepakbhai.

for him. It is now rather difficult to think of Bhawan without Deepak Dave.

**REST IN PEACE**

# Global Indian Trade and Cultural Council, USA in collaboration with Consulate General of India Launches a Series of Webinars



**The first Webinar on Augmenting US-India Healthcare Relations under Covid Challenge organized on June 1**

**NEW YORK (TIP)** :The first webinar on June 1 focused on augmenting US-India Healthcare Relations under Covid Challenge. The panelists included Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, Consul General of India at New York, Prof. T R Bhardwaj, Vice Chancellor, Baddi University, HP, India, Mr. Vivek Padgaonkar, Ex Director, Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India, Prof Saranjit Singh, Pharmaceutical Scientist, NIPER, India, Prof Kanwaljit Chopra, Chairperson, UIPS, PU, Prof Charles N Pozner, Head Emergency Medicine, Harvard University, Mr. Samrat Dani, Vice President, Fulton Bank, USA, Prof Pradeep Gupta, Burroughs Wellcome Professor of Pharmaceutics, Mr Roop Singh, Chief Business Officer, Birlasoft, USA, and Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, Publisher and chief editor The Indian Panorama.



Welcoming and introducing the panelists **MR. H.S. PANASER**, Chair, Global Indian Trade and Culture, USA. Spoke on the need for a series of webinars to deal with the subject of cooperation between the U.S. and India in the pharmaceutical sector. He said, "The dependencies and inter-dependencies of globalization especially between US and India, have been in headlines during the COVID-19 pandemic and nowhere more so than in the Healthcare segment. More so, in pharmaceutical industry.

Mr. Panaser spoke about the Indian pharmaceutical scene and the healthcare sector. "The Indian healthcare sector is expected to reach Rs 19,56,920 crore (US\$ 280 billion) by 2020. Rising income level, greater health awareness, increased precedence of lifestyle diseases and improved access to insurance would be the key contributors to growth. Indian Pharmaceuticals is a sunrise industry with a competitive advantage for India globally. We should leverage India's position by unleashing entrepreneur spirit the bullish outlook for health care segment is now taking India in a forward momentum. The market size of India in Pharmaceuticals alone is estimated to be \$100 billion and medical devices is \$25 billion by 2025. Now with amendment in FDI policy where one can invest up to 100% specially if it is medical devices segment where India is importing 80% of medical devices", Mr. Panaser said.



**Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty**, Consul General of India at New York who inaugurated the webinar series, said he was not aware there was to be a formal inauguration.

"I think webinar, zoom and WebEx conferencing are the new normal. It is high time that we start reconditioning our life to this new format. So I'm very happy to be here with such a distinguished panel. I will first like to congratulate our friend Harry Panaser for bringing up this panel of speakers. He has been working in the health care sector for several years now and he has deep knowledge and connections here in the United States and back home in India and it is not surprising that he has decided to hold a seminar on Indo US cooperation and collaboration in health care, particularly in the context of Covid challenge. To set the ball rolling, I am very happy to inaugurate this webinar".



**MR. T SRINIVAS**, the CFO of Bharat Biotech of Hyderabad, India which owns 160 global patents said, "Our products help people in over 65 countries live to their fullest potential. Our manufacturing facilities are approved by USFDA, KFDA and WHO. We have delivered over 3 billion vaccine doses all over the world."

Mr. Srinivas said "We started working on Covid vaccine in March 2020. We are now working on animal trials in India.



**PROF. T R BHARDWAJ**, Vice Chancellor, Baddi University, HP, India said it was a matter of pride that India has emerged as a global Pharmaceutical Competitor. One third of the world's generic drugs and formulations as well as bulk drugs, and Active Pharmaceutical

Ingredients (APIs) are manufactured in India. "You will be surprised to know that one third of India's production is from Himachal Pradesh, mainly from Baddi area, in the neighborhood of Baddi University. Baddi is Asia's largest industrial hub and is only 45 Km from Chandigarh".

"India has always been considering profession of Pharmacy as service to the mankind. Dr Yusuf Hamied, CIPLA Limited, has already served the poor AIDS patients of Africa by providing Anti - AID medicines at the cheapest rates. The same service to the mankind has been further repeated by our PM to provide Hydroxychloroquine and other preventive drugs to US and other countries during Corona Pandemic."

Prof Bhardwaj said "You will be pleased to know, it is a matter of pride for us, that Baddi University extended their hostels facility to the staff, working round the clock, of all these manufacturing companies during Covid - 19 lockdown. Although at present we have around 75 FDA and almost 70 approved by regulatory agencies of other countries such as Australia, South Africa, Europe etc.", said Prof Bhardwaj



**MR. VIVEK PADGAONKAR**, Ex Director, Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India said: "India-US partnership has been consolidating over the years and COVID-19 pandemic has further bolstered Indo-US partnership through supply of HCQ and other APIs. While there

has been a huge strain on the healthcare system due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, pharmaceutical companies have an unprecedented opportunity to play a significant role in this fight against the virus. With every adversity comes a learning opportunity. Covid-19 has been no exception. Onemajor takeaway has been the power of collaboration".

"In the middle of this global crisis, Indian pharma has proven to be consistent and reliable. The biopharmaceutical industry generates significant economic value in terms of job creation, R&D investment, and medications that improve patient productivity. However, the first quarter of 2020 saw disruption of many industries' supply. Currently, Indian pharmaceutical companies account for around 40 per cent of the generic drug supply to the US market."

Vivek said "We can partner with innovators (e.g., Serum Institute of India with two companies on the vaccine for COVID-19; Gilead is partnering with many Indian companies on Remdesivir."



**PROF. SARANJIT SINGH**, Pharmaceutical Scientist, NIPER, India said "Covid pandemic has helped Indian Industry to regain the stature to certain extent. Over a 10-year period (2009-2018), the U.S. saved about two trillion dollars through generic drugs. Foremost is re-building faith in Quality of Indian Generic Drug Production. He emphasized the importance of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and research and the visionary who initiated the institute, Late Prof Emeritus Harkishan Singh. There is a need for impetus for industry to get above the basic

GMP compliance to high-tech manufacturing, so that quality is built into the product, and not tested. The academia also needs to rise to occasion and shall collaborate for training of students in high-tech emerging areas with leading International institutions using e-modes. The country needs to establish Centre's of Excellence (COE) in areas, like viral drug research, continuous manufacturing, etc. Innovation and deep scientific research have to be thrust areas for pharma institutions in future" quoted Prof. Singh



**PROF. KANWALJIT CHOPRA**, Chairperson, UIPS, PU, India emphasized the research at the university. She quoted a range of top CEOs and professionals in Academia, Government and Industry who are from Punjab University globally in Pharmaceuticals.



**PROF. CHARLES N POZNER**, Head Emergency Medicine, Harvard University, presented the video clipping on operations process of stimulation now reaching India



**MR. SAMRAT DANI**, Vice President, Fulton Bank, USA presented his experience of putting finance in API and infrastructure. He highlighted the concept of mergers and collaboration in Medical Devices as well.



**PROF. PRADEEP GUPTA**, Burroughs Wellcome Professor of Pharmaceutics, talked on the importance of Universities participation in research and development on pharmaceutical formulations and new drug discoveries.



**MR ROOP SINGH**, Chief Business Officer, Birlasoft, USA said: "Birlasoft has invested in next generation transformational PV Tools/ Platforms powered with cognitive technologies including ML/AI and natural language processing which have the capacity to deliver insights from the data-based evidence coming out of clinical trials to help us very rapidly understand which drug and vaccine candidates we should double down on because they hold the most promise to be effective and safe, vs. those in which we should stop investing.



Summing up the deliberations, **PROF. INDRAJIT S SALUJA** congratulated panelists for an extremely meaningful discussion. He congratulated Harry Panaser for taking the initiative to bring the best minds together from the pharmaceuticals sector. Prof. Saluja appreciated Prof. Tilak Bharadwaj for making a solid claim for US India collaboration. Prof. Bharadwaj said India had a lot to attract US companies to operate in India. Strong manufacturing base, cost effectiveness, established network of labs, scientists and professionals, strong marketing and distribution network, potential growth of clinical trials, fast growing health industry, quality control - all these are good enough attractions.

Prof. Saluja also recalled the great contribution of Padma Shri Prof. Harkishan Singh to promotion of pharmaceutical research and development. He recalled Prof. Kamaljit Singh Chopra's words: " His stellar contribution in the field of pharmaceuticals has had a great impact on research in the field of pharmaceuticals".

# New COVID cases in NY top 900 for the first time in 3 weeks

**NEW YORK (TIP):** New York state reported 918 new coronavirus infections and nine deaths from COVID-19, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Friday, July 3.

The 918 figure recorded Thursday, July 2, represents the first time more than 900 new infections have been reported since June 12, when 916 people tested positive for the virus statewide.

"The more than 900 new cases in New York yesterday, while representing just 1.38% of tests, is a reminder that the virus is still here," the Democratic governor said in a news release.

He added, "I cannot repeat enough



NY State Governor Andrew Cuomo has asked New Yorkers to be cautious to stop any surge in COVID-19 infections - File photo

that our actions today -those of individuals being smart and following all precautions, and local governments enforcing the state's guidelines - will determine which direction these numbers go."

The percentage of New York state residents who have tested positive for COVID-19 each day has hovered around 1% to 2% over the past week, despite concerns that protests last month over the death of George Floyd might have fueled a new surge.

More than 24,800 people with COVID-19 have died in New York hospitals and nursing homes since the first deaths were reported in March.

# New YouTube Talk Show Provides Inspiration to Actors, Directors and Artists in North America



Sonny Chatrath is an accomplished artist

**SONNY SIDE UP has already featured in-depth interviews with actors like Suniel Shetty, who recently launched a new portal for young South Asian artists called FTC Talent, and directors like Ananth Narayan Mahadevan, whose film MAI GHAAT recently showed at the Cannes Film Festival.**

To check out previous episodes or to join the weekly master classes, which are appropriate for any talent at any level of his/her career, subscribe for FREE to SONNY SIDE UP's You Tube channel here: [www.youtube.com / sonnychatrath](http://www.youtube.com/sonnychatrath).

**NEW YORK (TIP):** SONNY SIDE UP, a new talk show launched by New York actor/producer Sonny Chatrath on YouTube, is racking up followers in the entertainment industry all over North America. Part talk show, part improvisation, the 20-minute weekly segments with renowned South Asian actors, directors and industry professionals are serving as a tutorial of sorts for those who are striving to hone their craft in the arts and entertainment industries.

Chatrath, who launched the wildly popular "South Asian Artists in U.S. and Canada" Facebook group in 2013, says his growing audience of 2500+ was asking for this kind of content, especially during the pandemic.

"It was a natural next step in our journey to becoming a world-class arts fraternity. The film industry is a very tough environment, and by sharing success stories of people who are

creating incredible content, I want to motivate all the artists who are a part of our group to stay focused and keep pursuing their passions," said Chatrath, who has acted in several commercials and films himself. He is also a film producer and a veteran of the international travel industry.

SONNY SIDE UP has already featured in-depth interviews with actors like Suniel Shetty, who recently launched a new portal for young South Asian artists called FTC Talent, and directors like Ananth Narayan Mahadevan, whose film MAI GHAAT recently showed at the Cannes Film Festival. Upcoming artist segments featuring the Diaspora and talent back home will include Maneet Chauhan (chef & celebrity judge CHOPPED), Mannu Sandhu (Miss Universe Canada Humanitarian 2011), Ankur Bhatia (actor AARYA, HASEENA), Prashant Guptha (actor/producer, A NEW CHRISTMAS) and Himanshu Malik (actor/writer/producer, CHITRAKUT, KAMA SUTRA & TUM BIN), just to name a few. New episodes drop every Tuesday.

"These weekly episodes really get me re-invigorated about my craft and help me stay on target with my end goal," said Anil Sankaramanchi, a Dallas-based actor who has been featured in several commercials and films. "At times like these when the lives and careers of new and prominent actors are at risk, we need to surround ourselves with messages of hope and positivity that we heard over and over again in these master classes."

## 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](mailto:Ralph@gradeconstruction.net)



By Olufemi Táiwò

The killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and Rayshard Brooks are the latest in a continuing pattern of violence inflicted by state agents and citizens, mostly white, against Americans of African descent. Their deaths have stoked strong denunciations and calls for justice and change, to do something, anything, to put an end to such incidents

But to date, there has been very little interest in real change from the highest levels of political leadership. Through executive order, the president has issued modest police reforms, and congressional legislation has already stalled. To create lasting change in the United States, we must do more than reform the police. We must reconcile with our history - with race and with racism. And to do that, there is no better model to guide us than South Africa's.

We are at a fork in the road of the kind that made South Africa, during the last days of apartheid, opt for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission model as the preferred path to a new society. South Africa chose to enter into the record the ugly history of deprivation, violence and denial of humanity of black people perpetrated by the white-dominated state and other groups within it, so that no one could reasonably disavow what happened or claim ignorance of what was done in their name and to their benefit.

Every state agent who sought forgiveness from the commission had to give a full account of the crimes they committed as state agents in granular detail and identify their victims' names, educating the population about how low their society had sunk while apartheid lasted. That is how the truth played out; South Africa now has a full record of this history, for not only South Africans but all who desire access.

This same process is what the United States needs in order to confront the truth about what it did to black people throughout its history.

The United States has faced many past forks in the road. At its inception, the country could have gone full steam ahead in building the utopia promised by its founding fathers. Instead, it chose slavery. It had another turning point at

## AS I SEE IT

# The best way to respond to our history of racism: A Truth and Reconciliation Commission



South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu and fellow commissioners listen to testimony from witnesses during the start of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that opened in East London on April 15, 1996.

Photo / Courtesy Philip Littleton-AFP - Getty Images

the conclusion of the Civil War when it chose white reconciliation at the expense of full citizenship for black compatriots. There was yet another opportunity at the conclusion of the Jim Crow era; again, the United States elided full citizenship for black Americans by taking the easy path of trying to institute progress through litigation that is constantly being challenged and reversed.

At every step, the United States refused to acknowledge the wrong inflicted on its black citizens. But the nation is once again at a decision point.

We are dealing with a mind-set - including among nonwhite immigrants - that was constructed in a time of slavery and used to justify the dehumanization of black Americans. Black Americans and we, their immigrant cousins, are never routinely considered to have a place in America's space. Our citizenship has never been full nor taken for granted: it is always asterisked. This mind-set must be the subject of a national

conversation.

We needed an amendment to the Constitution to secure our citizenship even when we were born on U.S. soil and nonblack immigrants were routinely admitted. We had to have our equality with others litigated in courts. We had to have our right to live anywhere we want and can afford restated and guaranteed by additional legislation and court judgments. We have had our right to vote unimpeded periodically subject to renewal by Congress. And we must continue to suffer the indignities of having our fellow citizens act as if only we have problems.

Over the past century, other societies realized they had wronged segments of their populace either through racial discrimination, genocide or military misrule. They accepted that they had fallen short of what kind of society they desired to be, and that they had to reconcile with the undeserving victims of their deeds. Reconciliation required

**To create lasting change in the United States, we must do more than reform the police. We must reconcile with our history - with race and with racism. And to do that, there is no better model to guide us than South Africa's.**

acknowledging and atoning for the wrong done - asking for their victims' forgiveness while resolving never to repeat the wrongs and working to restore their victims to full humanity as fellow citizens.

The United States and South Africa share similar histories of denying the humanity of black people. In South Africa, there is collective sharing of the burden of what the country did to its black citizens and understanding that black South Africans deserve to be made whole if South Africa is to become the nation of its modern founders' dreams. South Africa is a long way from realizing this dream, and the reluctance of white South Africa to reciprocate the generosity of the black majority is scandalous. But the foundation laid by the truth remains an indispensable starting point.

To become the perfect union its founders intended, the United States must make its black citizens whole, without legal equivocations or constitutional hair-splitting. That is the ultimate argument for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission in our land. It is the precondition for a different future.

*(Olufemi Táiwò is professor and chair of the Africana Studies and Research Center at Cornell University)*

*(Source: The Washington Post)*



## COMMENT

Prof. I.S. Saluja

4th of July is so different this year. COVID-19 has struck down all traditional ceremonies, leaving Americans to celebrate the event in a shorter edition, with limited ceremonial celebration. The pomp, pageantry, parades, shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of America to another do not appear to be a possibility now. COVID-19 not only deprived Americans of grand celebrations on 4th of July; it has also snatched from them family members and

## Celebrating 4th of July

friends, and left them devastated. Not a favorable time to celebrate an event in the face of grim tragedies and terrible grief.

The administration at various levels, from towns and cities to federal level, may be ruining the hit to economy and having to face budget shortages. They may be upset that the battered economy is likely to take years to recover health. They may be worried about a possible public outcry at not being provided the amenities and facilities that they have been so used to for decades. They may be worried about their political careers which may be ruined for no fault of theirs.

But, let us have a look at another scenario which is not exactly the gift of COVID-19 but a result of violation of rights of citizens at the hands of law enforcement. In the wake of a black George Floyd's death allegedly at the hands of a white police officer in Minneapolis (it was not the first of its kind; many blacks have been killed at the hands of white police officers), a whole lot of people- black, white, brown, yellow came out in the open to protest the killing. The issue of racism came to fore. We have witnessed protests, some violent, but most mainly peaceful. "Black Lives Matter"

movement picked up steam and soon we found protesters gunning for removing Confederate symbols, including statues of Confederate soldiers and generals and all those who history tells were racists. It is altogether a new dimension to the civil movement. America, on this 4th of July, must understand the popular sentiment which is all against the racists and those who deprive people of color of their rights.

This 4th of July is witnessing a new energy which is bound to add a new chapter to American history. We celebrate the new energy.

*God bless America!*

# The Neoliberal Looting of America



By Mehrsa Baradaran

**“An examination of the recent history of private equity disproves the neoliberal myth that profit incentives produce the best outcomes for society. The passage of time has debunked another such myth: that deregulating industries would generate more vibrant competition and benefit consumers. Unregulated market competition actually led to market consolidation instead. Would-be monopolies squeezed competitors, accrued political power, lobbied for even more deregulation and ultimately drove out any rivals, leading inexorably to entrenched political power. Instead of a thriving market of small-firm competition, free market ideology led to a few big winners dominating the rest.”**

It's hard to separate what's good for the United States and what's good for Bank of America," said its former chief executive, Ken Lewis, in 2009. That was hardly true at the time, but the current crisis has revealed that the health of the finance industry and stock market are completely disconnected from the actual financial health of the American people. As inequality, unemployment and evictions climb, the Dow Jones surges right alongside them - one line compounding suffering, the other compounding returns for investors.

One reason is that an ideological coup quietly transformed our society over the last 50 years, raising the fortunes of the financial economy - and its agents like private equity firms - at the expense of the real economy experienced by most Americans.

The roots of this intellectual takeover can be traced to a backlash against socialism in Cold War Europe. Austrian School economist Friedrich A. Hayek was perhaps the most influential leader of that

**The private equity industry, which has led to more than 1.3 million job losses in the last decade, reveals the truth about free markets.**

movement, decrying governments who chased "the mirage of social justice." Only free markets can allocate resources fairly and reward individuals based on what they deserve, reasoned Hayek. The ideology - known as neoliberalism - was especially potent because it disguised itself as a neutral statement of economics rather than just another theory. Only unfettered markets, the theory argued, could ensure justice and freedom because only the profit motive could dispassionately pick winners and losers based on their contribution to the economy.

Neoliberalism leapt from economics departments into American politics in the 1960s, where it fused with conservative anti-communist ideas and then quickly spread throughout universities, law schools, legislatures and courts. By the 1980s, neoliberalism was triumphant in policy, leading to tax cuts, deregulation and privatization of public functions including schools, pensions and infrastructure. The governing logic held that corporations could do just about everything better than the government could. The result, as President Ronald Reagan said, was to unleash "the magic of the marketplace."

The magic of the market did in fact turn everything into gold - for wealthy investors. Neoliberalism led to deregulation in every sector, a winner-take-all, debt-fueled market and a growing cultural acceptance of purely profit-driven corporate managers. These conditions were a perfect breeding ground for the private equity industry, then known as "leveraged buyout" firms. Such firms took advantage of the new market for high-yield debt (better known as junk bonds) to buy and break up American conglomerates, capturing unprecedented wealth in fewer hands. The private equity industry embodies the neoliberal movement's values, while exposing its inherent logic.

Private equity firms use money provided by institutional investors like pension funds and university endowments to take over and restructure companies or industries. Private equity touches practically every sector, from housing to health care to retail. In pursuit of maximum returns, such firms have squeezed businesses for every last drop of profit, cutting jobs, pensions and salaries where possible. The debt-laden buyouts privatize gains when they work, and socialize losses when they don't, driving previously healthy firms to bankruptcy and leaving many others permanently hobbled. The list of private equity's victims has grown even longer in the past year, adding J.Crew, Toys 'R' Us, Hertz and more.

In the last decade, private equity management has led to approximately 1.3 million job losses due to retail bankruptcies and liquidation. Beyond the companies directly controlled by private equity, the threat of being the next takeover target has most likely led other

companies to pre-emptively cut wages and jobs to avoid being the weakest prey. Amid the outbreak of street protests in June, a satirical headline in The Onion put it best: "Protesters Criticized For Looting Businesses Without Forming Private Equity Firm First." Yet the private equity takeover is not technically looting because it has been made perfectly legal, and even encouraged, by policymakers.

According to industry experts, 2019 was one of the most successful years for private equity to date, with \$919 billion in funds raised. The private equity executives themselves can also garner tremendous riches. Their standard fee structure involves collecting around 2 percent of the investor money they manage annually, and then 20 percent of any profits above an agreed-upon level. This lucrative arrangement also lets them tap into the very favorable "carried interest" tax loophole, allowing them to pay much lower capital gains tax rates on their earnings, rather than normal income taxes like most people.

An examination of the recent history of private equity disproves the neoliberal myth that profit incentives produce the best outcomes for society. The passage of time has debunked another such myth: that deregulating industries would generate more vibrant competition and benefit consumers. Unregulated market competition actually led to market consolidation instead. Would-be monopolies squeezed competitors, accrued political power, lobbied for even more deregulation and ultimately drove out any rivals, leading inexorably to entrenched political power. Instead of a thriving market of small-firm competition, free market ideology led to a few big winners dominating the rest.



*The current crisis has revealed that the health of the finance industry and stock market are disconnected from the actual financial health of the American people.*

*Photo / George Etheredge for The New York Times*

Take the banking sector. For most of American history, banks were considered a public privilege with duties to promote the "best interest of the community." If a bank wanted to merge or grow or offer new services, the regulators often denied the request either because a community could lose a bank branch or because the new product was too risky. During the neoliberal revolution of the 1980s and '90s, Congress and bank regulators loosened the rules, allowing a handful of

**And we can move beyond the myths of neoliberalism that have led us here. We can have competitive and prosperous markets, but our focus should be on ensuring human dignity, thriving families and healthy communities. When those are in conflict, we should choose flourishing communities over profits.**

megabanks to swallow up thousands of small banks.

Today, five banks control nearly half of all bank assets. Fees paid by low-income Americans have increased, services have been curtailed and many low-income communities have lost their only bank. When federally subsidized banks left low-income communities, vulture-like fringe lenders - payday, title, tax-refund lenders - filled the void. As it turns out, private equity firms are invested in some of the largest payday lenders in the country.

Faith in market magic was so entrenched that even the 2008 financial crisis did not fully expose the myth: We witnessed the federal government pick up all the risks that markets could not manage and Congress and the Federal Reserve save the banking sector ostensibly on behalf of the people. Neoliberal deregulation was premised on the theory that the invisible hand of the market would discipline risky banks without the need for government oversight. Even a former Fed chairman, Alan Greenspan, the most committed free market fundamentalist of the era, admitted in the understatement of the century, that "I made a mistake."

We can start fixing the big flaws propagated over the last half century by taxing the largest fortunes, breaking up large banks and imposing market rules that prohibit the predatory behaviors of private equity firms.

Public markets can take over the places that private markets have failed to adequately serve. Federal or state agencies can provide essential services like banking, health care, internet access, transportation and housing at cost through a public option. Historically, road maintenance, mail delivery, police and other services are not left to the market but provided directly by the government. Private markets can still compete, but basic services are guaranteed to everyone.

And we can move beyond the myths of neoliberalism that have led us here. We can have competitive and prosperous markets, but our focus should be on ensuring human dignity, thriving families and healthy communities. When those are in conflict, we should choose flourishing communities over profits.

*(Mehrša Baradaran (@MehršaBaradaran) is a professor of law at the University of California, Irvine, and author of "The Color of Money: Black Banks and the Racial Wealth Gap.")*

*(Courtesy New York Times)*

# 4TH OF JULY INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues. The Fourth of July 2020 is on Saturday, July 4, 2020.

## A History of Independence Day

When the initial battles in the Revolutionary War broke out in April 1775, few colonists desired complete independence from Great Britain, and those who did were considered radical.

By the middle of the following year, however, many more colonists had come to favor independence, thanks to growing hostility against Britain and the spread of revolutionary sentiments such as those expressed in the bestselling pamphlet “Common Sense,” published by Thomas Paine in early 1776.

On June 7, when the Continental Congress met at the Pennsylvania State House (later Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, the Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion calling for the colonies’ independence.

Amid heated debate, Congress postponed the vote on Lee’s resolution, but appointed a five-man committee—including Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and Robert R. Livingston of New York—to draft a formal statement justifying the break with Great Britain.

On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of Lee’s resolution for independence in a near-unanimous vote (the New York delegation abstained, but later voted affirmatively). On that day, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail that July 2 “will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival” and that the celebration should include “Pomp and Parade...Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other.”

On July 4th, the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, which had been written largely by Jefferson. Though the vote for actual independence took place on July 2nd, from then on the 4th became the day that was celebrated as the birth of American independence.

## Early Fourth of July Celebrations

In the pre-Revolutionary years, colonists had held annual celebrations of the king’s birthday, which traditionally included the ringing of bells, bonfires, processions and speechmaking. By contrast, during the summer of 1776 some colonists celebrated the birth of independence by holding mock funerals for King George III as a way of symbolizing the end of the monarchy’s hold on America and the triumph of liberty.

Festivities including concerts, bonfires, parades and the firing of cannons and muskets usually accompanied the first public readings of the



Declaration of Independence, beginning immediately after its adoption. Philadelphia held the first annual commemoration of independence on July 4, 1777, while Congress was still occupied with the ongoing war.

George Washington issued double rations of rum to all his soldiers to mark the anniversary of independence in 1778, and in 1781, several months before the key American victory at the Battle of Yorktown, Massachusetts became the first state to make July 4th an official state holiday.

After the Revolutionary War, Americans continued to commemorate Independence Day every year, in celebrations that allowed the new nation’s emerging political leaders to address citizens and create a feeling of unity. By the last decade of the 18th century, the two major political parties—the Federalist Party and Democratic-Republicans—that had arisen began holding separate Fourth of July celebrations in many large cities.

## Fourth of July Fireworks

The first fireworks were used as early as 200 BC. The tradition of setting off fireworks on the 4 of July began in Philadelphia on July 4, 1777, during the first organized celebration of Independence Day. Ship’s cannon fired a 13-gun salute in honor of the 13 colonies. The Pennsylvania Evening Post reported: “at night there was a grand exhibition of fireworks (which began and concluded with thirteen rockets) on the Commons, and the city was beautifully illuminated.” That same night, the Sons of Liberty set off fireworks over Boston

Common.

## A Federal Holiday

The tradition of patriotic celebration became even more widespread after the War of 1812, in which the United States again faced Great Britain. In 1870, the U.S. Congress made July 4th a federal holiday; in 1941, the provision was expanded to grant a paid holiday to all federal employees.

Over the years, the political importance of the holiday would decline, but Independence Day remained an important national holiday and a symbol of patriotism.

Falling in mid-summer, the Fourth of July has since the late 19th century become a major focus of leisure activities and a common occasion for family get-togethers, often involving fireworks and outdoor barbecues. The most common symbol of the holiday is the American flag, and a common musical accompaniment is “The Star-Spangled Banner,” the national anthem of the United States.

How is it celebrated by Americans and how will this year be affected by the pandemic?

Over 240 years later, July 4 is still celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

Bristol in Rhode Island has the nation’s longest-running Independence Day celebrations, with festivities taking place since 1785.

The festivities there start mid June and conclude with a 2.5 miles military parade on July 4, followed by a ball.

At Mr Jefferson's home in Virginia - Monticello - for over 50 years, a naturalisation ceremony is held on Independence Day, admitting people worldwide to become citizens of the United States.

Typically famous landmarks are also lit up in the patriotic colours of red, white and blue, and usually a large fireworks celebration is held at the White House, and Macy's fireworks in New York are famously screened across the country.

However, this year, due to coronavirus, celebrations will look a little different, with social distancing restrictions in place and many events cancelled due to gathering size restrictions and local public health guidance.

Fireworks celebrations from Massachusetts to Florida to California have been cancelled, and experts are advising people to watch the firework displays in their community from the safety of their car.

For those considering travelling to celebrate Independence Day, face masks should be worn and social distancing adhered to, with travellers being advised to check the level of Covid-19 at their destination.

### Why Was the Declaration of Independence Written?

When the first skirmishes of the Revolutionary War broke out in Massachusetts in April 1775, few people in the American colonies wanted to separate from Great Britain entirely. But as the war continued, and Britain called out massive armed forces to enforce its will, more and more colonists came to accept that asserting independence was the only way forward.

And the Declaration of Independence would play a critical role in unifying the colonies for the bloody struggle they now faced.

Over the decade following passage of the Stamp Act in 1765, a series of unpopular British laws met with stiff opposition in the colonies, fueling a bitter struggle over whether Parliament had the right to tax the colonists without the consent of the representative colonial governments. This struggle erupted into violence in 1770 when British troops killed five colonists in the Boston Massacre.

Three years later, outrage over the Tea Act of 1773 prompted colonists to board an East India Company ship in Boston Harbor and dump its cargo into the sea in the now-infamous Boston Tea Party.

In response, Britain cracked down further with the Coercive Acts, going so far as to revoke the colonial charter of Massachusetts and close the port of Boston. Resistance to the Intolerable Acts, as they became known, led to the formation of the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia in 1774, which denounced "taxation without representation" - but stopped short of demanding independence from Britain.

Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

The initial draft of the Declaration of Independence was written by Thomas Jefferson and was presented to the entire Congress on June 28 for debate and revision.

In addition to Jefferson's eloquent preamble, the document included a long list of grievances against King George III, who was accused of

— committing many "injuries and usurpations" in his quest to establish "an absolute tyranny over these States."

### The Declaration of Independence united the colonists

After two days of editing and debate, the Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, even as a large British fleet and more than 34,000 troops prepared to invade New York. By the time it was formally signed on August 2, printed copies of the document were spreading around the country, being reprinted in newspapers and publicly read aloud.

While the road to independence had been long and twisted, the effect of its declaration made an impact right away.

"It changed the whole character of the war," Maier said. "These were people who for a year had been making war against a king with whom they were trying to effect a reconciliation, to whom they were publicly professing loyalty. Now heart and hand, as one person said, could move together. They had a cause to fight for."



Benjamin Franklin and John Adams meeting with Thomas Jefferson, standing, to study a draft of the Declaration of Independence.

(Credit: Universal History Archive/Getty Images)



# Diverse religious leaders call it "morally wrong" to continue with "Washington Redskins" name

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Christian-Hindu-Buddhist-Jewish-Native American religious leaders are appealing to Washington Redskins football team owner Dan Snyder and National Football League (NFL) to change the team's name, as many considered it as a hurtful reminder of the historical maltreatment of Native Americans.

Lutheran Pastor Chad R. Adamik, Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, prominent Buddhist Priest Matthew T. Fisher, well-known Jewish Rabbi ElizaBeth Webb Beyer, and American Indian spirituality scholar Brian E. Melendez; in a joint statement in Nevada; said: Many regard the term "redskin" as linked to the historical suffering of Native Americans; and thus it is morally wrong to continue with a derogatory, degrading, contemptuous and offensive name.

Rajan Zed, who is President of Universal Society of Hinduism, points out that use of stereotypes and caricatures keeps us away from the reality and harmony of one human family. Instead, we need to work towards

creating goodwill among all the sections of society. Indeed, God is in each human being.

Football franchises should not be in the business of disparaging entire communities and society should not be publicly celebrating a derogatory term. We should be more sensitive to the feelings of others and no community should be dehumanized; Adamik-Zed-Fisher-Beyer-Melendez indicated.

Moreover NFL; which announced on June 11 an "Expanded Social Justice Commitment" to "combat systemic racism and support the battle against the ongoing and historic injustices" and "an increased emphasis on raising awareness and promoting education of social justice issues"; should prove itself as a morally upright institution at this moment of reckoning by persuading Snyder for immediate name change of Washington Redskins; Adamik-Zed-Fisher-Beyer-Melendez stated.

It was the right moment for an otherwise great franchise like Washington Redskins to return the

affection it had received from the fans over the years, who deserved a name that was reflective of that love and pride. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell should also intervene and prove that he and NFL were serious about the claims of supporting the battle against "historic injustices", Adamik-Zed-Fisher-Beyer-Melendez noted.

Adamik-Zed-Fisher-Beyer-Melendez urged the Washington DC metropolitan area clergy also to take up this issue of systematic disrespect by one of the NFL's oldest and most storied franchises established in 1932.

Meanwhile, on Friday, July 3, the Washington Redskins said they were beginning a thorough review of the team's controversial nickname, a stunning step that came just one day after a prominent corporate sponsor called for a change and after years of refusing to consider such a move.

The team offered few details of what the review will entail, but in a statement it said the review "formalizes the initial discussions the team has been having



with the league in recent weeks."

"This process allows the team to take into account not only the proud tradition and history of the franchise but also input from our alumni, the organization, sponsors, the National Football League and the local community it is proud to represent on and off the field," team owner Daniel Snyder said in the statement.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell expressed the league's support for the team's review.

# Jeffrey Epstein confidante Ghislaine Maxwell arrested, accused of "unspeakable" crimes

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Ghislaine Maxwell, a British socialite and confidante of Jeffrey Epstein, was arrested by the FBI Thursday, July 2 morning in New Hampshire, the FBI said Thursday. Maxwell was arrested without incident and taken into custody around 8:30 a.m.

Maxwell, who is Epstein's former girlfriend, has been accused of overseeing his alleged sex trafficking ring. Many women have accused her of recruiting them to give Epstein massages, during which they were pressured into sex. Those accusations, until now, never resulted in criminal charges.

At a press conference formally announcing the charges, FBI Assistant Director in Charge Bill Sweeney said they arrested "one of the villains." According to Sweeney, Maxwell was arrested in Bradford, New Hampshire, after having "slithered away" to an estate there where she "continued to live a life of privilege."

Acting U.S. Attorney Audrey Strauss would not comment on how long Maxwell had been in New Hampshire, saying only, "that's where we found her this morning."

The indictment, filed by the Southern District of New York, charges Maxwell with six counts, including "conspiracy to entice minors to travel to engage in illegal sex acts." The indictment says she "assisted, facilitated and contributed to Jeffrey Epstein's abuse of minor girls by, among other things, helping Epstein to recruit, groom, and ultimately abuse" girls under age 18. According to the

indictment, beginning in "at least 1994" Maxwell "enticed and groomed multiple minor girls to engage in sex acts with Jeffrey Epstein, through a variety of means and methods."

"Maxwell first attempted to befriend some of Epstein's minor victims prior to their abuse, including by asking the victims about their lives, their schools, and their families," reads the indictment. "Maxwell and Epstein would spend time building friendships with minor victims by, for example, taking minor victims to the movies or shopping."

The indictment alleges that Maxwell provided a false sense of safety to underage girls who were then abused by Epstein, or Maxwell herself.

"Maxwell's presence during minor victims' interactions with Epstein, including interactions where the minor victim was undressed or that involved sex acts with Epstein, helped put the victims at ease because an adult woman was present," reads the indictment.

"For example, in some instances, Maxwell would massage Epstein in front of a minor victim. In other instances, Maxwell encouraged minor victims to provide massages to Epstein, including sexualized massages during which a minor victim would be fully or partially nude. Many of those massages resulted in Epstein sexually abusing the minor victims." Maxwell allegedly groomed victims by taking them to the movies or on shopping trips, asking them about school, family and other aspects of their personal life. "Maxwell then sought to normalize inappropriate and abusive

conduct by, among other things, undressing in front of" a minor, and "being present" when a minor "undressed in front of Epstein, according to the indictment.

"Within the first year after Maxwell and Epstein met" the first minor identified in the case, Epstein began sexually abusing the victim and "Maxwell was present for and involved in some of this abuse," the indictment alleges.

Maxwell has repeatedly denied wrongdoing and called some of the claims against her "absolute rubbish."

The indictment alleges that, "in an effort to conceal her crimes, Maxwell repeatedly lied when questioned about her conduct" during a 2016 deposition regarding a then pending civil litigation against Epstein.

On Thursday, July 2 Strauss said, "Maxwell lied because the truth as alleged was almost unspeakable."

Under oath Maxwell stated: "I wasn't aware that (Epstein) was having sexual activities with anyone when I was with him other than myself." Maxwell testified that she engaged in three-ways with what the indictment identifies as a "blond and brunette," but said that those were the only occasions that Epstein engaged in sexual activity without her present.

Maxwell affirmed that "in the 1990s and 2000s" she was "not aware that Mr. Epstein was having sexual activities with anyone other than (herself) and the blond and brunette." She further testified that she had never given a massage and did not know that Epstein possessed any sex



*An undated photo included in an indictment of Ghislaine Maxwell on child sex trafficking charges, filed by the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of New York, shows Maxwell with Jeffrey Epstein*

toys or devices. Her arrest comes nearly a year after Epstein was arrested on July 6, 2019. Epstein, a convicted sex offender, was found dead in his cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in downtown Manhattan about a month later, in August last year.

The 66-year-old died by apparent suicide after over a dozen lawsuits against his estate said women and teenage girls suffered sexual abuse, sometimes for years, from Epstein and his enablers at homes in Manhattan, the Virgin Islands, Paris, New Mexico and Florida. Maxwell is currently in the custody of U.S. Marshals. After an initial hearing on Thursday she will either be released on bail or detained. If she is released on bail, Maxwell will be given a court date for arraignment in Manhattan.

As she is charged with federal crimes, she will be housed in a federal facility, and therefore could conceivably be held at the Metropolitan Correctional Center, where Epstein died. (Source: CBS)

# Mahatma Gandhi Statue Restored & Inaugurated in Washington, US After Vandalism

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Indian ambassador to the United States Taranjit Singh Sandhu inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi statue in Washington on Thursday, July 2 morning.

The statue, situated at a park in Washington DC, was vandalized on June 3 during the George Floyd protests. Post the desecration, an expert was called in to refurbish Mahatma Gandhi's statue.

Expressing disappointment on the incident, deputy secretary of State Stephen Biegun had earlier apologized for the incident.

The matter was reported immediately to the State Department and Deputy Secretary of State had called the Indian ambassador to address the issue.

The Indian Embassy in the US also registered cases with the Metropolitan Police and the National Park police, and the matter is being investigated. The US officials have also requested to be associated with the restoration of the statue.

The statue was vandalized with



The statue of Mahatma Gandhi, situated at a park in Washington DC, was vandalized on June 3 during the George Floyd protests.

graffiti and spray painting, prompting the mission to register a complaint with the local law enforcement agencies.

The desecrated statue of Mahatma

Gandhi, the design of which was created by Gautam Pal, was later covered and the site has been cleaned up.



## Sikh pilgrims die in train-bus collision in Pakistan

**At least 22 people killed after bus they were travelling on hit by passenger train in Punjab province.**

**PESHAWAR (TIP):** At least 22 people have been killed after a passenger train crashed into a bus carrying Sikh pilgrims at an unmanned railway crossing in eastern Pakistan, officials said.

Five people were also injured in the accident that took place on Friday in Sheikhpura district in Punjab province, according to a statement from Imran Gondal, a Pakistani government official whose department oversees Sikh pilgrimages.

Officials said the pilgrims were from the northwestern city of Peshawar and were returning from the Sheikhpura-based shrine of Nankana Sahib when the crash happened.

Gondal said the death toll included 20 Sikh pilgrims, the driver and the driver's assistant. A four-year-old was among those killed in the accident.

Ghazi Salahuddin, the district police chief, said the dead and injured were taken to a nearby hospital.

"The crossing was unmanned and the driver of the van took a hasty decision by driving onto the tracks," Pakistan Railways spokeswoman Quratul Ain told AFP news agency, adding that the passengers were all Sikh pilgrims.

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan offered his condolences to the families of the victims.

"[I] have directed relevant authorities to ensure facilitation and care for all the families. Our entire railway's operational safety SOPs will be reviewed immediately," he tweeted.

Images broadcast on local television showed the mangled van on the train tracks.

Pakistan's railway minister called for an immediate investigation into the crash.

Pakistan has a long history of train accidents mainly because of poor infrastructure and lack of safety standards.

In February, at least 20 people were killed when a train collided with a bus in the southern province of Sindh.

In July last year, at least 73 people were killed when a train carriage caught fire.

Sikhs have several shrines of their religious leaders in Pakistan. One, of Sikh founder Guru Nanak, is located in Pakistan's Kartarpur, bordering India, in Punjab. It was built after he died in the 16th century.

Many Sikh holy sites became part of Pakistan after the British partitioned the subcontinent into India and Pakistan in 1947 following two centuries of colonial rule. (aljazeera)

# Trump visits Mount Rushmore amid controversy

Visit comes despite protests from Native Americans, coronavirus concerns

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** President Donald Trump will begin his July Fourth celebrations with a trip to Mount Rushmore on Friday, July 3, despite concerns about gathering a large crowd during the novel coronavirus pandemic and criticism from Native Americans about the visit.

Trump will view a fireworks display with thousands of people at the South Dakota landmark, which depicts the images of US presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln.

The site has not had fireworks since 2009 because of environmental concerns. Trump advocated for a resumption of the display, and the state says the surrounding Black Hills National Forest has "gained strength" since then and that fireworks technology has advanced.

It will be the Republican president's latest event with large crowds, defying health experts' recommendations to avoid big gatherings amid recent spikes of COVID-19 cases across the country.

Some 7,500 people are expected to attend the outdoor event.

Masks will be available but are not required.

South Dakota Republican Governor Kristi Noem told Fox News earlier this week that those who had concerns could stay home and said, "we won't be social distancing". Cheryl Schreier, superintendent of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial from 2010 to 2019, admonished Noem and Trump for defying social distancing guidelines for



Mount Rushmore depicts the images of US presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln

an event she warned carried risks of spreading disease, triggering wildfires and contaminating groundwater.

"This is a recipe for disaster," she wrote in a column published in the Washington Post.

Trump won the reliably Republican-leaning state in 2016. He has been criticized for holding large events with little social distancing in Oklahoma and Arizona in recent weeks. On Thursday he predicted a "fireworks display like few people have seen". Native Americans, who reportedly plan to protest during the trip, have criticized Trump's visit for increasing the risk of spreading the virus and for celebrating US independence in an area that is sacred to them.

"It's like if he tried to go and have a fireworks display celebrating independence at the Vatican," Julian Bear Runner, president of the Oglala Sioux tribe, was quoted saying in the

Washington Post.

The Democratic National Committee (DNC) tweeted at one point that Trump had disrespected Native Americans and that the event was "glorifying white supremacy". It later deleted the tweet.

Both Washington and Jefferson, revered for their roles in the founding of the nation, were slave owners.

Representatives of the DNC did not respond to a request to explain the reasons for the deleted tweet.

"Instead of living up to the most basic responsibilities of his office this Independence Day, Donald Trump is still downplaying the virus, calling for a slowdown of testing, bucking social distancing guidelines, and showing Americans why we can't afford four more years of him in the White House," the DNC said ahead of the trip on Thursday.

Trump will hold another celebration for the July Fourth holiday on Saturday in Washington. (Source: Reuters)

# Over 20,900 new Covid-19 cases in biggest one-day surge

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** India added 20,903 cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), in the biggest 24-hour jump so far, which pushed the country's tally to 625,544, according to the Union health ministry on Friday.

More than one lakh Covid-19 were recorded in a week between June 27 and July 3—from 508,953 to the current 625,544.

According to the health ministry's dashboard at 8am, 379 people succumbed to the viral disease between Thursday and Friday morning taking the death toll to 18,213.

The number of people who have been cured of the coronavirus disease now stands at 379,891 after 20,032 patients were sent home in the past one day. This takes India's recovery rate to 60.72%.

The health ministry dashboard showed there are 227,439 active cases on Friday morning.

The country's caseload mostly comes from the states of Maharashtra, which has 186,626 Covid-19 cases, Tamil Nadu with 98,392 infections, Delhi at 92,175 and Gujarat's tally of 33,913.

Union home minister Amit Shah has advised the chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi, which are home to close to 30 million people, to ramp up efforts to contain the coronavirus epidemic in the National Capital Region (NCR). Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi should coordinate their response to the Covid-19 outbreak by focussing on timely hospital access and using available tools for contact tracing.

Delhi, Gurugram, Noida and Ghaziabad together account for over 100,000 infections till now, with the Capital alone recording close to 90% of it, according to government data.

Delhi, however, also has close to



67% of the NCR population and the highest per capita testing in the country, which means it is likely to detect more of the outbreak.

Meanwhile, the home isolation guidelines for Covid-19 has been revised by the Union health ministry by adding asymptomatic patients as well as very mild and pre-symptomatic cases to the list of people eligible for home isolation.

However, immune-compromised positive cases, such as those on HIV/AIDS or cancer medication or who are transplant recipients, will not be allowed home isolation.

According to the revised guidelines, a person should be clinically assigned as a very mild, pre-symptomatic, or asymptomatic case by the treating medical officer, and such cases should have the requisite facility at their residence for self-isolation and also for quarantining the family contacts.

## India logs a Covid-19 recovery rate of 59.52%, with 3.6 lakh cured patients

India's recovery rate from the coronavirus infection has climbed a notch higher and currently stands at

59.52%, with 11,881 Covid-19 patients having recovered in the last 24 hours. The fresh batch of recoveries has taken the total figure of patients who have recovered from the viral infection to 3,59,859, the Union Health Ministry said on Thursday.

The country now has 2,26,947 active coronavirus cases and all the patients are under proper medical supervision, according to the ministry. Maharashtra apart from being the state which accounts for almost one-third of the total coronavirus cases in the country and the worst-hit by the pandemic, also leads the nation in the number of recoveries it has logged till date. National capital Delhi follows a close second with a high recovery rate from the infection.

The top 15 states in terms of absolute numbers of patients who have recovered from the infectious coronavirus disease are Maharashtra, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, MP, Haryana, Telangana, Karnataka, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Odisha.

## INDIA EYES AUGUST 15 LAUNCH OF FIRST INDIGENOUS COVID-19 VACCINE

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** India is eyeing to launch the first indigenous COVID-19 vaccine by August 15, with the ICMR on Friday writing to the chiefs of clinical trial sites to expedite the enrolment of subjects and finish the process by July 7.

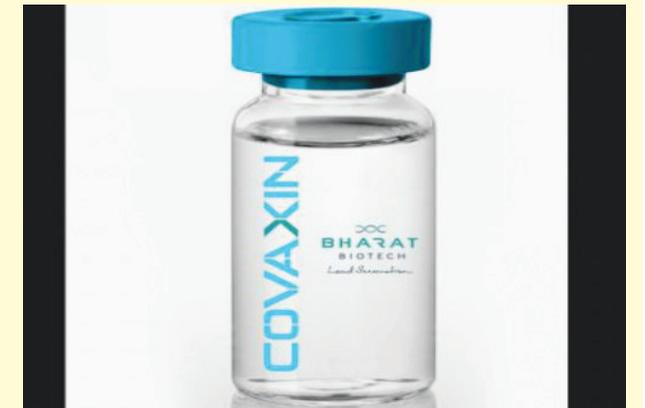
ICMR DG Balram Bhargava, in a letter to heads of hospitals where the vaccine—being developed jointly by Bharat Biotech and ICMR—is to be tested, said the first COVID-19 vaccine is envisaged to be launched by August 15 for which all approvals need to be fast-tracked.

"ICMR has partnered with Bharat Biotech International Limited to fast track clinical trials of the indigenous COVID 19 vaccine being called BBV152 COVID vaccine. This is the first indigenous vaccine of India and is a top priority project for the government being monitored at the highest level. It is envisaged to launch the vaccine for public use latest by August 15 after completing the clinical trials. Bharat Biotech is working expeditiously to meet the targets but the final outcome would depend on the cooperation of clinical trial sites," Bhargava wrote in his letter to heads of King George College, Vishakapatnam, G Arjuna; Pt BD Sharma PGIMS University of Health Sciences, Rohtak, Rohtash Yadav and AIIMS New Delhi Director Randeep Guleria among others.

"You are advised to fast track all approvals needed for the initiation of clinical trials and ensure that subject enrolment is initiated not later than July 7," ICMR letter says.

It also warns clinical trial sites against non-compliance saying that would be viewed strictly.

The first indigenous COVID-19 vaccine is being developed using a strain isolated at ICMR National Institute of Virology Pune.



## All monuments, including Taj Mahal, Qutub Minar and Red Fort, to be reopened from July 6

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** All ASI protected monuments will be reopened for the public from July 6 with entry only through e-tickets, a cap on the number of visitors and mandatory wearing of masks, the Culture Ministry said on Thursday.

Earlier in June, the ministry had reopened 820 monuments out of the over 3,000 ASI-maintained monuments where religious events take place.

As many as 3,691 Centrally-protected monuments and archaeological sites maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) were shut from March 17 in view of the coronavirus crisis. The minister said all coronavirus-related protocols issued by the Union health ministry would be followed by the monument authorities.

In a tweet, Culture Minister Prahlad Patel said, "I have taken a decision along with the ministry of culture and the ASI to open all monuments from July 6." This, however, will be done with the compliance of the state and district administration.

The Culture Ministry issued a set of protocols, saying only those monuments which are in non-containment zones will be reopened.

## EVICITION NOTICE TO PRIYANKA: CONGRESS ACCUSES GOVT OF 'TRICKERY, TREACHERY'

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Congress accused the government on Thursday of "trickery and treachery" for its "manipulative approach" in serving an eviction notice to party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra with regard to a bungalow allotted to her in Lutyens' Delhi as the threat perception to her has not been altered even though the protecting agency has changed.

Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said Priyanka Gandhi was not the person who would be cowed down by such "pettiness" on the part of the government.

He, however, skirted the issue on whether Priyanka Gandhi will shift base to Lucknow by saying she will continue to visit Uttar Pradesh and raise people's issues.

Singhvi also alleged that "frustration and political vendetta"



were writ large in the Enforcement Directorate (ED) action against Congress leader Ahmed Patel, which has a "traceable direct link" to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad also deplored the government for sending the eviction notice to

Priyanka Gandhi, saying it shows "vendetta".

"I strongly deplore the decision taken by the BJP Government asking Priyanka Gandhi to vacate her house. BJP is engaged in vendetta politics - 1st they scaled down security of Gandhi family and now her house," he wrote on Twitter.

"How many non-MP BJP leaders are staying in bigger Government bungalows in New Delhi," the Congress leader asked.

Singhvi said the classification of threat perception of neither Priyanka Gandhi nor Rahul Gandhi has been changed and it remains category "Z". So was the case of Congress president Sonia Gandhi and former prime ministers Manmohan Singh and HD Deve Gowda, he added.

# Terror tag for Pannun, 8 others of pro-Khalistan groups

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Centre on Wednesday declared nine pro-Khalistan operatives, including US-based Gurbatwant Singh Pannun of Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) who has been spearheading a campaign under the banner of "Referendum 2020" for a separate Khalistan state, as 'individual terrorists' under recently amended fourth schedule of UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Amendment Act), an official statement by ministry of home affairs said.

Others designated as individual terrorists under UAPA are Babbar Khalsa International's UK chief Paramjit Singh, Canada-based head of Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) Hardeep Singh Nijjar, Germany-based members of Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF) Gurmeet Singh Bagga and Bhupinder Singh Bhinda, and Pakistan-based terrorists - head of BKI Wadhawa Singh, Lakhbir Singh (International Sikh Youth Federation), Ranjeet Singh (Khalistan Zindabad Force) and Paramjit Singh (Khalistan Commando Force).

Earlier, Pakistan-based terror group chiefs - Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Maulana Masood Azhar, Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Muhammed Saeed, 26/11 Mumbai attacks co-mastermind Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and fugitive don Dawood Ibrahim - were declared individual terrorists in 2019 under the new law. The new law, which came into effect in August 2019, gives additional powers to the investigation agencies, particularly NIA, as it allows investigators to put an embargo on arms and seize assets. An MHA statement said on Wednesday, "These individuals are involved in various acts of terrorism from across the border and from foreign soil. They have been relentless in their nefarious efforts of destabilising the country, by trying to revive militancy in Punjab."



## SFJ'S LEGAL ADVISER, ASSOCIATES CHARGED WITH SEDITION IN PUNJAB

**CHANDIGARH (TIP):** The Punjab Police on Thursday registered two separate cases against Gurbatwant Singh Pannun of the banned pro-Khalistan outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) and his associates on charges of sedition and secessionism.

The cases were registered at Amritsar and Kapurthala.

The Dalit Suraksha Sena (DSS) had filed a complaint against Pannun and his associates, and got a case registered against him at a police station in Amritsar for allegedly burning the Indian Constitution and the National Flag besides instigating others to do so too.

In its complaint, the Dalit Suraksha Sena said Pannun, the self-styled legal advisor of the USA-based the Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), and his accomplices were seen dishonouring the Indian Constitution and the National Flag in a video.

They were seen setting a copy of the Constitution and the flag on fire, while shouting slogans of Khalistan Zindabad, they said.

Pannun was also seen inciting the entire Sikh community against the Indian Constitution and in favour of the Referendum 2020, said the complaint. The complaint said these abhorrent actions of the individuals in question had "brazenly dishonoured the ideals" on which the Indian state has been established and thereby had "hurt the sentiments" of the entire SC community. Immediate action was necessitated in pursuance to the reception of the above complaint as Pannun and his associates were found to be involved in the "commission of seditious acts" through their actions and words, both spoken and written, thus attempting to create a communal divide as well as instigating disaffection towards the government established by law in India, said a spokesperson of the police department.

## INDIA STEPS UP ECONOMIC OFFENSIVE AGAINST CHINA

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Chinese companies will no longer be allowed to participate in Indian highway projects, including through the joint venture route; China will not be allowed to invest in India's micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector; and imports from China will be discouraged, Union minister for road transport, highways and MSME, Nitin Gadkari, has said.

The minister's statement, in an interview with the news agency Press Trust of India, is part of India's efforts to impose economic costs on China in the wake of continued Chinese aggression at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and a part of India's signalling to China that this aggression cannot coexist with preferential economic ties, according to two officials familiar with the decision-making process in government.

Gadkari's comments come in the backdrop of India's ban on 59 Chinese apps earlier this week, decisions by various government departments to cancel contracts with Chinese firms, reports of imports from China getting stuck at ports, and an earlier decision, in April, to tighten foreign direct investment inflows from neighbouring countries - with an eye on China - by requiring them to go through a more rigorous government approval process.

On Wednesday, Gadkari said, "We will not give permission to joint ventures that have Chinese partners for road construction. We have taken a firm stand that if they (Chinese companies) come via joint venture in our country, we will not allow it." He added that a policy will be out soon banning Chinese firms, and relaxing norms for Indian companies to expand their eligibility criteria for participation in highway projects.

To be sure, according to both industry stakeholders and sectoral experts, there are a limited number of highway projects which have Chinese involvement at the moment. But Gadkari said rebidding will be done if there are any Chinese joint ventures, even as the decision will be implemented for current and future tenders. The minister also said that a process to relax financial and technical norms has been set in motion to ensure that Indian companies can qualify for larger projects and do not need foreign partners. "Even if we have to go for foreign joint venture in the areas of technology, consultancy or design, we will not allow Chinese," he said.

Industry stakeholders pointed out that the significance of the decision lies in the relaxation of norms to encourage Indian firms. "There have not been many highway projects with Chinese investment either in the past or at present. Only a couple of projects are awarded in which joint ventures exist with Chinese as the minority partners with their Indian counterparts, mainly present for technical expertise. It is more like a technical collaboration than on ground work," said Rajeshwar Burla, vice president, corporate ratings, ICRA Limited. *Source: HT*

# India to buy 33 Russian fighter jets for \$2.43bn

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** India's Ministry of Defence on Thursday signed off on the purchase of 33 Russian fighter jets and upgrades to 59 others worth \$2.4bn, amid rising tensions with nuclear-armed neighbour China.

The purchase of 21 MiG-29 and 12 Su-30 MKI, as well as upgrades to 59 existing MiG-29s, was to "augment" the Indian Air Force's combat squadrons, the MoD said.

The ministry also said it has approved local development of missile systems for all three branches of the military, and ammunition and upgraded infantry combat vehicles for the army.

The beefing up of India's defence capabilities was taken up due to "the need to strengthen the armed forces to protect our borders and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for 'self-reliant India'", the ministry added in a statement.

The announcement followed Modi's phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin, whom he "warmly congratulated" after a nationwide vote on constitutional reforms that could allow him to extend his rule until 2026.



**Russia - India's biggest arms supplier**

India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Moscow last month to attend the 75th Victory Day

Parade, which marks the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany in World War II.

In 2018, the two nations signed an accord for the supply of S-400 Russian missile system in a deal worth \$5.4bn despite the threat of US sanctions.

India is awaiting the arrival of the first batch of 36 Rafale fighter jets ordered as part of a \$8.78bn deal signed with France in 2016 in "ready to fly" condition, meaning they will be made in France.

New Delhi is expecting four to six Rafale aircraft to arrive in India at the end of this month.

The South Asian nation has become the world's biggest arms importer as it modernises its military.

Rahul Bedi, a defence analyst, said the acquisition of the Russian aircraft will boost the air force's depleted fighter squadron numbers, which have dropped from an approved total of 42 to 28. One squadron comprises 18 aircraft.

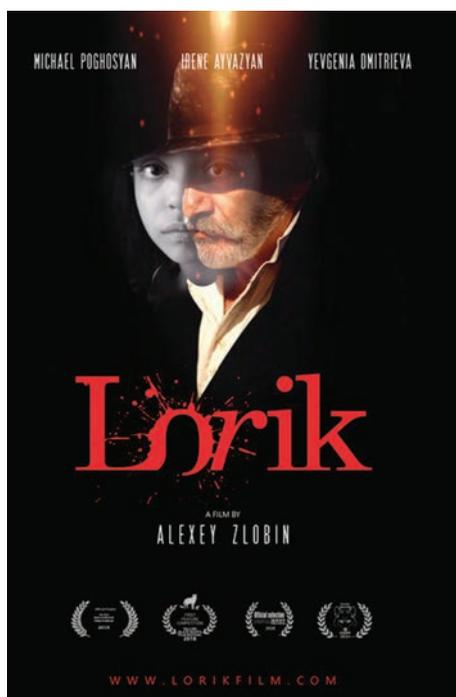
The 12 Su-30MKIs will be built under licence by India's state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, Bedi told The Associated Press news agency.

# SRFF VIRTUAL 2020 AWARDS ANNOUNCED

By Mabel Pais

*"The most important ingredients for a successful festival are impactful films and a faithful audience of followers. SRFF is proud to see both these ingredients present and thriving annually. In our seventh year, SRFF continued despite the many challenges of this unordinary time." - Nora Armani, Founding Artistic Director, SRFF NY*

**Award Winners Announced by SR Socially Relevant™ Film Festival NY 2020 - SRFF2020 ONLINE**



"Lorik" poster

Photo / SRFF2020

## 'Lorik' International Jury favorite, wins Narrative Feature Grand Prize

The Socially Relevant Film Festival 2020 (SRFF2020) (#SRFF2020) wrapped up its virtual Seventh Edition on Sunday, June 28 revealing the winners of its various competition categories. This year was the 1st virtual edition of the Festival.

Stand-out awards were the Empowering Women and Girls Award, given to Jeanne Marie Hallacy for her documentary short, Mother, Daughter, Sister. The USA, Bangladesh, and Myanmar production calls for an end to sexual violence in conflict and was picked by the festival for the award named in the memory of festival founder Nora Armani's cousin, Vanya Exerjian who was victim to a violent hate crime in 2004. The Grand Prize Narrative Feature Award went to Lorik, directed by Alexey Zlobin starring Armenian actor Michael Poghosian.

The awards are comprised of the following categories: Vanya Exerjian - Empowering Women and Girls Award, Grand Prize Narrative Feature, Grand Prize Documentary Feature, Best Narrative Short, Best Documentary Short, Women Film Critics Circle (WFCC) Award, two runner up finalist scripts for the scriptwriting



"A Call For Peace"

Photo / SRFF2020

## 'A Call for Peace', Juan C. Borrero and Melodie Carli production on the Colombian peace process, wins best documentary

competition with a first place winner. There were a number of jury special mentions, one ensemble acting award and prizes.

The narrative films slate, the documentary features, and the shorts complete the roster of 38 selected films this year. "Meet the Filmmakers" live sessions, industry insights, and networking opportunities made SRFF 2020 "online" another unforgettable year. Visit [www.ratedsrffilms.org](http://www.ratedsrffilms.org) for information on all the films, filmmakers, live chats, and more.

### GRAND PRIZE NARRATIVE FEATURE:

"Lorik" by Alexey Zlobin - Armenia

### GRAND PRIZE DOCUMENTARY FEATURE:

"A Call for Peace" by Juan C Borrero, Melodie Carli - USA

- The Vanya Exerjian Empowering Women & Girls Award: "Mother, Daughter, Sister" by Jeanne Marie Hallacy.
- Special Jury Mention (Narrative Feature): "Transference" by Raffaello Degruittola and "Good Morning" by Bahij Hojeij
- SRFF Circle Award (Narrative Feature): "Butter" by Paul A. Kaufman
- Grand Prize Documentary: "A Call for Peace" by Juan C Borrero and Melodie Carli
- Jury Mention (Documentary): "Inside/Outside" by Nandini Sikand and "Tell My Story" by



LuBu, Mother of Hkawn Nan Tsin, in a scene from "Mother Daughter Sister"

Photo / SRFF2020

## 'Mother, Daughter, Sister' wins Vanya Exerjian-Empowering Women & Girls Award

- David Freid
- Best Documentary Short: "Brewed in Palestine" by Emma Schwartz
- Jury mention (Documentary Short): "Voices on the Road" by Bethan John and Eilidh Munro
- Best Narrative Short: "Unsafe" by Adria Dawn and David Tarleton
- Acting Ensemble award to the schoolchildren in "Unsafe" by Adria Dawn and David Tarleton
- Special jury mention (Narrative Short): "Detained" by Khushnuda Shukurova
- Scriptwriting Competition - Winner: "Ziggy and Rachel"
- Scriptwriting Competition - 2nd place: "Rose from Concrete", 3rd Place: "North River"
- The Women Film Critics Circle Award: "Detained" by Khushnuda Shukurova

Nora Armani, Founding Artistic Director of SR Socially Relevant™ Film Festival said, "In our seventh year, SRFF continued despite the many challenges of this unordinary time. We thank all the filmmakers who came together with us to create an online program that was as enriching as a week at the theater... and maybe even more far-reaching. With online "Meet the Filmmakers" live sessions, SRFF2020 persevered despite the ongoing circumstances with COVID-19. The most important ingredients for a successful festival are impactful films and a faithful audience of followers. SRFF is proud to see both these ingredients present and thriving annually."

### About SRFF and Nora Armani

The SR Socially Relevant™ Film Festival New York (SRFF NY) is a non-profit film festival founded by actress Nora Armani. The Mission of the SR Film Festival is to shine the spotlight on filmmakers who tell compelling, socially relevant™, human interest stories, across a broad range of social issues. The festival was created as a response to the proliferation of violence and violent forms of storytelling in media and entertainment. SR™ believes in the power of cinema in raising awareness of social issues and promoting positive social change. During its first seven years, the festival showcased close to 400 films from 35 countries. Submissions for SRFF 2021 are now open and received from all over the world.

Spokespersons and guests of SR Socially Relevant™ Film Festival NY from inception include Amy Goodman of Democracy Now, Erin Brockovich, Martin Sheen, Pulitzer Prize, and Tony award-winning writer Robert Schenkkan, prolific and best-selling French novelist Marc Levy, Academy Award Nominee and Emmy Award Winner Guy Davidi, American TV commentator and author Gretchen Carlson, and Liaison Officer of Tibet and the Dalai Lama, Kunga Tashi.

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

1948-2020

# SAROJ KHAN: THE LEGEND WHO MADE STARS DANCE TO HER TUNES

**R**enowned Bollywood choreographer Saroj Khan died early on Friday morning due to cardiac arrest. She was 71.

The three-time National Award winner, who had choreographed some of the most memorable songs in Hindi cinema, was not keeping well for some time. She was admitted to Guru Nanak Hospital in Bandra last month after she complained of breathing issues.

There was a time when viewers would buy a ticket just to see a song-and-dance sequence in a movie, and would stream out, once it was over. The 1988 film *Tezaab* was one of those. Directed by N Chandra, starring Anil Kapoor and Madhuri Dixit, the movie was a blockbuster. It was a film where everything came together. It had the kind of energy that raised the standard potboiler format. It had Kapoor, whose man-on-the-warpath role would become a significant step in his graph. And it had Madhuri Dixit, whose bump-and-grind number, "Ek Do Deen", would become iconic even as the movie played in theaters in its first run.

Overnight, Dixit became a star. That song kickstarted a glorious career, and became the reason for countless re-runs of the film. And the choreographer was the legendary Saroj Khan.

It's not like Dixit was not a talented actress. But around the time she was trying to break into movies, there were many contenders for the top slot, especially Sridevi who was rapidly notching up the numbers in Hindi cinema. Dixit's debut, *Abodh*, a 1984 Rajshri production, came and went without causing a ripple. A few other colourless movies followed. And then came *Tezaab*, and she zoomed right to the top spot.

At that time Dixit's chief rival was Sridevi, whose *Himmatwala* (1983) had made her a popular go-to heroine. Sridevi was already a big name in the South, and had arrived in Bollywood determined to conquer. Shekhar Kapoor's *Mr India* (1987) gave us Sri as a cringe-worthy female journalist, who made up for her clunkily-written part with an electric dance number. "Hawa Hawaai" is as iconic as "Ek Do Deen", and the genius behind those moves, topped by the quantities of ostrich feathers never seen before in Bollywood, was Khan.

Khan started as a 'background' dancer, one amongst the many faceless aspirants who shimmy and shake behind the leads. The camera focuses only on the lead pair: the rest are just space fillers. She rose from the ranks, and was the first woman to become chief choreographer, before it was a thing, in Bollywood. She was an excellent dancer herself. And under her baton, and graceful steps imbued with feeling and energy, which great dancers like Sridevi and Dixit emulated so well, the camera had no choice but to linger lovingly on the leading ladies.

Sridevi got another Saroj Khan special in Chandni's "Nau nau choodiyaa," a number still played at weddings. Kajol got one of her own in Aditya Chopra's



*Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* (1995) in "Mehndi lagaa ke rakhna". Aishwarya's "Nimbooda" in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 1999 film *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam*, was a Khan gift. As for Dixit, Khan's largesse was endless. As much as she was the "Ek Do Teen" girl, she was the "Dhak Dhak" girl, and when she asked "Choli Ke Peeche Kya Hai" in Subhash Ghai's *Khalnayak* (1993), all hell broke loose. There was a huge outcry: the lyrics were borderline vulgar, the focus was on the heaving bosom of Dixit (Neena Gupta danced along with her!), but what rescued the number from being downright C-grade were the saucy moves backed by Dixit's grace, and hey ho, another iconic song-and-dance number was born.

Khan was a product of her times, and her struggle to get past the misogynistic, male-dominated behind-the-scenes fields in the movies, made her strong. Those who know her well say that she always spoke her mind, and she brought that fearlessness into her work. Khan's choreography lifted the heroine from always being a supporting act to a full-fledged artiste in her own right. Someday, historians will write tomes on her significance. For right now, though, we bid a fond goodbye to the legend who made the top leading ladies of Hindi cinema dance to her tunes. *Dola re dola re dola, hey dola.*



## Richa Chadha: Ali Fazal took 10-minute nap after proposal

They may be two of the most outspoken artistes in the film industry, but Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal have been tight-lipped about their love story. In a cover shoot for Brides Today's July issue, the actors opened up on how they met on the sets of Fukrey in 2012, marking the beginning of a friendship that soon blossomed into love. While it was initially intended as their first magazine cover post wedding, the duo has had to postpone their April shaadi due to the pandemic.

Walking down memory lane, Chadha remembers the moment when she understood that Fazal was her big love. "We were at my house watching the 1992 biographical comedy, Chaplin. I was happy to see him enjoy the movie and grateful to have found someone with similar tastes. That is when I said, 'I love you,'" she recounts, laughing that it took him three months to say the words back to her.

She may be poised in front of the camera, but Fazal reveals it was her clumsiness that stole his heart. "She thinks I fell in love with her because of her clumsiness and honestly, it is one of the reasons. If she is eating, food will be all over the place, drinks will be spilled and cutlery dropped," jokes the actor, adding that Kuki — as he fondly addresses Chadha — had a classic 'Pretty Woman' moment in Venice. "It was at a fine dining event and Judi Dench was sitting at the next table. Suddenly, a bean went flying over! Of course, it was from Richa's plate."

# WHEN KAREENA CALLED MALAIKA HER 'HOTTEST FRIEND'



Malaika Arora and Kareena Kapoor Khan are B-town besties and prior to the lockdown, these two were often papped partying together and ever since Kareena has made her Instagram debut, what we totally love is her social media banter with Malaika and her other girlfriends. Well, it was only yesterday that Kareena Kapoor Khan completed 20 years in the industry, having made her Bollywood debut in 2000 with Refugee and while Kareena penned a long note recalling her first day at shoot, her friends took to social

media to congratulate Kareena on this milestone. From Karisma Kapoor, Amrita Arora, Sonam Kapoor, and others, a host of divas congratulated Kareena on the achievement, and Malaika Arora, too, shared a photo with Bebo and congratulated her as she wrote, "Truly the bestest @kareenakapoorkhan let's celebrating 20 more glorious bebo years," and to this, Bebo thanked Malaika and tagged her as one of her hottest friends as she wrote, "Thank you my hottest friend ever..."

In order to celebrate Refugee and

20 years in the industry, taking to Instagram, Kareena shared a picture of her first shot for Refugee. Along with it, she wrote, "My first shot was at 4 am... I woke up this morning at 4, looked in the mirror, and said to myself that this was the best decision I could have ever taken. 20 years of hard work, dedication, and self-confidence... I am extremely grateful to all my fans for all your love, support, and strength... Thank you #JPDutta for my life in the movies... @bachchan for being the sweetest co-star... and every single person involved in this film."

## VIVEK OBEROI TURNS PRODUCER WITH ITI - CAN YOU SOLVE YOUR OWN MURDER?

Here's presenting the teaser poster of Iti - Can You Solve Your Own Murder? The sleek whodunit thriller is written and directed by Vishal Mishra. The film will be presented by Mandiraa Entertainment and Vivek Oberoi's Oberoi Mega Entertainment who're collaborating for the first time. Iti - Can You Solve Your Own Murder? is creatively backed by Prerna V Arora, a name synonymous with successful and path-breaking films.

The story revolves around a woman who is racing against time to solve her own murder. Intricately woven, it is full of ensemble of characters intertwined in their own struggles. The film, that marks the debut of Rajeev Sen, is expected to go on floors by September-October 2020 and will be released shortly thereafter.

All set to don the hat of a producer, Vivek Oberoi says, "I instantly liked the high-concept idea that Vishal presented and I decided to back the project immediately. I'm sure it's going to be an exciting journey with Prerna, team Mandiraa and Girish (Johar) and we hope to present an engaging piece of cinema to the audiences."

Iti will be the first film to be produced by Kussum Arora of Mandiraa Entertainment. Sharing her excitement, she says, "Prerna has always inspired us to fearlessly go ahead and dream big. Iti is going to be a fantastic start for us to deliver to our audience the best content. Mandiraa is a new venture that is set to push the boundaries of storytelling. The audiences need to buckle up and await the thrilling experience that's coming their way."

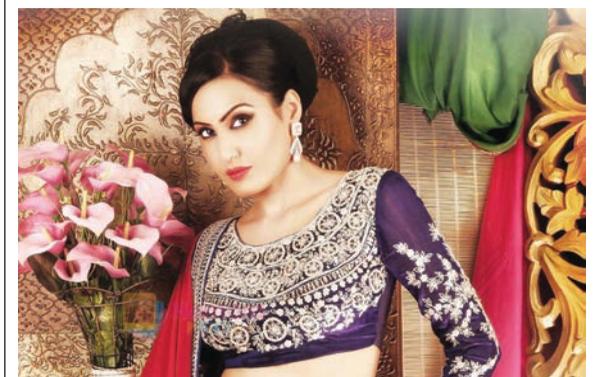
Writer-director Vishal Mishra says, "I always believe in exploring new concepts. With this film, I hope to bring something new in my favourite genre, whodunit thriller. Prerna V Arora is a passionate producer and has a glorious



box office record. And I share a very special bond with Vivek. It feels great to collaborate with both of them."

Producer Girish Johar, who will also be backing the project, says, "Along with producers Kussum, Reshabh D. Saraf and Keyur Pandya (of Mandiraa Entertainment), I'm super excited and keen to share this story with our audiences. Vishal is a very gifted talent and with this film, we've a winner on our hands."

## Kamya Panjabi says break-up with Karan Patel



Television actor Kamya Panjabi opened up about her break-up with television actor Karan Patel in 2015 and how it plunged her into depression. She said that it took her two-and-a-half years to get back on her feet.

In an interview with The Times of India, Kamya said, "Frankly, after Karan it took me two-and-a-half years to get back to a normal life. It is after two-and-a-half years that I started loving my life. I was eating, sleeping on time, talking to my friends and going to work and coming back."

Kamya, who had earlier accused Karan of 'having an affair' with someone else while they were in a relationship, said that she had to seek therapy to come out of her heartbreak. "After the breakup, I had gone under a shell, I was not eating, sleeping. I didn't feel like doing anything. I was into depression. I was undergoing counselling and there were lots of things happening," she said.



## CATE BLANCHETT ON GENDER DISPARITY IN HOLLYWOOD

Actress Cate Blanchett feels the 1970s gender issues are still relevant, and says it is important to remember that feminism is not just a "fashionable moment".

In an interview, the Oscar-winner, 51, said that the current talking points such as "same-sex marriage" and "same-sex bathrooms" were all discussed 50 years ago.

Blanchett said that women have constantly been outnumbered by men in the acting world.

"I always knew in my DNA that women were equal to men. I couldn't quite understand why the industry and work environment that I got spat into didn't reflect that, so I felt out of sync for a long time. At one point, I started doing a head count of the ratio of men to women on every set I walked on," she said.

"For my entire career, up until about four years ago, I was the one woman to 35 men. I was the one woman to 27 men. I was the one woman to 16 men. I just thought it was normal," she added.

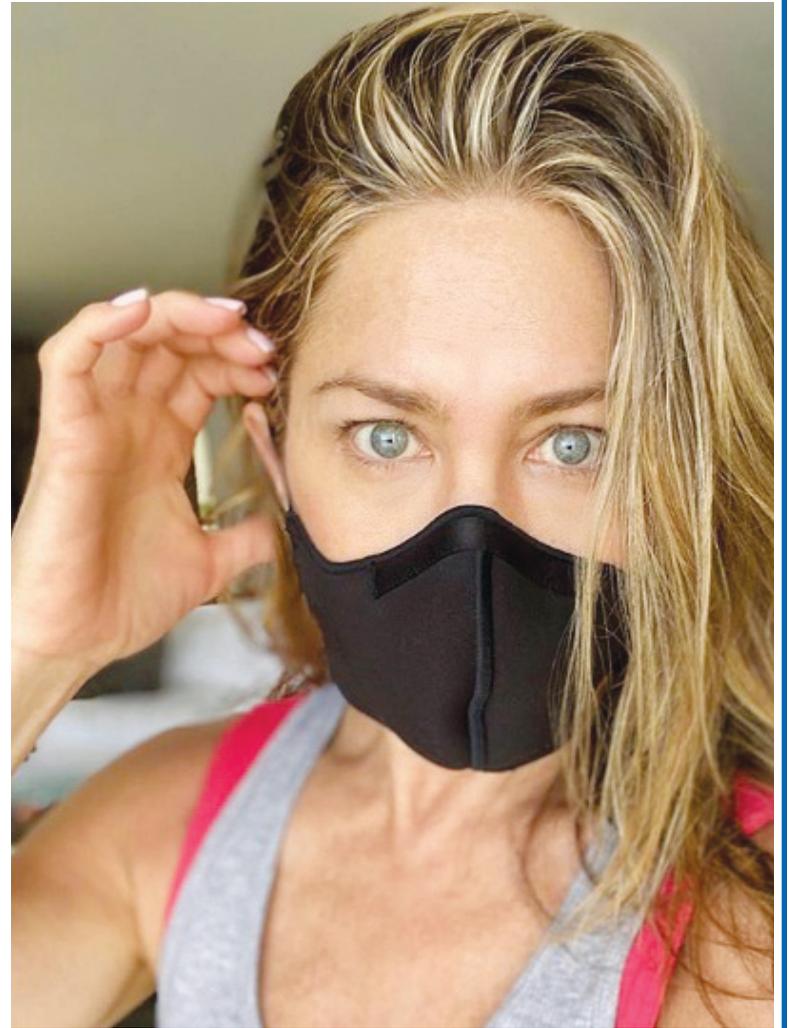
# JENNIFER ANISTON SAYS WEARING A MASK 'REALLY SHOULDN'T BE A DEBATE'

With US hitting almost 20 lakh coronavirus cases, the country is still reeling under the pressure and continues to contribute to the highest number cases in the world. Amid this, President Donald Trump has lockdown restrictions and opened up the economy leaving people to take precautionary measures such as simple as wearing a mask. However, a section of the US citizens are not too keen on doing that and 'Friends' star Jennifer Aniston seems to have taken it upon herself to school her fans and followers.

Sharing a selfie while wearing a mask, Jennifer wrote, "I understand masks are inconvenient and uncomfortable. But don't you feel that it's worse that businesses are shutting down... jobs are being lost... health care workers are hitting absolute exhaustion. And so many lives have been taken by this virus because we aren't doing enough." ?

She went on to add, "I really do believe in the basic goodness of people so I know we can all do this BUT still, there are many people in our country refusing to take the necessary steps to flatten the curve, and keep each other safe. People seem worried about their "rights being taken away" by being asked to wear a mask. This simple and effective recommendation is being politicized at the expense of peoples' lives. And it really shouldn't be a debate. If you care about human life, please... just #wearadamnmask and encourage those around you to do the same."

Courtney Cox, Reese Witherspoon, Julia Roberts, Drew Barrymore, former lover Justin Theroux and Jameela Jamil were just some of the celebs who were in complete agreement with Jen and left a comment thanking her for the much-needed post.



## MARGOT ROBBIE TO STAR IN NEW PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN FILM

The Pirates of the Caribbean are getting ready to set sail in a whole new direction, with Australian actress Margot Robbie starring in a new version of one of Disney's (DIS.N) biggest film franchises.

Robbie, the star of Suicide Squad and I, Tonya, is to head a female-driven Pirates movie which is in the early stages of development, a source with knowledge of the project said on Friday.

It marks the latest bid by Hollywood to reimagine classic movies by casting women in the lead roles, including the 2016 reboot of Ghostbusters starring Melissa McCarthy and 2018 comedy heist Ocean's 8 that starred Sandra Bullock and Cate Blanchett.

No plot details were available but the story is being written by Britain's Birds of Prey screenwriter Christina Hodson and produced by longtime Pirates filmmaker Jerry Bruckheimer, the source said.

The Hollywood Reporter said the movie was a separate project from a new Pirates of the Caribbean movie that was announced as in development last year.

Based on a ride at the Disney's theme parks, the five Pirates of the Caribbean movies, starring Johnny Depp as Jack Sparrow, have taken some \$4.5 billion at the global box office since 2003.



## Christopher Nolan doesn't allow chairs on sets: Anne Hathaway

Los Angeles: Actress Anne Hathaway says Hollywood filmmaker Christopher Nolan does not allow chairs on his sets as he feels that "if they're sitting they're not working".

Hathaway was seen as Batman's nemesis Catwoman in Nolan's 2012 movie "The Dark Knight Rises".

In an interview for Variety's Actors on Actors issue, Hathaway talked with actor Hugh Jackman about the conversations she had with Nolan before starting her work as Catwoman. Jackman worked with Nolan in 2006's magician drama "The Prestige", reports variety.com. "You know how you have those jobs and you just go, 'I don't know how I'm going to work again because this was such fun'. I'm such a director nerd. I love just seeking out the best directors I can and then just watching them. Chris' whole approach to filmmaking is one of my favourite ones. He's broken it down to its most minimal, but also his movies are just so huge and ornate. That combination of really being intentional about what it was that we were doing — and also, he's just so inspiring," she said.



## Dr. Frederick M. Ruffen Audiologist

**Restoring your ear power**



**CELEBRATE THE  
SOUNDS  
OF YOUR LIFE**



Behind-the-Ear



Receiver-in-Canal



In-the-Ear



Completely-in-Canal



In-the-Canal



Invisible-in-Canal



**\*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

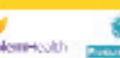


**\*Eye Exam  
\*Contact Lens  
\*Eye Glass  
\*Sunglass**

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

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](http://www.eastwestopticians.com)  
 Email: [anilguptaus@yahoo.com](mailto:anilguptaus@yahoo.com)  
**Mon to Sat : 12.00 P.M to 7.00 P.M. Sunday with Appt.**

Basic Computer Training

Office



Phone : 347-510-9393

Learn

PC and Mac  
Repair

CELL PHONE REPAIR




QuickBooks  
Training!

Learn English

EXPERT Tutoring Center

MATH \* SCIENCE

LEARN IPHONE / IPAD / MAC / PC REPAIR

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

# Indian-origin Jayant Krishna appointed as new CEO for UKIBC



Jayant brings a wealth of senior-level corporate and governmental experience from India and the UK to UKIBC

**LONDON, UK (TIP):** The UK India Business Council has announced that Jayant Krishna has accepted the invitation of the Board to become its new Group Chief Executive Officer. He will take charge from August 3.

"Jayant brings a wealth of senior-level corporate and governmental experience from India and the UK to UKIBC, having

previously led key initiatives of the Prime Minister's Skill India mission as CEO, and Executive Director & Chief Operating Officer of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)," the council said in a statement.

Krishna, who will be the first UKIBC Group CEO to be based in India, will be replacing the current Group CEO, Richard Heald, OBE after a term of 10 years. Richard will step up to the role of Chair from September 1, 2020, succeeding the current Chair, Lord Davies of Abersoch, CBE who will retain a close association with the UKIBC by assuming the position of President of a new UKIBC Senior Leadership Council.

"I'm pleased to accept this extraordinary opportunity to work towards further strengthening UKIBC's support to UK and Indian industry, encouraging bilateral investment, and helping businesses succeed. UKIBC will continue to bolster two-way trade and

investment flows between UK and Indian businesses," Krishna said.

Prior to this, Jayant was with the Tata group for over two decades. A British Chevening Scholar, he held various leadership roles at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), including Director, Life Sciences & Healthcare (UK & Europe), Regional Director (UK & Ireland), Regional Manager in London, Global Delivery Centre Head in India, and Global Relationship Manager for one of TCS's top five accounts worldwide, while based in London.

Earlier, Krishna was a management consultant at a division of Tata Sons. More recently, he has been Senior Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, DC and Executive Director, Public Policy at the Wadhvani Foundation, focusing on Indian economic reforms and US-India bilateral business ties. He has chaired and served

on multiple committees of the Government of India, chaired several taskforces of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and is an Independent Director on the Boards of various companies.

Over the past years, UKIBC has grown in size, scope, impact, and sustainability, expanding its presence in both the UK and India through the development of a range of advisory, support and consultancy services supporting both Indian and UK companies operating in the UK-India economic corridor.

Group CEO & Chair (Designate), Richard Heald, OBE said, "The combination of Jayant's insights of India, his extensive networks within government in India as well as his knowledge of UK and Indian corporates are unique. The appointment of our Group CEO in India underscores our ambition to make the UKIBC more bilateral in nature."

## Indian American Celebrity chef Vikas Khanna's 'sense of hunger' came from New York

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Indian American Michelin-star celebrity chef Vikas Khanna, who has won all round praise for distributing over 17 million meals to coronavirus hit in 135 Indian cities, has set the twitter ablaze with a classy repartee to a TV anchor.

"My sense of hunger came from New York!" the Amritsar, Punjab-born celebrity chef who has cooked for the Obamas among others told an uppity BBC anchor, referring to his struggling days in the Big Apple.

"Well done, chef!" responded twitteratti to his epic reply to a BBC TV anchor who had patronizingly suggested that "Khanna would understand hunger as he does not come from a rich family."

"In India, you were not from a rich family. So your sense of hunger must have come from there," asked the anchor.

"NO, I am from Amritsar; everyone gets fed there in the langars (community kitchens). My sense of hunger came from New York!" responded Khanna.

In a 79-second video clip shared by Twitter user Harpreet, the anchor asks Khanna, "You've cooked for the Obamas, you've been on the TV show with Gordon Ramsay. But it wasn't always that way, was it? You're not from a rich family. So, I dare say, you understand how precarious it can be in India."

"No," responded Khanna, "I understand, but my sense of hunger didn't come from India so much because I was born and raised in Amritsar."

"We have a huge community kitchen where everyone gets fed. The entire city can feed there," he said. "But my sense of hunger came from New York when I was struggling here from the very bottom."

The video has gone viral with over 520,000 views and hundreds of comments on Instagram and over 38,000 likes and nearly 15,000 retweets on Twitter.

"@TheVikasKhanna does it again, slaying so gently and with such ease n humility," tweeted Vinita Nigam. "The best swords do not leave a mark or spill a drop even as they do their work!!"



New York based Indian American chef sets twitter ablaze with epic reply to BBC anchor

"Absolute gold from Chef Vikas. These Britishers are still in colonial hungover. Well done Chef, very well done," wrote another tweeter.

"Well done Vikas Khanna !! It takes a very large heart to be as generous as a Sikh and Amritsar is beloved for all," tweeted Venkatesh Iyengar.

"I'm a South Indian by janm (birth), a Maharashtrian by karm (work), a Sikh by aatma (soul) and above all an Indian who's proud of all the above!"

That's the befitting reply to @BBCWorld for their biased reporting and peddling anti India agenda across the globe," wrote Krishan Kumar. "Thanks to @TheVikasKhanna for upholding Indian Values."

Khanna was in the news last week for providing meals and other essential supplies to over 5,000 families of Mumbai's legendary Dabbawalas and television support staff through a distribution drive called "Utsav".

The Mumbai event on Friday marked Khanna's FeedIndia movement launched in April crossing the 17 million meals mark.

"Life - Who knew that the BIGGEST event of my life (2.25 Million Meals) will be organized from 7,000+ Miles away," tweeted Khanna before the event.

"The story of DabbaWallas is very emotional to me and I feel honored to support their families during these times," he wrote. "TV Support Staff is the reason that I connected through this medium to Billions Worldwide. I feel their families are my lifelines."

### WORLD UPDATES

## Hong Kong files first charges under new law, man booked for terrorism

**HONG KONG (TIP):** A man carrying a "Liberate Hong Kong" sign as he drove a motorcycle into cops at a protest against the territory's Chinese rulers became the first person charged with inciting separatism and terrorism under a new national security law on Friday.

Beijing imposed the legislation on the former British colony earlier this week despite protests from Hong Kongers and Western nations, setting China's freest city and a major financial hub on a more authoritarian track. China's parliament adopted the security law after sometimes violent protests last year triggered by fears Beijing was stifling freedoms, guaranteed by a "one country, two systems" formula agreed when Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule in 1997. At another court, dozens gathered in solidarity with a man charged for stabbing a policeman. They held up blank pieces of paper to show fears for free speech. — Reuters

## 8-year-old killed, 3 injured in shooting at Alabama mall

**HOOVER (TIP):** An 8-year-old boy was killed on Friday in a shooting at an Alabama's shopping mall that left three other people injured, police said.

The shooting of 21-year-old Emantic "EJ" Bradford Jr. prompted a series of protests at the mall. The Alabama attorney general's office cleared the officer, saying he acted "reasonably under the circumstances" in the encounter that spanned approximately five seconds. AP

## Man who crashed gate where Trudeau lives faces 22 charges

**TORONTO (TIP):** A man who allegedly crashed his truck through a gate on the grounds where Prime Minister Justin Trudeau lives was charged with 22 crimes on Friday, including weapons offences and uttering threats.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Deputy Commissioner Mike Duheme said Corey Hurren had several weapons when he was arrested on Thursday. Trudeau lives on the grounds of the property where Canada's governor general resides. The post of governor general, currently held by Julie Payette, is a mostly ceremonial position. Payette also was not home at the time.

Trudeau, his wife and three children live in a cottage on the property because the prime minister's traditional residence is in disrepair. "This was something that no one wants to hear; that someone entered your home," Trudeau said. "I want to extend my sincere thanks to the RCMP and the Ottawa police service that did a remarkable job in ensuring that there were not injuries." Trudeau declined further comment. AP

# Statues and Memorials to Confederate Soldiers & Generals Vandalized and Pulled Down

In the widespread protests that followed the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police on May 25, statues of and memorials to Confederate soldiers and generals were vandalized or torn down. Some of the many statues of Christopher Columbus were targeted as well, as voices rose against historic and systemic racism and oppression. State and local governments then began acting to remove even more Confederate statues from public places.

The Atlantic collected images of just some of the dozens of statues that have been toppled and defaced across the United States over the past month. The Indian Panorama selected some and are giving them below.



Work crews prepare to remove the statue of Confederate General Stonewall Jackson in Richmond, Virginia, on July 1, 2020. Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney ordered the immediate removal of all Confederate statues in the city, saying he was using his emergency powers to speed up the healing process for the former capital of the Confederacy amid weeks of protests over police brutality and racial injustice. #

Photo / Courtesy Steve Helber - AP



The Stonewall Jackson statue is removed from Monument Avenue in Richmond, Virginia, on July 1, 2020. Photo / Courtesy Ryan M. Kelly - AFP - Getty



The head of a statue of Christopher Columbus was pulled off amid protests against racial inequality in Boston on June 10, 2020. #

Photo / Courtesy Brian Snyder - Reuters



In Frankfort, Kentucky, a statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis is removed from the rotunda of the capitol building on June 13, 2020. #

Photo / Courtesy Bryan Woolston - Reuters



People cheer as workers remove a Confederate monument from Decatur Square in Decatur, Georgia, on June 18, 2020. #

Photo / Courtesy Andisheh Nouraei (@ANDISHEHNOURAEI) via Reuters



An unidentified man walks past a toppled statue of Charles Linn, a city founder who was in the Confederate navy, in Birmingham, Alabama, on June 1, 2020. #

Photo / Courtesy Jay Reeves - AP

CONTD ON PAGE 22



Houston city workers remove a statue of the Confederate soldier Dick Dowling from Hermann Park on June 17, 2020. #

Photo / Courtesy Mark Felix -AFP - Getty



A statue of Christopher Columbus lies facedown after being toppled by protesters on the grounds of the state capitol in St. Paul, Minnesota, on June 10, 2020. The protest was led by Mike Forcia, a member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, who called the statue a symbol of genocide. #

Photo / Courtesy Stephen Maturen - Getty



People watch as protesters pull down a statue of Confederate General Albert Pike during an event to mark Juneteenth in Washington, D.C., on June 19, 2020. #

Photo / Courtesy Jonathan Ernst -Reuters



A view of the statue of Albert Pike in Washington, D.C., on June 20, 2020, the day after it was toppled #

Photo/ Courtesy Mpi34 / MediaPunch - IPx



A statue of the former vice president and slavery advocate John C. Calhoun is removed from the monument in his honor in Marion Square in Charleston, South Carolina, on June 24, 2020. #

Photo / Courtesy Sean Rayford - Getty



A statue from the Howitzer Monument, erected in 1892 to commemorate a Confederate artillery unit, lies on the ground after being toppled by protesters in Richmond, Virginia, on June 17, 2020. #

Photo / Courtesy Jay Paul - Reuters  
(Source: The Atlantic)

# MISTAKES THAT MIGHT CAUSE PREMATURE AGEING

Ageing is a natural process and it occurs over time. There is nothing like reversing the effects of ageing or making signs of ageing disappear. When you apply anti-ageing products, it slows down the process. But you could be accelerating the process with some skincare mistakes that you might be making. These mistakes could be using the wrong products or using the wrong technique or skipping steps. Today we will talk about the latter.

The application is as important as the products you apply. We've figured out a couple of things that will adversely affect your skin in the long run but that also accelerate the ageing process. Here's what you need to stop doing.

## Wiping your makeup off

If you have makeup on, you need to first break it down before you take it off your face. Now in a pinch, we understand you take a wipe and just completely take it off. But on regular days, you need to first break the makeup down. Our favourite method is the double cleanse of course. Use an oil-based cleansing balm to lift your makeup off and emulsify and then follow through with a gentle cleansing wash to completely take it all off. If you don't want to do a double cleanse, then take some water and apply it on your face, let it sit. Follow through with a cleanser and slowly break your makeup down. In a circular motion, keep massaging till



all of your makeup is dispersed and THEN wash it off.

## Over-exfoliating

Yes, this is a thing. We all love the feeling of our skin after a good scrub. All the fuzz and dead skin is taken off and you are left with really soft skin. This is great and we sometimes want more of it. Exfoliating your skin more, over and over again is basically putting already highly sensitive skin through trauma. You are drying the skin out even more, almost bruising the skin and opening up your pores. This will cause premature ageing because of the dust that will settle into the fine lines making it look deeper.

So no exfoliation more than once a week, or maybe twice. Also, the

exfoliation needs to be done gently with either a silicone scrubbing pad or your fingertips in a circular motion. Intense back and forth rubbing actions will only make it worse.

## Dragging your skin down

Now, this one seems like a no-brainer but a lot of us subconsciously are STILL doing this. While applying your products, using micellar water and even toner, we are applying things in a downward direction, dragging our skin down. The older we get the ability of the skin to bounce back to its original state. So now instead of being on auto-pilot while doing your skincare routine, be mindful and always apply things in an upward motion.

# Is your friendship turning into love? Here's how to find out

Sometimes people fall in love at an absolutely unexpected time and with an unexpected person. They cannot even understand when that happens. But the realisation comes when you have already fallen in love with that person. One of the most common examples of such a relationship is when friendship turns into love.

How to tell if your friendship is turning into a serious commitment?

## Body language

Body language can surely tell if someone is romantically interested in someone. Try to observe your friend's body language and then see if you are copying them. This is called as mirroring. According to dating gurus, mirroring is imitating another person's movement and style.

## Biological changes

If you are falling in love with your friend, then you will think about him throughout the day. There will be some biological changes in you also like loss of appetite, lack of concentration, etc. You will literally daydream about him.

## Feeling jealous

If you are having a crush on your friend, then you will feel jealous if someone else is trying to flirt with him. This is the most common feelings that we all tend to experience.



## You are conscious

Earlier when you two used to hand out with each other, you didn't bother about your looks or the behaviour or the way you spoke. But now, there is always a tension in you. You are super conscious in front of him about your looks, dressing, eating style, walking, talking, etc.

## It's always him in your conversation

He is constantly on your mind, so you cannot stop thinking about him as well. You mention his name as and when you get any chance.

## The feeling is mutual

If the feeling is mutual, then your friend will also behave differently without any apparent reason. You two will try to find an excuse to spend time with each other than you normally do.



By Tript Arora

## Eggless caramel mango pudding

Made from all the ingredients available this easy dessert tastes awesome. I made this dessert for the first time when I was in school. My home science teacher taught me this pudding. I always remember her whenever I make this pudding. This is made by the steaming method. It hardly takes 15 min to cook this dessert. You can have it either hot or cold. But it tastes better when cold. So I would suggest you keep it in the refrigerator for at least two hours before eating. Then unmould and relish. It will be smooth and melt in water.

## We Need

500 ml Milk, Pulp of one medium sized mango, 2 Tbsp Vanilla Custard, 5 Slices of White Bread, 4 Tbsp Sugar

For Caramel: 2 Tbsp Sugar.

## Preparation

- Remove the sides of bread and cut slices into 4 parts. Grind them. Keep aside, Dissolve 2 Tbsp of custard powder in 2 Tbsp of water. Keep aside.
- To caramelize sugar heat a pan and spread sugar on the base. Do not stir it till it starts melting. Stir it by swirling the pan only. It will take 1 to 2 min to get golden yellow colour. Immediately remove the pan. Avoid burning sugar otherwise it will taste bitter.

## Here We go

- Grease a 6" Pan. Pour the caramel and swirl the pan to coat the base with it.
- On flame put a sauce pan and take 500 ml of milk. When it is warm add Mango pulp and whisk it to mix.
- Add custard powder mix we had prepared to the milk, mango mixture. Keep on stirring otherwise it will stick to the bottom of the pan.
- When the milk is thickened add ground bread slices to it in small quantities. When the full quantity of bread has been incorporated, keep on stirring for 2, 3 min or till the mixture thickened. Remove from fire
- Pour this mixture in the 6" pan over the previously poured caramel. Tap to remove air bubbles. Cover the pudding pan with a lid or Aluminum foil.
- In a large vessel (which can accommodate pudding pan) pour hot water upto one fourth of the pan and keep a stand on it. Put pudding pan on this stand. Also cover the bigger vessel with a lid. Steam this pudding on low flame for 30 min.
- After 30 min switch off the flame. Remove the pudding pan. When the pan is completely cooled refrigerate it for two hours or more. Take it out and run a knife along the sides of the pan. Invert it on a plate. The caramel will cover the top of the pudding and also run in the plate.
- For a better juicy taste, I will suggest to keep it in fridge for another two hours. It will be soft smooth and melt in mouth.



# CURD CAN HELP YOU LOSE WEIGHT, HERE'S HOW

We all know that our diet plays a major role in the weight loss process. Swapping oily, unhealthy food with healthy and protein-rich food can help you a lot in losing unwanted kilos. One such protein-rich food is curd which is known for its numerous health benefits. It is packed with a variety of nutrients like calcium, vitamin B-2, vitamin B-12, potassium, and magnesium which are beneficial for our health. Moreover, it helps in lowering high blood pressure and promoting a healthy heart. Yogurt contains several enzymes that can fight disease-causing germs and keep us safe from various ailments. Apart from this, researchers also claim that curd facilitates weight loss. But is it really true? Scroll on to find out.

According to a study published in the International Journal of Obesity, adults who consumed three servings of fat-free yogurt per day lost 22% more weight and 61% more body fat than those who simply cut down their calorie intake and didn't bone up on calcium. Moreover, it is packed with several vitamins and nutrients, which keeps you full and satisfied for a longer period of time and prevents you from bingeing on junk food.

If you are trying to lose weight, you need to eat a good amount of protein, which is present in curd. According to USDA data, curd contains 8.5 grams of protein in a cup of whole milk yogurt, 13g per cup of low-fat yogurt, and 10g of protein in a cup of non-fat yogurt.



Protein helps you keep full for longer hours, thus preventing you from overeating and gaining weight.

## Improves digestion

Curd has a good concentration of pro-biotic elements that are beneficial for our digestive system. According to a research review published in Nutrition and Metabolism in February 2016, it was found that intestinal microflora plays a major role in boosting metabolism and regulating body weight.

## Rich source of calcium

We all know that curd is packed with calcium? But do you know that calcium can also help you lose weight?

Researchers claim that calcium can help boost the process of thermogenesis, which in turn boosts our metabolism and helps us get rid of unwanted kilos.

## How much you should eat?

Just because it is healthy that doesn't mean you can binge on it non stop! Eating one bowl of curd daily is enough to lose weight.



## WORKING FOR LONG HOURS CAN LEAD TO DEPRESSION

There is a reason why there are a schedule and time table for everything we do. When it comes to work, nobody likes spending those extra time in the office once they complete their working hours. However, over the years it has become quite normal to spend extra hours to ensure completion of assigned tasks. But, one must not forget this can lead to serious mental health issues like depression. While everyone is in shock with the untimely demise of ace actor Sushant Singh Rajput, we must also remember to take care of our mental health along with remembering the star for his great work. Hz spoke to Dr. Anuneet Sabharwal, MBBS, MD Psychiatry about how working overtime can lead to depression. She enlightened us with the best ways to deal with it.

According to several surveys, more than 91% of employees describe staying up late in the office than their appointed working hours. The most popular reason is to 'get a head start on the following week'. Your boss might be happy with your dedication towards your job and work ethics, but such long working hours may affect your mental and physical health.

The risk of chronic infection, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, depression, hypertension, sleep disturbance, metabolic syndrome, and anxiety is associated with chronic stress associated with long working hours. As per research, long working hours also results in unexpected deaths due to cardiovascular disease in middle-aged employees. The expectations of 'working late' is hard to please but its consequences are clear.

According to a study published in the 'Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health,' the impact of excessive working hours occurred on both men and women, affecting the women more than the men. The symptoms of depression were 4.6% and 3.4 % respectively. Working for long hours, not only damages physical and mental health, but also impacts the social circle of the person, disturbing their lifestyle. Many workers may take up smoking as well to aid concentration while working extended hours.

One of the crucial features of working continuous overtime is having "no fixed work schedule" As per the Neurobiology of Aging study, it explains how irregular work timings have negative implications on a person's cognitive abilities. It also reveals that employees who do multiple shifts instead of a fixed workday need more time for completing a test used by doctors to understand cognitive impairment.

# Healthy post-workout foods

Working out is important if you wish to stay fit and healthy. Not only does it keep you fit, but it also helps you to keep health issues at bay. But you need to keep the engine running by fueling it with the right kinds of foods. What this means is that you should be eating the right foods, right fluids at the right times. Eating right will also energize you to be better at your workouts.

Eating and exercise go hand in hand. So, if you want to get the best out of your intense workout sessions, you need to eat foods that gives energy to your body to do so. Chances are you've given a lot of thought to what you should eat before you exercise than your post-workout meal. But consuming the right foods after your workout is as important as what you eat before it.

- Oats are a must if you are someone trying to lose weight. They contain complex carbs, vitamin E, antioxidants, and other phytonutrients - making them an excellent post-workout food.
- Sweet potato is also a good option as it is low in calories and helps in replenishing the glycogen stores. It is also great for those trying to lose weight or trying to keep their blood sugar levels in check.
- Leafy green vegetables like spinach, radish greens, lettuce, etc are loaded with dietary fibre, magnesium, calcium, potassium, and other phytonutrients that help replenish the glycogen stores, aid weight loss and boost immunity as well.
- You can include some fresh fruits and veggies like apples, pears, plums, watermelon, carrots,



tomatoes, beetroot, and peas in your post-workout meal. They boost energy levels, fight diabetes and obesity.

- Eggs are an excellent source of protein and other nutrients, which makes them the perfect post-workout food. You can include 1-2 whole eggs in your post-workout meal.
- Chicken and tuna are great sources of proteins and healthy fat. Since it takes longer to digest and absorb the nutrients of these foods, your satiety levels tend to rise. You can have grilled chicken with roasted vegetables as your post-workout meal.

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: gitanjlianand@gmail.com

# NEPTUNE RAINS DIAMONDS, AND NOW WE MIGHT FINALLY KNOW HOW

Deep within the hearts of Neptune and Uranus, it could be raining diamonds. Now, scientists have produced new experimental evidence showing how this could be possible.

The hypothesis goes that the intense heat and pressure thousands of kilometres below the surface of these ice giants should split apart hydrocarbon compounds, with the carbon compressing into diamond and sinking even deeper towards the planetary cores.

The new experiment used the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory's Linac Coherent Light Source (LCLS) X-ray laser for the most precise measurements yet of how this 'diamond rain' process should occur - and found that carbon transitions directly into crystalline diamond.

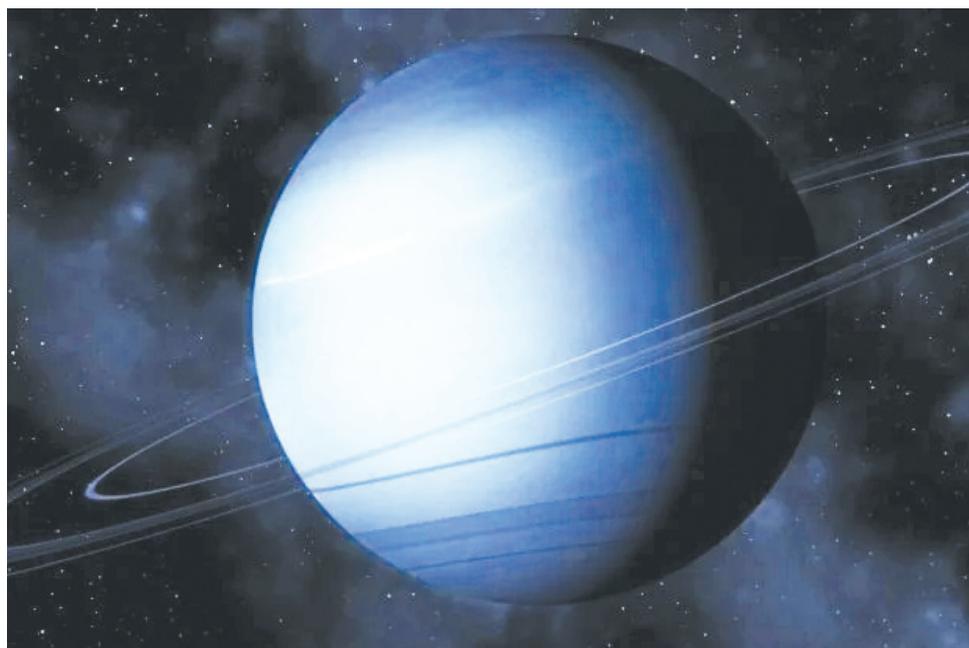
"This research provides data on a phenomenon that is very difficult to model computationally: the 'miscibility' of two elements, or how they combine when mixed," explained plasma physicist Mike Dunne, director of the LCLS, and not listed as an author on the paper.

"Here they see how two elements separate, like getting mayonnaise to separate back into oil and vinegar."

Neptune and Uranus are the most poorly understood planets in the Solar System. They are prohibitively far - only a single space probe, Voyager 2, has even been close to them, and only for a flyby, not a dedicated long-term mission.

But ice giants are extremely common in the broader Milky Way - according to NASA, Neptune-like exoplanets are 10 times more prevalent than Jupiter-like exoplanets.

Understanding our Solar System's ice giants, therefore, is vital to understanding planets throughout the galaxy. And to understand them better,



we need to know what happens underneath their serene blue exteriors.

We know that the atmospheres of Neptune and Uranus are primarily made up of hydrogen and helium, with a small amount of methane. Below these atmospheric layers, a superhot, superdense fluid of 'icy' materials such as water, methane, and ammonia wraps around the planet's core.

And calculations and experiments dating back decades have shown that, with sufficient pressure and temperature, methane can be broken down into diamonds - suggesting that diamonds can form within this hot, dense material.

A previous experiment at SLAC led by physicist Dominik Kraus at the Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf

in Germany used X-ray diffraction to demonstrate it. Now Kraus and his team have taken their research a step further.

"We now have a very promising new approach based on X-ray scattering," Kraus said about their latest efforts. "Our experiments are delivering important model parameters where, before, we only had massive uncertainty. This will become ever more relevant the more exoplanets we discover."

It's challenging to replicate the interiors of giant planets here on Earth. You need some pretty intense equipment - that's the LCLS. And you need a material that replicates the stuff inside that giant planet. For this, the team used the hydrocarbon polystyrene (C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>8</sub>) in place of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>).

The first step is to heat and pressurise

the material to replicate the conditions inside Neptune at a depth of around 10,000 kilometres (6,214 miles): pulses of optical laser generate shockwaves in the polystyrene, which heats the material up to around 5,000 Kelvin (4,727 degrees Celsius, or 8,540 degrees Fahrenheit). It also creates intense pressure.

"We produce about 1.5 million bars, that is equivalent to the pressure exerted by the weight of some 250 African elephants on the surface of a thumbnail," Kraus said.

In the previous experiment, X-ray diffraction was used to then probe the material. This works well for materials with crystalline structures, but less so with non-crystalline molecules, so the picture was incomplete. In the new experiment, the team used a different method, measuring how X-rays scattered off electrons in the polystyrene.

This allowed them not just to observe the conversion of carbon into diamond, but also what happens to the rest of the sample - it splits off into hydrogen. And there's pretty much no leftover carbon.

"In the case of the ice giants we now know that the carbon almost exclusively forms diamonds when it separates and does not take on a fluid transitional form," Kraus said.

This is important, because there's something really weird about Neptune. Its interior is way hotter than it should be; in fact, it gives off 2.6 times more energy than it absorbs from the Sun.

If diamonds - more dense than the material around them - are raining down into the planet's interior, they could be releasing gravitational energy, which is converted into heat generated by friction between the diamonds and the material around them.

## All 59 Chinese apps banned in India removed from Google Play store, App store

The government of India banned 59 Chinese applications earlier this week stating privacy concerns. A day later popular short video app TikTok was taken down from Google Play store and Apple App store. More banned Chinese apps have now been removed from Play store as well as App store including SHAREit, UC Browser, Mi Community, among others. TikTok app has gone offline and stopped working completely for users in India.

Commenting on the move, TikTok had issued a statement that stated, "We have been invited to meet with concerned government stakeholders for an opportunity to respond and submit clarification." Popular app Bigo Live has also been removed from Google Play store and Apple App store.

In a statement to the media Bigo Live stated, "The Government of India issued an interim order on 29 June 2020 to block 59 mobile apps, including Bigo Live. We respect the Indian government's order and will temporarily take off Bigo Live from Google Play and App Store in India until there is further clarity provided on this matter. Bigo Live is under the Singapore-based BIGO Technology and we hold utmost priority to the compliance of all local laws as well as the privacy and security of all our users. We will be working closely with the Indian government under the local legal framework."

## WHATSAPP ANIMATED STICKERS, DARK MODE FOR WEB, QR CODES AVAILABLE FOR ALL

WhatsApp has released a couple of new features for its users today. The features include animated stickers, dark mode for WhatsApp for Web, QR codes, Status for KaiOS, and improvements to group video calls. The Facebook-owned instant messaging platform has confirmed that all these features will be available for users in India in the coming weeks.

The messaging app has been working on animated stickers for a while now. The animated stickers feature is now officially launched and users will get their hands on them soon.

WhatsApp Stickers are already available for users for years now. With the new animated stickers, WhatsApp aims to make the chatting experience even better than ever before. Especially at the



time when most people are using the platform to keep in touch with their loved ones.

Announcing animated stickers WhatsApp said in an email statement, "Stickers are one of the fastest-growing ways people communicate on WhatsApp, with billions sent every day. We are rolling out new animated

sticker packs that are even more fun and expressive."

WhatsApp also announced the talked about QR codes feature for users. With this feature, the messaging platform is making it easier for users to add new contacts. The feature will be available in the coming week. To add contact using QR code all you need to do is scan

their QR code to add them to your contacts and you will be good to go.

Earlier this year WhatsApp launched dark mode for mobile app. The platform now brings a dark theme for web users. This feature comes at the right time when users are working from home and are using WhatsApp on their desktop more than ever before. The feature will be available for all users in the weeks to come.

WhatsApp recently extended group video call participants to eight from four. The platform is now making it easier for users to focus on whoever they want by letting them press and hold to maximize a participant's video to full screen. Additionally, WhatsApp is also adding a video icon in group chats of 8 or less, so users can easily start a group video call with one tap.

INTEL-JIO DEAL

# US semiconductor giant invests Rs 1,894.5 crore in RIL unit, 12th deal in 11 weeks

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) on Friday announced that Intel will invest Rs 1894.50 crore for 0.39 per cent stake in Jio Platforms. This will be a historic twelfth investment in the digital arm of RIL within eleven weeks.

With this investment, Jio Platforms has raised Rs 1,17,588.45 crore from leading technology investors including Facebook, Silver Lake Partners (two investments), Vista Equity Partners, General Atlantic, KKR, Mubadala, ADIA, TPG, L Catterton, PIF and Intel.

This is the largest continuous funds raise by a company anywhere in the world. For some comparison, India's start-up ecosystem raised Rs 1.10 lakh crore last year, in what was its best year.

Jio, which runs movie, news and music apps as well as the telecom enterprise Jio Infocomm, has attracted the largest continuous fundraising by a company anywhere in the world.

The series of investments in Jio was led by a 9.99 percent stake sale to Facebook Inc for Rs 43,574 crore on April 22. Since then, General Atlantic, Silver Lake (twice), Vista Equity Partners, KKR, Mubadala Investment Company and ADIA,



TPG, L Catterton and Intel have lined up for investments in Jio.

Intel Capital is the investment arm of Intel Corporation, a leader in the semiconductor industry, shaping the data-centric future with computing and communications technology that is the foundation of global innovations. Intel has operated in India for more than two decades and today employs thousands of employees there with state-of-the-art design facilities in Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

Intel Capital invests in innovative

startups targeting artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles, datacenter and cloud, 5G, next-generation compute and a wide range of other disruptive technologies. Since 1991, Intel Capital has invested US\$12.9 billion in more than 1,582 companies worldwide, and 692 portfolio companies have gone public or participated in a merger.

Intel Capital curates thousands of business development introductions each year between its portfolio companies and the Global 2000.



## GOLD PRICE HITS ALL-TIME HIGH IN INDIA, GOES PAST RS 50,000 PER 10 GRAM

The gold price on Thursday continued to rise to new highs in the Indian market as its retail price crossed Rs 50000 mark in Mumbai and Delhi. The price hike is due to the strong demand for gold in the global market and depreciating rupee.

On Wednesday, the gold in the national capital zoomed Rs 647 to Rs 49,908 per 10 grams in line with gains in the international prices of the precious metal.

In the international market, gold was trading with gains at USD 1,788 per ounce and silver at USD 18.34 per ounce. As per Reuters, the Gold eased from a near eight-year high hit in the previous session, as strong US data and hopes for a potential COVID-19 vaccine dented safe-haven sentiment.

As per the Multi-Commodity Exchange (MCX), August gold contracts were trading lower by 0.19 percent at Rs 48,174 per 10 gram at 09:10 hours. July futures for silver were trading flat at Rs 48,770 per kg.

## Private train operations may begin by April 2023

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Private participation in passenger train operations will only be 5 per cent of the total operations of Railways, said Chairman of Railway Board on Thursday.

During an online media interaction on the subject of private participation in running passenger trains, Vinod Kumar Yadav said if any performance indicators are not met by private players in passenger train operations they will be penalised.

"Private train operations are likely to begin by April 2023, all coaches will be procured under Make in India policy," said Yadav.

Train sets have to be brought by private operators and maintained by them, he said.

"Fares in private trains will be competitive and prices on other modes of transport like airlines, buses have to be kept in mind while fixing the fares," he further said.

The private trains will operate in 12 clusters, including Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Delhi, Mumbai, Patna, Prayagraj, Secunderabad, Howrah, Chennai.

Yadav expects financial bids for private trains by February or March and expects to finalise financial bids by April 2021.

Yadav said Request For Quotation bids will be finalised by September.

The Railways on Wednesday formally kickstarted its plans to allow private entities to operate passenger trains on its network by inviting request for qualifications (RFQ) for participation on 109 pairs of routes through 151 modern trains, the national transporter said.



## Jeff Bezos's wealth soars to record \$171.6 bn, ex-wife is 2nd richest woman

Jeff Bezos's net worth has smashed through its previous peak, even after he relinquished a quarter of his stake in Amazon.com Inc. as part of a divorce settlement last year.

Shares of the Seattle-based retailer surged 4.4% to a record \$2,878.70 Wednesday, boosting the founder's world-leading fortune to \$171.6 billion.

That tops his previous high of \$167.7 billion, set on Sept. 4, 2018, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

His gains -- \$56.7 billion this year alone -- underscore a widening wealth gap in the US during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. Initial public offerings and buoyant equity markets have bolstered mega-fortunes, even as tens of millions of people have lost their jobs. This week, after receiving complaints about ending pandemic hazard pay, Amazon said it would spend about \$500 million to give one-time \$500 bonuses to most front-line workers.

The company declined to comment on its founder's wealth.

Amazon has been on a tear, with the pandemic accelerating the consumer shift to e-commerce from brick-and-mortar retail. Bezos owns 11% of the stock, which comprises the bulk of his fortune.

Most of those with the biggest wealth gains also hail from the tech sector. They include Tesla Inc. Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk, who added \$25.8 billion to his fortune since Jan. 1, and Zoom Video Communications Inc. founder Eric Yuan, whose wealth has almost quadrupled to \$13.1 billion.



## Accenture cuts up to 900 jobs in UK as Covid takes toll on demand

Consulting firm Accenture is cutting up to 900 jobs, or 8% of its UK workforce, as the coronavirus pandemic prompted a sharp slump in demand for its advisory work.

Between 700 and 900 jobs will be affected by the planned cuts, an Accenture spokesman said Thursday in an email. The company has notified staff and plans "collective consultation" for a program of redundancy.

Accenture already had "an overcapacity of people relative to demand" when the economic crisis hit in March, The Guardian reported Thursday, citing an internal memo to staff. The memo said the crisis slowed employee attrition, put additional strain on the business and also revealed structural costs that Accenture needs to address, according to The Guardian.

Companies across the UK are laying off staff in the face of slumping revenue. Bank of England Chief Economist Andy Haldane said this week that the outlook for jobs is the biggest risk to the UK economy, particularly as employee furlough programs end in August.

## 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 6 - July 12, 2020

**ARIES:** Ganesha says you are filled with fire and decide that you have to come to grips with reality; enough is enough. You can't live in a fantasyland all your life. You make the most of all your powers and skills. The focus is on research, discoveries, inventions, new fields of study, meetings, conferences, interviews and committees. This is an action-packed time.

**TAURUS:** Ganesha says journeys are rewarding as you travel for both business and pleasure. There will be many productive and lucrative new associations. You work hard to convert your dreams into reality. There will also be a lot of time spent on fiscal instruments. You will be busy with taxes, loans, funds, investments, insurance and other financial transactions.

**GEMINI:** Ganesha says there is buying and selling, the signing of lease documents, contracts, instruments of negotiation, promissory notes and so on. You will be stretched and will be running from pillar to post. Ganesha is with you. The hectic times continue, but there are beautiful bonding moments too. Ganesha ensures that in the midst of all the frenetic activity you also have some happy times.

**CANCER:** Ganesha says you are still busy with financial affairs and this takes up most of your time. In the midst of it all, you also seek spiritual solace, metaphysical truths, and deeper insights into life. The mood is different - quieter, perhaps even meditative, as there is more introspection and self-assessment. You are interested in forming genuine and very close bonds with others.

**LEO:** Ganesha says you look for solace and visit places of worship. There could be overseas trips too as well as foreign collaborations. Ganesha is with you all the way. Children bring great joy and you spend a lot of time with the family. You enjoy your interactions with people and there will be all kinds of bonds and ties, family, domestic bliss, and satisfaction in bonding with loved ones and relatives, even of an older generation.

**VIRGO:** Ganesha says in this period your heredity and your family will be the theme. You turn back to your roots, maybe return home if you have been away for long and spend time with domestic issues. Family matters do get resolved, but with the usual strife and turmoil. Normally, this would have bothered you but you smile it off and the mood is contagious. All is well, says Ganesha happily.

**LIBRA:** Ganesha says there is a lot of work ahead and a lot of your time could be spent away from the home. As I always insist, these are mere generalizations and astrology never compels. Ganesha knows that. Specifics will depend on personal horoscopes. In this phase you will also concern yourself with appraisals of your own limitations. You look at improving your own assets, both material and non-material, and are keen on expanding your role in the community, society, your environment.

**SCORPIO:** Ganesha says you are in the throes of self-analysis as you want to grow into a better human being. Along with all this, work continues without a halt. There is money and honey, romance, partnerships and trade. There is a lot to learn and you are on the right track, most certainly. There is stability and solidity to your life now. You slog away and may even be away on an overseas visit.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Ganesha says most of the time spend away from home will be for professional reasons. This is a period in which you can do a lot and make solid progress. This is also a mixed period in which you feel that you may have been pursuing wrong goals all along. This could be a taxing period. There is also passion and sex, some neuroses, anxiety, minor ailments and an unsettled feeling to contend with.

**CAPRICORN:** Ganesha says you turn to prayer, meditation, chants. All this will help reactivate, energize and strengthen the spiritual side of your nature. You will regain a sense of peace and calm. You will choose serenity over concrete material gains. Ganesha is happy for you. As the heat and the dust gather over the sub-continent, you try to live life in the grandest manner possible.

**AQUARIUS:** Ganesha says your most important gain, triumph, achievement, will be the sense of satisfaction with the direction that you have given your life. You have also been ethical and that is saying a lot in these times! This is a joyous phase with many good tidings. There is travel, journeys for fun or for work, partnerships and ties, whether new or old, greater joy in matrimony.

**PISCES:** Ganesha says there will be new pursuits, new interests, and a new slant on life as newer vistas open up all the time. You have been through all the challenges and now are well prepared to taste the fruits of your hard work. Success on these terms is indeed sweet. Ganesha is pleased. There will be many new developments as your money worries get resolved and you look at fun times with new eyes.

## Birthday Horoscope July 6 - July 12, 2020

**July 6:** Ganesha says clear the decks by finishing up old tasks before endeavoring to start anything new. Do only what's necessary; take advantage of any free time.

**July 7:** Good ideas that you may have had to shelve should be brought to the fore once again. Make improvements. Modernize.

**July 8:** This is an excellent day for activities around home base and concerning financial arrangements. Current influences are expansive, lucky.

**July 9:** The Moon encourages you to be ambitious and to look for and take advantage of opportunities that are at your disposal. Aim higher.

**July 10:** Conversations can take a negative turn and give you cause to

worry. Be careful to not confide in those who will reinforce self-doubts.

**July 11:** Tread carefully so that you don't walk into a hornets' nest; otherwise, you may end up wondering later what the contention was all about.

**July 12:** After a so-so start, the day improves. Strengthen ties with close friends; they can help you organize your time and energies more efficiently.

# SAWAN SOMWAR VRAT

The Hindu month of Shravan, which falls in July-August according to the Gregorian calendar is extremely auspicious. It is dedicated to Lord Shiva. This month is all about prayers, devotion and fasting. Devotees across the country celebrate this month by offering their prayers to Lord Shiva.

Interestingly, the Northern and Southern states in India celebrate this month on different dates. In North India, people follow the Purnimant (full moon) calendar while in South India, the dates are as per Amavasyanta (no moon).

Mondays specifically are dedicated to Lord Shiva. Devotees observe fast and visit temples to offer milk, water, and bilva leaves to the almighty. A number of devotees (both married and unmarried women) initiate their 16 Somvar vrat on the first Monday of the Shravan month.

According to Drikpanchang, the significant dates in the month of Shravan 2020 in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Jharkhand are as follows:

- July 6 - First Day of Shravan 2020 (First Monday)
- July 13 - Second Monday
- July 20 - Third Monday
- July 27 - Fourth Monday
- August 3 - Last day of Shravan

Meanwhile, here are the significant dates in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu:

- July 21 (Tuesday) - First day of Shravan 2020
- July 27 - First Monday
- August 3 - Second Monday
- August 10 - Third Monday
- August 17 - Fourth Monday
- August 19 - Last day of Shravan

The month of Shravan brings an opportunity to be bestowed with divinity. Shravan month is an auspicious period to worship the deities. Among all the deities, Lord Shiva is considered to be the most divine. It is believed that worshipping Lord Shiva during the month of Shravan brings in favourable results. Shravan is the fifth month of Hindu Calendar. The entire month is primarily devoted to Lord Shiva, and Shravan Somvar fast is followed to invoke his blessings. As the name suggests, Shravan Somvar Vrata is performed on Mondays, especially by women in the desire of a safe and protected household. Unmarried girls who desire for an ideal husband also perform the fast of Sawan Somvar Vrat.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF SAWAN SOMWAR VRAT

It is believed that Sawan Somvar fasts are highly beneficial for the unmarried girls. By observing the Somvar Vrat, they get married to the person of their choice. Sawan Somvar Vrat is significant because it fulfils the desire of a person and all dreams come true. By observing the Sawan Somvar fast and worshipping Lord Shiva, devotees can achieve desired results.

## LEGEND



According to Purana, Samudra Manthan took place in the Shravan month, when the gods and the demons churned the ocean. As a result, fourteen divine items emerged out of the ocean. Halahala (a deadly poison) also came out as a by-product. Lord Shiva swallowed the poison to save the world from destruction. It could not seep through his throat.

The swallowing of poison turned his throat blue. Hence, he is known as Neelkantha (blue throat). It eventually was the reason of observing Sawan Somvar Vrat (in the month of Sawan) in honour of Lord Shiva.

## CELEBRATIONS AND RITUALS

Sawan Somvar Vrat is categorised as following:

- Savan Somvar is the fast that is observed on Mondays, in the month of Savan.
- Solah Somvar Vrats is the observance of sixteen fasts on consecutive Mondays which commence in the month of Savan.
- Saumya Pradesh is observed till the evening in Shravan month.
- Devotees should wake up early in the morning and take a bath. Visit Lord Shiva temple and offer milk to Shiva Lingam. At home, clean the Puja place (worshiping place) and adorn your soul to welcome the Lord. A Sankalp (oath) is taken to perform the Sawan Somvar Vrat with total devotion. Shiv Puja is performed twice in a day. Devotees must cleanse themselves properly to venerate the Lord once again after the Sun sets. Solah Somvar Vrat Katha or Sawan Vrat Katha is an

important element. Somvar Vrat Katha is recited on every Monday of Sawan vrat. Solah Somvar Vrat Katha portrays the life of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. After the Puja, Prasad is distributed among the friends and family members.

## THINGS TO DO

Devotees fast to please Lord Shiva:

- Fasting during this entire month is considered very auspicious. Waking up early morning, visiting the Shiva temple, and offering a mixture of milk, ghee, yogurt, ganga jal, and honey also known as Panchamrut along with Bilva leaves is a must. One can have milk and milk products, fruits and other fasting approved items during this time.

- Fasting on all Shravan somvar, especially for unmarried women who are seeking a good husband.
- As Rudraksha is symbolic to Lord Shiva, wearing the Rudraksha is considered very auspicious as well. Devout devotees of Lord Shiva make sure to wear a Rudraksha during this time of the year to please him. Devotees also do japa with Rudraksha mala to please Lord Shiva.
- Offering Panchamrut, bilva leaves, gangajal, dhatura, along with Honey or sugar and Bibhuti to Lord Shiva is considered very auspicious.
- The Mangal Gauri Vrata is also done by married women during this month for the health and prosperity of their households.

## 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."**

# Mayor Bill de Blasio Announces Locations for Expansion of Outdoor dining

*Program will provide more street space for seating on select restaurant corridors throughout the five boroughs*

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Mayor de Blasio revealed, July 2, the first 22 locations for the expansion of outdoor dining options under an initiative that combines two popular programs, Open Streets and Open Restaurants. The program expands restaurant seating options onto car-free streets for select corridors throughout the five boroughs. Selected corridors will be operational on weekends starting tomorrow evening, Friday, July 3.

Twenty-two locations citywide will be open to pedestrians and have been approved for expanded street dining. Another 10-20 corridors will be approved beginning Friday, July 17. Restaurants on these corridors will be able to place seating farther away from the curb than other Open Restaurants participants, and the remaining street space will be open to pedestrian traffic.

"Combining our popular Open Streets and Open Restaurants programs will give more New Yorkers the space they deserve

**The hours of operation for this new expanded seating option for restaurants will be from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday nights, and noon to 11 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Expanded seating will last until Labor Day.**

to enjoy the outdoors safely - and give small businesses the chance to rebuild after facing unprecedented challenges this spring," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "I'm excited to enjoy more outdoor meals soon, and we look forward to expanding the program in the coming weeks."

"As we head into the July 4th weekend, we are excited to be able to start giving restaurants the additional room they need to welcome more customers, so that we can all work together to rebuild this key sector of our local economy in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis," said DOT Commissioner

Polly Trottenberg. "We thank everyone from all the BIDs and other neighborhood organizations who made the case that expanding the vision of our Open Streets program to grow outdoor dining will be good for New Yorkers' quality of life and the city's bottom line."

The locations announced, July 2 are focused on streets that are already participating in the Open Streets program, on corridors represented by organizations that have worked with DOT on street closures in the past. The second tranche of locations will include additional applicants, such as ad hoc groups of restaurants that coordinate through a single entity acting as a partner organization.

The hours of operation for this new expanded seating option for restaurants will be from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday nights, and noon to 11 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Expanded seating will last until Labor Day.



*Combining our popular Open Streets and Open Restaurants programs will give more New Yorkers the space they deserve to enjoy the outdoors safely - and give small businesses the chance to rebuild after facing unprecedented challenges this spring," said Mayor Bill de Blasio.*

contd from page 1

## Randhir Jaiswal to Succeed...

He is expected to assume office in about three weeks. A 1998 Indian Foreign Service officer, Jaiswal heads the foreign affairs office of the Rashtrapati Bhavan and advises the President on India's foreign policy. He had earlier served as Consul General of India in Johannesburg in 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.

## Ambani's JioMeet takes on Zoom

Jio Platforms says a free call can be uninterrupted for "up to 24 hours" long. The service currently has no paid plans and it's unclear if Jio Platforms, which has a reputation of giving away services for free for years, plans to change that.

Jio Platforms, which began beta testing JioMeet in May this year, said the video conferencing service offers "enterprise-grade" host controls. These include password protection on each call, multi-device login support (up to five devices), and ability to share screen and collaborate.

Other features include the ability to switch "seemingly" from one device to another, and a 'Safe Driving Mode' for when a participant is in commute. Hosts can also enable a 'waiting room' to ensure participants have to ask for permission to enter a call.

The company did not provide any more details, including whether people outside of India could use the service. On its website, JioMeet claims all the meetings are "encrypted" but does not elaborate whether these calls are end-to-end encrypted.

The launch of JioMeet today comes as tens of millions of people in India are working from home and using video conferencing services for work and to stay in touch with friends. Zoom, currently the most popular video conference service in India, on Android had about 35 million monthly active users in the third week of June, up from about 4 million users during the same period in March, according to mobile insights firm App Annie, data of which an industry executive shared with

TechCrunch. (Android powers nearly 99% of smartphones in India.)

In a call with analysts earlier this year, Jio executives had described JioMeet as a platform that they think would someday have features to enable doctors to consult their patients, prescribe them medicine, and have a system in place to let them buy medicines online and get test results digitally. Similarly, they said JioMeet will allow teachers to host virtual classrooms for their students, with the ability to record sessions, assign and accept homework, and conduct tests digitally.

JioPlatforms, which is India's top telecom operator with about 400 million customers, operates a number of digital services including JioMusic, a music streaming service; JioCinema, which offers thousands of TV shows and movies; and JioTV, which allows users to watch more than 500 TV channels. All of these services are available at no additional charge to Jio Platforms subscribers. It costs less than \$2 a month to be a Jio subscriber.

The launch of JioMeet - available for use through Chrome and Firefox browsers on desktop, as well as via standalone apps for macOS, Windows, iOS, and Android, and an Outlook plugin - coincides with a nationwide ban on 59 Chinese services including TikTok, ShareIt, Alibaba Group's UC Browser and Tencent's WeChat. New Delhi banned these services on Monday evening citing security concerns.

**UPDATED ON JULY 3 :** Intel said on Friday, July 3, it will invest \$253.5 million in Jio Platforms, joining a roster of high-profile investors including Facebook and Silver Lake that have backed India's top telecom operator in recent months. (Source: Agencies)

## A heat wave forecast for the U.S..

hottest week on record and posted its 11th consecutive day with a heat index over 103 degrees, Brian McNoldy, a senior research associate at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, tweeted Thursday.

Gottschalck said it's likely that several regions may be under heat advisories and excessive heat watches, and he said warm conditions may persist into the

evenings, with little relief from the humidity.

The heat is being driven by the northward shift of the jet stream, which creates a "ridging effect" - a pocket of high pressure that allows for warm, dry conditions at the surface, Gottschalck said. The impending blast of heat could also create a "ring of fire" weather pattern, in which storms ride along the periphery of the heat dome and trigger severe thunderstorms across the northern Plains, he said.

Current forecasts show that this dome of heat could stick around well into the month.

"Our models indicate that this is going to be somewhat persistent through the first two weeks of July, and potentially longer," Gottschalck said.

He said the Climate Prediction Center has been working closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and local agencies on how to manage heat waves and other extreme weather events during the pandemic.

Some cities, for instance, may not be able to provide relief for vulnerable people because of social distancing guidelines. "We're dealing with such a unique situation, where even if some areas can open up cooling centers and things like that, they're likely to have limited capacity," said Julie Caron, a climate scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado. "So now, you could have a vulnerable population that has to make a choice to either stay home and risk the heat or go to a cooling center and risk exposure to the virus."

But even without the pandemic, she said, these events are troubling in the context of global warming.

"There's a long-term warming trend, but we're also seeing an increasing rate of change that's notable since 2015," Caron said. "What that means is we're getting hotter and more frequent heat waves on top of each other."

The changes are magnified in the summer, particularly because July is typically when most parts of the contiguous U.S. have their hottest days of the year. "You're exacerbating heat extremes in an already hot season," Caron said. "That's why it's not just about heat waves, necessarily. It's that we're seeing hotter-than-normal seasons." (Source: NBC)

## 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



contd from page 1

## 'Era of expansionism has ended; it is time for development': Modi warns China

According to the latest situation, the soldiers on the two sides are to disengage as part of de-escalation, that is, both sides have to scale down the aggressive posturing, though the standoff position would remain till the two sides sort out all the issues.

The PM was accompanied by Chief of Defense Services Gen Bipin Rawat and Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane.

In an obvious warning to China, Modi said: "Era of expansionism has ended; it is time for development".

### Here are some excerpts from Modi's address to soldiers posted at India - China border .

"I am again paying respect to brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives in Galwan Valley".

"Bravery you have shown recently has sent a message to the whole world about India's strength".

"Our resolve for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' becomes stronger because of you and your strong resolve".

"Your willpower is as strong and firm as the Himalayas; the whole country is proud of you".

"Era of expansionism has ended; it is time for development".

"We are putting adequate focus on requirement of armed forces".

"Bravery is a prerequisite for peace".

"You have shown exemplary dedication in Galwan Valley; the country is proud of all of you".

**BACKGROUND TO THE CONFLICTS:** India and China, two nuclear-armed Asian neighbors, are in a tense diplomatic and military standoff following their first deadly border clash in more than 40 years.

The June 15 incident in the disputed Galwan Valley, an arid Himalayan area along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the de facto border between the two nations, left 20 Indian soldiers dead. China has yet to officially declare its casualties.

Indian and Chinese troops have been engaged in the standoff since early May at several points along the 3,500km (2,200-mile) LAC, most of which remains undemarcated.

The fighting on June 15 was triggered by a disagreement over two Chinese tents and observation towers that Indian officials said had been built on its side of the LAC.

Chinese troops breached the Line to set up temporary "structures" in the Galwan Valley even after military officials had reached an agreement on June 6 to de-escalate, Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar told China's senior diplomat, Wang Yi, in a phone call.

The problem arose when an Indian patrol visited the area near a ridge to verify a Chinese assertion that its troops had moved back from the LAC, two government sources told Reuters news agency.

The Chinese troops had thinned out, leaving behind two tents and small observation posts, which the Indian party demolished, the sources said.

A large group of Chinese soldiers arrived and confronted the Indian troops. It was not clear what happened next, but the two sides soon clashed, the Chinese soldiers reportedly using iron rods and batons with spikes, killing 20 Indian soldiers and wounding dozens of others.

China has not said anything about any losses in the hand-to-hand combat.



India-China Face off in Ladakh

Experts mainly cite two reasons for the deadliest clash since 1975.

A major reason, according to some experts, is linked to India's unilateral move last year to repeal Article 370 of the Indian constitution, which had guaranteed a measure of autonomy to the former Jammu and Kashmir state, which also included the disputed areas in Ladakh region.

China, which, like Pakistan, saw India's move as unilaterally affecting its territory, strongly denounced the move at the UN Security Council last year.

Analysts also believe the current standoff is also a result of China's pushback against India's recent construction of infrastructure in border areas.

India inaugurated the 255km (158-mile) Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie (DSDBO) road, built along the LAC, last year. China objected, seeing the move as a threat to its interests in the region.

The heightened tensions between the world's two most populous countries have drawn international concerns, with the United Nations urging both sides "to exercise maximum restraint".

China's economic corridor to Pakistan and Central Asia passes through Karakoram, which is close to Galwan Valley, the site of the June 15 clash. Galwan Valley is close to Aksai Chin Plateau, which is under Chinese control but claimed by India.

According to Happymon Jacob, professor of international relations at New Delhi-based Jawaharlal Nehru University, China considers the Ladakh region crucial for its "access to Central Asia and CPEC project with Pakistan in which they [China] have invested billions of dollars [about \$60bn]."

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said he was unaware of the specifics but that the Indian army had crossed into Chinese territory in several places in recent days - violating the agreement reached on June 6 - and that they should withdraw.

Calling it a "deliberate provocation" on New Delhi's part, Zhao said: "The rights and wrongs... are very clear and the responsibility rests entirely with the Indian side."

In response, India's foreign ministry spokesman Anurag Srivastava cautioned China against making "exaggerated and untenable claims" on the sovereignty of the Galwan Valley area.

India says China occupies 38,000 sq. km (15,000 square miles) of its territory in the Aksai Chin Plateau in the Himalayas, with 12,000 Chinese soldiers reportedly pushing across the border.

Modi's denial of a Chinese incursion triggered a controversy, with opposition leaders accusing the government of intelligence failures and asking why the clash happened in the first place.

Ashley Tellis, senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, believes the latest Chinese advances in the Ladakh region leaves India with "painful" choices.

"Beijing has moved into disputed territories that did



An IAF helicopter flies in the sky, in Leh on Thursday, July 2.

Photo / Courtesy PTI

not host a continual Chinese presence as recently as January 2020," Tellis wrote on June 4, days before the brawl.

Satellite pictures taken by Earth-imaging company, Planet Labs, in the days leading up to the clash, also suggest increased Chinese activity at the Galwan Valley.

"Looking at it in Planet, it looks like China is constructing roads in the valley and possibly damming the river," Jeffrey Lewis, director of the East Asia Nonproliferation Program at California's Middlebury Institute of International Studies, told Reuters.

"There are a ton of vehicles on both sides [of the LAC] - although there appear to be vastly more on the Chinese side. I count 30-40 Indian vehicles and well over 100 vehicles on the Chinese side."

In addition to its dispute with China, India has found itself at loggerheads with two other neighbors - long-standing rival Pakistan, and Nepal.

Nepal and India have historically enjoyed good ties, but now find themselves engaged in what experts have called a cartographic war over border regions.

Last week, Nepal's Parliament approved a new map for the country, which includes land controlled by India.

"On the one hand, the major power in the region, China, is against India and on the other hand, smaller neighbors, which have been traditionally very friendly to India, are also negatively disposed to India. I think that is a major policy failure," Jacob told Al Jazeera.

**THE REACTION IN INDIA :** The reaction in India to Chinese advances has been one of outrage, with citizens and trade associations calling for the Modi-led government to boycott Chinese goods.

Protesters across the country were seen burning Chinese flags and products, while videos on social media showed teenagers destroying their Chinese-made mobile phones.

**THE REACTION ABROAD :** Some Indian American groups in US, owing allegiance to the ruling BJP, have called for boycott of Chinese goods. These groups, at places, like New York, have called for protests against China.

Beijing is India's biggest trading partner, with annual bilateral trade worth \$92bn. The trade imbalance between the two is significant and favors China heavily.

In an interview to The Economic Times, Shyam Saran, former Indian foreign secretary, said India should avoid any "knee-jerk reactions" against China, claiming that it would be impossible for New Delhi to find alternative suppliers in the near future.

Jacob believes India should reach out to Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, also known as Quad - an informal strategic forum that includes India, Japan, Australia and the United States - to take on China.

"If the USA makes noises in favor of India and strengthens the Quad, it will send a message to China that we will take aggressive steps and will defend our interest," he said.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## THE INDIAN PANORAMA

**PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER:**  
**VICE PRESIDENT:**  
**CHIEF EDITOR:**  
**CONSULTING EDITOR :**  
  
**ASSISTANT EDITOR:**  
**SPL. REPORTER UNO:**  
**GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:**  
**DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATION:**

Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja  
Chitagam Saluja  
Prof Indrajit S. Saluja  
Deepak Dwivedi,  
Chairman, Bhaskar  
Group, Delhi  
Bidisha Roy  
H.S. Panaser  
Om Parkash Malik  
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. Auja  
**NEW YORK :** Chitagam  
**FRESNO:** Tarlochan Singh  
**DALLAS:** Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon

**OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS**  
**LONDON :** Nirpal Singh Shergill  
Spl Correspondent  
Ashishpal Singh  
Manjit Sidhu  
A.S. Arora,R.P.Sharma  
**DELHI BUREAU CHIEF:**  
**CHANDIGARH:**  
**LUDHIANA:**

**DALLAS BUREAU CHIEF & VP :** Lovliien Kaurr  
Chitagam  
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.

# DARJEELING: A POPULAR SUMMER RETREAT

**D**arjeeling is one of the most beautiful hill stations in Eastern India. It is widely known across the globe for its quality tea production. A popular summer retreat for the then Britishers, it is in abundance with valleys and tea plantations, and the mesmerising view of the Mt. Kangchenjunga.

Among the tourist places to visit are Japanese Peace Pagoda, Tiger Hill, Rock Garden, Bhutia Busty Gumpa, Nightingale Park, Ropeway, Observatory Hill, and Buddhist Monasteries. Do not forget to ride on the Darjeeling Toy Train. There are several trekking trails for adventure buffs to enjoy the wild nature of the city. Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park is another attraction for children and wildlife lovers. The ethnic cuisine of Darjeeling is to die for. Tibetan and Indian delicacies are famous and you must try Momo, Nepali thali, and Thukpa. March to June are the peak months to enjoy this hilly resort.

## Himalayan Zoological Park

The Darjeeling Zoo, also called as Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park is a 67.56 acre zoo in the town of Darjeeling. It is located at an average elevation of 2,134 metres and is the largest high altitude zoo in India. The zoo was formerly known as Himalayan Zoological Park and was established on 14th August, 1958 as a joint venture of Govt. of India (Department of Science and Technology) and Govt. of West Bengal (Department of Education). In the year 1975, Late Smt. Indira Gandhi the then Prime Minister of India dedicated the Himalayan Zoological Park to Late Smt. Padmaja Naidu, ex-governor of West Bengal. Hence, the zoo was re-named as Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park.

Darjeeling Zoo is the only specialised zoo in India which is internationally recognized for its conservation breeding programmes of Red Panda, Himalayan Newt, Snow Leopards, Tibetan Wolf and other highly endangered animal species of Eastern Himalaya. One can see here animals like Indian Tiger, Snow Leopard, Black Leopard, Clouded Leopard, Tibetan Wolf, Asiatic Black Bear, Red Panda, Blue Sheep, Yak, Musk Deer, Barking Deer and Jackal. The zoo also houses various species of birds such as Kalij Pheasant, Golden Pheasant, Ring Necked Pheasant, Red Jungle Fowl, Rose-Ringed Parakeet etc.

## Happy Valley Tea Garden

This is a must see place in Darjeeling. It is quite popular among travelers for obvious reasons. Watching the actual process tea manufacturing is worthwhile. The scenic charm of this tea garden is heartwarming. Happy Valley is the most accessible Tea Estate, as it is only about 3 kms from town.

## Ghoom Monastery

Nestled at a distance of approximately 8 km from the heart of Darjeeling, Ghoom Monastery is one of the major



attractions in Darjeeling. The Ghoom Gumpa was founded by a Mongolian astrologer/monk in the year 1875. The place is also well-known as Yogacholing Gumpa. One is greeted by a huge 'Maitreya Buddha' statue at the entrance gate of the Gumpa. Visitors also find bells, ornate thanka scrolls as well as drums inside the Gumpa.

## Sumendu Lake

One of the major attractions of Mirik, Sumendu Lake is bounded by pine trees on one side and lush garden on the other

is a "joyride" in the true sense of the word. The Toy Train is a modern engineering marvel and deserves its spot in the limelight.

## Observatory Hill

Known as Makal-Babu-Ko-Thaan, Observatory Hill is one of the oldest sites in the Darjeeling. The place has a rich historical backdrop. As per a legend, there is a myth that Lord Indra's scepter (Dorje), representative of his thunderbolt, had fallen at this place (ling). Therefore, the city got its name from two words 'Dorje' and 'ling'. The hill is quite popular amongst tourists due to its Hindu and Buddhist temples.

## Mountaineering Institute

It is a perfect place in Darjeeling for those who love to enjoy the thrilling experience of adventure activities. It is one of the oldest mountaineering institutes in India and plays a vital role in mountaineers training.

## Mahakal Temple

Mahakal Temple atop the Observatory Hill in Darjeeling is another reason for you to plan an exotic vacation at Darjeeling. A beautiful amalgamation of Hindu and Buddhist cultures, Mahakal Temple stands as a magnanimous and historical edifice at the place where a Buddhist Monastery by the name of 'Dorje Ling' once stood. Legends says that shiva-lingas representing Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwar have manifested themselves here in the year 1782. And hence emerged the Mahakal Temple of Darjeeling, a much revered and believed religious shrine of the scenic hill station.

Mahakal Temple atop the Observatory Hill in Darjeeling is another reason for you to plan an exotic vacation at Darjeeling. A beautiful amalgamation of Hindu and Buddhist cultures, Mahakal Temple stands as a magnanimous and historical edifice at the place where a Buddhist Monastery by the name of 'Dorje Ling' once stood. Legends says that shiva-lingas representing Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwar have manifested themselves here in the year 1782. And hence emerged the Mahakal Temple of Darjeeling, a much revered and believed religious shrine of the scenic hill station.

The temple witness heavy footfall from people of all sections of society. Either for a leisure visit or a pilgrimage trip, people love to visit the shrine and lay down their holy prayers and offerings to the Lord. While the gold plated idols of Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwar soothes worried eyes of devotees, the magical sound of prayers chanted by Hindu priests and lines from Buddhist Holy Scriptures read by Buddhist monks heal the mind and cheer up the mood. Bells and hundreds of colorful prayer flags hung all over the shrine continuously narrate the presence of holiness in the air of the surrounding. A spectacular religious ambience juxtaposed by breathtaking panoramas of Himalayan ranges is no doubt a unique proposition of Mahakal Temple.

side and is linked together by an arching bridge called as Indreni Pull (Rainbow Bridge). Boating and Fishing are the two main activities appealing to tourists visiting this lake.

## Darjeeling Himalayan Railway

The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway is a UNESCO World Heritage narrow gauge rail network still operates with the original steam engines and the loops along the route are all remarkable feats of human endeavor and engineering. The journey from Darjeeling town to Ghoom

# STOKES TO CAPTAIN ENGLAND IN OPENING TEST AS ROOT TAKES LEAVE

**LONDON (TIP):** England's World Cup hero Ben Stokes was on Tuesday named captain for the opening Test against West Indies in place of Joe Root, who has taken leave to be with his wife for the birth of their second child.

Having never led a side in First-Class cricket, star all-rounder Stokes will be captaining the national team for the first time in his career when England and West Indies lock horns in the opening Test of the three-match series at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton from July 8.

Root's wife, Carrie, is due to give birth later this week.

"Durham all-rounder Ben Stokes, who has been Root's Test vice-captain since his appointment last July, will captain the side for the first time in Southampton," the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a release.

Jos Buttler, who serves as vice-captain to Eoin Morgan in the limited-overs side and has also been Root's deputy in the past, will assume vice-captaincy duties in the opener, the ECB added.

The country's cricket board also added that Root will have to self-isolate for seven days at home once he leaves hospital with his family.

"Root will commence a seven-day self-isolation period at home once



he leaves hospital with his family. He will join up with the England squad ahead of the second Test at Emirates Old Trafford on Monday 13 July," the ECB stated.

The mainstay is expected to be available for the second Test, which starts on July 16.

Stokes could thus become England's least-experienced captain in their history, never having captained a first-class, List A or T20 game.

Stokes had earlier said that he won't change his playing approach

even if he is handed England's captaincy in the absence of regular skipper Root for the series-opener against the West Indies.

"I hope that I always try to set the example in terms of attitude and commitment. If I am in charge that's not going to change the way that I go about things," Stokes had said.

Stokes had a phenomenal run in the past one year as he helped England to the World Cup final victory and played a key role in his side's stunning Ashes win over Australia at Headingley.



## RAVINDRA JADEJA RATED AS INDIAN TEST CRICKET'S MVP IN 21ST CENTURY

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Flamboyant all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has been named as India's most valuable Test player in the 21st century by the Wisden magazine.

With an MVP rating of 97.3, the 31-year-old Jadeja was also rated as the second most valuable Test player worldwide, behind only Sri Lanka legend Muttiah Muralitharan.

"It has been a dream to play for India and above that when you are rewarded for being the most valuable player, you feel even more blessed," Jadeja said.

"Would want to thank all my fans, team-mates, coaches and support staff for their unconditional love and support."

Jadeja has played in 49 Tests since making his debut in 2012, scoring 1,869 runs with one century and 14 fifties to his name. He has picked up 213 Test wickets.

Based on analytics provided by CricViz, each player in world cricket has been awarded an 'MVP rating' using a statistical model to rank their 'match impact' compared to their peers.

"It might come as a surprise to see Jadeja...feature as India's number one. After all, he's not even always an automatic pick in their Test team. However, when he does play he is picked as a frontline bowler and has batted as high as No.6 — contributing to a very high match involvement," said CricViz's Freddie Wilde.

"But Jadeja's position is based on more than simply volume: it's what he does when he's involved that really counts...His batting and bowling average differential of 10.62 runs is the second best of any player this century to have scored more than 1,000 runs and taken 150 wickets."

## India among 5 nations interested in hosting 2027 Asian Cup

**KUALA LUMPUR (TIP):** India is one of five nations to have expressed an interest in hosting the 2027 Asian Cup, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said on Wednesday.

Qatar, the reigning champions and 2022 World Cup hosts, is also interested in hosting the continental championship, as are regional football powerhouses Iran and Saudi Arabia, and Uzbekistan.

"The AFC will now work with each bidding member association on the delivery of the necessary bidding documentation... and will announce the host for the 19th edition of the AFC Asian Cup in 2021," the continental governing body said in a statement.

AFC President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa hailed the "biggest-ever edition" in the United Arab Emirates last year and said he expected China to surpass all expectations in 2023.

Qatar staged the competition in 1988 and 2011, while Iran have fond memories of hosting it in 1968 and 1976, winning the title on both occasions.

India bagged hosting rights for the 2022 Women's Asian Cup last month.

## Ferrari have had to redesign flawed F1 car, says team boss Binotto

**LONDON (TIP):** Ferrari have had a major rethink of their 2020 Formula One car but updates to make it go faster will not be ready until the third race of the season, team boss Mattia Binotto said on Tuesday.

Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc will instead start the COVID-19 delayed season in Austria on Sunday in cars similar to those they wrapped up testing with in Spain at the end of February.

"The truth is that the outcome of the tests led us to take a significant change of direction in terms of development, especially on the aerodynamic front," Binotto said on the Ferrari website.

"First, we had to understand why we did not see the results we had expected on track and how much to recalibrate the whole programme as a result."

"It would have been counterproductive to continue in the direction we had planned, knowing that we would not have reached our goals."

"Therefore we decided to come up with a new programme that looked at the whole car, knowing that not all of it would be ready for the first race."

Champions Mercedes and also Red Bull looked faster in testing, with Ferrari coming away from Barcelona's Circuit de Catalunya recognising they lacked comparative pace.

Both Mercedes, the team of six times world champion Lewis Hamilton, and Red Bull have subsequently added performance upgrades.

The season was supposed to start in Australia on March 15 but was delayed by the pandemic. The revised schedule sees two races at Austria's Red Bull Ring before moving to Hungary and then Britain.



"Our aim is to introduce the updates at the third race on 19 July at the Hungaroring," said Binotto.

He said that Ferrari had used the weeks since the Maranello factory reopened to analyse the car's behaviour with simulation work and input from the drivers.

"We know that, at the moment, we don't have the fastest package. We knew it before heading for Melbourne and that hasn't changed," said Binotto.

"Having said that, the Spielberg circuit has different characteristics to Montmelo and the temperatures will be well above those of February.

"In Austria, we must try and make the most of every opportunity and then in Hungary... we will be able to see where we are really compared to the others."



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

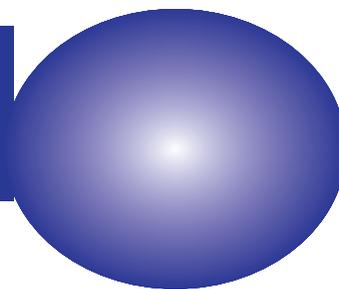


## CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE

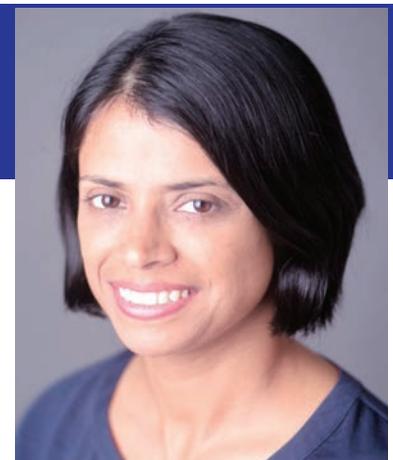
Dr. VK Raju and Dr. Leela Raju of the Eye Foundation of America will be glad to answer any eye related concerns of the readers of The Indian Panorama during this difficult period of Coronavirus onslaught



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](mailto:eyefoundationofamerica.org@gmail.com)



बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा  
Bank of Baroda

**FREE**  
RUPEE  
REMITTANCE  
TO INDIA



**BARODA**

SUNSHINE KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES...

**4<sup>TH</sup> JULY** ★★★  
INDEPENDENCE DAY



*Attractive Interest Rates on Certificate of Deposit*

\*\*Please visit our website for current Interest Rates and more information

**MEMBER FDIC**

We are happy to continue offering services and patronising our valued customers in United States of America

Acceptance of Certificates of Deposit  
Trade Finance • Syndicated/Bilateral Loans  
Corporate Finance • Allied Services in Foreign  
Exchange • Correspondent Banking Business

One Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016  
USA - Phone 212-578-4550 • Fax - 212-578-4565

E-mail: [newyor@bankofbaroda.com](mailto:newyor@bankofbaroda.com)  
Web: [www.bankofbaroda-usa.com](http://www.bankofbaroda-usa.com)