



America UNITED against COVID-19

KEEP SAFE

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

KEEP AMERICA SAFE



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We have to move forward with mantra of 'Make in India' as well as 'Make for World', says PM Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi unfurled the national flag and delivered his seventh consecutive Independence Day speech from the iconic Red Fort on Saturday, August 15..

I.S. SALUJA

DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi unfurled the Indian National Flag at the Red Fort to mark the 74th Independence Day of India. In his address following the flag hoisting Prime Minister paid tributes to freedom fighters and security forces. He then expressed the nation's gratitude to Corona commandos- doctors and nurses who, at grave risk to their lives, worked to save precious human lives, adding "We will achieve victory over coronavirus with resolve of people of country".

Coronavirus may be a big challenge but not so big as to stop India's march towards self-reliance, said Modi.

contd on Page 8

FIA Hosts Community Reception to Welcome New Consul General of India in New York

FORDS, NJ (TIP): The Federation of Indian Association of NY, NJ, CT (FIA Tristate) hosted a welcome reception on Aug. 7, 2020 for Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, the newly appointed Consul General of India in New York, at the Royal Albert's Palace in Fords, New Jersey.

It was an intimate affair due to New Jersey state and local restrictions and regulations on gatherings.

FIA leadership, prominent members of the Indian American community and members of the press attended the event. Guests networked and mingled with each other, observing social distancing guidelines.

Andy Bhatia, member of the FIA Board of Trustees, compered the evening. FIA leaders including President Anil Bansal, Chairman Ankur Vaidya, senior advisors Dr. Sudhir S. Parikh and Dr. H. R. Shah, among others, welcomed Consul General Jaiswal and Deputy Consul General Shatrughna Sinha.

contd on Page 12



Ambassador Randhir Jaiswal addressing the gathering at the FIA reception to welcome him at the Royal Albert's Palace in Fords, New Jersey, August 7.

Harris promises jobs, fight climate change and affordable care act as part of Biden administration



Kamala Harris said that once elected the Joe Biden administration will create millions of jobs.

WASHINGTON (TIP): Kamala Harris, the presumptive Democratic party's vice-presidential nominee, has said that once elected the Joe Biden administration will create millions of jobs, fight climate change and build an affordable care act among various other strong initiatives for the welfare of Americans.

Hitting hard on the three and half years of the Trump administration during her first appearance after being picked as the vice-presidential nominee of the Democratic party on Tuesday, Harris, 55, presented a long list of missteps taken by the current US government.

the current US government.

"As Biden-Harris Administration, we will create millions of jobs and fight climate change through a clean energy revolution, bring back critical supply chains so the future is made in America, build on the Affordable Care Act so everyone has the peace of mind that comes with health insurance, and finally offer caregivers the dignity, the respect, and the pay they deserve," she said.

contd on page 8

India believes in peace but always ready to give fitting reply for any aggression, says Kovind

Doctors and medical professionals have been the front line Covid warriors. No amount of appreciation is enough for these warriors

NEW DELHI (TIP): President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday, August 14, said India believes in peace but is capable of giving a befitting response to any attempt of aggression as was displayed during the Galwan Valley clashes when "some in our neighborhood tried to carry out the misadventure of expansion".

In his address to the nation on the eve of the 74th Independence Day, President Kovind did not name China but hailed Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives while fighting Chinese troops on the Ladakh border for "national pride".

The President noted that as the coronavirus has demolished the "illusion" that humans are the masters of nature and talked about the various lessons of 2020.

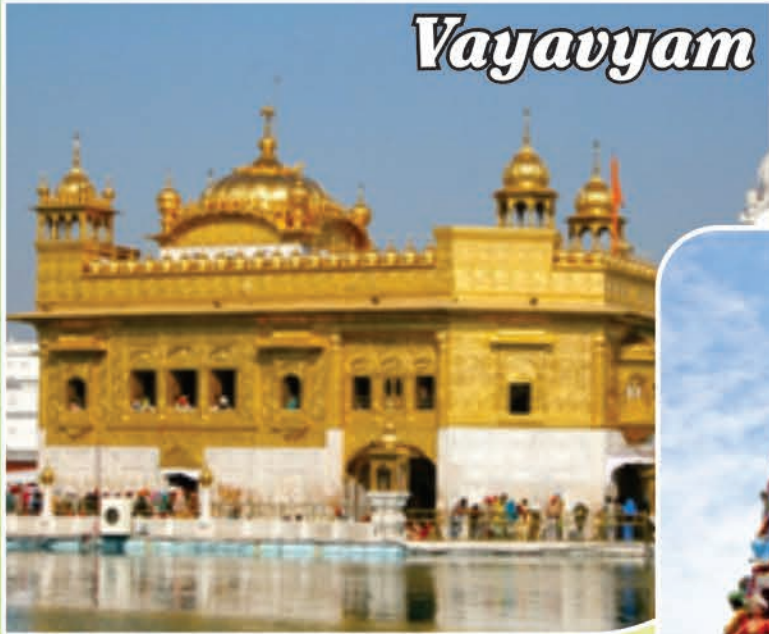
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President Ram Nath Kovind addresses the nation on the eve of the 74th Independence Day, in New Delhi



Vayavyam



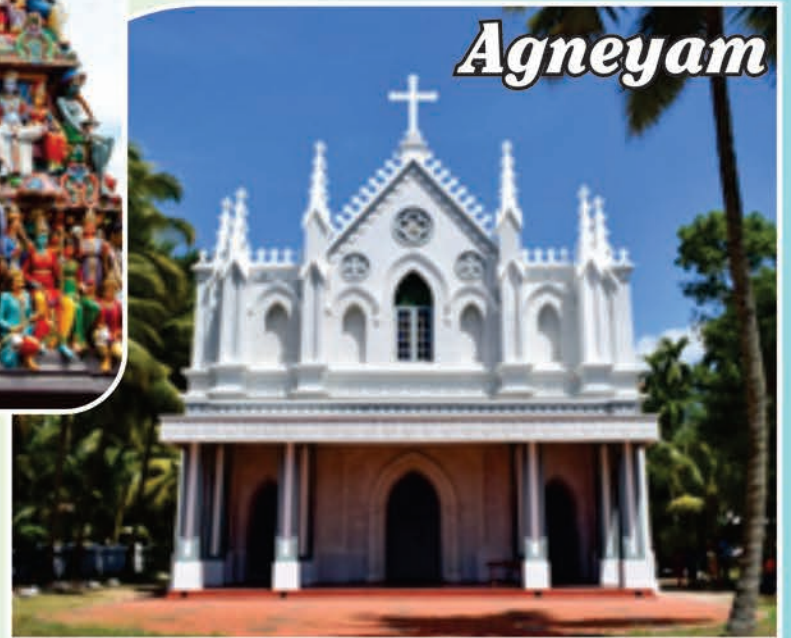
Esanyam



Nairuti



Agneyam



Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam



12 hours before the supreme court verdict on the Babri Masjid / Rama Janma Bhumi controversy, a friend from India suggested that the land under dispute may be divided into 5 equal parts and five temples representing 5 major religions -Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism and Buddhism, be built, which will truly reflect the spirit of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" in Maha Upnishad, inscribed in front of India's Parliament.

President of India should inaugurate in the presence of the high priests of all 5 religions and 5 young girls from the 5 faiths. This is important for posterity's understanding. History has a nasty habit of repeating itself.

Dr. Arnold Toynbee, the British historian and philosopher said: "It is already becoming clear that a chapter which has a Western beginning will have to have an Indian ending if it is not to end in the self-destruction of the human race..."

"At this supremely dangerous moment in human history, the only way of salvation for mankind is the Indian way-Emperor Ashoka's and Mahatma Gandhi's principle of non-violence and Sri Ramakrishna's testimony to the harmony of religions. Here we have an attitude and spirit that can make it possible for the human race to grow together into a single family-and, in the Atomic Age, this is the only alternative to destroying ourselves".



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HARDEEP S PURI



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वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री
भारत सरकार
Minister of State (I/C), Housing & Urban Affairs
Minister of State (I/C), Civil Aviation
Minister of State, Commerce & Industry
Government of India

Message

I extend my warm greetings to fellow Indians, the Indian-American community and to the readers of The Indian Panorama on the occasion of India's 74th Independence Day. I am happy to connect with you through the medium of this special issue being published to commemorate this historical day.

On 15 August 2019, from the ramparts of the Red Fort, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji laid out a vision for India as a \$5 Trillion economy by 2024-25 anchored in inclusive, sustainable and self-reliant development. In the past six years, we have made significant progress in areas such as financial inclusion, rapid housing and infrastructure development, drastic improvement in Ease of Doing Business and rolled out one of the world's largest health care initiatives - Ayushman Bharat.

In the last few months, Covid-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented health and economic challenges before the governments worldwide. On 12 May 2020, Hon'ble Prime Minister launched the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan which aims to promote the domestic manufacturing industry and integrate us further with the global supply chains. Indian professionals have a critical role in making this ambitious initiative successful as you are one of our biggest strengths.

Indian professionals across the globe are also at the forefront of this battle against Covid-19. In these times of distress, where in some of you were stranded, we carried out the Vande Bharat Mission which has transported more than one million Indians till now. We will continue to take further necessary steps to assist all of you in these troubled times.

Prime Minister Modi Ji's government is committed towards the economic resurgence of our nation while supporting our most vulnerable citizens' tide over these difficult times. I urge everyone to keep practicing social distancing norms for the safety of your family and community. I wish you all a happy Independence Day.

New Delhi
05 August 2020

(Hardeep S Puri)

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तरनजीत सिंह संधू
Taranjit Singh Sandhu



भारत का राजदूत
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA
2107 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
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Message on the eve of Independence Day, 2020

I extend my warm greetings to fellow Indians and Indian-Americans on the occasion of the 74th Independence Day of India. I am delighted that Indian Panorama is bringing out a special issue on this occasion.

2. In the last 73 years, leaving the challenges of poverty and illiteracy in the dust, India is now leading the world in science, technology, commerce and innovation. At a time when the entire world is reeling under the pandemic, India is a beacon of hope for the global revival in the post COVID world.

3. India's relationship with the United States has seen tremendous progress in the last few years under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Both the countries are united in the fight against the pandemic. Going ahead, the cooperation between India and the United States will be crucial for a better, more stable, and peaceful world.

4. The Indian-American community has been a strong pillar in our bilateral relationship with the United States. I take this opportunity to greet all of them on Independence Day and for their relentless work in strengthening the partnership between India and the US.

Jai Hind.

(Taranjit Singh Sandhu)



भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
न्यू यार्क



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
NEW YORK

August 11, 2020

MESSAGE

On the occasion of 74th Independence Day of India, I convey my warmest greetings and felicitations to all readers of The Indian Panorama. This weekly has served as a living bridge between India and the Indian Diaspora in the United States for long. As in past, it is yet again bringing out a special edition to commemorate India's Independence Day 2020. We are thankful to it for getting us ever closer!

These are difficult time for all of us. The Covid-19 pandemic has hit us hard. I take this opportunity to pay my respects to and remember all our dear friends and well-wishers whom we lost to the pandemic and those who were able to fight it through. And we remain grateful to the health workers and other professionals in the US, in India and around the world, for their selfless service and sacrifice, who have been there for us. As Covid warriors, you deserve our highest respect and praise.

India and U.S. have a deep and meaningful partnership. Our close bonds of engagement are rooted in history. India's freedom struggle drew inspiration from American values and thought. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation, delved into the works of Henry David Thoreau, the great American thinker, as he grappled to give shape to his political thought and action. Ever since, as two democracies, we have continued to champion freedom, justice and peace, and these timeless values continue to guide us as we take our partnership into the 21st century. We are together thinking long-term and as much to solve the most immediate, most pressing challenge - a solution for the pandemic- for ourselves and for the humanity at large.

I look forward to doing my best for India-US relations and to serve our community to the best of our ability. It would be my endeavor to maintain and enhance the people-oriented nature of our Consulate. May our freedom struggle ever inspire us.

I once again extend my heartiest greetings to all readers of The Indian Panorama.

रणधीर जायसवाल
Randhir Jaiswal
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Consul General of India
न्यू यॉर्क
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T.S. Tirumurti



संयुक्त राष्ट्र स्थित भारत का स्थायी प्रतिनिधि
न्यूयॉर्क

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

12 August 2020

MESSAGE

On the occasion of the 74th Independence Day of India, I extend my hearty felicitations to The Indian Panorama for bringing out an illustrated special issue to mark this momentous occasion. I also take this opportunity to convey my greetings and best wishes to all the Indian nationals living in the United States as well as to the vibrant Indian-American community.

India continues to be a beacon of hope for all those who believe in strong family values, preservation of heritage and culture, continued nourishment of democracy and democratic principles, adherence to pluralism and tolerance as well as in a strong voice for international cooperation and development partnership to promote peace and prosperity.

75 years on, India remains committed to the purposes and principles of the United Nations and is proud to have made a significant contribution in shaping the agenda of the United Nations in a range of important areas including decolonization, apartheid, human rights, disarmament, environment, terrorism, development and other critical issues.

I extend my congratulations to Chief Editor Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja and his team for their commitment to promote greater understanding and friendship between India and the United States.

(T.S. Tirumurti)

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भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
ह्यूस्टन
CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
HOUSTON

August 12, 2020

MESSAGE

I am happy to know that the Indian Panorama is publishing a special illustrated issue on India's 74th Independence Day on 15 August 2020.

Independence Day is a special day for all Indians. It is a day on which we commemorate our long and hard freedom struggle and remember the sacrifices of those who led India to become a free nation. It is an occasion for us to take stock of the progress we have made as a nation, the challenges that we face and to reaffirm our resolve to overcome them collectively.

The Consulate is striving to deepen the close multi-faceted ties between India and United States. We look forward to the continued support of the Indian Panorama to strengthen our outreach and promote events which we plan to organize with the community and various other stakeholders.

I extend my warm greetings to the readers of the Indian Panorama on India's Independence Day and wish them continued success.

(Aseem R. Mahajan)

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Ambassador Asoke Mukerji
Former Permanent Representative
of India to the United Nations

MESSAGE

On 15 August 1947, India began her "tryst with destiny" as an independent nation. This year on Independence Day, India is at another major crossroads in her evolution as a modern nation state. The importance of a supportive international environment for the transformation of India is greater today than ever before.

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated the process of change underway in international relations. This global challenge has elicited a strong response. Over 150 countries across the world including some highly developed economies and many developing countries have benefited from partnering with India in responding to this challenge. This is the best example of the meaning of true international cooperation which drives the aspirations of most countries in the world.

However, the principle of international cooperation has been steadily undermined during recent years. This has serious implications for India. The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted adversely on the economies of all countries, including India. The contraction of international trade, conducted on agreed principles of non-discrimination, is a major area of concern. India's foreign trade contributes almost 40% of her GDP. India's aspirations to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2024 require international cooperation to be sustained, not fractured.

Together with the adverse impact of the pandemic, creeping protectionist sentiments have grown in major markets. The raising of protectionist barriers has begun to restrict the opportunities for emerging markets such as India. Decisions on curtailing the movement of skilled Indian workers abroad, including to the United States, will have long-term consequences.

A related development is a trend towards using technologies that accelerate and sustain development as political levers. Since integrating her national development objectives with the global Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development in September 2015, India has moved rapidly to establish platforms that rely on such technologies for inclusive development so that no one is left behind. The JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhar-Mobile) trinity has driven this policy in the financial services sector. This has already yielded significant results by combining the opening of about 400 million new bank accounts, including for 220 million women, with a unique identity number and a mobile connection. The result has benefited over 700 million persons through direct benefit transfers of \$150 billion, while ensuring 813 million citizens have received the benefit of food security programs.

Protectionism and a possible "balkanization" of communications technologies represent two global challenges confronting India's re-emergence one of the world's leading economies today. The slide towards more strident political confrontation, especially between the United States and China, represents a third critical challenge for India's aspirations.

India is well placed to play a pro-active role to counter these challenges. From 1 January 2021, she will take her seat as an elected member of the UN Security Council for a two-year term. In 2022, India will chair the G-20, the premier platform for global economic cooperation. India's emphasis on a "more nationalistic approach to international relations" will need to be calibrated to reform international relations to meet her national objectives. This means a fresh effort to overcome the difficulties facing international structures that are responsible for ensuring effective international cooperation.

India's priorities in this regard must focus on making existing multilateral institutions "fit for purpose". These include revitalizing the World Trade Organization, implementing the agreed reforms in decision-making in the International Monetary Fund, and fulfilling the unanimous mandate given by world leaders fifteen years ago for "early reform" of the UN Security Council to make it more equitable and representative.

All these are today insurmountably more difficult tasks for India than they were a decade ago. Yet, these challenges provide the new emerging India with an opportunity to provide substance to the vision in the Preamble of Agenda 2030 that there "can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development."

On India's Independence Day 2020, my warmest greetings to the readers of The Indian Panorama! Jai Hind!

Asoke Mukerji
New Delhi

CHAIRMAN, MAJORITY MEMBER
CONSUMER PROTECTION
COMMITTEES
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Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I offer my warmest greetings and congratulations to The Indian Panorama and the Indian-American Community as we celebrate 74 years of Indian Independence. As the first Indian-American to be elected to serve in the New York State Senate, I am honored to be a part of this special publication to commemorate this momentous occasion.

The Indian Panorama has distinguished itself by capturing the diverse voices and perspectives of the South Asian community and its growing place in the complex mosaic of contemporary American life. This publication's fine work in showcasing the positive impact of the Indian community in New York, as well as its efforts to promote and uphold the interests of the South Asian diaspora, is worthy of our deepest appreciation, gratitude, and respect.

In addition to marking this important day in India's history, Independence Day is an opportunity for the Indian-American diaspora to celebrate our vibrant culture, heritage, and aspirations. It is also an occasion to reflect on the vast and deep contributions that Indian immigrants and Indian Americans have made throughout American history.

Once again, I am honored to join The Indian Panorama to commemorate the 74th anniversary of India's Independence, and I give my heartfelt congratulations to each of you as we celebrate. Jai Hind!

Sincerely,

Senator Kevin Thomas
Sixth Senate District



Tom Suozzi
US Congressman
D-NY 3rd District

Message

Today, we celebrate the 74th anniversary of Indian Independence Day. Throughout my career in public service, I have worked to elevate the US-India partnership and believe it to be one of our most important relationships for the next 50 years.

Our relationship is driven, in part, by our vibrant Indian American community, one of the most industrious and successful diaspora populations in the world. Today, we also celebrate their contributions to our communities here on Long Island and in Queens.

I wish all my friends in the Indian community happy, healthy, and safe celebrations. Jai Hind!

TOM SUOZZI



VK Raju, MD, FRCS, FACS
Ophthalmologist, Regional Eye Associates
President and Founder, Eye Foundation of America
President and Founder, Goutami Eye Institute
Clinical Professor, West Virginia University
Director, International Ocular Surface Society
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MESSAGE

Ralph Waldo Emerson, having read the UPANISHADS and VEDAS, said he could not put them away. "They haunt me. In them I found eternal compensation, unfathomable power, unbroken peace." That is our heritage and you often hear in Indian media that we are loud and proud about this. I agree. I often visit India, which gave me a nearly free, stellar medical education, to pursue a career in ophthalmology and dedicate my work to the prevention and treatment of eye problems in children. (www.EyefoundationofAmerica.org)

Since the 90s, India has made tremendous economic progress; however, some say that India is in a moral crisis. This crisis is largely political. In the 50s, many eminent men in public life were every inch gentlemen while the 60s brought us many public figures who were every alternate inch a gentleman. The 70s showed an unacceptable number of politicians who were no inch a gentleman. Nani Palkhivala, the great statesman and Indian ambassador to the U.S., wrote in "We, the People" (1984) that the tricolor flag fluttering all over the country is black (money), red (tape) and scarlet (corruption). May I add nepotism?

In 1947, when the British were leaving, India had more than 560 princely states. Rulers surrendered their sovereignty in exchange for privy purses and other benefits. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi ("the only man in the Indian cabinet" as critics called her) argued for the abolition of privy purses based on equal rights for all citizens and the need to reduce the government's budget deficit. India has tried to rid itself of dynasties since the 1980s; however, politics have become more and more dynastic. According to a recent publication from the election commission of India, the total number of registered parties was 2,598, including 8 national, 52 state and 2,538 unrecognized parties. Quoting Palkhivala again, "One Indian is highly intelligent, two Indians are one political party, and three Indians are two political parties."

Does this reflect our Vedic wisdom and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam?

I wish publisher and readers of The Indian Panorama a happy Independence Day of India.

V.K. Raju,
Morgantown, WV



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August 15, 2020

Professor Saluja, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
The Indian Panorama

Dear Professor,

Ranju joins me in wishing India, Indian-Americans, friends of a secular and democratic India and readers of *The Indian Panorama*: Happy Independence day India!

What has set America and Americans apart and on a pedestal - President Ronald Reagan called us "[t]hat Shining City on the Hill" - is not that humanity is anymore "perfect" on our soil than on another nation's, but our founding documents - created by our exceptional Founders all, be they Thomas Jefferson or James Madison or Ben Franklin to name a few - knew of humanity's follies, and made structural change then-unknown in human history: they separated "power," and destroyed "control" by any one. Thus, our Declaration of Independence was born July 4, 1776, and American Exceptionalism was cemented in our cherished Constitution. As Ben Franklin answered gingerly in 1787: "[w]e are a Republic Madam, if you can keep it." And, we have! And, I am happy to note that India - after borrowing from our Declaration and Constitution - also has! America is the oldest democracy and a nation of laws, and India is the largest democracy, and also a nation of laws - be it Art.370, CAA or NRC. That every Indian in secular India - at a DNA-level - believes in the rule of law, freedom of religion, human rights is the core bond between our nations. Just as Law & Order is demanded now, thanks to criminal-looters on our American streets, it is even more in demand in India as she is buffeted by cross-border Terror.

Indian in India paid the bill for the American Revolution: Indian Tea started in the birthing of the American Revolution in 1773 Boston Harbor; and painfully, when Lord Cornwallis lost to General George Washington, King George sent him to India as Viceroy - where upon arrival he ordered the killing of 5,000 Indian men, women and children - General Reginald Dyer's infamous massacre at Jallianwalla Bagh cemented the thirst for Freedom in India.

Enjoy the Freedoms - defend the Freedoms - as Freedom is never freely given: just behold the martyrs of Indian Independence...who gave their lives so their progeny *may breathe freely*.



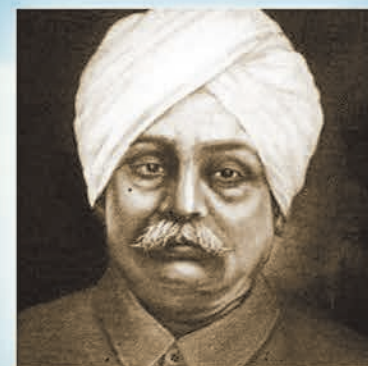
HEROES OF INDIAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE

‘Tryst With Destiny - 1.3 Billion Indians Answer the Call

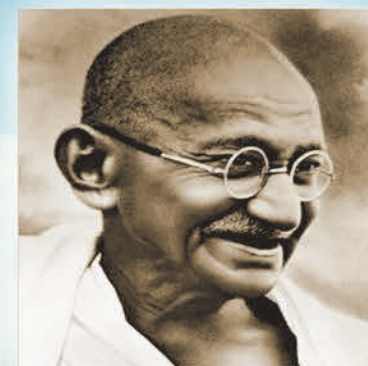
- Ravi Batra



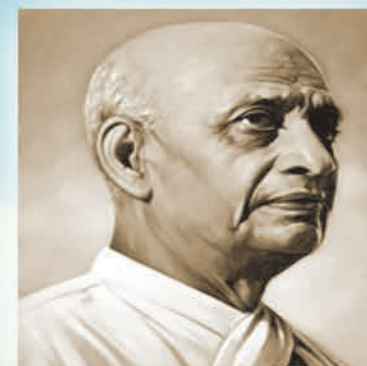
Lokmanya Bal
Gangadhar Tilak
(1856-1920)



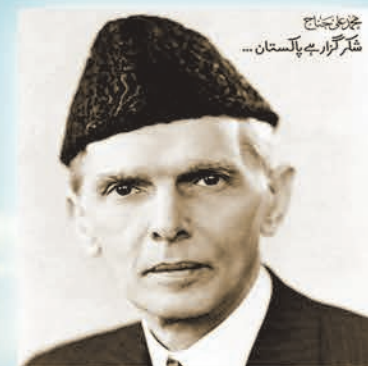
Lala Lajpat Rai
(1865-1928)



Mahatma Gandhi
(1869-1948)



Sardar
Vallabhbhai Patel
(1875-1950)



Mohammed
Ali Jinnah
(1876-1948)



Vir Savarkar
(1883-1966)



Maulana Abul
Kalam Azad
(1888-1958)



Pt Jawaharlal
Nehru
(1889-1964)

Trade Tariffs, S-400
& Indivisible Allies



Dr APJ Abdul Kalam
(1931-2015)



Dr B.R. Ambedkar
(1891 -1956)



'Frontier Gandhi'
Badshah Khan
(1890-1988)



Netaji Subhas
Chandra Bose
(1897-1945)



Chandra
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(1906-1931)



Shaheed
Bhagat Singh
(1907-1931)

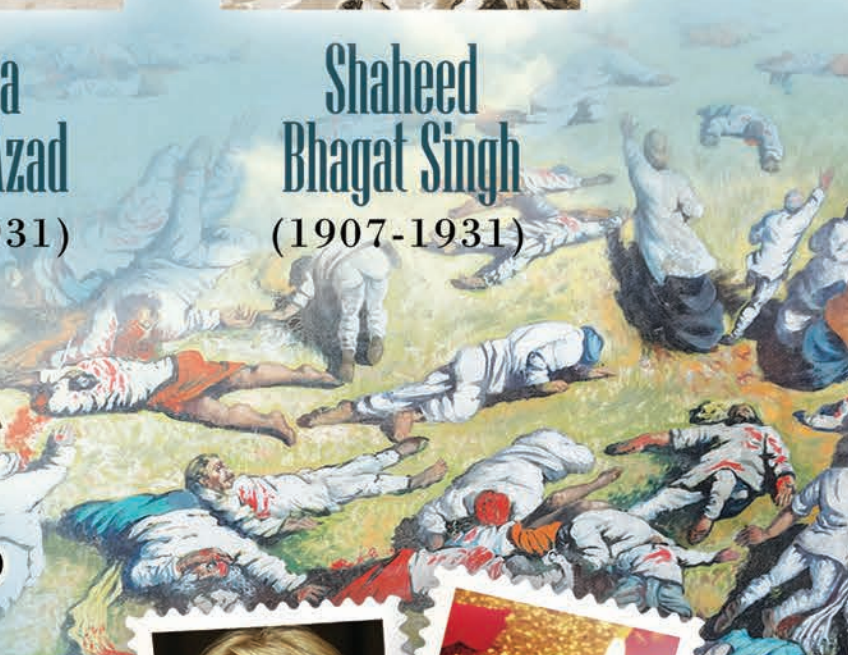
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Modi Hugs America,
as Family

JALLIANWALA
BAGH MASSACRE

Amritsar, 13 April 1919



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Happy 74th Independence Day



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contd from page 1

We have to move forward with mantra of 'Make in India' as well as 'Make for World', says PM Modi

Prime Minister reassured full support to citizens affected by natural calamities and disasters.

Touching upon his favorite theme of self-reliance (Atma Nirbhar), he said "In midst of coronavirus pandemic, Indians resolve to become 'self-reliant'; this is not a word but mantra for all people. It is necessary for us to prepare ourselves to make India self-reliant."

India's share in world economy should increase for which we have to be self-reliant, he said.

"For how long India will export raw materials and import finished products? Country has to become self-reliant. We have to go beyond reducing our imports", PM Narendra Modi said.

While we focus on economic growth and development, humanity must retain a central role in this process.

Mindset today should be 'vocal for local'. Today, many big companies of world are turning to India: PM Modi on Indian economy

I am confident that measures like opening up space sector will generate many new employment opportunities for our youth.

Self-sufficient India means not only reducing imports, but also increasing our skills, our creativity.

We have to move forward with mantra of 'Make in India' as well as 'Make for World'.

About 7,000 projects of different sectors have been identified to bring new revolution in infrastructure.

We have to remove silos and entire country has to move towards multi-modal connectivity infrastructure.

About Rs 90,000 crore directly transferred to bank accounts of poor; over 80 crore people provided free food grains: PM Modi

Seven crore poor families were given free gas cylinders.

Self-reliant India has an important priority -- self-sufficient agriculture sector and self-reliant farmers.

An agriculture infrastructure fund of Rs 1 lakh crore has been created to give modern infrastructure to farmers.

Over one lakh households are being provided drinking water under Jal Jeevan mission.

Middle-class has potential and wants new opportunities

We have decided to connect all 600,000 villages with optical fiber within 1,000 days.

New education policy aims to connect our children with their roots while making them global citizens.

PM Modi announced launch of national digital health mission. From today, all Indians will get health IDs, he said. National Digital Health Mission will bring a new revolution in India's health sector.

Three corona vaccines are in various stages of trial in India; large-scale production will begin once we get nod from scientists, he disclosed. "Our roadmap to bring corona vaccine to all Indians in shortest possible time is ready".

Modi announced that India is committed to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir once delimitation exercise is completed. It was a year of a new development journey for Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

Just as Sikkim has made its mark as an organic state, efforts are being made to make Ladakh a carbon neutral region.

A special campaign with a holistic approach is also being worked out to reduce pollution in 100 selected cities of country.

Touching upon border incursions and aggressions by neighbors, without naming a country, Modi said "Those who challenge India's sovereignty, be it LOC or LAC, have been given a befitting reply in their own language". "What India can do, world has seen it in Ladakh", he said.

Respect for India's sovereignty is supreme for us. Today, neighbors are not only those with whom we share our geographical boundaries but also those with whom our hearts meet. In next 1,000 days, Lakshadweep will also be connected with high-speed internet, he announced. We are expanding NCC in border areas; special training will be provided to about one lakh new NCC cadets. (With inputs from PTI)

Harris promises jobs, fight climate change and affordable care act as part of Biden administration

"We'll protect a woman's right to make her own decisions about her own body, root out systemic racism in our justice system, and pass a new Voting Rights Act, a John Lewis Voting Rights Act, that will ensure every voice is heard and every voice is counted," Harris added.

During her speech alongside Biden, Harris said the case of President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence is open and she has worked every day to hold the officials accountable to the American people.

"Let me tell you, as somebody who has presented my fair share of arguments in court, the case against Donald Trump and Mike Pence is open and shut," said Harris.

"And the people are who Joe and I will fight for every day in the White House," she said.

During the speech, she mentioned a lot of sectors where the current administration has created a complete mess.

"Just look where they've gotten us. More than 16 million out of work, millions of kids who cannot go back to school, a crisis of poverty, of homelessness afflicting black, brown, and indigenous people the most, a crisis of hunger afflicting one in five mothers, who have children that are hungry, and tragically, more than 165,000 lives that have been cut short, many with loved ones who never got the chance to say goodbye," she said.

"It didn't have to be this way. Six years ago, in fact, we had a different health crisis. It was called Ebola. And we all remember that pandemic. But you know what happened then? Barack Obama and Joe Biden did their job. Only two people in the United States died, two," Harris said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

India believes in peace but always ready to give fitting reply for any aggression, says Kovind

He noted that Independence Day celebrations would be restrained this year but complimented the Narendra Modi government in "anticipating the tremendous challenge, responding effectively and well in time".

Read Full text of the address at www.theindianpanorama.news

Commenting on the construction of the temple at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya, he said it was "a moment of pride for all" and complimented citizens for their "patience, restraint and the unflinching trust in the judiciary".

Speaking about the self-reliance or 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative launched by Prime Minister Modi, Mr. Kovind said India's self-reliance means being self-sufficient without alienating or creating distance from the world. India will continue to engage with the world economy while maintaining its identity, he said.

"The world now realizes what our sages had said long ago: the global community is but one family: Vasudhaiv kutumbakam. However, even while the world community needs to fight together against the greatest challenge before humanity [COVID-19], some in our neighborhood tried to carry out their misadventure of expansion," he said without naming China.

"Our brave soldiers laid down their lives defending our borders. Those worthy sons of Bharat Mata lived and died for national pride. The entire nation salutes the martyrs of Galwan Valley.. Their bravery in combat has demonstrated that while we believe in peace, we are also capable of giving a befitting response to any attempt of aggression. We are proud of the members of our Armed Forces, paramilitary forces and police personnel who protect the borders, and ensure our internal security," he added.

Talking about the COVID-19 pandemic, the President said the nation is indebted to doctors, nurses and other health workers who have been "the frontline of COVID warriors and many of whom have lost their lives in fighting the virus".

"For a country so vast and diverse with high population density, meeting this challenge requires super-human efforts. All State governments took measures in accordance with local circumstances. People also supported whole-heartedly. With our committed efforts, we have succeeded in containing the magnitude of the pandemic and saving a large number of lives. This is worth emulating by the wider world," he said.

The President complimented the government for introducing the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana to "enable crores of people to earn their livelihood and mitigate the impact of job-loss, dislocation and disruption caused by the pandemic".

"The needy are being given free food grains, so that no family goes hungry. The largest free food distribution programme in the world has been extended till the end of November 2020 to provide succor to about 80 crore people every month," he said, adding that daily wage earners have been the hardest hit by the pandemic.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



India is a constructive, dependable actor globally

Through the pandemic, it has not only met its domestic requirements but taken a range of steps for global good

At the virtual Global Vaccine Summit, the PM highlighted how India's contribution to the global response in terms of sharing medicines was guided by our philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbkum.



By Harsh Vardhan Shringla

"We reaffirmed our position as first responder to humanitarian crises in the region by deploying medical teams to help Maldives, Mauritius, Comoros and Kuwait deal with the pandemic. India also dispatched naval assets to Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles to deliver assistance. This demonstrated our strong commitment to the PM's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)."

Covid-19 continues to exact a heavy toll worldwide. In India too, positive cases are rising. However, India's effective response has led to a significant improvement in its recovery rate, which is now 68.78%. The case fatality rate at 2.01% remains one of the lowest in the world.

High recovery and low-fatality outcomes can be attributed to proactive measures taken to deal with the outbreak from its early stages. In comparative terms, India started screening Covid-19 cases a full 13 days before the first case was detected in the country. India implemented full lockdown on the 55th day of the outbreak when it had only around 600 cases. Its public health response has been appreciated by the World Health Organization (WHO). The government took rapid steps to augment health infrastructure. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted, "India now has over 11,000 Covid-19 facilities and 1.1 million isolation beds. We have ramped up testing to over half-a-million tests a day, to be scaled up to a million".

India's response has not been confined to meeting its domestic requirements. India has been significantly engaged with the international community in providing the leadership that the global situation demanded. As a responsible stakeholder in global health supply chains, India ensured timely access to



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks to SAARC leaders on Sunday, March 15 - Photo / Courtesy MEA - Twitter

essential drugs and medical items for over 150 countries while meeting our own domestic requirements.

We reaffirmed our position as first responder to humanitarian crises in the region by deploying medical teams to help Maldives, Mauritius, Comoros and Kuwait deal with the pandemic. India also dispatched naval assets to Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles to deliver assistance. This demonstrated our strong commitment to the PM's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

From being a net importer of Covid-19-related medical items, India has emerged as a net exporter. Today, India manufactures over 500,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) kits and over 300,000 N-95 masks every day. Our system has shown the necessary adaptability and agility to significantly ramp up production to go beyond our domestic requirements.

The repatriation of Indian nationals stranded abroad and the evacuation of foreigners from India to their home countries have been among the most successful aspects of our response. In the initial days, the ministry of external affairs had promptly set up a Covid cell and a 24x7 control room to assist Indian citizens abroad. The PM had also personally directed our heads of missions to extend all possible assistance to our nationals stranded abroad. Subsequently, the Vande Bharat mission, launched to repatriate our nationals stranded overseas, has been the largest exercise of its kind ever undertaken by the government and has demonstrated our capacity to effectively carry out complex humanitarian missions. Over a million Indians have returned under the 'Vande Bharat' mission so far through flights, across land borders and on naval ships.

We have not only been able to bring home Indian nationals from distant locations but also facilitated the return of Bhutanese, Nepalese and other nationals stranded in third countries to their homes on these repatriation flights. In recognition of the immense contribution played by the Indian American community in building bridges between India and USA, India has allowed all holders of Overseas Citizenship of India cards to travel freely between the two countries. The institution of 'travel bubbles' between India and USA and a few other countries has further facilitated such travel.

Rigorous screening of returnees by our diplomatic missions has ensured that the proportion of positive cases remains extremely small (less than 0.2%). Testing on arrival by the health ministry and state governments has helped detect these cases. The mission just doesn't end with the return of Indian nationals. Recognizing that a lot of expatriate Indians would have lost their jobs particularly in the Gulf area, the Govt is mapping the skills of Indians on arrival to reskill and link them with companies for job opportunities.

There has also been no let-up in India's diplomatic outreach during the pandemic. We have initiated and been part of several important conversations globally. Our 'Neighborhood First' policy was on full display when the PM hosted a video conference of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) leaders early in the crisis - our first such engagement on Covid-19. He announced a series of measures to deal with the pandemic, including the creation of a Covid-19 emergency fund with a commitment of \$10 million from India.

We have also called for a better multilateral response to global crises in

the future. The PM has, on several occasions, including in the G-20 and Non-aligned Movement virtual summits, proposed the reform of multilateral cooperation by bringing people to the center of our efforts. Our own initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure are prime examples of this approach. The decision of the G-20 on debt service suspension for developing countries, which India fully supported, reflects this people-centric approach.

At the virtual Global Vaccine Summit, the PM highlighted how India's contribution to the global response in terms of sharing medicines was guided by our philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbkum.

The PM also hosted the first virtual bilateral summit with Australia, which was followed by the India-European Union summit. In addition, the PM has spoken to his counterparts from 61 countries during this period. The external affairs minister has spoken to foreign ministers from 77 countries. I have been part of several dialogues with several of our partners countries, notably the Indo Pacific Group that convenes every other week to coordinate health, travel, immigration and related issues during COVID times. We have kept open channels of virtual communication to strengthen partnerships and deal with situations that require diplomatic engagement.

We have been constantly adjusting, adapting and innovating to deal with the changed reality, particularly in our engagement with the world. And in the process, we have been successful in elevating India's profile as a constructive and dependable actor on the global stage.

(The author is foreign secretary, Government of India. The views expressed are personal)



SPECIAL
INTERVIEW

Ambassador Randhir Jaiswal Consul General of India, New York



Ambassador Randhir Jaiswal
23rd Consul General of India, New York

**BY PROF. INDRAJIT S SALUJA
& BIDISHA ROY**

We are pleased to introduce to the readers of The Indian Panorama to a very special person. He is India's 23rd Consul General at New York. Ambassador Randhir Jaiswal succeeded Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty who is now at Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi. Ambassador Jaiswal assumed charge on July 19, 2020.

Ambassador Randhir Jaiswal is a career diplomat. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1998. In his over two decades of diplomatic career so far, he has served in Portugal, Cuba, South Africa and at the Permanent Mission of India in New York.

In between his overseas assignments, he served in New Delhi at the Ministry of External Affairs, first as Deputy Secretary looking after India's relations with the United States of America, and then as Joint Secretary managing India's relations with West European countries. In the middle of 2017, he was deputed to serve the President of India as Joint Secretary managing his international relations portfolio.

Randhir Jaiswal is passionate about sports, environment, culture, monuments, old cities and cuisines. He is deeply interested in strategic, sustainable development and public policy issues. He has been part of India's delegation at various Climate Change Conferences and was the lead negotiator for the G-77 countries at the RIO+20 Conference held in Brazil in 2012.

He holds a Master's degree in History from Delhi University, India.

He speaks Hindi, English, Portuguese and Spanish and is conversant with several dialects of Bihar, India.

He is married to Dr. Abha Jaiswal, a public health expert. The couple has two daughters.

On August 5, editor Prof. Indrajit Saluja and assistant editor Bidisha Roy got to formally interview in person the new Consul General.

The full text of conversation runs into

8000 words. However, keeping in mind that readers prefer brevity, which is the soul of wit, as William Shakespeare said, we have edited the interview and are giving below a few excerpts. Should The Indian Panorama Readers have any question, they may write to us at editor@theindianpanorama.com or go to <https://pramit.indiannewyork.gov.in/> and send their questions/ queries/ concerns to the Consulate.

We have the solemn commitment from Ambassador Randhir Jaiswal that he will ensure the community receives efficient consular services and the best cooperation from the Consulate. Communicate directly with the Consulate; no agents or intermediaries are welcome, he says.

Here are excerpts from the interview.

TIP: What do you think of accomplishing as consul general which would create a legacy?

CG: You have asked me very straight question. I would like to answer a little differently. You know our engagement with the United States of America and the engagement with the Indian community in this part of United States for which the Indian consulate of NY is responsible. We see this engagement as a continuation. Therefore, the question of legacy etc. is part of this continuation. You know this consulate has had very close relationship, very engaging relationship with the Indian diaspora. It would be my endeavor to further strengthen and further deepen this

connection. We want the community to continue to warmly embrace the consulate. There are new developments happening on a daily basis. We live in a hyperconnected world. We are living in a digital world and these new developments provide new opportunities for us to be connected with the community and serve them better. So it would be my endeavor to see how best we can bring these new technologies and new developments in our engagement with the community. So, community work and community engagement, of course, will be top priority. We would also like to see how best we can engage with the community and strengthen economic ties between India and United States. That is the priority for government of India to strengthen ties with United States in trade, technology, and investment. There are immense opportunities waiting for US business es and corporate houses. The Indian community here plays an important role in people to people partnership. The Indian community, given its size, given its achievements in the United States has played a leading role in enhancing the ties. And being a living bridge between US and India, I would seek their support to see how best we can take our mutual understanding between the two countries forward with their help and with their participation.

TIP: You have spoken about three areas of cooperation. The top priority you have said is promotion and strengthening of relationship with the community. The second area you spoke of is to have better relationship, economic, trade and business relationship between India and the United states. And, you also spoke of immense opportunities for investment in India. Are you looking at the Indian American community to be investing in India or you are looking at the bigger picture of American investment in India?

CG: We are looking at bigger picture. But the Indian American community because of their close connection with India, understand business eco system in India very well. So, that gives them extra edge to play out important facilities between business houses. Business they can hand hold and they can bring shoulders together and see how best we can make investments to happen between India and United States; both ways from India to the United States and from United States to India. Recently, Prime Minister announced reforms in the space sector, in financial services and insurance sector, in health. In the agriculture sector we have undertaken several new reforms and these open up new opportunities for participations. I



Ambassador Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India, New York in conversation with The Indian Panorama Editor Prof. Indrajit Saluja.

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specifically focus on health, financial and insurance, defense and agriculture sectors because there are immense possibilities between what we can learn and what we can gain from United States. There is a whole new world of opportunities waiting.

TIP: You have been in New York earlier as Consul at PMI. You already know the Indian community. So, do you think it will give you advantage?

CG: Yes, in a sense that I am familiar with the territory here, familiar with people and organizations and also the kind of functions. It gives me an advantage which will help me in carrying out my responsibilities. Indian organizations are organized here on culture lines, economic lines etc. So, I am familiar with the landscape and that surely will help me. If you go any country and you are familiar with the city, it becomes easier to engage with people. In the last two weeks that I have been here, I have started to meet diaspora organization in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia so far, and also speaking to diaspora through The Indian Panorama and through channels as well to connect with them. You know this relationship is about partnership not for ourselves but for both the countries. Whatever we do we are going to be promoting mutual understanding and mutual interest in both the countries.

TIP: I come back to the economic aspect of relationship. There is a much better investment opportunity in the pharmaceutical sector because India is probably one of the largest producers of generic drugs and other drugs. And there are a lot of companies in America that are interested in working with Indian pharmaceutical companies. What special advantages can the Govt. of India offer to the big pharma industries here? What special incentives do you think government of India can offer to attract American investment?

CG: India is known as the pharmacy of the world. We produce a lot of generic drugs in India which are exported to the United States. So what India does today is being helpful to the world and to the United States as well. Even on research side we are collaborating very closely even during the Covid-19. You would be aware that there are several Indian companies, several Indian entities and US entities which are working together to produce a vaccine for Covid-19. We have rolled out FDI policies which are of best interest to people who want to invest in India. We also have a large skilled manpower which can be taken advantage of by American companies and entities which want to invest in India in pharmaceutical sector. Even research and development infrastructure is expanding, and there again, because R&D is important



Ambassador Jaiswal reflects over a question

component for pharmaceuticals industry. We have dedicated parks for pharmaceutical industries located in various part of India. Those are some of the incentives that could be utilized by American companies. The prime minister recently talked about ATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT. ATMA NIRBHAYA BHARAT is about strengthening domestic capacity so that we can then strengthen global supply chains and make the global economy escalate.

TIP: A large number of our youth who are mostly students, and professionals are not at all sufficiently attracted towards Indian way of life and Indian culture. Do you think the consulate should be trying to promote Indian culture among this vast number of people who are responsible or who will be responsible for passing on the values to their own children?

CG: So you know as far as consulate is concerned, we are actively promoting Indian culture and various forms of Indian culture from dance, drama, theater, music, languages etc. We have several programs including the one to send young people from various parts of the world to go and see India and see various specifics of India. That is one exposure program that we have. We also conduct several other programs such as quizzes about India- "know India". This 15th of August here in this consulate we are organizing an essay competition wherein we are asking the participants, and mostly they will be young friends from the Indian American community, and of course open to everybody else, to write about Indian freedom struggle and the contribution of overseas Indians in that freedom struggle. You would be aware that we had our leaders and freedom fighters who were based in United States from Ghadar Party and others, in San Francisco and elsewhere and they played a leading role and the Indian community here and people in general should be aware of the kind of

role that freedom fighters staying in United States played in India's freedom struggle. You know Mahatma Gandhi himself was influenced by the great American Thoreau. So, it's important that historical dimension of the relationship is not missed by young leaders, young community members. So, we are trying our best but obviously it's such a huge expansive community. We look forward to partnership with cultural organizations. We are living in a digital age. One thing which people understand, specially the youngsters, is that it the world of technology. Through the world of technology, we are trying to connect with the youth here to tell them all the excitement that is happening in India.. They will feel more connected.

TIP: Prospective investors are afraid of Red tape in India. My friend Harry S. Panaser who is a lobbyist shared with me how he prepared some to invest in India, but they feared it will not be easy to work in India.

CG: You know we have moved more than 65-70 places in the last five, six years in the ease of doing business. We have made a significant jump. From 142 four years back we came down to 65.

TIP: I come to relationship with media consulate relationship with media. How do you plan to effectively communicate with media?

CG: We are fully aware that media people are important partners in our engagement with the United States. Media has important role to play. We of course look forward to engaging with each and every segment to the media.. We are open about it. We would like to engage with them as much as possible.

TIP: August 15 is a significant day. What are your thoughts on this historic day?

CG: Today is one year of Kashmir action, of abrogation of article 370. Through your newspaper I would like to inform your readers and others here that a lot has happened on the ground in

Jammu & Kashmir. In terms of development and giving good governance, much has been done. After abrogation of article 370, various acts of India are now applicable to people in Jammu and Kashmir, whether it be women empowerment, domestic violence, the right to education, right to information, and so on. There is a long list for that. We also made changes for that transgender community who can benefit from social securities. 50 new educational institutions have been established, including 7 medical colleges and 5 nursing colleges. New modern infrastructure in terms of transit system for 2 cities have been planned. We have established international trading center for saffron growing in Kashmir because saffron is an important item that is grown in Kashmir and it is known globally. And it got a GI Tax.

We also brought benefits of digital technology to farmers in Jammu and Kashmir, to apple growers and establishing marketplace for them. Over half a million Kashmiri youth have benefitted from scholarships given in just one year alone. There is a long list of things that we have done. Not everybody would be aware of the kind of things that are happening, and the changes that are taking place on the ground. 300,000 villages have been given electricity in just one year. Almost 300,000 households have been given tap water. People living in remote areas get tap water in their homes. Block development council elections have been held. For the first time in so many years. So we have a grassroots support approach. We have a pro-people approach and we have a right space approach. All these things put together are empowering people who now have more economic choices.

TIP: What message will you like to give to the Indian American community?

CG: My message is in beautiful words of Tagore. We have done very well to connect with everybody here but it would be my endeavor to bring the distance near, as near as possible.



South Asians for Biden New Jersey Chapter Discusses Impact of 2020 Presidential Election

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): On Saturday, August 8, 2020, the South Asians for Biden - New Jersey chapter - held a virtual discussion with South Asian political leaders, which was very well received by all attendees. Titled "The Good, The Bad, The Future," the webinar, with four esteemed panelists - New Jersey State Senator Vin Gopal, New Jersey Assemblyman Raj Mukherji, New Jersey State Senator candidate Rupander Mehta and General Counsel to NJ Democratic State Committee and attorney with Genova Burns LLC Rajiv Parikh which lasted almost two hours. Middlesex County.

Freeholder Shanti Narra served as the moderator of the event.

The discussion was centered around what the 2020 Presidential election means to the community, and why Vice President Joe Biden is the right candidate for the South Asian American community. State Senator Vin Gopal talked about the immigration policy of President Trump and it is serious implications on the South Asian community. He further mentioned that he would seriously doubt whether his parents or other immigrants like them would have been legally allowed



The New Jersey chapter of South Asians for Biden has a diverse group of professionals from the community

to immigrate to this country under a Trump administration. He noted that "we have a president who can't take criticism or follow the recommendations of experts."

He also pointed out that while "our country is supposed to represent diversity and inclusion, there are many policies under the Trump administration which are not good for South Asians, like restrictions on H-1B visas. Sen. Gopal added that Vice President Biden "is really going to be somebody who would unite our country which is currently divisive." He urged all South Asian Americans to participate in the political process and ensure that people vote. He also

requested South Asian Americans to ensure that "our friends and neighbors in other states understand how important this election is, not only for a few policy changes or change a few Supreme Court justices," this election is "about the fabric of our diverse country which we all love."

Assemblyman Raj Mukherji said that we need stability, sanity, reliability and put the heart and mind for the country first before our own ambitions and Vice President Joe Biden is a candidate who would do that. He added that with the current pandemic, the U.S. delayed and overall failed with its response due to President Trump's undermining the public health officials and not listening to

the experts, including the CDC. "The South Asian American diaspora needs to vote strictly from the lens of where Joe Biden stands on issues unique to our region and that he beats Donald Trump on every measure," Assemblyman Mukherji said. He noted that the unemployment rates and the COVID-19 pandemic "makes this election even more important as we need a leader who ensures that we have a well-planned strategy to mitigate the disease and to reduce the spread." Assemblyman Mukherji also added that President Trump has not been good for the relationship between the U.S. and the Indian subcontinent, especially on trade and other major issues.

Speaking on U.S.-India relationship, Rajiv Parikh said that just because President Trump can shake hands with Prime Minister Modi or can have rallies together with him, it doesn't mean that he is the best person for India and for Indians. On the contrary, Parikh envisions a better U.S.-India relationship under President Biden, as we have seen with previous Democratic presidents.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Ambassador Randhir Jaiswal and Deputy Consul General Shatrughna Sinha with FIA leadership

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FIA Hosts Community Reception to Welcome New Consul General of India in New York

Dr. V. K. Raju, founder and president of the Eye Foundation of America, spoke eloquently about the importance of vision and the role his organization plays in restoring vision for the underprivileged community in India and around the world.

Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, Chief Editor of The Indian Panorama who spoke on the occasion was appreciative of FIA's tremendous contribution in forging the spirit of nationalism among the Indian American community through the India Day Parade to commemorate the Independence Day of India, and hoped that the 50th annual India Day parade next year will attract bigger crowds and prove to be historic. He also spoke of the need for greater cooperation between the



FIA ladies with Ambassador and FIA President - Photos / Paresh Gandhi - Gunjesh Desai

Consulate and community organizations, in particular with the FIA which he said, is the most representative organization of the Indian American community.

Mahesh Bhagia, chairman of the Edison Democratic Party, delivered a Proclamation from the State Assembly to Consul General Jaiswal.

Dipak Patel, FIA Board of Trustees, introduced the Consul General. Prior to being appointed the Consul General of India in New York, Jaiswal was the Joint Secretary cum Social Secretary to the President of India Ramnath Kovind. A 1998 Indian Foreign Service officer, Jaiswal headed the foreign affairs office of the Rashtrapati Bhavan and advised the President on India's foreign policy. Prior to that he served as the Consul General of India in Johannesburg in South Africa. In his address, Consul General Jaiswal thanked the FIA for a warm welcome, and acknowledged the contributions made by the community in various fields. "The Indian story all over the world is very engrossing, very deep" he said. "It is a story that carries a

message of peace and harmony." Consul General Jaiswal lauded the FIA for putting a stamp on New York City with its flagship India Day Parade "which has become iconic, not just in New York and in this country, but all over the world."

Consul General Jaiswal noted that the Indian American story is that of "peace and progress," as well as a story of "sharing and caring for others." And that, he said, is what defines the community and has also become its identity. He urged the community to keep playing a pivotal role in "strengthening the friendship between the U.S. and India, which is going to be a defining pathway of the century." He said he is looking forward to the time when the Indian American community "will have a stronger imprint of our strength, of our hard work, of our identity, culture, color, and vibrancy, in this country and everywhere else. He said he seemed the community's support and wishes, as he "carries out his responsibilities as a representative of the Government of India."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Mahesh Bhagia (right), chairman of the Edison Democratic Party, delivering a Proclamation from the State Assembly to Consul General Jaiswal. Also seen in the picture, from L to R: H.R. Shah and FIA President Anil Bansal



GITCC Webinar founded with a vision to enhance economic and cultural cooperation between the US and India



Harry S. Panaser, Founder-President of GITCC aims to enhance economic and cultural cooperation between the US and India

A Conversation with the Global Indian Trade and Cultural Council Founder President Harry S. Panaser on GITCC Webinar Vision

will assist in building partnerships through our consulting and advisory services for a large base of clients, which includes the Government of India, corporate clientele, non-governmental bodies and the Embassies in India.

TIP: What was the thought in pioneering the first of its kind US-India Webinar Series in healthcare in the USA?

HARRY: The market size of India in Pharmaceuticals alone is estimated to be \$100 billion and medical devices is \$25 billion by 2025. India is looking towards growth tenure as the 55 billion US dollar product line is going off patents and this will certainly help India accelerate a higher market share and exports. The coronavirus pandemic has fanned anxieties in Washington over America's dependence on India and China for certain critical drugs. In recent weeks, both Democrats and Republicans in Congress have penned legislation attempting to retool America's drug supply chain. But Trump's proposal is the most dramatic action to date. If we learned anything from the [coronavirus] pandemic, it is simply that we are dangerously overdependent on foreign nations for our essential medicines, for medical supplies and the medical equipment. We pioneered this online workshop representing Industry, Academia and Government from countries. As an Advisor on Board you are at the end of each webinar presenting the summary of each session. Our panelists included Consulate General of India, NY, Vice Chancellor, Eminent Professors from Harvard, John Hopkins, Punjab University and US Sciences bureaucrats and high-level dignitaries, CEOs, COOs and CFOs from companies like Bharat Biotech, Bharat Serum, Birlasoft, Drug Controller, bureaucrats and high-level dignitaries

TIP: Under Covid 19 Challenge in your 2020 series what is your understanding on US India Relations in future developments?

HARRY: Both the United States and India will be key players in future developments in the medical supply trade relevant to the COVID-19 crisis, as each is a giant on the world stage in pharmaceutical production. India is the second largest exporter of pharmaceuticals to the United States and the United States is the largest exporter of medical devices to India. However, each has now put into place or is

considering-trade restrictions in these sectors. India has banned exports of certain active pharmaceutical ingredients in order to counteract recent interruptions in supplies from China and has just put into place a ban on exports of ventilators and surgical and patient masks. The United States is reportedly considering new "Buy American" restrictions on pharmaceutical products and India considering "Make in India" policy. The White House advisor insisted that deregulation of industry and incentives for new forms of manufacturing would help keep drug prices down. The so-called "Buy American" and "Make in India" order could represent a seismic shakeup of the drug industry. Our webinar series promotes this very concept of mutual dependent partnerships.

TIP: What is your say on innovation and cost control in the healthcare process which could be beneficial to both the countries?

HARRY: From India for America, there is innovation and cost control. Please allow me to bring a study which I have in my notes, sorry I don't remember where I read it but yes in 2018, Dartmouth professor Vijay Govindarajan and Northeastern University professor Ravi Ramamurti published a book, "Reverse Innovation in Health Care: How to Make Value Based Delivery Work". Their book is based upon visiting over two dozen hospitals in India and interviewing more than 125 health care executives in India and the US. In an article on their book they state, "We learned that some of the most proactive hospitals in the West are adopting world-class innovations of Indian healthcare institutions in order to boost quality, lower costs, and expand access to the underserved. Also according to various reports, the US spends close to 18 percent of its GDP on healthcare compared to less than just 4 percent of GDP by India. The average expenditure per capita in the US is more than \$10,000 in the US and less than \$100 in India. This makes it very important for cost reduction via collaborations in Pharmaceuticals as India will be the most important destination for APIs and other productions along with a joint production concepts, I will also mention India could be a US government's Medical Tourism destination to save hospital cost here in USA as India has many Super Specialty Hospitals which are JCI approved for meeting US Standards. In the end I will reiterate that we follow our motto: Together Towards Tomorrow.

EDISON, NJ (TIP): Harry S. Panaser, founder-president of the Global Indian Trade and Cultural Council (GITCC) has already organized two extremely successful webinars with top brass of pharmaceutical companies and universities in US and India. He is poised for the third one.

The Indian Panorama spoke with Harry about the vision and program of the GITCC.

TIP: What is the Global Indian Trade and Cultural Council and its vision?

HARRY: Global Indian Trade & Cultural Council (GITCC) is founded with a vision to enhance economic and cultural cooperation between the US and India. With cutting edge policy research and advisory to National and State governments on trade issues with an India focus, GITCC is one of the organizations with established credentials for enhancing economic and cultural cooperation. We serve as a facilitator, enabling trade and investment between both the countries. We promote legitimate interests of the US - India community for their legitimate secular and non-political developmental interest globally. Geographically, we have a reasonably strong base in both India and the US. We

TLC to revoke license of car service that dispatched unlicensed driver accused of rape

NEW YORK (TIP): The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) moved to suspend and revoke the license of a Brooklyn-based car service that dispatched an unlicensed driver accused of attacking a minor.

TLC requires all drivers and car services to undertake extensive and strict background checks, which

include fingerprinting, fitness reviews, and criminal record searches.

TLC-Licensed Bases are required to check the TLC License database daily to ensure that the drivers they are dispatching are licensed and in good standing.

"Ignoring TLC regulations and

illegally dispatching an unlicensed driver unnecessarily puts everyone at risk," said TLC Commissioner and Chair Aloysee Heredia Jarmoszuk. "We are deeply disturbed and saddened by the savage attack on an innocent child earlier this week and our hearts and prayers are with the child and family. Hundreds of TLC-

Licensed Bases operate responsibly and in good faith in NYC and we will not put honest businesses or public safety in jeopardy by turning a blind eye to illegal operators."

Effective immediately, Evelyn Car Service, located at 587 Vanderbilt Avenue in Brooklyn, is required to cease operations.



AS I SEE IT

SHAPING INDIA'S FUTURE

 *Happy Independence Day* 
15TH OF AUGUST



By Mike Ghose

India is one of the first nations on the earth to practice Pluralism, i.e., respecting others' otherness. While the Hindu ethos considers the world as one family, also known as Vasudhaiva Kutumbakum, the Islamic, Christian, and other traditions also subscribe to the idea that we originated from a single couple. Together, these values 'had' contributed to India's post-independence political stability. We have lost those values now.

As a nation, we were bestowed with diversity; the characteristics of the entire world are contained in our country; India. Collectively we are Adivasis, Atheists, Bahais, Bos, Buddhists, Christians, Dalits, Hindus, Jains, Jewish, Muslims, Sikhs, Tribal, Zoroastrians, and every possible grouping. We are also Brown, Black, White, and Yellow. India 'was' indeed God's own country until recently.

India is also the first nation on earth where God has placed people of different faiths and races together as a model of co-existence. India has been a beacon of Pluralism, and now the divisiveness, discord, and distrust are causing social instability.

How do we get out of this?

On August 15, 2020, we will be celebrating the 74th Independence Day and we need to determine as a nation if we adore our motherland, or is it a political stunt? Our mother wants all of her children to get along with each other.

Lord Krishna, blessings upon him, whose birth celebrations concluded this week, said, whenever adharma (chaos) takes over a people, I will emerge from among you to restore dharma (righteousness). We hope the time has come for that catalytic change.

We are not dictatorships or kingships, where an individual dictates how we behave and what we do. We are a democracy, and we decide how we want our nation to be.

We need to reassure each other, loudly and clearly, that together as Indians, and we must commit to safeguarding every Indian's lifestyle, however different that maybe. Together as Indians, we must uphold, protect, defend, and celebrate the values enshrined in our Constitution, a guarantor of the way of life for each one of us.

The political leaders are good at coining new phrases without meaning a word of it. The slogan "sab ka saath, sab ka Vikas aur sab ka Vishwas" is pragmatic and is the right attitude to bring prosperity to the nation. Thus far, it is nothing but a political slogan as the leadership has not brought the Indians together, nor has it earned their trust.

The change begins with leadership

Prime Minister Modi is demonstrably dumb, Goonga, as we call in Hindi. When Asifa was raped, and her body was mutilated - when Tabrez Ansari was brutally murdered, and the video was circulated, and when Dalit girls were raped and hung on trees, Modi did not speak. When a church was vandalized, when attempts were made to evict Sikhs from their land as settlers, and about 120 such incidences, the man shamelessly remained silent. However, when he saw the national outrage, he paid lip service and spoke the words he did not mean.

If Modi were to speak after each incident, the chaos would subside, the lynching of fellow Indians will stop. All he has to say is I will not tolerate any Indian harassing a fellow Indian, and the violators will be punished severely, and follow through it. But will he?

The change also begins with our

children

As a parent, should you poison your children towards others and screw their lives? The answer should be no, but yet we do it.

A doctor, a son of my friends' friend, was a guest at my place for a few weeks while attending meetings related to his residency. At the end of his stay - he said, "I wish my parents had not poisoned me against Blacks, Muslims, Christians, and Jews; everything I have heard from them turned out to be false." He continued, "I have lived in dorms with others, and now with you, they were plain wrong."

He agreed, when you are biased towards others, it affects your work performance. Your relationship with fellow workers will not be clean as you were poisoned against them. You keep a reserve with your fellow worker, and subconsciously, you don't trust and share everything with them. That attitude reduces your contribution to your work, and you will not be able to serve your employer with full integrity. And when you go home, you are not giving 100% to your family either, and you are obsessed with your hatred towards the other.

Would you hire someone like that to work for you?

We have to reject the poison injected into us by our parents, teachers, and religious men. It takes away the joy of conflict-free living.

Our attitudes need to re-align

As the cities become cosmopolitan, you will not find a place of work, worship, playground, school, restaurant, theater, and other areas of public gatherings where you will not see people of different faiths, and ethnicities are interacting, working, studying, intermingling, playing and even marrying each other.

These interactions are bound to create conflicts. We must prevent such disputes, so each Indian can live securely with his or her faith, culture, gender, race, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.

God created each one to be a unique being with our thumbprint, eye print, taste buds, religious buds, and DNA, and we have lost that ideal in the last few years. We cannot force others to do what we want without giving them the same

A vast majority of us have heard 'false' things about others from our friends, news, social media, or our knowledge of others, and we instantly form opinions about others. As responsible individuals, we must strive to strip stereotyping and build pathways to ensure our society is functioning smoothly.

right to tell us what they want us to be.

A vast majority of us have heard 'false' things about others from our friends, news, social media, or our knowledge of others, and we instantly form opinions about others. As responsible individuals, we must strive to strip stereotyping and build pathways to ensure our society is functioning smoothly.

We need to reassure each other, loudly and clearly, that together as Indians, and we must commit to safeguarding every Indian's lifestyle, however different that maybe. Together as Indians, we must uphold, protect, defend, and celebrate the values enshrined in our Constitution, a guarantor of the way of life for each one of us.

Let me state this clearly, "My peace and tranquility hinges on the peace of people around me," and "My safety is tied to the security of people around me." It behooves me to build societies where all are secure; it guarantees my security and a tension free life.

As we learn to respect others' otherness and accept the God-given uniqueness of each one of us, conflicts fade, and solutions emerge.

(The author is the founder and president of the Center for Pluralism. He is a speaker, thinker, author, consultant, pluralist, activist, a newsmaker, and an interfaith wedding officiant. He is committed to building cohesive societies and offers pluralistic solutions to the media, public, and policymakers. More at www.TheGhousedairy.com)



The withering 'IDEA OF INDIA'



By George Abraham

India has never faced a severe crisis to its institutions like this one, to its Courts, Media, Election Commission, or law enforcement mechanisms. They are all in danger of losing their independence while the opposition appeared to be withered and infirm.

Unless the country wakes up soon to realize the impending danger, the constitutional republic will continue to be undone, and the fabric of liberal democracy unraveled, replacing the idea of India with the idea of Hindutva.

When Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, promoted the "idea of India," it was supposed to be a grand vision for a nation based on diversity. He has done his utmost institutionalizing that great concept working together with great leaders such as B.R. Ambedkar. However, as we celebrate the 74th anniversary of independence from Britain, the history is being rewritten by the Modi Sarkar and their ardent defenders.

When Nehru made that famous speech on the eve of independence about the "tryst with destiny," those who felt that religion should be the determinant of nationhood have already left after creating a separate country called Pakistan. The rest of them, including Mahatma Gandhi, rejected the idea of a theocracy but embraced a new vision of "unity in diversity" for people of all religions, regions, castes, and languages.

However, the Modi administration with the blessings from RSS is busy tearing apart the institutional foundations that have kept India a free and democratic nation with individual rights and equal justice. Their actions are reverberating even across the continents as the Hindutva organizations in the United States were celebrating with pomp and ceremony, the laying of the foundation stone for the Temple in Ayodhya. Notwithstanding the role a secular country should play in a religious ceremony, it begs the question as to why the Times Square digital

boards must be lit up for a holy ceremony that should have been conducted with piety and devoutness?

However, the Modi administration with the blessings from RSS is busy tearing apart the institutional foundations that have kept India a free and democratic nation with individual rights and equal justice. Their actions are reverberating even across the continents as the Hindutva organizations in the United States were celebrating with pomp and ceremony, the laying of the foundation stone for the Temple in Ayodhya.

We, the People



To an independent observer, it is not Hinduism or Hindu culture that was celebrated in Times Square, but instead, a message was sent to the Muslims and possibly other minorities that they do not matter in the scheme of things in India anymore. And they are stripped of their place in history and relegated to a second-class status and permanent subjugation. Since August 5 also happened to be the first anniversary of the suspension of the civil liberties in Kashmir, Modi and his acolytes are defiantly conveying to the world that India as a pluralistic democracy has been done and is over with.

The country has been reeling from a COVID-19 crisis with deprivation and miseries all around, especially in rural villages and towns where businesses are shut, and the poor laborers are out of work. The Modi government appears detached and unconcerned while going about their ways to carry on with their saffron agenda. The forces they have unleashed on the nation have started dictating what we should think or say or what is edible to eat. A sense of fear pervades the society now that even expressing an opinion on social media could invite the wrath of the enforcement directorate or other law enforcement authorities.

The passing of CAA has brought millions of ordinary people into the streets protesting the discriminatory nature of its provisions based on religion. There were great concerns that CAA, for the first time, has injected the religious component into legislation to differentiate and stigmatize people. At Shaheen Bagh, a neighborhood in South-

eastern Delhi, hundreds of people turned up over nine weeks to take part in an indefinite sit-in until COVID stepped in to prevent its continuation. Although they were peaceful protests, BJP had no stomach for tolerating any dissent.

What followed is Delhi riots, and for two days, Delhi police watched passively while rampaging mobs killed, looted, and torched a whole neighborhood. The common refrain was, "teach them a lesson." Some of the BJP leaders were openly giving inflammatory speeches promoting the riots and defending the culprits. The riots have a lot of similarity to the 2002 pogrom in Gujarat in terms of its ferocity, police complicity, and political patronage, and appeared to be more strategy-driven to divide and polarize the community to expand their reach and retain power. Today, the narrative is being rewritten to absolve the criminal elements and frame and punish those who have advocated for fairness and equal justice under the law.

Since independence, the Supreme Court has remained a firewall against abuse of power by the Executive branch and the ruling class elites. The integrity of judges has been a critical component in rendering impartial decisions that have far-reaching effects on society. Judicial independence is vital in reassuring the public that judges would dispense cases with honesty and impartiality in accordance with the law and evidence presented to them. The Supreme court must be free of fear and favor from the Executive; if and only if that is the case will the Court be trusted by the public.

It appears no longer the case as a tamed Supreme Court that has been rendering decisions in accordance with Government's wishes. Although the

country has welcomed the Ayodhya verdict, the paradox is not lost on anyone. The Supreme Court's decision to punt the outright violations of the civil rights of the Indian citizens in Kashmir has further stained the reputation of the Supreme court as an independent arbiter who could protect the lives and property of the citizenry or safeguard their civil rights.

India's free and vibrant press played a critical role in protecting India's democracy since its independence. But journalists around the country now feel that they are also under attack. The fourth Estate, as they are dubbed, has an important role to play as regards disseminating information with objectivity and holding the public officials accountable for their actions. Since Modi came to power, his Government has tried to control the news media by berating editors, cutting advertisements, ordering tax investigations, and encouraging their capitalist cronies to acquire the media entities so that they could help build a cult of personality that portrays Modi as the nation's savior.

India has never faced a severe crisis to its institutions like this one to its Courts, Media, Election Commission, or law enforcement mechanisms. They are all in danger of losing their independence while the opposition appeared to be withered and infirm. Unless the country wakes up soon to realize the impending danger, the constitutional republic will continue to be undone, and the fabric of liberal democracy unraveled, replacing the idea of India with the idea of Hindutva.

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



U.S. BRIEFS

- New York's death rate in the first two months of the outbreak rivaled that of the 1918 pandemic that killed an estimated 50 million people, according to a new study.
- Weekly jobless claims in the United States fell below 1 million for the first time in four months.
- An attempt to revive economic relief negotiations fell apart in a matter of minutes, with Trump adamantly declaring that a deal is "not going to happen."
- The president said the U.S. Postal Service does not have enough money to facilitate mail-in voting for the November election, and he has no intention of approving emergency funds.
- AMC Theaters, the country's largest movie theater chain, announced it will resume operations Aug. 20 after a five-month shutdown, selling tickets for 15 cents.

Indiaspora Releases Report on Philanthropic Impact of Indian Americans on COVID-19 Relief

WASHINGTON (TIP): Indiaspora, a nonprofit organization of global Indian diaspora leaders from various backgrounds and professions, released last month 2020 Indian Diaspora in Action: Tracking the Indian American Response to COVID-19, a report detailing the philanthropic impact of the diaspora on COVID-19 relief. The tremendous outpouring of support for both the U.S. and India has been witnessed across the board from helping to provide meals to migrant workers in India, personal protective equipment to frontline healthcare workers, education through e-learning and healthcare. "Never before have we witnessed such a united all-out community relief effort amongst the diaspora. One of the most unique aspects we witnessed was the efforts by the next generation of philanthropists through their incredible volunteer efforts," said Gabrielle Trippe, Indiaspora Philanthropy Initiatives Manager.

A notable group that has been at the forefront of the response since the onset of the pandemic is the India Philanthropy Alliance (IPA). IPA is a coalition of twelve development and humanitarian organizations working together to mobilize resources and build alliances to benefit India. Charmain of India Philanthropy Alliance Deepak Raj stated, "It is an honor to lead such a remarkable group of organizations coming together in a historic response to support those most in need during these incredibly challenging times." The actions taken by the Indian Diaspora show they are committed to providing sustained long-term relief during the pandemic and serve as a model and inspiration for individuals and communities across the globe. "We feel it is our dharma, or duty, to help others during this time," said Arun Kankani, President at Sewa International, USA, whose nonprofit has been providing on-the-ground relief, and also began a COVID-19 plasma registry to help physicians treat patients with respiratory failure from COVID-19. "When we saw so many affected, we didn't feel like we had a choice in the matter."

TRUMP TO BLOCK FUNDING FOR MAIL-IN VOTING

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Trump on Aug. 12 said that additional aid for mail-in voting was a non-starter in coronavirus relief negotiations with congressional Democrats, according to a Washington Post report.

President Trump said Thursday, August 13, that he does not want to fund the U.S. Postal Service because Democrats are seeking to expand mail-in voting during the coronavirus pandemic, making explicit the reason he has declined to approve \$25 billion in emergency funding for the cash-strapped agency.

"Now, they need that money in order to make the post office work, so it can take all of these millions and millions of ballots," Trump said in an interview with Fox Business Network's Maria Bartiromo. He added: "Now, if we don't make a deal, that means they don't get the money. That means they can't have universal mail-in voting, they just can't have it."

Trump has railed against mail-in balloting for months, and at a White House briefing Wednesday, he argued without evidence that USPS's enlarged role in the November election would perpetuate "one of the greatest frauds in history."

During the Wednesday, August 12 briefing, Trump told reporters he would not approve the \$25 billion in emergency funding for the Postal Service, or \$3.5 billion in supplemental funding for



President Trump said Thursday, August 13, that he does not want to fund the U.S. Postal Service because Democrats are seeking to expand mail-in voting during the coronavirus pandemic - File photo

election resources, citing prohibitively high costs. But he went further in remarks Thursday morning, blaming Democrats' efforts to make it easier for Americans to vote amid the pandemic.

"There's nothing wrong with getting out and voting. .??. They voted during World War I and World War II," Trump told Bartiromo.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) pushed back Thursday, August 13, in an interview on MSNBC's "Morning Joe."

"In the legislation we had \$25 billion," Pelosi said. "That is the number that is recommended by the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service. .??. In earlier Covid bills, the president has stood in the way of any money for the Postal Service."

Pelosi noted that the among other things, the Postal Service delivers many prescriptions, which is particularly important in pandemic times.

"So they're hurting seniors; it's a health issue. .??. So, when the president goes after the Postal Service, he's going after an all-American, highly approved-by-the-public institution," she said.

The campaign of presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden criticized Trump's statement, saying Trump was "sabotaging a basic service that hundreds of millions of people rely upon."

"This is an assault on our democracy and economy by a desperate man who's terrified that the American people will force him to confront what he's done everything in his power to escape for months - responsibility for his own actions," Biden campaign spokesman Andrew Bates said in a statement.

Democrats earlier in the spring had rallied to the Postal Service's defense when it sat on the brink of insolvency. Postal officials warned at the outset of the pandemic that declines on mail volume could have led the agency to run out of money in October.

As Congress agreed to a \$13 billion emergency grant for the USPS in an early round of coronavirus relief spending, Trump threatened to veto the bill - worth \$2 trillion and full of funding for unemployment benefits, small businesses and national security industries - if it included any direct funding for the Postal Service.

(Source: Washington Post)

Indian American Congresswoman Jayapal Leads 88 Lawmakers in Demanding Congress Save the Census

WASHINGTON (TIP): Indian American Representative Pramila Jayapal (WA-07), Co-Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and 88 members of Congress urgently called on House and Senate leadership to ensure that the next COVID-19 relief package extends the Census reporting deadlines and allocates \$400 million to address the continued challenges of conducting a complete and accurate Census during a pandemic. The letter-written to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (CA-12) and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (CA-23)-also calls on extending the household counting operations through October 31, 2020 and modifying the deadline to transmit state population totals to April 30, 2021. The letter follows a previous bipartisan agreement to delay the census count deadline and a recent announcement by the Census Bureau to suddenly end field data collection by September 30, which would have devastating long-term impacts on communities across this country.

"Rushing census operations without an extension means that some populations will remain uncounted or will not be counted accurately, impacting all of our



Pramila Jayapal Leads 88 Members of Congress in Demanding That the Next Relief Package Extends Census Deadlines and Invests \$400 Million Into Addressing COVID-Related Census Challenges

districts and communities. An accurate census count is critical for both Republican and Democratic districts. Further, a poorly executed census would hurt a diverse range of rural and urban communities, impact congressional representation and cut federal funding for services like schools, infrastructure improvements, economic development, Medicaid and countless other vital programs," the 89 lawmakers wrote in their letter. "Extending the statutory deadline will allow the Census Bureau to continue household counting operations through October 31, complete special

counting operations thoroughly, and review, process and tabulate the data in accordance with the Bureau's own quality standards."

Census operations have been delayed and disrupted to protect the health and safety of census workers and communities amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The lawmakers' letter follows a statement by the Census Bureau's Associate Director for Field Operations, Tim Olson, that said the Bureau had passed the point where the current reporting deadline of December 31 could be successfully met.

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise, an estimated 37 percent of households currently remain uncounted. This uncounted population includes some of the hardest-to-reach populations such as rural communities, low income households, people of color, American Indians living on tribal lands, immigrants and young children. In addition, the Bureau must still count people who do not live in traditional housing units, including people experiencing homelessness and people living in transitory locations, such as RV parks, and in group facilities, such as nursing homes and college dorms. Four former U.S. Census Bureau Directors called upon Congress to extend the deadline, saying that, "failing to extend the deadlines to April 30, 2021 will result in seriously incomplete enumerations in many areas across the country." *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*



Ambassador Sandhu Discusses India-Pennsylvania Relationship with Governor Tom Wolf

WASHINGTON (TIP): Ambassador of India to the United States Taranjit Singh Sandhu and Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf discussed important areas of the vibrant India-Pennsylvania relationship, encompassing economic and people-to-people ties during a conversation Aug 7.

Ambassador Sandhu and Governor Wolf discussed the ever-increasing trade and investment complementarities in the India-US relationship and cooperation in the fields of education and healthcare. Ambassador shared with the Governor the latest developments in the Indian healthcare and education sectors, including recent reform initiatives taken by India.

Both noted the important contributions, especially in economy, of over 200,000 members of the Indian diaspora in Pennsylvania, including those of nearly 10,000 Indian students in Pennsylvania's higher education institutions. Ambassador highlighted the new opportunities available for investments in India's higher education sector under the New Education Policy recently announced in India.

The total trade between India and Pennsylvania has grown to \$3.21 billion (2019). Today over 18 Indian companies, with investments of \$540 million, are



Ambassador Sandhu and Governor Wolf agreed to work together to further enhance the India-Pennsylvania relationship

supporting 3,000 jobs in Pennsylvania. Many Pennsylvania based US companies spread across Food Processing, Agriculture, IT, and Chemicals sectors are present in India. Some notable investments include Hershey's, Kraft Heinz, Unisys, Air Products & Chemicals, FMC among others.

Indian entrepreneurs and professionals have a significant presence

in Pennsylvania in the IT and telecommunications, life sciences and manufacturing sectors. Indian high skilled talent adds to the competitive edge of the U.S. economy.

Ambassador Sandhu and Governor Wolf agreed to work together to further enhance the India-Pennsylvania relationship.

(Based on a Press Release)

Indian American Congressman Krishnamoorthi Introduces Legislation to Ensure Safety and Efficacy of any COVID-19 Vaccine

WASHINGTON, DC (TIP): On Aug 6, Indian American Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), Chairman of the House Oversight Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, introduced the "Expeditious Vaccine Advice with Legitimate, Unbiased, Apolitical, and Technical Expertise Act," or the "EVALUATE Act," to require the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to solicit and consider advice from the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) before licensing or authorizing any COVID-19 vaccine. Rep. Krishnamoorthi introduced the bill with all of the Democratic Members of the Subcommittee: Representatives Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA), Ro Khanna (D-CA), Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), Rashida Tlaib (D-MI), Gerald Connolly (D-VA), and Katie Porter (D-CA).

"While it is essential that a COVID-19 vaccine become available to the public as quickly as possible, it is even more important that quality is not sacrificed for speed in testing and evaluating any such vaccine," said Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi. "Though the FDA has refused to commit to subjecting coronavirus vaccines to an independent advisory committee, we owe it to the American people to ensure a scientifically rigorous review. The



"While it is essential that a COVID-19 vaccine become available to the public as quickly as possible, it is even more important that quality is not sacrificed for speed in testing and evaluating any such vaccine," said Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi

EVALUATE Act would address this need by requiring the FDA to present its analysis of clinical trial data for independent examination in a public setting, so that the country can put their trust in COVID-19 vaccines."

As the urgency of the coronavirus crisis has placed pressure on the FDA to approve a COVID-19 vaccine quickly, concerns have been raised in the scientific community that the FDA might approve a vaccine before its safety and efficacy is fully established. In lieu of the typical licensure process, the FDA could issue a more flexible Emergency Use Authorization. Meanwhile, any perception of hastiness or political meddling has the potential to erode public confidence in any vaccine that is approved and could lead to a substantial portion of the American population refusing to be inoculated. On July 15, the Subcommittee heard from an expert panel about the value of VRBPAC review to protect scientific integrity and increase public confidence.

The EVALUATE Act would require the FDA to first solicit and consider advice from VRBPAC before licensing or authorizing any potential COVID-19 vaccine. Such advice would have to pertain to the safety and efficacy of the vaccine and whether there should be additional studies to evaluate the vaccine. This advice would be received at a meeting open to the public, and all materials presented for or by the Advisory Committee would have to be promptly made available to the public.



Indian-Americans Protest in Washington against China

WASHINGTON (TIP): A group of Indian-Americans from in and around the national capital held a protest here against China's aggression towards India and the human right violations of Uyghur minority groups in the country's restive Muslim-majority Xinjiang region.

Maintaining social distancing and wearing masks, the peaceful protestors on Sunday gathered at the historic national mall facing the US Capitol and displayed anti-China posters, banners and raised slogans against the Communist Party of China and its leaders.

"This summer while the world was fighting coronavirus, China was trying to encroach upon other's land. It's not only in Ladakh in India but also against its other neighbors as well. It's time that the world unites against this Chinese aggression," said Adapa Prasad from Overseas Friends of BJP USA.

Indian and Chinese troops have been locked in a bitter standoff in several areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh since May 5. The situation deteriorated after the June 15 Galwan Valley clashes in which 20 Indian Army personnel were killed and an unconfirmed number of Chinese soldiers died.

"China's Communist party has infringed on the religious rights of the Uyghur community and violated human rights of people of Hong Kong," Puneet Ahluwalia, who is an Indian-American Republican and founder of the Proud American Political Action Committee, said.

Mr Ahluwalia, who is exploring to run for the post of Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, said US President Donald Trump's hard measures against China was in the right direction.

"China has to play international rules," he said.

"We have seen what they have done in Africa. We have seen that they are doing in Iran.... Most importantly, they recently backstabbed India," Ahluwalia said, alleging that China is spying on Americans through various social media applications and by stealing data and information.

Sunil Singh, an eminent Indian-American from the Greater Washington DC area, praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for banning Chinese applications in India.

Noting that people of India have stopped buying China made goods, he said there was also a need for the Americans to make a similar move.

This was the second major anti-China protest by Indian-Americans here in Washington DC.



India's Covid-19 tally jumps to 2.46 m with 64,553 new cases

Death toll reaches over 48,000; Active cases stand at 6,61,595 while 17,51,556 patients have been cured from the disease or discharged from hospitals.

NEW DELHI (TIP): In another steep rise in its single-day cases, India has reported 64,553 fresh Covid-19 infections in the past 24 hours. With 1,007 more deaths reported across the country, the Covid-19 death toll in India has jumped to 48,040.

With this India cumulative Covid-19 rises to 24,61,191 which includes 6,61,595 active cases and 17,51,556 patients who have been cured from the disease or discharged from hospitals, Ministry of Health stated on Friday.

India's cumulative Covid-19 caseload makes it the third worst-hit country in the world after the United States and Brazil. However, the government maintains that the Covid-19 situation across the country is improving as more number of people are getting cures.

India recovery rate at present is over 70 percent while the death rate is at 1.95 percent, among the lowest across the globe.

India is relentlessly trying to up its



game in the number of Covid-19 testing being done on a daily basis. On Wednesday, India tested in excess of 800,000 samples for the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), inching closer to its target of conducting a million tests a day.

Nearly 27 million tests have been conducted across the country since

January 22 when Covid-19 testing started with one lab at the Indian Council of Medical Research's National Institute of Virology in Pune.

At present over 1,400 labs are equipped and functional to carry out Covid-19 testing across India. As many as 947 of those are in the public sector while 486 are private.



Pranab in deep coma: Doctors

The condition of former President Pranab Mukherjee remains unchanged and he is "deeply comatose," the Army's Research and Referral Hospital said on Thursday. Doctors attending on him said he continued to be on ventilator support.

Not possible to hold NEET overseas, NTA tells SC

It's not possible to hold NEET overseas as the examination is conducted in "paper book format", the National Testing Agency that holds the test told the Supreme Court on Thursday. In an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court, NTA pointed out that "...NEET (UG) has to be conducted in single shift at the same time, on the same day to maintain uniformity and, further, the questions papers and other exam materials are to be transported from NTA headquarters to a large number of examination centres in various cities, which would require meticulous planning for safe and secured delivery of the same at the examination centres on time."

Sushant Singh Rajput was planning move to Hollywood

Details from actor Sushant Singh Rajput's diary have surfaced. The details have emerged after pages from his diary were leaked, and subsequently shared online by Sushant's sister, Shweta Singh Kirti

The late actor was planning to improve his acting skills, and sing with a top Hollywood agency, among other things. He was planning to have a base in Los Angeles as well.

"If you expect the audience to suspend disbelief, then you must do it first. How? Find the things the character likes, loves has sympathy for or at least understands. Every person must be striving for some goal that is positive for him," the actor wrote in one of his entries.

"Massive upgrade in acting skills, language and culture," he wrote. "Association with one of the top agencies in Hollywood, connection with top players," he continued. Sharing the pages on social media, Shweta Singh Kirti wrote, "Somebody who had solid plans. Somebody who knew how to make his dreams into reality... somebody who was an eternal positivist! My brother I salute you!"

COVID-19 recovery rate rises to 70.77%, fatality rate declines to 1.96%, says Health Ministry

NEW DELHI (TIP): The COVID-19 recovery rate has risen to 70.77 per cent on Thursday with the total number of patients recuperating from the disease reaching nearly 17 lakhs while the case fatality rate had further declined to 1.96 per cent, the Union Health Ministry said.

"With the increasing number of recoveries, the recovery rate has risen to 70.77 per cent, while the mortality among COVID-19 patients has further regressed to 1.96 per cent, and is steadily declining," the Ministry said.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a cumulative 2,68,45,688 samples have been tested up to August 12 with 8,30,391 samples being tested on Wednesday, the highest in a day so far.

The focussed and collaborative efforts of the Centre, state and Union Territories, along with the support of lakhs of frontline workers, have ensured the successful implementation of testing aggressively, tracking comprehensively and treating efficiently through an array of measures including supervised home isolation, and effective clinical management of severe and critical patients, the Ministry said.

With a record single-day increase of 66,999 cases, India's COVID-19 tally rose to 23,96,637 on Thursday



while the death toll climbed to 47,033, with 942 people succumbing to the disease in the past 24 hours, the Health Ministry data showed.

Daily tests inch closer to targeted 1mn mark

India tested in excess of 800,000 samples for the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) on Wednesday, inching closer to its target of conducting a million tests a day even as infections of the viral disease have continued to mount steadily. In total, India has performed 26.8 million tests since January 22 when Covid-19 testing started with one lab at the Indian Council of Medical Research's National Institute of Virology in Pune. As of Thursday, testing is being done in 1,433 labs across the country — 947 in the public sector and 486 private ones.

Kozhikode crash: 5-member inquiry panel formed, report expected in 5 months

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Aircraft Accident Investigation Board (AAIB) said on Thursday it has formed a five-member panel to inquire into the circumstances of a plane crash in Kerala's Kozhikode airport last week in which 18 people were killed.

In a statement, the board said, "The investigator-in-charge will complete its inquiry and submit the report to AAIB, India, preferably within five months from the date of the issue of this order."

Captain SS Chahar, a former designated examiner on B737NG (aircraft), will be the investigator-in-charge to inquire into the circumstances of the August 8 accident.

He will be assisted by four other investigators, the AAIB said.

An Air India Express flight from Dubai with 190 people, including a six-member crew, overshot the tabletop runway during landing at the Kozhikode airport in heavy rains on August 7 evening.

The narrow-body B737 plane fell into a valley 35 feet below and broke into pieces, killing 18 people, including both pilots.





Modi set to become longest serving non-Cong PM

Narendra Modi who took oath as prime minister for his second term on May 2019 is set to become the longest serving non-Congress leader to occupy the office. With 2,272 continuous days in office as of Friday, Modi will match the record held by the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee who served in office for 2,272 days across three separate terms. On Saturday, he will surpass it.

In May 2014, Modi was first elected PM when he led the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to a landslide victory in the Lok Sabha elections winning 282 seats in the Lower House. Five years later, he returned to power with an unprecedented 303 MPs.

Vajpayee who was first elected PM in 1996, was in office between May 16 and June 1, a tenure that lasted 13 days. His second stint came in 1998, when he was PM for 13 months between March 1998 and April 1999. This was followed by a five-year term between 1999 and 2004. While Vajpayee resigned on May 27, 1996, after his 13-day stint, and after delivering one of the best speeches Parliament has ever heard, his successor Deve Gowda was sworn in only on June 1. Technically, Vajpayee was the caretaker PM for those days, a fact some calculations of his tenure overlook.

No headway in LAC standoff, more troops on ground

Exactly 100 days after troops of India and China were first involved in a physical clash on the north bank of Pangong Tso, little has changed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh.

In fact, troop levels have increased since the first clash. Both sides have added numbers to their war-waging equipment, including artillery guns, tanks, rocket launchers, missiles, fighter jets and drones.

After the May 5-6 clash, there was another physical clash at the north bank of Pangong Tso in mid-May. The third clash was at Galwan on June 15 when Indian Army lost 20 soldiers, while the People's Liberation Army (PLA) lost an unspecified number of its men.

Five meetings at the Lt General-level were conducted between June 6 and August 2. It was decided to go ahead with de-escalation. China, however, backed out of the agreement.

Barring success in creating a 3-km buffer zone at Patrolling point 14 (Galwan) and PP 15 (Hot Springs), there has been no breakthrough. China is adamant on not moving further away from the LAC from its position at Finger-4.

The PLA has a similar stance as regards PP 17 and PP 17-A, near Gogra. At 900 sq km Depsang plains, talks have been unsuccessful.

I-T Dept to expand list of transactions under scanner

Noting that the country's tax structure needed fundamental reforms, the Prime Minister said, "In the faceless system, there is no need for a direct contact between the taxpayer and the income tax officer in all matters of scrutiny, notice, survey or assessment."

NEW DELHI (TIP): To ostensibly widen the tax base, the Income-Tax Department plans to expand the list of reportable financial transactions to include hotel payments over Rs 20,000, life insurance premium payment over Rs 50,000 and health insurance premium payment over Rs 20,000. Besides these, donations and payment of school/college fees over Rs 1 lakh a year, foreign travel, domestic business class air travel, purchase of white goods, jewellery and paintings over Rs 1 lakh, demat accounts and even bank lockers are proposed to be included in the list of the Statement of Financial Transactions (SFT).

The new proposal was revealed on a day Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced measures aimed at easing compliance and rewarding honest taxpayers. Launching the 'Transparent Taxation — Honouring the Honest' platform which promises 'faceless'



assessments and appeals, he said the tax administration would attempt to be "seamless, painless and faceless".

A tweet issued by MyGovIndia said these measures were proposed to widen the tax base, ensure better compliance and transparency. "These are proposed measures, not yet in force. But they will create more categories in the criteria for monitoring transactions by taxpayers under the SFT," an official said.

More transactional categories in the SFT imply an enhanced flow of information to tax authorities, but will put the onus on taxpayers to comply voluntarily. When implemented, it will also be reflected in Form 26AS, the

consolidated annual statement showing tax deductions/ collections and advance tax against an individual's PAN.

Earlier, in July, the government had launched a revised Form 26AS which included high-value transactions from SFTs from this assessment year. In their SFTs, banks and other reporting financial institutions record details of transactions involving cash deposits aggregating Rs 10 lakh or more in a year, in one or more accounts (other than a current account and time deposit), cash payments made by any person totalling over Rs 1 lakh, and payments of bills for one or more credit card of Rs 10 lakh or more by a person in a financial year.

Shah Faesal reached out to NSA before he quit party; open to IAS return

NEW DELHI (TIP): Bureaucrat-turned-politician Shah Faesal, who left the party he himself founded, quit only after making contact with top officials in the Union government. Faesal had a talk with National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval before informing his party colleagues in the Jammu & Kashmir People's Movement (JKPM) that he was leaving, HT reported.

Faesal, 37, who hits the headlines in 2009, when he became the first person from Kashmir to top the Indian Administrative Services exam, acknowledged that he has been in touch with officials in New Delhi, although he declined to specify details.

"There has been a lot of speculation about the conversations I'm having with people in the government. I have been a member of IAS, and it's nothing strange if I'm meeting people in the government," he said. "I have to live and work here and this is perfectly normal," he added.

The NSA was not available for comment.

Faesal suggested that he is not opposed to rejoining the service, and there is talk that he could be reinstated. Faesal, who once



promised to be the voice of Kashmir's young people has come a long way. His views, too, have changed. "I think we need to understand that in 1949 national consensus was about incorporating Article 370 and the 2019 national consensus is about scrapping it. We have to understand the mood of the nation and come to terms with the reality."

Early in 2019, Faesal announced his resignation from the IAS and became a vocal critic of the government. Jammu & Kashmir was stripped of its special status in August last year, and at the time, he tweeted: "Kashmir will need a long, sustained non-violent political mass movement for the restoration of political rights. Abolition of Art 370 has finished the mainstream. Constitutionists are gone. So you can either be a stooge or a separatist now. No shades of grey."

Gehlot, Pilot shake hands

JAIPUR (TIP): Sachin Pilot shook hands on Thursday with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, the image marking the patch-up between the two party factions in the state ahead of the assembly session where the Congress government is set to face a floor test.

The BJP said after a legislature party meeting that it will move a no-confidence motion against the Gehlot government in the session which begins on Friday. Hours later, the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) met and announced that it would seek a confidence vote to prove its majority.

With the disgruntled MLAs led by Pilot back in the party-fold following the intervention of the top leadership, the Congress is likely to pass the floor test.

In a House of 200, the party has 107 MLAs and the support of independents and allies. The BJP has 72 members.

When Pilot got down from his car at the chief minister's residence, he was received by Govind Singh Dotasra, who has replaced him as the party's state unit president.

Pilot was also sacked as the state's deputy chief minister and Gehlot referred to him as "useless", using the Hindi term "nikamma".

The fault line persisted even after the party high command welcomed Pilot back, promising that a committee will look into his grievances.





Ex-army man is Sri Lanka's Foreign Secretary

COLOMBO (TIP): The Sri Lankan Government on Friday appointed ex-commander of the Navy, Admiral Jayanath Colombage, as the new Foreign Secretary, days after the new Cabinet took the oath with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa retaining the key defence ministry.

Colombage, 62, replaces Ravinatha Aryasinha, a career foreign service officer. Since November last year, he has been the foreign affairs advisor to President Rajapaksa.— PTI

Nearly 40 missing after powerful landslides in Nepal

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nearly 40 people were missing after powerful landslides buried dozens of houses in central Nepal's Sindhupalchok district on Friday, according to media reports.

The landslips descended from uphill Lama Tole at 6 am, The Himalayan Times reported.

Security personnel were carrying out rescue operations.

Speaker of the House of Representatives Agni Prasad Sapkota had reached the spot and was inspecting the damages and rescue works, the newspaper said.

Sapkota's press coordinator Shreedhar Neupane said over 30 houses were buried and 37 people were missing. The number of missing may increase after a final count.

Neupane said one of the survivors had suffered broken legs and arms. Ten of the rescued were airlifted to district hospitals in Chautara.

Casualties, if any, and property loss was yet to be ascertained, said Deputy Superintendent of Police Madhav Prasad Kafle. PTI

Curbs in Bhutan for the first time

THIMPU (TIP): Bhutan has imposed its first nationwide lockdown due to a virus infection in a returning traveller who had been released from quarantine. The government issued a stay-at-home order for its 7,50,000 people, and all schools, offices and commercial establishments were closed. The tourism-dependent country closed its borders in March after an American was found Covid positive.— AP

Bangladesh court indicts first Hindu chief justice for graft

DHAKA (TIP): A Dhaka court on Thursday indicted Bangladesh's first Hindu Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha and 10 others for "embezzling" 40 million taka from a bank, a court official said. The indictment comes seven months after another Dhaka court issued an arrest warrant against the 69-year-old. PTI

COVID-19: Pakistan reports 626 new cases, 14 more fatalities

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan's coronavirus tally reached 287,300 on Friday with the detection of 626 new cases in the last 24 hours, the health ministry said.

Fourteen more fatalities were recorded overnight, pushing the death toll to 6,153, it said.

While 265,215 patients have recovered so far, there are currently 15,962 active cases, including 774 in critical condition.

With the detection of the 626 new cases, Pakistan's coronavirus tally now stands at 287,300, the ministry said.

Sindh registered the maximum number of 125,289 cases, followed by Punjab at 94,993, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa 35,021, Islamabad 15,342, Balochistan 12,062, Gilgit-Baltistan 2,426 and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) at 2,167.

Health authorities have so far



conducted 2,229,409 tests to detect coronavirus infection, the ministry said. PTI

Nepal's ruling Communist Party forms task force to resolve rift within

Taskforce led by General Secretary Bishnu Poudel to recommend ways to sort out differences after Prachanda, Madhav Kumar Nepal demanded PM Oli's resignation

KATHMANDU (TIP): The ruling Nepal Communist Party on Friday formed a six-member task force to resolve the intra-party rift as Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and the party's executive chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' resumed their talks after a hiatus of over a week.

The task force, led by General Secretary Bishnu Poudel, will recommend ways to sort out the differences in the party after Prachanda and senior leader Madhav Kumar Nepal demanded Prime Minister Oli's resignation.

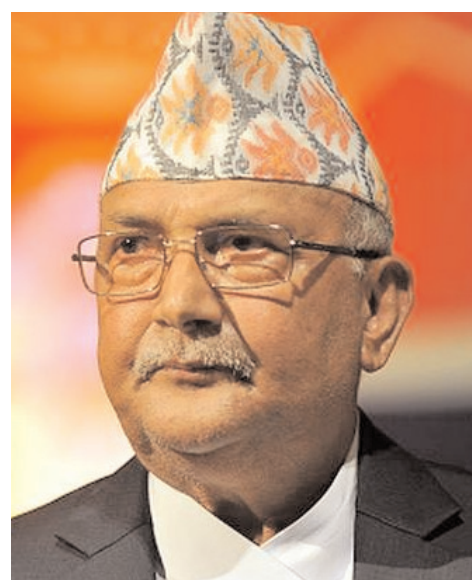
The task force also includes Standing Committee members Shankar Pokhrel, Janardan Sharma, Bhim Rawal, Surendra Pandey and Pampha Bhusal, according to party sources.

The decision to form the task force was taken after a meeting between Oli and Prachanda on Friday.

The two leaders resumed their talks on Thursday and held a one-on-one meeting at the Prime Minister's residence at Baluwatar in Kathmandu to sort out their differences and resolve the intra-party rift. This was their first meeting after over a week.

Oli during a television interview on Wednesday said that the ongoing intra-party tussle will be settled within five days.

Oli and Prachanda have held several meetings to sort out the differences between them. But, as the Prime Minister did not accept the condition of a one-man-one-post, the talks failed. Oli has refused to give up his post as Prime Minister as well as a co-chairman of the



NCP.

A bitter internal feud has been brewing in the ruling NCP after top party leaders, including Prachanda, demanded Oli's resignation, saying his recent anti-India remarks were "neither politically correct nor diplomatically appropriate".

They are also against Oli's autocratic style of functioning.

The differences grew further after Oli said that some of the ruling party leaders were aligning with the southern neighbour to remove him from power after his government issued a new political map incorporating three Indian territories of Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura.

The two leaders are also engaged in tightening their grip within the party with the escalation of the intra-party feud. PTI

Rajapaksa family dominates Sri Lanka's new Cabinet

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka's new Cabinet, including four members of the powerful Rajapaksa family, took oath on Wednesday with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa retaining the key Defence Ministry while the finance portfolio went to newly-elected Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa after their party won a landslide victory in parliamentary elections last week.

President Gotabaya administered the oath of office to the 28-member Cabinet which is two less than the 30 allowed by the Constitution. He also appointed 40 state ministers. The swearing-in ceremony was held in the central town of Kandy.

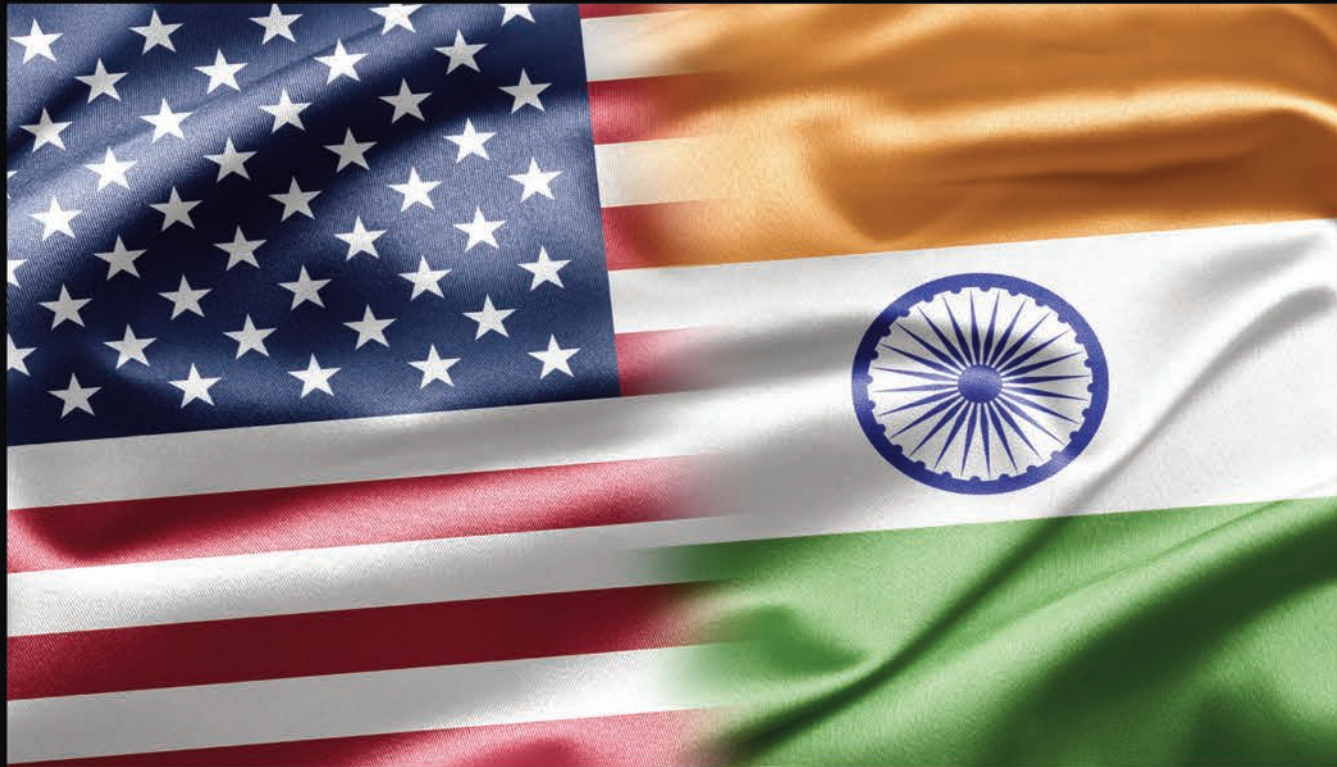
President Gotabaya retained the Ministry of Defence while his elder brother Prime Minister Mahinda has been assigned finance, urban development and Buddhist affairs ministries.

Mahinda's elder son, Namal Rajapaksa has been named the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports – a first time Cabinet position since he entered Parliament in 2010.

The eldest brother of the President, Chamal Rajapaksa, was named the Irrigation Minister in addition to being the state minister for Internal Security. His son, Shasheendra Rajapaksa, has also been given a state ministry.

One of the main features in the Cabinet is that while the veteran politician Dinesh Gunawardena has been re-named the Foreign Minister, a new state ministry of regional cooperation affiliated to the foreign ministry has been created.

Significantly, former President Maithripala Sirisena has been overlooked for a Cabinet ministry despite his overwhelming win in the elections from his north central home base. President Gotabaya also appointed his lawyer as Justice Minister. PTI



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warmest wishes in celebration
of India's Independence Day**



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More restrictions in New Zealand, Spain to fight Covid

WELLINGTON (TIP): The New Zealand's Government on Friday extended a lockdown of its largest city Auckland for another 12 days as it tries to stamp out its first domestic coronavirus outbreak in more than three months. The outbreak has grown to 30 people and extended beyond Auckland for the first time. Until the cluster was discovered Tuesday, New Zealand had gone 102 days without infections spreading in the community. The only known cases were travellers quarantined after arriving from abroad.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said extending the Auckland lockdown, which began on Wednesday, would give authorities time to get a handle on the virus cluster and isolate those infected.

In Spain, Health Minister Salvador Illa has announced a range of new nationwide restrictions to help fight a surge in Covid cases. Illa said after an emergency meeting Friday with leaders of Spain's autonomous regions that authorities are shutting all discos and night clubs across Spain. Visits to nursing homes are limited to one person a day for each resident for only one hour. People are prohibited from smoking in public areas if they are unable to keep at least 2 meters (6.5 feet) away from others. — AP

Miami businessman pleads guilty in Vermont ski fraud case

BURLINGTON (TIP): A Miami businessman accused of being the mastermind behind the largest fraud case in Vermont's history pleaded guilty on Friday over a failed plan to build a biotechnology plant using tens of millions of dollars in foreign investors' money. Ariel Quiros, 64, the former owner of Jay Peak and Burke Mountain ski resorts in northern Vermont, changed his plea to guilty on charges of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, money laundering and the concealment of material information. Nine other charges were dropped.

Quiros pleaded guilty via video conference to the three separate charges, one at a time, after being asked by US District Court Judge Geoffrey Crawford.

Quiros, of Key Biscayne, Florida, and three others were indicted over a failed plan to build a biotechnology plant in Newport, Vermont, using millions raised through the EB-5 visa program, which encourages foreigners to invest in US projects that create jobs in exchange for a chance to earn permanent US residency. Quiros pleaded not guilty in May 2019 to 12 felony charges. He signed the plea deal on August 5. Quiros could serve up to eight years in prison, but the federal judge could sentence him to less. The plea agreement states that Quiros would be sentenced after two other defendants, former Jay Peak president William Stenger and William Kelly, an adviser to Quiros, are sentenced if convicted. AP

Iran, Turkey term UAE-Israel pact a betrayal of Palestine

TEHRAN (TIP): Iran and Turkey lashed out at their regional rival the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Friday over its decision to normalise diplomatic relations with Israel in a US-brokered deal, accusing it of betraying the Palestinian cause.

Iran's foreign ministry called the deal a "dagger that was unjustly struck by the UAE into the backs of the Palestinian people and all Muslims." It said the deal was "dangerous and illegitimate", the state news agency IRNA quoted a Foreign Ministry statement.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif termed the agreement a "theatre" fabricated by the US.

Turkey said the people of the region "will never forget and will never forgive this hypocritical behaviour" by the UAE. The UAE, which has never fought Israel and has quietly been improving ties for years, said the agreement put a hold on Israel's plans to unilaterally annex parts of the occupied West Bank, which the Palestinians view as the heartland of their future state. But the Turkish foreign ministry said the UAE had no authority to negotiate with Israel on behalf of the Palestinians or "to make concessions on matters vital to Palestine."

The agreement would make the UAE the first Gulf Arab state and the third



Arab country, after Egypt and Jordan, to have full diplomatic ties with Israel.

Meanwhile, Palestinians said the deal hindered the quest for the Mideast peace. "I never expected this poison dagger to come from an Arab country," Saeb Erekat, a senior Palestinian official and veteran negotiator said. "You are rewarding aggression. ... You have destroyed, with this move, any possibility of peace between Palestinians and Israelis," he said.

Palestine issued a scathing statement, terming it a "betrayal of Jerusalem, Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Palestinian cause." The Palestinians have called for an urgent meeting of the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to condemn the move.

The historic deal delivered a key foreign policy victory for US President Donald Trump as he seeks re-election. China also welcomed the move. — Agencies

China welcomes Israel-UAE accord

BEIJING (TIP): China on Friday welcomed the historic UAE-Israel deal to establish full diplomatic relations that would see Israel halt the controversial annexation of parts of the West Bank, saying it is "pleased" to see measures aimed at de-escalating tensions in the Middle East.

In a deal brokered by the US, the UAE and Israel announced on Thursday that they agreed to establish full diplomatic ties and Israel will halt plans for annexation of parts of the West Bank that Palestinians see as a part of their future state.

The announcement makes the UAE the first Gulf Arab state to do so and only the third Arab nation to have active diplomatic ties to Israel.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian during a media briefing said, "China noted the relevant reports including the contents that Israel suspends the annexations of Palestinian territory and its commitment to reach a comprehensive fair and lasting agreement to the Palestinian issue."

"China is pleased to see measures that will deescalate tensions among the middle-east countries and contribute the regional peace and stability. We hope the relevant parties can take concrete actions so that the Palestinian issue can return to the equal-footed dialogue and negotiations," he said.

The Foreign Ministry spokesperson



said the Chinese position on the Palestinian issue is consistent and clear.

"We will continue supporting the Palestinian people in their just cause to restore their legitimate national rights and building an independent and sovereign state and we will continue to play a constructive role in this regard," he said.

The historic deal delivered a key foreign policy victory for US President Donald Trump.

Many believe that the big diplomatic breakthrough is going to politically boost Trump's electoral prospects and also strengthen Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as he battles regular protests calling for his resignation due to the corruption trial against him and failure in the proper handling of the coronavirus crisis. PTI

British fossil hunters find bones of new dinosaur species

LONDON (TIP): Four bones found on a beach on the Isle of Wight, off England's south coast, belong to a new species of theropod dinosaur, the group that includes Tyrannosaurus rex, researchers at the University of Southampton said on Wednesday. The new dinosaur, which has been named Vectaerovenator inopinatus, lived in the Cretaceous period 115 million years ago and was estimated to have been up to four metres long, the palaeontologists said. Reuters

3 dead, 6 in hospital after train derails in Scotland

LONDON (TIP): British Transport Police say three people died and six were taken to hospital after a passenger train derailed in northeast Scotland amid stormy weather. The train's driver was among the dead in Wednesday's incident, which occurred after heavy rain.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon described the derailment as a "major" incident and said she would be convening an emergency response meeting. Police, several ambulances, an air ambulance and fire engines were at the scene. The British Transport Police force said officers were called at 9:43 a.m. (0843GMT) to the railway line near Stonehaven, about 100 miles (160 kilometres) northeast of Edinburgh. AP



To assuage public anger, Belarus frees detainees

MINSK (TIP): Belarusian authorities have released about 1,000 people detained amid demonstrations contesting the results of the presidential election, in an attempt to assuage public anger against a brutal crackdown on peaceful protests.

Around midnight, scores of detainees were seen walking out of one of Minsk's jails. "I take responsibility for what they say was violence against those people, who happened to be nearby and failed to back off quickly enough," Interior Minister Yuri Karayev said.

The move comes on the day that EU foreign ministers are due to meet to discuss possible sanctions against Belarus. Opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who has been given refuge in Lithuania, posted a video statement contesting the results of the vote and demanding that the government start a dialogue with protesters. — AP



Dutch economy shrinks by 'unprecedented' 8.5% as coronavirus hits

THE HAGUE (TIP): The Dutch economy suffered an unprecedented 8.5 per cent contraction in the second quarter as the coronavirus pandemic slammed the brakes on spending, exports and investments, the country's Central Bureau for Statistics said Friday. While the Dutch contraction compared to the first quarter was bad, it was not as severe as other major European countries like France and Germany. The 19-country eurozone, which the Netherlands is a part of, dropped by a quarterly 12.1 per cent while the UK reported a 20.4 per cent decline. "Corona has caused unprecedented economic damage. It is an economic catastrophe of exceptional proportions," said Peter Hein van Mulligen, chief economist at the Dutch statistics office.

It said consumer spending slumped by 11.8 per cent compared with the same three months last year as lockdown measures hit sales at bars, restaurants, clothes stores and gas stations. The report on the economic malaise capped a tumultuous week for the government of Prime Minister Mark Rutte, whose recent handling of the pandemic was labeled "chaos" by opposition lawmakers in a heated parliamentary debate Wednesday.

Government lawmakers also faced harsh criticism for leaving the debate before it was finished, meaning that a vote could not be held on an opposition proposal to award healthcare workers a pay rise. Rising confirmed COVID-19 infections in the Netherlands, with Amsterdam and Rotterdam among the hardest hit, led the UK to re-impose quarantine restrictions on returning travelers, a move likely to further damage the Dutch tourism industry that is already reeling after months of coronavirus travel bans around the world. AP

Experts: Spain losing second round of fight

BARCELONA (TIP): As Spain hospitals begin to see Covid patients returning, experts say the country appears to have been losing its second round of virus fight. Rafael Bengoa, ex-health chief of Spain's Basque Country region and international consultant on public health, said, "The numbers are saying that where we had good local epidemiological tracking, things have gone well. But in other parts of the country, we have community transmission again." Manuel Franco, a professor of epidemiology at John Hopkins and Spain's University of Alcalá, cited Spain's economic inequalities that have exposed poorer communities, especially fruit pickers, to greater harm, understaffed epidemiological surveillance services, and its large tourism industry. — AP

Israel successfully tests advanced missile defence system

JERUSALEM (TIP): Israel's Defence Ministry said Thursday it conducted a successful test of the country's advanced missile defense system against long-range ballistic attacks.

Defence Minister Benny Gantz said the successful flight test of the Arrow-2 interceptor was part of Israel's technological effort that "ensures that we will always be one step ahead of our enemies." The test was conducted overnight in central Israel, jointly with the US Missile Defence Agency.

Arrow-2 is part of the multi-layered system Israel has developed to defend against both short and mid-range rockets fired from Gaza and Lebanon, as well as Iran's long-range missiles. It includes Iron Dome, David's Sling and the Arrow-3 system — capable of defending against threats from outside the atmosphere.

Israel and the United States jointly tested Arrow-3 successfully last year in Alaska. The system was developed by Israel Aerospace Industries and US aviation giant Boeing and became operational in January 2017. The Arrow-2 has been in use even longer and has been deployed in recent years to counter Syrian missiles.

Israel's multi-layered aerial defense systems were designed to cope with a future war in which it is assumed Israel will be targeted with massive missile fire toward all parts of the country. The Arrow rocket system is designed to intercept the longest-range missiles, including outside the atmosphere.

Moshe Patel, who heads the Defence Ministry's missile defence organisation, said Iran was the most natural threat but that Arrow could also cope with attacks from Iraq, Syria and elsewhere. AP

Each country will make decision based on national interest: Australia

SYDNEY (TIP): Australia has decided not to ban Chinese mobile applications at this stage but recognises that each country will make a decision based on its own national interest, a senior Australian official said on Thursday, weeks after India banned several Chinese apps.

The Indian government, on June 29, had banned 59 Chinese apps, saying they were prejudicial to sovereignty, integrity and security of the country. Later, the government banned 47 more Chinese apps.

Asked about India's ban on the applications and whether Australia was also considering any such ban on Chinese apps, Tara Cavanagh, Regional Director South Asia Region, Australia's Department of Home Affairs, said his country had decided not to ban those apps at this stage.

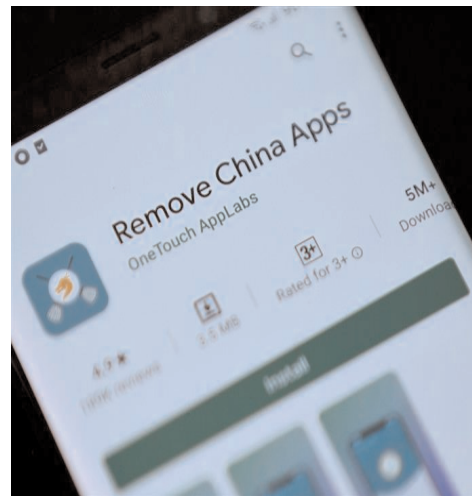
"We recognise that each country will make its own decision in its own national interest. We have looked at the matter and we have decided that we will not be making such a decision at this stage," she said at a media briefing.

Asked what was the reason for Australia not naming China in cyberattacks, Cavanagh said Australia's position was that it attributed such attacks when it was in its national interest to do so.

Australia launched its Cyber Security Strategy 2020 on August 6.

Under the strategy, \$1.67 billion will be invested over 10 years to achieve the vision of a more secure online world for all Australians and prioritises actions to protect the vulnerable, combat cyber-crime and protect critical infrastructure and systems of national significance.

About Australia-India cooperation on cybersecurity, the senior official in the Australian High Commission here said



the two countries for several years have had a very active dialogue on cybersecurity that was being significantly stepped up through the signing of the comprehensive strategic partnership.

Australia's deputy high commissioner here Rod Hilton said there was a very fast-growing relationship in areas of cyber and critical technology. The two countries have been increasing information sharing and stepping up cooperation, Hilton said.

"Australia and India formalised the Cyber and Cyber-Enabled Critical Technology Framework Agreement that was signed by their foreign ministers and it contains a number of areas they will work on together," he said.

On June 4, Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Scott Morrison signed the Australia India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP), taking the bilateral relationship to a historic high point.

"A key pillar of the CSP is cyber. Both countries have identified the importance of a holistic approach to cyber-related issues, including cybersecurity," the Australian High Commission said. PTI



Spain losing second round of fight

As Spain hospitals begin to see Covid patients returning, experts say the country appears to have been losing its second round of virus fight.

Rafael Bengoa, ex-health chief of Spain's Basque Country region and international consultant on public health, said, "The numbers are saying that where we had good local epidemiological tracking, things have gone well. But in other parts of the country, we have community transmission again."

Manuel Franco, a professor of epidemiology at John Hopkins and Spain's University of Alcalá, cited Spain's economic inequalities that have exposed poorer communities, especially fruit pickers, to greater harm, understaffed epidemiological surveillance services, and its large tourism industry.

UK imposes 14-day quarantine on arrivals from France

The United Kingdom will impose a 14-day quarantine on all arrivals from France on Saturday because COVID-19 infection rates there are too high, transport minister Grant Shapps said on Thursday. The government, wary of a second wave of the novel coronavirus, also added the Netherlands, Malta, and three other countries to its quarantine list. Spain and Belgium have already been added in recent weeks. The French Foreign Ministry gave no immediate reaction.

Australia suffers deadliest day of coronavirus pandemic, cases rise

Australia recorded its deadliest day of the coronavirus pandemic on Wednesday and the biggest daily rise in infections in three days, denting hopes that a second wave gripping the state of Victoria may be stabilising.

Victoria reported 21 deaths -- two more than the previous deadliest days earlier this week -- and 410 new cases in the past 24 hours, ending a run of three consecutive days with new infections below 400.

A cluster of infections in Melbourne, the Victorian capital and Australia's second-largest city, forced authorities last week to impose a night curfew, tighten restrictions on people's daily movements and order large parts of state economy to close.

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews said that while the number of cases was trending down, the impact of the strict new lockdown measures was yet to show up in the case numbers.

Global deaths reach 753,283; 20,778,947 infected

The global death toll from the novel coronavirus infection reached 753,283 as of Friday morning, according to the Centre for System Science and Engineering of Johns Hopkins University.

Moreover, 20,778,947 Covid-19 cases have been confirmed around the world.

Although cases of new infection keep growing among the infected world population currently, most of them are in mild condition. Among the currently 6,425,843 infected patients 6,361,355 are in mild condition, which is 99 per cent, Worldometer records in its daily updates.

On the other hand, 64,488 of the currently infected patients are in serious condition, and their percentage is only one.

So far, 12,935,209 people have recovered.

In Bangladesh, 44 patients died from Covid-19 in the country over the last 24 hours as of Thursday, taking the death toll to 3,557.

Besides, 2,617 more people tested positive for the virus, which makes 2,69,115 confirmed cases in total.

The United States reported the highest number of cases, with more than 5 million infections (5,248,678). The US is followed by Brazil (3,164,785 cases) and India (2,396,637).

The US has also reported the highest number of deaths (167,097) due to the infection. It is followed by Brazil (104,201)

TRACKING THE VIRUS			
GLOBAL		INDIA	
Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
20,778,947	753,283	2,396,637	47,033

and Mexico (55,293). Globally, nearly 13 million people (12,935,209) have recovered from COVID-19, the most from Brazil (2,520,182).

Governor of Venezuela's capital district dies of COVID-19

Dario Vivas, the Governor of Venezuela's Caracas capital district and strong ally of President Nicolas Maduro, died on Thursday of COVID-19 at the age of 70. Vivas, a senior member of the ruling socialist party, had posted on Twitter on July 19 that he had tested positive for the disease and was going into self-isolation.

"He died in combat ... taking care of his health and all of us in this difficult battle against the Covid-19 pandemic," Vice-President Delcy Rodriguez said. Vivas is the first top-level Venezuelan government official to die of the virus, though several have tested positive.

Germany's confirmed cases rise by 1,449

The number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Germany increased by 1,449 to 221,413, data from the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) for infectious diseases showed on Friday. The reported death toll rose by 14 to 9,225.

New Zealand reports 12 new cases

New Zealand Friday reported 12 new cases of coronavirus, as the country awaited an announcement from Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on whether a lockdown in its biggest city, Auckland, will be eased or extended. Auckland, home to 1.7 million people, was put under lockdown on Wednesday, hours after four new cases were discovered. Thirty-eight people linked to the virus cluster have already been moved into quarantine facilities, Director-General of Health Ashley Bloomfield said in a media briefing in Wellington.

Russia becomes first country to approve Covid vaccine, says Putin

MOSCOW (TIP): President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday that Russia had become the first country in the world to grant regulatory approval to a COVID-19 vaccine after less than two months of human testing, a move hailed by Moscow as evidence of its scientific prowess.

The development paves the way for the mass inoculation of the Russian population, even as the final stage of clinical trials to test safety and efficacy continue.

The speed at which Russia is moving to roll out its vaccine highlights its determination to win the global race for an effective product, but has stirred concerns that it may be putting national prestige before sound science and safety.

Speaking at a government meeting on state television, Putin said the vaccine, developed by Moscow's Gamaleya Institute, was safe and that it had even been administered to one of his daughters.

"I know that it works quite effectively, forms strong immunity, and I repeat, it has passed all the needed checks," said Putin.

He said he hoped the country would soon start mass producing the vaccine.

Its approval by the health ministry foreshadows the start of a larger trial involving thousands of participants, commonly known as a



Phase III trial. Such trials, which require a certain rate of participants catching the virus to observe the vaccine's effect, are normally considered essential precursors for a vaccine to receive regulatory approval.

Vaccine not in advanced test stages, says WHO

The World Health Organization says the vaccine approved by Russia this week is not among the nine that it considers in the advanced stages of testing.

WHO and partners have included nine experimental Covid-19 vaccines within an investment mechanism it is encouraging countries to join, known as the Covax facility. The initiative allows countries to invest in several vaccines to obtain early access, while theoretically providing funding for developing countries.

Covid-19 shaping up to be battle for years even with vaccine

The coronavirus pandemic is likely to be a challenge for years to come even with a vaccine, according to pharmaceutical and public-health experts.

While a vaccine will provide some measure of protection to societies around the globe, the virus is likely to flare up from time to time and be constantly battled, much like the flu and other pathogens.

"We know this virus is not going away any time soon. It's established itself and is going to keep on transmitting wherever it's able to do so," Soumya Swaminathan, chief scientist for the World Health Organization, at the "How Covid-19 Is Reshaping the Global Healthcare Ecosystem" event hosted by Bloomberg Prognosis. "We know we have to live this this."

Humanity's record against viruses is poor. Only one virus has been fully driven out of existence in humans -- smallpox. The rest are managed, with brushfires stomped out when they flare up.

"I think what's realistic to expect is that with a combination of drugs and vaccines we can get to a stable place where the pandemic is manageable," said Novartis Chief Executive Officer Vas Narasimhan. He called the actual elimination of the virus "unlikely."





Indian-American Muslims, Sikhs on Kamala Harris say "Great Deal to all Immigrants"



The 55-year-old California senator, whose father is from Jamaica and mother an Indian, becomes just the third woman to be selected as the vice president on a major party ticket.

WASHINGTON (TIP): Indian-American Muslims and Sikhs here have hailed the selection of Senator Kamala Harris as the Democratic party's vice-presidential candidate, calling it a remarkable success for the entire community.

Democratic party's presidential candidate Joe Biden on Tuesday, August 11, picked Ms Harris as his running mate, recognizing the crucial role Black voters could play in his determined bid to defeat President Donald Trump in the

US presidential election.

The 55-year-old California senator, whose father is from Jamaica and mother an Indian, becomes just the third woman to be selected as the vice president on a major party ticket. Then-Alaska Governor Sarah Palin in 2008 and New York Representative Geraldine Ferraro in 1984 were the other two.

In a statement, the Association of Indian Muslims of America (AIM) congratulated Ms Harris on her nomination and lauded the Indian-

American community for its extraordinary success in the face of tough competition in US in just about five decades.

Kaleem Kawaja, the executive director of AIM, expressed joy at the remarkable high success of a second generation Indian-American in becoming a candidate for the second highest public office in America.

Kamala Harris is the daughter of Prof Shyamala Gopalan, a cancer biologist, who was from Chennai, India, and had emigrated to US in 1965.

Welcoming the addition of Ms Harris to the Democratic presidential ticket, Dr Rajwant Singh, chairman of the Sikh Council on Religion and Education and Senior Adviser to National Sikh Campaign, said that it is a great step for such a major party to add someone from the minorities for the national office in America. "It means a great deal to blacks, women and to all immigrants," he said. "We are thankful to both Joe Biden and Kamala Harris for reminding Americans about the 8th anniversary of the shooting at Sikh Gurdwara in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, just a few days ago. We need more of our political leaders to be forthcoming on these critical issues of gun violence and hate crimes facing America," Dr Singh said.

Ms Harris being on the national ticket opens the door for many people from all minority communities to aspire to lead this great nation, Dr Singh added.

Indian American Named Fellow of Two Prestigious National Organizations



Dr. Surita Bhatia joined Stony Brook University in 2012 as a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry with a joint position as a staff scientist with the Center for Functional Nanomaterials at Brookhaven National Laboratory

NEW YORK (TIP): Surita R. Bhatia, PhD, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Professor, Department of Chemistry, at Stony Brook University has been named a fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), the organization's highest grade of membership, as well as a fellow of the Society of Rheology.

"Surita's commitment to excellence in science and engineering is apparent through the recognition she has received from such prestigious organizations as the AIChE and the Society of Rheology, as well as in her work every day," said Nicole S. Sampson, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Distinguished Professor of Chemistry. "My deepest congratulations to Surita on these well-deserved honors!"

Recognition as an AIChE fellow reaffirms the high esteem with which colleagues and peers view distinctive professional achievements and accomplishments. Candidates for AIChE fellow are nominated by their peers, must have significant chemical engineering experience (generally 25 years), have demonstrated significant service to the profession, and have been a member of AIChE for at least 10 years.

Dr. Bhatia was recognized by the Society for Rheology for her contributions to the understanding of structure-properties relations through the application of USANS/USAXS spectroscopic techniques along with rheology to a wide spectrum of complex fluids including colloidal glasses, micellar polymer gels, polysaccharide hydrogels and soft biomaterials; and for her contributions to the understanding of dynamically arrested states and re-entrant behavior in colloidal systems.

INDIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY ORGANIZES MEMORIAL RUN FOR RESEARCHER KILLED IN PARK

LOVLIEN KAURR

DALLAS (TIP): Hundreds of community members at Plano city in Texas state of the US organized a memorial run in honor of an Indian-American woman researcher and athlete who was killed last week while she was out jogging.

According to the police, 43-year-old Sarmistha Sen was randomly attacked and killed while jogging on August 1 near the Chisholm Trail Park in Plano.

Her body was found lying in the creek-area near Legacy Drive and Marchman Way by a passer-by. Sen was a pharmacist and researcher who studied molecular biology and worked with cancer patients.

She was originally from Sindri in Jharkhand and moved to Plano after her marriage to Arindam Roy. She has two young sons.

At the daybreak on Saturday, local community members gathered at the Chisholm Trail Park to pay their tributes to Sen. They organized a memorial run/walk on the same trail she frequented and followed the path of the park which she took on the day of her murder.



43-year-old Sarmistha Sen was randomly attacked and killed while jogging on August 1 near the Chisholm Trail Park in Plano

Photo / gofundme.com

"She did leave an imprint behind and that is why we are all here today to remember her," one of Sen's friends said.

Later in the afternoon, a large number of people showed up to pay respects to Sen and her family at a public visitation.

Police arrested a 29-year-old youth on the same day of Sen's murder for a burglary that happened in the area.

According to police, Bakari Moncrief is a person of interest in Sen's death and remains in jail on an unusually high USD 1 million bond but he is not charged in Sen's murder.

According to the police, 43-year-old Sarmistha Sen was randomly attacked and killed while jogging on August 1 near the Chisholm Trail Park in Plano.

Her body was found lying in the creek-area near Legacy Drive and Marchman Way by a passer-by. Sen was a pharmacist and researcher who studied molecular biology and worked with cancer patients.

Sen used to run the popular Chisholm Trail nearly every morning before her children woke up.

A day after her killing, strangers, neighbors and friends surrounded two trees near the park with flowers and hundreds of running shoes.

Sen's husband has set up a Caring Bridge page to share Sen's story and a GoFundMe page, all proceeds of which will be donated to charities devoted to issues that she deeply cared about such as cancer awareness, cancer research, healthy living and protection of the environment.



Indian Americans evaluate Kamala D. Harris as presumptive VP Nominee



The Democratic presumptive presidential nominee Joe Biden has selected as his running mate for VP, Senator Kamala D. Harris who is of Indian origin (her mother is a Tamilian). Fathered by a black Jamaican, Kamala is black

In 2017, Kamala D. Harris was sworn in as a United States Senator for California, the second African-American woman and first South Asian-American senator in history. She serves on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on the Budget.

The Democratic presumptive presidential nominee Joe Biden has selected as his running mate for VP, Senator Kamala D. Harris who is of Indian origin (her mother is a Tamilian). Fathered by a black Jamaican, Kamala is black.

The Indian Panorama decided to have the view of readers on her selection as a candidate for the second highest office of the most powerful nation in the world.

It is a mixed bag of approval and disapproval. Here is what the readers said.



NEW JERSEY BASED SENIOR JOURNALIST ASHOK OJHA

A proud moment awaits all Indian-Americans who might see Democratic candidates, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, as the winners in the November election. Should they win we will see Kamala Harris, a woman of color and of Indian origin, as the Vice President of USA. If it happens it would be the first time in the history of USA.

The majority of Indian-Americans are of progressive bend that aligns with the personality of Kamala. For this reason alone, majority of Indian Americans may vote for Democrats in the forthcoming presidential election.

Senator Kamala currently serves on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on the Budget. She possesses all the experiences needed to function as the Vice-President of USA. She has the experience working as a top law enforcement officer since 2003 as California's Attorney General.

I wish to see Kamala elected as she possesses the kind of character it requires to stand up to the powerful. She resolved to spend her life advocating for those who could not defend themselves.

As the VP of the most powerful nation of the world I expect her to be fair and objective while dealing with India. It would be up to the Indian leader to take advantage of the Vice-Presidential office where someone of Indian origin would be sitting."



COMMUNITY ACTIVIST, LONG ISLAND BASED REAL ESTATE BROKER ANU JAIN

Community activist, Long Island based Real Estate broker Anu Jain. "Kamala Harris is the best choice in the era of Black Lives Matter. As the daughter of immigrants who came to this country as students and became civil rights activists, she is a woman of diversity at a time when we need diverse voices in leadership. Because of her background she understands the tapestry of America. Her experiences and past will inspire Americans.

By selecting Harris, Biden has most definitely made history. As the first Black and first Indian American woman on a national ticket, she is going to be transformational and will energize the base. And, if they win, she will help change the view of women in politics forever. But this election is about one, and only one, person -- Donald Trump. Harris' selection has definitely put Trump's campaign in a hard spot."

MORGANTOWN, WV BASED EMINENT OPHTHALMOLOGIST DR. VK RAJU

Yes, we are proud and elated that Kamala Harris is selected to the vice-presidential ticket of the democratic party.

It's an honor for every one of us. It is a historical and an outstanding achievement and The American dream is quite alive!

In spite of her extraordinary busy schedule, she has written two non-fiction books and one children's book.

She is tough and tender which is a rare and exceptional quality.

On the other hand, we will be even prouder if we clean up Mata River Ganga. (like they did river Thames.) Today, river Thames is the cleanest river that flows through a major city. This was a major accomplishment considering that fifty years ago, the river was so polluted that it was declared biologically dead. May I add, we will be profoundly proud when we change the life of a young girl in India. Band aid changes will not do; real implementation of the promises of the leaders in public is needed. Then, sky is the limit for India!"



QUEENS, NEW YORK BASED COMMUNITY AND POLITICAL ACTIVIST MALINI SHAH

Kamala Harris is the right choice and would make a great Vice President. She brings with her stability, steadiness and diversity. Very experience and fights for rights of all communities."



LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK BASED VETERAN COMMUNITY LEADER INDU JAISWAL

I am extremely delighted that Kamala Harris has been nominated by the Democratic Party for Vice President Position. She is of Indian Origin. Hence, she makes all proud. She is a good choice. Wishing her all the best."



WASHINGTON DC BASED COMMUNITY ACTIVIST AND PROMOTER OF PLURALISM MIKE GHOUSE

Congratulations to Kamala Harris, Joe Biden, and the Democratic Party for selecting the right candidate. Biden made his first right decision by selecting Kamala Harris as his running mate. She will be one of the best VP's America ever had.

Kamala will change the role of Vice-presidency and be more active in domestic politics, and most certainly, she will not be a docile poodle like Pence. Kamala will stand her ground; we needed a VP who can say no to the president; she will be the one.

Is there an Indian who has not read about Kamala Harris? I have lapped up everything that came across about Kamala. She makes us proud of being an Indian American, she and our Indian American Congressmen give us hope and are the role models for the next generation.

Sen. Harris is progressive and inclusive. She will not buy into the prejudices that hold the nation back. Her intellectualism is a breath of fresh air; indeed, it is worth watching her grill Judge Bret Kavanaugh and attorney general nominee William Barr.

She is the perfect candidate for Vice-president and I will be voting for her and possibly campaign, as I did for Obama. By the way, I am an independent voter.

I have run into her several times in the Hart Senate Building, and her office is the first office as you enter the building. I have given her my book American Muslim Agenda, a book about building a cohesive America.

One of the questions that haunt me is to find out if Kamala Harris had faced exclusion from the Indian American community while growing up, as her father was black. Indian Americans are still struggling with racism, casteism, and prejudices.

Kamala Harris will undoubtedly work for stronger ties with India, provided Modi Bhai gets his act together. She will not tolerate Modi's hatred for fellow Indians who are Christians and Muslims.

The blind Modi Worshipers will work hard for Trump as their racism aligns with Trumps'. The Good news is they are a few of them, and it will not make a dent.

Kamala owes an apology to the Sikh community for how she opposed the Turbans in the police force while she was the Attorney General of California.

I am not voting for Kamala, because she is of Indian Origin, I have been a fan of hers since I watched her grill Kavanaugh and Barr. She will be a great vice-President."



NEW JERSEY BASED BUSINESSMAN AND A COMMUNITY ACTIVIST DAVE MAKKAR

Kamala Harris has created history by being the 3rd woman, 1st Black & 1st Indian American to be running for Vice President of America. Being an American, I am proud of my country that after electing its first Black President in 2008 we are definitely moving beyond race, religion & gender.

Then as an Indian American, I have mixed feelings for Kamala's candidacy. She always claims that she & her sister were raised by her mother, who was from India, as Black. That's the most admirable thing about her for identifying herself with both cultures. The most disturbing well-known fact about her that she used her sexuality to ride to the top in politics. An unfair means to grab power. I don't care about her sexual preferences but it is unethical & unfair just like the use of money or muscle power to grab power. Lot of male politicians had affairs and mistresses but they never used it to ride to the top. Fair competition is the foundations of democracy. If women rise to the top by sleeping with people in power the democratic system will no longer be supported by people of talent and principles. Such people are flash only with no substance and lack ideological compass. Use of money power, muscle power or sexuality in politics is worst for a country & its citizen. Live example is the plight of Indians currently ruled by politicians with flash only, no substance and total lack of ideological compass. They gained power by using muscle power, money power and religion.

Kamala being an opportunist lacks political ideology, always combine her flash with her killer political instinct. She adopted Bernie Sander's policies to claim she believes in progressive left policies and then abandoned him to claim she is a moderate when she ran for President!. Even before the first vote was cast for primaries; she abandoned her bid for President after major flip flops in debates. Her flip flops, low poll numbers & even rock bottom Black votes during primaries will be a drag on Biden. Biden who is famous for his gaffes for over 4 decades in Washington; lately his gaffes have become a serious matter of concern about his health. If elected he will be of Regan's age when he left office. That is a matter of grave concerns; Kamala with hardly any political ideology and stamina for political fights that she can take over as President if the need arises. So the voters should keep all these things in their mind when they will vote to Elect the President of the most cherished and powerful democracy in the world; United States of America!"

LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK BASED POLITICAL ANALYST AND COMMENTATOR VIBHUTI JHA

Congratulations to Senator Kamala Harris for her nomination to Mr. Biden's ticket for the position of the Vice President. It's proverbially known as a position that is a heartbeat away from Presidency! No VP candidate has drawn bigger attention as she has done and there are good reasons to analyze in that regard. She will give a much-needed flamboyance to the Biden campaign and as a former Attorney General of California she brings with her an enormous ability to argue a position as anyone can do. She is the best of all available option except perhaps for Ms. Warren, perhaps.



That said, we Indians need not go mushy or sentimental or emotional about her "Indian" heritage! She is not an ABCD since she carefully crafted her future as a black woman and her entire political career is woven around the identity of her black color. Her mother is a Tamil Brahmin and that's where her things Indian ends. What we must bear in mind relates to her position on matters relating to India and that is not a positive given her past statements against laws passed in Indian parliament with overwhelming mandate.

In any case, the position of Vice President is vital in this election given Mr. Biden is almost 78 and thus the VP has to be battle ready from day one. I am of the opinion, that since Mr. Biden is a one term President, he might choose to step down (for a variety of reasons) mid-way to pave way for the first ever ascent to the Presidency by a woman in America! Highly probable!

Mr. Biden will lose or win based entirely on his performance! His policy pronouncements have been remarkably anti-India and thus, Indians would do well to vote Trump whose policies have been truly pro India. For the first ever time, US and India have taken joint action to hit China for its Wuhan virus and border attacks by banning Chinese app makers. The battle has just begun. Democrats, Biden and his son have had murky financial equations with China!

Beware Indians of the Democrats in this 2020 elections. Do nothing that hurts our country of origin!"

DR. A. D. AMAR, PRESIDENT, INDIAN-AMERICANS FOR TRUMP



The Kamala Harris selection by Biden to be his running mate has a lot of significance for the Indian-Americans, some positive, some negative. It will excite many Indian-Americans. This is the closest India has come to the Oval Office. With Biden being 77-year old and she 55, there is a very good chance that she could be the president during Biden's first term, if there is a Biden win.

However, there is a lot of negative in the Indian-Americans for her. Until she was contesting for the President, during the Democratic

primary season, she had not associated herself with the Indian-American population. That is why, at a debate podium, questions were raised to her about her being of Indian heritage and hiding it. That opened this issue for her. Several reporters, since, asked her openly about her not espousing her Indian descent. It was only then that she accepted her Indian blood.

I am sure this question will come to haunt her during the presidential campaign. Both Indian-Americans and the Trump-supporting reporters will not let it die. No matter what, this lack of her association with her Indian heritage will have some negative effect on the Indian-American votes for Biden.

This election cycle, the Indian-Americans for Trump has been expecting a big turnout of the Indian-Americans for Trump, some of which will be dampened. Nevertheless, Harris' selection by Biden will send negative vibes among the black voters. While many of them may not vote for Trump, the lack of enthusiasm for the Biden-Harris ticket will keep them home on the election day. Nevertheless, Trump will still win hands down. The Indian Americans for Trump will make sure of it."



Sanjay Dutt diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer

Actor Sanjay Dutt has been detected with stage four lung cancer, said sources at Lilavati hospital who are not authorised to talk to the media. The actor, who was rushed to the hospital on Saturday after he complained of breathlessness, was discharged on Monday.

The actor's oxygen level was fluctuating between 90-92% when he was admitted. He was immediately tested for Covid-19 through rapid antigen kit. But as per the sources, the test result didn't show any presence of the pathogen of the virus. Later, it was reported that he has develop fluid in his chest.

His diagnosis revealed that he was suffering from stage four lung cancer. "When he was taken to the hospital, he was low on oxygen saturation. But when his Covid-19 report came negative, he run cancer analysis and it came positive," said a source from the hospital. When contacted his treating doctor, Dr Jalil Parker, refused to make any comment on it citing patient confidentiality.

On Tuesday, Sanjay had announced that he was taking a 'short break' from work for 'some medical treatment'. "Hi friends, I am taking a short break from work for some medical treatment." The Khalnaayak actor further said "My family and friends are with me and I urge my well-wishers not to worry or unnecessarily speculate. With your love and good wishes, I will be back soon!"

SARA ALI KHAN CELEBRATES HER 25TH BIRTHDAY

Sara Ali Khan celebrated her 25th birthday with her family at an idyllic getaway away, the pictures of which she shared on her Instagram story. At midnight, Sara Ali Khan's birthday celebrations began with balloons, champagne and of course, cake. In one of the pictures, Sara Ali Khan, dressed in pyjamas, posed with the many balloons put up for decoration as a bottle of champagne stood waiting. In another picture, she changed into a pinstripe romper and posed in another corner of the house, which had a unicorn birthday banner in the backdrop. And then, Sara Ali Khan also shared a picture of her two very delicious looking birthday cakes - one of which was arranged by her brother Ibrahim Ali Khan (It read, "Happy birthday, Appa Jaan")

Sara Ali Khan has been posting enviable pictures from her getaway, which also featured her brother. Sara shared pictures and videos of herself swimming in the pool of the villa she's staying in and she shared snippets from the adventures she went on with Ibrahim. In one of her recent posts, she shared a video of herself and Ibrahim racing their bicycles on a rainy windy day.

Sara Ali Khan debuted in Bollywood in 2018 with two back-to-back hits Kedarnath and Simmba. She then made Love Aaj Kal with director Imtiaz Ali and she is now looking forward to the release of Coolie No 1 with Varun Dhawan.

She also has Atrangi Re in the pipeline.



Priyanka Chopra finishes writing her memoir

Priyanka Chopra's memoir titled Unfinished is finally finished. The actor on Tuesday took to Twitter to share how excited she is to present the book whose every word "comes from a place of introspection and reflection" into her life.

"Unfinished is finished! Just about sent in the final manuscript! Wheee! Cannot wait to share it with you all. Every word in my memoir comes from a place of introspection and reflection into my life. #ComingSoon #unfinished," Priyanka wrote on Twitter.

Unfinished, in the words of Priyanka, is a book which aims at inspiring women to dream big and aim for everything in life. It is a collection of short stories and personal experiences of the actor. The announcement about the book was made two years ago by the publication house Penguin Random House India.

Talking about the book, the Quantico star had then shared, "The flavour of the book will be honest, funny, spirited, bold and rebellious, just like me. I have



always been a private person. I have never spoken about my feelings during my journey, but I am ready to do so now."

Jacqueline Fernandez gets Kick 2 as birthday gift, will reunite with Salman Khan in film

Sajid Nadiadwala has announced the female lead of his film Kick 2. Jacqueline Fernandez, who also starred in the 2014 movie, will reunite with Salman Khan for the sequel as well.

The official Twitter handle of Nadiadwala Grandsons made the announcement on Tuesday, which also marked Jacqueline's 35th birthday. "Too Much Fun @Asli Jacqueline's birthday, the wait ends as #SajidNadiadwala locked the script for #Kick2 this morning at 4 am. @WardaNadiadwala Thank you for the BIG News Smiling face with 3 heartsStar-struck #NGEFamily can't wait to see @BeingSalmanKhan& Jacqueline start #Kick-in soon!," the tweet read.

Kick was an action film in which Salman played a masked thief called Devi Lal Singh (Devil), who is always looking for a 'kick' in his life. Jacqueline played a psychiatrist in the film which also starred Randeep Hooda.

For Jacqueline's birthday, Salman, Madhuri Dixit Nene, Anushka Sharma, Varun Dhawan, Anil Kapoor, Arjun Rampal, among many others extended sweet wishes. Salman shared a picture with Jacqueline and wrote, "Happy bday Jacky. Wish u all d happiness @jacquelinef143."





CHRIS PRATT, KATHERINE SCHWARZENEGGER WELCOME BABY GIRL

Hollywood actor Chris Pratt on Monday took to Instagram to announce that he and his wife Katherine Schwarzenegger have been blessed with a baby girl. The couple have named their daughter, Lyla Maria Schwarzenegger Pratt.

Sharing a photo on Instagram, Chris wrote, "We are beyond thrilled to announce the birth of our daughter, Lyla Maria Schwarzenegger Pratt. We couldn't be happier."

"Both mom and baby are doing great. We are extremely blessed. Love Katherine and Chris," the note read further.

Lyla is Chris and Katherine's first child together. The duo had tied the knot in an intimate ceremony in California's Montecito in June 2019. Chris also has an eight-year-old son Jack from his first marriage to actor Anna Faris.

On the work front, Chris Pratt's last project was Disney's animation film Onward. He is currently awaiting the release of Jurassic World Dominion.

HILARY SWANK OPENS UP ABOUT WHY SHE PUT HER HOLLYWOOD CAREER ON HOLD

Hilary Swank is ready for her close up. The Oscar-winning actress stepped out of the spotlight from Hollywood in 2014 to focus on personal matters. Now, she's back in her element. Earlier this year, she starred in *The Hunt* and will soon hit the screen again with her new series, *Away*, which releases on Netflix in September.

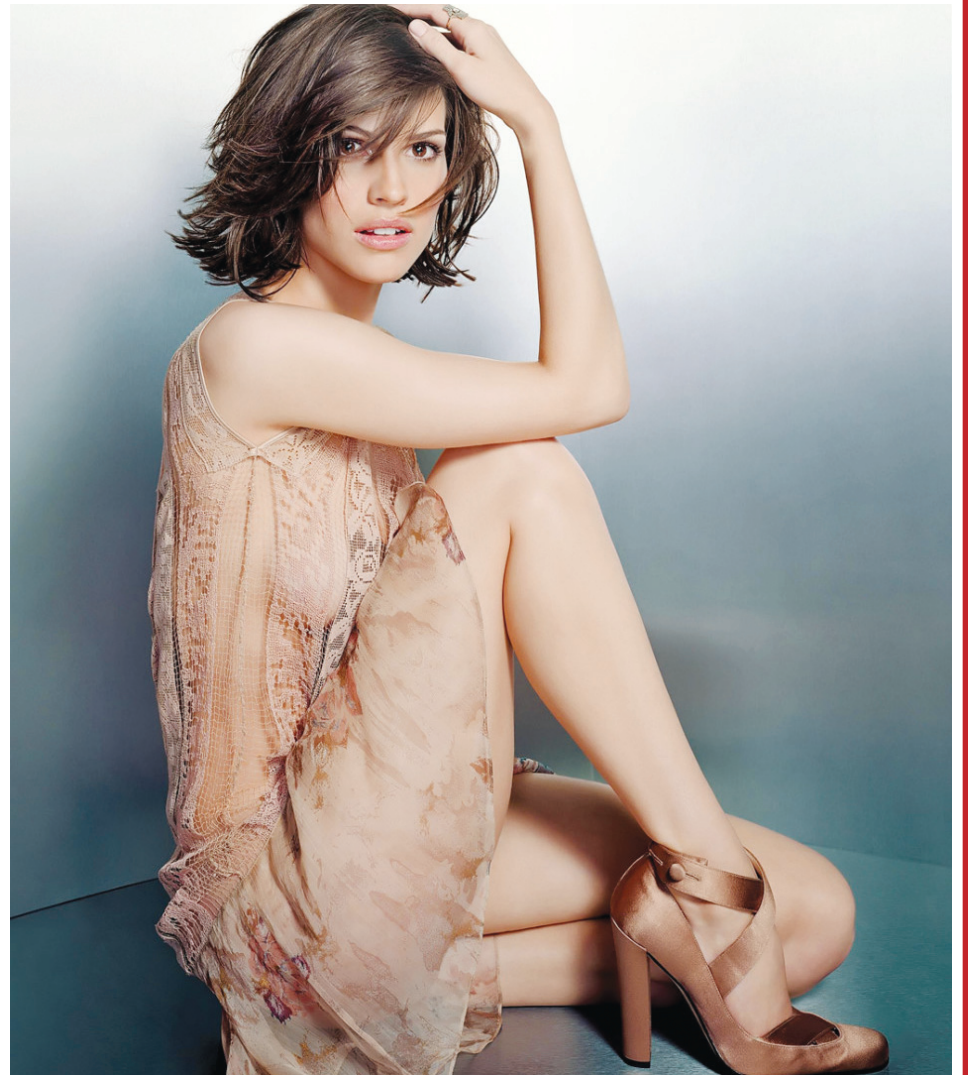
Speaking to *Health* magazine, Hilary opened up about her five-year hiatus, why she made that decision and so much more.

For one, the 46-year-old star said that putting her career on hold was a no-brainer considering she helped her father during his lung transplant recovery.

"It was supposed to be a year, because it takes a year to see if an organ transplant takes. A lung transplant is the most difficult of all, as it's an incredibly delicate organ. The plan was to take off a year," she explained. "I became my dad's health advocate. One year quickly turned into two, and then three."

"And, thank God, prayers were answered. He is healthy and doing really well five-plus years later," she shared.

While the actress shifted her priorities to focus on her dad's recovery and eventually became a health advocate herself, she admitted that it's a lot to take on.



Angelina Jolie seeks removal of private judge in Brad Pitt divorce case

Angelina Jolie asked Monday that the private judge overseeing her divorce from Brad Pitt be disqualified from the case because of insufficient disclosures of his business relationships with one of Pitt's attorneys.

In a filing in Los Angeles Superior Court, Jolie argues that Judge John W Ouderkirk should be taken off the divorce case that she filed in 2016 because he was too late and not forthcoming enough about other cases he was hired for involving Pitt attorney Anne C Kiley.

It says that during the Jolie-Pitt proceedings Ouderkirk has "failed to disclose the cases that demonstrated the current, ongoing, repeat-customer relationship between the judge and Respondent's counsel."

It goes on to say that Pitt's attorney "actively advocated for Judge Ouderkirk's financial interests in moving — over the opposing party's opposition — to have his appointment (and his ability to continue to receive fees) extended in a high profile case."

An email to Kiley and Pitt's lead attorney Lance Spiegel seeking comment was not immediately returned.

Pitt and Jolie, like other high-profile couples, are paying for a private judge in their divorce case to keep many of its filings and the personal and financial details within them sealed, though some



legal moves must be made within standard court procedure.

Jolie's filing emphasizes that a private judge must follow the same rules of disclosure and conflict of interest that other judges must.

The filing says "it doesn't matter if Judge Ouderkirk is actually biased. Under California law disqualification is required so long as a person aware of the facts 'might reasonably entertain a doubt' about Judge Ouderkirk's ability to remain impartial."

KYLIE JENNER TURNS 23, GETS WARM BIRTHDAY WISHES FROM HER FAMILY

Kylie Jenner turned 23-years-old on Monday morning and her family was up bright and early to wish the \$900M makeup mogul a good one.

Kris Jenner was the first to say Happy Birthday to her youngest child with a sweet Instagram post that included several flashback photos. Khloe, Kendall and Kim followed with their posts.

'Happy Birthday to my beautiful baby girl, my youngest child @kyliejenner!!' began the momager.

She added, 'Kylie, you never cease to amaze me with everything you do in life...'

'You are the most wonderful daughter, granddaughter, sister, friend, and unbelievable Mommy... you are the most thoughtful, generous, considerate, creative, smart and loving girl and I'm so blessed God chose me to be your Mommy!'





INDIA CELEBRATES ITS 74TH YEAR OF FREEDOM

India has come a long way since gaining Independence on August 15, 1947, and has made much headway in various fields

India celebrates its 74th year of Independence on August 15, 2020, but unlike previous years, this time the festivities are going to be low-key due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Independence Day marks the day when India became free from British rule, and it is also a reminder to the citizens of the many freedom fighters who fought to liberate the country.

India has come a long way since gaining its independence and has made much headway in various fields, including education and space. Here we take a brief look at the history and significance of the day and what led to the country gaining its independence from the British.

India became an independent nation on August 15, 1947, so a gazetted holiday is held annually to remember this date.

Independence Day is a day when people in India pay homage to their leaders and those who fought for India's freedom in the past. The period leading up to Independence Day is a time when major government buildings are illuminated with strings of lights and the tricolor flutters from homes and other buildings. Broadcast, print and online media may have special contests, programs, and articles to promote the day. Movies about India's freedom fighters are also shown on television.

The president delivers the "Address to the Nation" on the eve of Independence Day. India's prime minister unfurls India's flag and holds a speech at the Red Fort in Old Dehli. Flag hoisting ceremonies and cultural programs are held in the state capitals and often involve many schools and organizations.

Many people spend the day with family members or close friends. They may eat a picnic in a park or private garden, go to a film or eat lunch or dinner at home or in a restaurant. Other people go kite flying or sing or listen to patriotic songs.

Independence Day is a gazetted holiday in India on August 15 each year. National, state and local government offices, post offices and banks are closed on this day. Stores and other businesses and organizations may be closed or have reduced opening hours.

Public transport is usually unaffected as many locals travel for celebrations but there may be heavy traffic and increased security in areas where there are celebrations. Independence Day flag raising ceremonies may cause some disruption to traffic, particularly in Dehli and capital cities in India's states.

History of Independence Day

The British with the English East India Company had arrived in India in 1619 and had set up trading posts in the west coast port of Surat, Gujarat. It established itself in India and gained power after its victory in the 1757 Battle of Plassey and the 1764 Battle of Buxar, and by 1773, it had become the de facto ruler of large areas of the lower Gangetic plain. From then on it began to expand to other parts of the country, fighting wars and annexing states.

Many Indians began to increasingly dislike British rule, especially when in 1835 the English tried to impose Western



standards of education and culture on them. Rebellions against the British was said to have begun in the late 1750s and early 1760s, and Puli Thevar is said to have been the first Indian ruler to fight against them. The most notable of the early rebellions was the Indian rebellion of 1857, and after that there came many others that led to the British finally granting India its independence.

The provisions of the Indian Independence Act 1947, which transferred legislative sovereignty to the Indian Constituent Assembly, came into effect on August 15, 1947. The day also coincides with the partition of British-ruled India into two countries, India and Pakistan.

Significance

The day stands as a reminder of the sacrifices that many freedom fighters made to gain independence from British rule so future generations can live freely. It is a national holiday, and the day is usually observed throughout India with flag-hoisting ceremonies, parades and cultural events.

The sport of kite flying symbolizes Independence Day. The skies are dotted with countless kites flown from rooftops and fields to symbolize India's free spirit of India. Kites of various styles, sizes and shades, including the tricolor are available in the marketplaces. The Red Fort in Dehli is also an important Independence Day symbol in India as it is where Indian Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru unveiled India's flag on August 15, 1947.

India's national flag is a horizontal tricolor of deep saffron (kesaria) at the top, white in the middle and dark green at the bottom in equal proportion. The ratio of the flag's width to its length is two to three. A navy-blue wheel in the center of the white band represents the chakra. Its design is that of the wheel which appears on the abacus of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka. Its diameter approximates to the white band's width and it has 24 spokes.



Freedom is one of the most expensive commodities. No amount of money will be enough to buy freedom.

Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action-Into that heaven of freedom, my father, let my country awake.

— Rabindranath Tagore in his poem 'Where The Mind Is Without Fear'

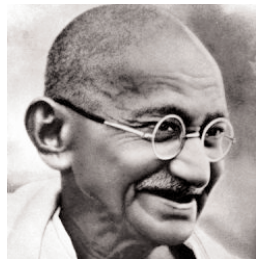


A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM

The Indian freedom was a long struggle which claimed thousands of lives and countless sacrifices. Many of these sacrifices went unnoticed but some of them found their way into history books and are even remembered today with great pride and honour. The date August 15 brings a sense of patriotism to all Indians whether in India or abroad and makes the people behind our independence even more special. Here's a look at some of those great personalities because of whom we stand on the brink of social, political and economical greatness.

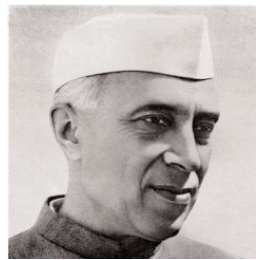
Mahatma Gandhi

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born in 2nd October, 1869 and was entitled "Father of Nation" and Mahatma Gandhi because of his great deeds. Married to Kasturba at 13, he studied law in London and went to South Africa for practice where racial discrimination towards some Indians inspired him to fight for human rights. Later, after watching the status of India ruled by Englishmen, Gandhi fiercely joined the freedom fight. He took "DandiKuch" on his bare foot to relieve tax on salt and led several non-violence movements against Britishers in efforts for freedom.



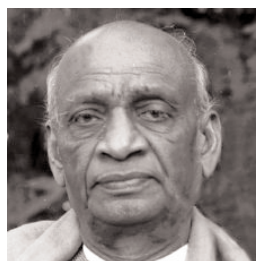
Jawaharlal Nehru

Jawaharlal Nehru was the only son of Motilal Nehru and Swarup Rani and was born in 1889. Nehru was originally a barrister and became popular as both freedom fighter of India and a politician. His passion for India's freedom was the influence of Mahatma Gandhi's efforts to relieve India from Britishers. He joined the freedom struggle, became the President of Indian National Congress and was eventually made the First Prime Minister of India post the independence. Since he adored children, he was called Chacha Nehru and his birthday is celebrated as Children's day.



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Most brave and epic from the young age, Vallabhbhai Patel was born in 1875 and earned the title 'Sardar' after his heroic contribution in Bardoli Satyagrah. Due to his brave endeavors, he eventually began to be regarded as 'the iron man of India.'. Sardar Patel was originally a lawyer but he withdrew from law and joined freedom fight to represent India against British rulers. He became the Deputy PM of India after the independence and dedicated himself to integrate princely states into the Union India.



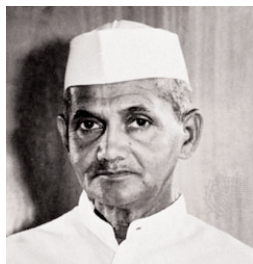
Tantia Toppe

Tantia Toppe was born in 1814 and became one of the great classic Indian rebellions in 1857. He led a group of soldier and to fight and end the dominance of the British. A firm follower of Nana Sahib, he served as General and continued his fight despite extreme circumstances. Tantia made General Windham to leave Kanpur and was involved in reinstating Rani Lakshmi to Gwalior.



Lal Bahadur Shastri

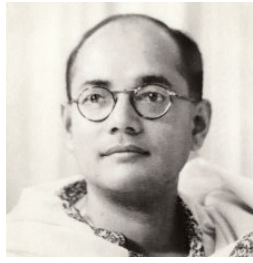
Lal Bahadur Shastri was born in 1904 in UP. He received the title "Shastri" Scholar after he completed



his study at Kashi Vidyapeeth. As a silent yet active freedom fighter, he participated in Quit India movement, Civil Disobedience movement and Salt Satyagrah movement led by Mahatma Gandhi. He also spent many years in Jail. After the independence, he graced the position of Home Minister and later became Prime Minister of India in 1964.

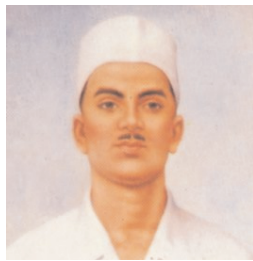
Subhash Chandra Bose

Famous with the title Netaji, Subhas Chandra Bose was born in 1897 in Orissa. The Jallianwala bagh Massacre potentially shook him and made him return to India from England in 1921. He joined Indian National Congress and was a part of Civil Disobedience Movement. Since he wasn't content with Non-Violence method of freedom as promoted by Gandhi Ji, he went to Germany for help and eventually formed Indian National Army (INA) and Azad Hind Government.



Sukhdev

Born in 1907, Sukhdev was a valiant revolutionary and an integral member of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. He worked close with his associates Bhagat Singh and Shivram Rajguru. He was said to be involved in killing a British officer John Saunders. Unfortunately, he was arrested and martyred along with Bhagat Singh and Shivaram Rajguru at the age of 24.



Rani Lakshmi Bai

Rani Lakshmi Bai, the Queen of Jhansi, was born in 1828. She was a key member of India's fierce uprising of independence in 1857. Despite being a woman, she embodied bravery and fearless attitude, inspiring thousands of women to participate the freedom battle. She bravely defended her palace of Jhansi in 1858 when it was to be invaded by British force led by Sir Hugh Rose.



Bal Gangadhar Tilak

Bal Gangadhar Tilak was born in 1856 and was a remarkable freedom fighters of India. In a raging protest against British, he created burning flame across the nation with the slogan - "Swaraj is my birthright". He was more popular as one of the triumvirate: Lal, Bal and Pal. To defy English rulers, Tilak built schools and published rebellious newspapers. Since people loved and respected him as one of the greatest leaders, he was called Lokmanya Tilak.



Lala Lajpat Rai

Lala Lajpat Rai was born in 1865 in Punjab and was informally called Punjab Kesari. A part of Lal-Bal-Pal trio, he was one of the extremist members of Indian National Congress. In 1920, he became a popular leader as he led the Non-Cooperation Movement and Punjab Protest



against the Jalliwala Bagh incident. In a Simon Commission protest in 1928, he died from brutal Lathi charge by the Britishers.

Mangal Pandey



Born in 1827, Mangal Pandey was one the early freedom fighter. He was among the first rebels to inspire young Indian soldiers to instigate the great rebellion of 1857. Serving as a soldier for the British East India Company, Pandey launched a first attack by firing at English officials, which was the beginning of the Indian rebellion in 1857.

Bhagat Singh

Bhagat Singh was quite a famous revolutionary and also controversial Freedom Fighters of India as he became proud martyr for his country. He was born to a Sikh family of freedom fighters in 1907 in Punjab. He was therefore a born patriot and joined non-Cooperation movement in 1921. He formed the "Naujawan Bharat Sabha", to instill patriotism in youth of Punjab. Chauri-Chaura Massacre changed him and made him extreme in his fight for freedom.



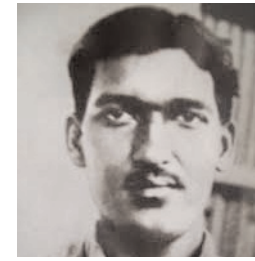
Chandra Shekhar Azad

Chandra Shekhar Azad was born in 1906 and was a close associate of Bhagat Singh in the struggle for freedom. He was also a part of Hindustan Republican Association and the most fearless and challenging freedom fighter against British rulers. During a skirmish with British soldiers, after killing many enemies he shot himself with his Colt pistol. He swore he would never be captured alive by those Britishers.



Ashfaqulla Khan

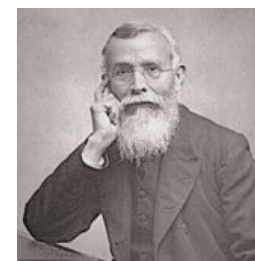
Born in 1900, Ashfaqulla Khan was another young fountain of revolutionary fire who also sacrificed his life for his mother India like many other martyrs in the list. Like Bismil and Chandrashekha, he, too, was a prominent member of the Hindustan Republican Association. He carried out the popular train robbery at Kakori Khan with the help of his associates, which led him to being executed by the British.



Ram Prasad Bismil Like Shahid Bhagat Singh, Ram Prasad Bismil was also a memorable young revolutionary who martyred for his country. Born in 1897, Bismil was one of the respectable members of the Hindustan Republican Association with Sukhdev. He was also involved in the notorious Kakori train robbery because of which British government sentenced him to death.

Dadabhai Naoroji

Dadabhai Naoroji was born in 1825 and is accountable for establishing the Indian National Congress. He is also one of the prominent activists to have joined the non-violence independent movement. He criticized in one of his books about British colonialism in India being equivalent to stealing wealth from the country





INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY TIMELINE

May 10, 1857

The Uprising

The 34th Bengal Native Infantry, Mangal Pandey, rises up against the British East India Company's army. That triggers an effective rebellion — bringing together a coalition of various civil and political organizations banding together to oppose British oppression.

December 28, 1885

Indian National Congress

The Indian National Congress is one of the oldest political groups in the world and was formed out of a coalition of various groups including the National Students Union of India, the Indian Youth Congress, and the Indian National Trade Union Congress, to name a few.

April 13, 1919

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre involves British troops firing into a massive crowd of unarmed Indian civilians in Amritsar — an event which motivated Gandhi to lead a movement of non-violent resistance in the struggle for independence.

1929

Purna Swaraj

The Indian National Congress gathers at Lahore and resolves to fight for "Purna Swaraj" or total liberation.

August 15, 1947

Power transfer

By midnight of India's first day as an independent, sovereign nation, pundit Jawaharlal Nehru reinforces India's liberation with his iconic "Tryst with Destiny" speech.

HOW TO OBSERVE INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Make it a family affair

Gather family and friends together for an outing at the park, a special dinner or strolling in a garden. The main thing is to get with the people you hold dear and spend quality time celebrating this special day of India's liberation.

Go fly a kite

Bet you didn't know that kite flying has a revered place in India because it is a symbol for Indian Independence Day. If you can't be in India for the festivities; head to your nearest park or beach, unfurl your brightest-colored kite and fly in honor of India's day of freedom.

Shout Vande Mataram!

Every liberation movement has its rallying cry. "Vande Mataram" became a slogan to inspire India's freedom fighters as they battled the British. On Indian Independence Day, get family and friends together before, during or after festivities and shout out "Vande Mataram!"

4 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT INDIA'S "TRYST WITH DESTINY" CELEBRATION

The day starts with a 21-gun salute



Jawaharlal Nehru's famous speech "Tryst with destiny"

On Indian Independence Day, the prime minister hoists the Indian flag from Red Fort, Delhi, while someone sings the National Anthem and soldiers fire off a 21-gun salute to commemorate the event.

The date changed

The actual date of India's independence is July 18, 1947, but Britain's Lord Mountbatten changed the date to coincide with the second anniversary of Japan's surrender to the Allied Forces on August 15.

Flag symbolizes progress

India's original flag was made up of the two symbolic colors of red and green, but Gandhi suggested adding a white strip in the middle with a spinning wheel to represent India's national progress.

There's a mandatory no-fly zone

Safety measures call for a ban on air traffic over Delhi's historic Red Fort.



My Nationalism, fierce though it is not exclusive, is not devised to harm any individual.

- Mahatma Gandhi

WHY INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY IS IMPORTANT

It's the most important day in India's long history

Indian Independence Day is the nation's most beloved holiday because the Indian people liberated themselves from the British without having massive armies or a national treasury. It's also incredible when you consider the length of British rule in India. During the 1700s, India's colorful fabrics and aromatic spices lured British traders to the Indian subcontinent. After 100 years, the British East India Company had a firm grip on all aspects of India's economy in a monopoly sanctioned by —

and benefiting — the British government.

Gandhi and the Indian National Congress led the liberation movements "An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind," was a saying by one of India's most famous leaders, Mahatma Gandhi.

Trained as a lawyer, he was among the first to call for Indians to have self-determination for their country. Through his spiritual practice of "ahimsa," meaning "doing no harm," Gandhi raised non-violent resistance to a form of political action. Gandhi, Nehru, and other Indian leaders formed

the Indian National Congress to strategize against British rule and to mobilize the masses in the struggle.

Liberation created one of the world's great nations

After years of struggle and deprivation, the Indian people threw off the shackles of British domination. After WWII, thanks to the determination of Indian freedom fighters, on August 15, 1947, the British Parliament transferred legislative sovereignty to the Constituent Assembly of India with the Indian Independence Act.



PROMOTING SCIENCE, TECH, INNOVATION THROUGH COLLABORATION

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on the global economy, and has presented unprecedented challenges on social, healthcare and business fronts. The outbreak has pushed governments and decisionmakers to think and rethink, and come up with innovative ideas and policies to deal with the current crisis.

India, which is currently the fourth worst-hit nation in terms of the number of cases, has recently announced major reforms in multiple sectors, including defense production, civil aviation, power distribution, Space research and atomic energy. The government is now in the process of formulating a comprehensive Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) 2020, its first since 2013.

The policy, for which the Ministry of Science and Technology has set up a secretariat with in-house experts, is being formulated in close consultation with multiple stakeholders. "The new policy will be evidence driven, rather than wisdom based. It will be thematic, and not broad-based, and will be inclusive, with a bottom-up approach," explained Professor Akhilesh Gupta, Head of STIP 2020 Secretariat, Department of Science and Technology. Professor Gupta was speaking at a virtual Town Hall meet to launch public consultations for STIP 2020.

New approach

According to a statement by the Indian government, the new policy, with its decentralized manner of formation, will reorient STIP in terms of priorities, sectoral focus, the way research is done and technologies are developed and deployed for a larger socio-economic welfare. "A lot has changed in the last seven-ten years, and some of those changes have been radical. There is a compelling case for us to look at what the future holds. For instance, the rise of Industry 4.0, which is intimately connected with science and technology. Then there is a strong need for sustainable development on the planet. We don't have to create more shadows, but need to create more light from technology," said Professor Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology.

Professor Sharma added that with the advancement of "thinking machines", and technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, the future will be all about convergence of technologies, and so India needs a policy that establishes strong connects between all stakeholders and the entire ecosystem. Professor K. VijayRaghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, was of the view that with its young demography, India can not only transform itself, but can be a great resource for the transformation of the world. "The Science, Technology and Innovation Policy needs to look forward in a post COVID-19 world in innovative ways, with special focus on people at the foundation (young researchers and professionals) and access to research from everywhere."

Four-track strategy

The process of formulating STIP 2020 is based on four interlinked tracks,

India, which is currently the fourth worst-hit nation in terms of the number of cases, has recently announced major reforms in multiple sectors, including defense production, civil aviation, power distribution, Space research and atomic energy. The government is now in the process of formulating a comprehensive Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) 2020, based on close consultations with nearly 15,000 stakeholders.



which, according to the government, will cover nearly 15,000 stakeholders. Track I involves extensive public and expert consultation process through a dedicated platform (Science Policy Forum) for receiving inputs from the larger public and expert pool. Track II comprises expert-driven thematic consultations to feed informed recommendations into the policy based on scientific evidence.

Track III involves consultations with ministries and states, while track IV constitutes an apex level multi-stakeholder consultation. For track III, nodal officers are being nominated in various states and in ministries, government departments and agencies.

The consultation processes on different tracks have already started and are running in parallel.

With India facing a plethora of challenges going forward, the time is right for a policy that encourages collaboration, safeguards all interests and promotes growth and development. As Professor VijayRaghavan said in his concluding remark. "There are so many areas that require extensive research. For instance, environment and ecology. We can have scientists, mathematicians and city planners come together and share knowledge towards this common cause."

Commercialization of space activities in India

On May 16 this year, Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman electrified the Space community with the bold announcement on boosting private participation in Space activities. Here is

what the minister said:

Indian private sector will be a co-traveler in the country's Space sector journey.

India will provide level playing field for private companies in satellites, launches and Space-based services.

India will provide predictable policy and regulatory environment to private players.

Private sector will be allowed to use ISRO facilities and other relevant assets to improve their capacities.

Future projects for planetary exploration, outer Space travel, etc. will be open for private sector.

There will be a liberal geospatial data policy for providing Remote Sensing data to tech-entrepreneurs.

Even though these bold statements have excited the Space communities in the technology and application areas, it needs to be said that a policy statement such as this, which gives a "feel good" warmth, needs to be followed up with cold and hard actions. A statement is not a policy. A policy needs to be backed up with processes which will give rise to programs and projects.

When the US was losing the Space race to the erstwhile USSR, President John F. Kennedy declared in September 1962 that "we choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard; because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one we intend to win, and the others, too." This was followed by the Apollo

Program, and with Apollo 11, the first human, an American, stepped on the Moon in July 1969.

In these seven years, several US industries blossomed and grew into global Space giants which supported the US to further its Space ventures, till the tragic failures of the Space Shuttle, which effectively closed down human spaceflight from American soil on American vehicles. In the first decade of the new millennium, SpaceX, Virgin Galactic and many other private Space startups jumped in with new ideas and new programs.

On May 30, after nine years, NASA astronauts have once again ridden into Space from US soil on a US built vehicle. The only difference being that the Falcon 9 launcher and the Crew Dragon spacecraft were designed, built and launched by SpaceX from a completely refurbished and, a very aesthetically attractive Pad 39A of the NASA launch complex. It is also important to note that an old hand like Boeing lost out to a bold startup like SpaceX.

Origins of ISRO and its core purpose

As far back as the early 1960s, a scientist, Vikram Sarabhai, working with the Department of Atomic Energy, realized that Space could play an important role in India's development. In 1962, he formed the Indian National Committee for Space Research, INCOSPAR, with the support of the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. INCOSPAR was managed by the Physical Research Laboratory, which was a grant-in-aid institution of the Department of Atomic Energy.

Eventually INCOSPAR activities migrated to the Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO, a project of PRL. Under INCOSPAR and later ISRO, several projects were launched like sounding rockets for Space Sciences, Experimental Satellite Communications Earth Station for training in earth station operations, Satellite Instructional Television Experiment, etc.

In an address to the first UN Conference on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, UNISPACE held in 1969, Vikram Sarabhai also recognized the importance of Remote Sensing for development, and these activities began under ISRO.

While the Indian Space Program is quite different from the US Space Program, and ISRO is quite different from NASA, it is necessary to learn from the US experience and those of other countries, to steer commercialization of Space activities in a "co-traveler" mode. It is also necessary to understand where ISRO stands today in terms of working with co-travelers. ISRO, it should be noted, is the primary research and development arm of the Department of Space, DOS. The key term is research and development.

R&D - an instrument of societal development

In 1971, Dr. Sarabhai, the architect of India's nascent Space program, passed away, leaving an inchoate ISRO to Prof. Satish Dhawan, who took over in 1972 and



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gave it a direction and defined specific goals. Prof. Dhawan realized that ISRO needed to co-travel with other Indian entities in order to be relevant. Under his leadership, ISRO forged ahead with launchers, primarily PSLV, INSAT communications satellites and IRS Remote Sensing satellites. While the launchers would ultimately serve to launch Indian satellites, the satellites themselves would have to serve India meaningfully in terms of communications, broadcasting, meteorology and natural resources management.

Thanks to his far-sightedness, the Indian Space Program formed very useful relationships for both upstream and downstream activities. The Indian industry, both heavy industries and MSMEs, were roped in to supply the essential components of launch vehicles and satellites. At the same time, ISRO engaged with the end users of communications, meteorology and natural resources management to evolve meaningful uses of the satellites in these areas.

Transformation of ISRO from research to operational institution

Most old ISRO hands wonder since when did a primarily R&D organization become an operational agency for the manufacture of launchers, communications satellites and Remote Sensing satellites, and the provision of services for launches, communications satellite management and Remote Sensing data services? It happened over time.

Diversion from core purpose to internalization of ISRO

From the heady and challenging days of working with other organizations, ISRO has steadily internalized its activities and turned itself into a launcher and satellite production and service agency. There is precious little R&D that goes on which we are aware about. The small satellite launch vehicle is an afterthought, as the same has been already proposed by NewSpace India participants. While the development of the cryogenic engine is significant, it should be noted that it got delayed due to a decision to tie up with Russia for the cryogenic engines and the subsequent geopolitical maneuvers and events.

We are far behind in the development of reusable launchers because our attention is more on increasing the number of launches. When PSLV is built with nearly 80% of contracted components, what is holding ISRO back from passing on the manufacture and launch activities of PSLV to the industry and concentrating on new developments in launcher technologies?

In applications too, the much vaunted 160 projects to be executed by end users to give a fillip to the use of Remote Sensing data by end user departments were internalized to a set of Bhuvan maps prepared by ISRO. There are hardly any applications that are significant, and that extend the capabilities of modeling and analysis. While data science has taken the world by storm, ISRO seems to be well insulated from these advances. There have been no significant developments in the communications field either on satellites or on the ground. IRNSS is an exception, but two years after its commissioning, its usage is still minimal.

The worst action of internalization was the unnecessary creation of the



Remote Sensing Data Policy. Till this came, IRS data was available openly. On the other hand, decades old policies of Survey of India made it difficult for scientists to acquire topographic maps, particularly of coastal and international boundary areas, essential for the analysis of satellite imagery. Similarly, policies of the Ministries of Home and Defence made it extremely difficult to acquire aerial photographs and imagery, which were useful as supplementary data.

The RSDP ensured that ISRO joined the dubious club of data deniers. The decision to canalize import of high resolution imagery is another chokepoint which smacks of conflict of interest. While the unstated desire is to promote high resolution IRS data, the RSDP effectively denies this data to users other than from the government or government-sponsored projects.

Worse still was its decision to sell imagery which was being generated using taxpayers' money. The result was to drive away potential users from industry and academia. Ostensibly, Bhuvan is designed to make data available to end users for free. In reality, Bhuvan, with its poor bandwidth, is no match for Landsat and Sentinel data, which are available free to download from the Cloud, but policy restrictions prevent ISRO from doing the same.

Deterioration of leadership and disempowerment of young generation

The journey of ISRO under a Chairman who could boldly go out and face a hostile media after the failure of the first SLV launch to a Chairman whose prime interest is to launch, launch and launch, and who cries on the shoulders of the Prime Minister after the failure of the Chandrayaan lander is not one that instills confidence in the organization's ability to co-travel with potential challengers in the fields of

technology and applications.

Given this scenario, ISRO is most unsuited to take on the task of encouraging co-travelers. There is too much of bureaucratization and severe conflict of interest. The sad stories of Devas and TeamIndus strengthen this view. Leaving operational activities to others more suited for the task will be painful for ISRO because over time, it has given birth to a Siamese twin of R&D and operations. While the R&D is in the ICU, the operations part is thriving.

ISRO has world-class facilities for fabrication and testing, which are used by both, but operations get a higher priority and R&D suffers. Also, working on operational projects with a short life span is more interesting, as it gives greater short-term visibility and therefore better career progression for the staff. R&D requires patience and the use of brain power. Success is slow in coming and not guaranteed.

Commercialization of capabilities

It should be noted that ISRO is just a part of the Department of Space, which is the main body akin to NASA. However, because of its size and the nature of its growth, it is easy to confuse ISRO with DOS and use the acronyms interchangeably. DOS has two other units which are not a part of ISRO. These include Antrix Corporation Limited, ACL, and New Space India, NSI. The latter should not be confused with NewSpace India, which represents an informal consortium of private Space entrepreneurs.

ACL is dubbed as the commercial arm of ISRO and is engaged in providing Space products and services to international customers worldwide. It is really the commercial arm of DOS, but it uses all ISRO facilities and manpower to further its business. Started as a one-and-a-half person organization, housed in

ISRO headquarters, it relies heavily on the Space organization without any benefit to it in terms of sharing profits or even funding research there. In short, ISRO is forced into operational and commercial tasks through ACL, neglecting its mandated role of R&D, much to its detriment as explained above.

NSI was set up recently with the "primary mandate of enabling Indian industries to scale up high-technology manufacturing and production base for Indian Space Program". Both ACL and NSI are wholly owned Government of India entities under the administrative control of DOS. It seems that while ACL is to market ISRO products and services abroad, NSI is to encourage industry to scale up to meet ISRO requirements of high technology manufacturing.

It is clear from the above information that the vision of DOS viz-a-viz private industry is one of managing contractors for ISRO requirements and not one of encouraging independent co-travelers. In order to realize the independent participation of private industry in Space activities, the government needs to look beyond ISRO-DOS.

Structural reforms and strengthening of research and exploration

To be able to bring the policy statement to reality requires a major overhaul of government led Space activities. Only then will the promises be realizable.

The first need is of a Space policy, which is hanging fire for long. Such a policy is needed to encourage a vibrant space industry independent of ISRO-DOS. Such a policy must emerge from the Space industry and user communities, and not be driven by ISRO-DOS. One such draft by an organization, Takshashila Institution, needs to be considered seriously.

Secondly, ISRO needs to be restructured by removing all operational activities including their related facilities and services. All services should be with ACL. The huge facilities in ISRO funded by the government should be made into national Space technology fabrication and testing assets which are open to both ISRO-DOS and Industry impartially. NSIL should be repurposed to manage these assets on behalf of the Government of India.

ISRO should concentrate on advanced launchers, payloads and ground systems for Earth related applications, Space Sciences and Human in Space programs. While interaction with ACL and NSIL will be necessary, it should be on strictly commercial terms as applicable to other co-travelers.

One of the very interesting ideas that has been posted recently is the possibility of independent industries to meet the needs of the defense forces independent of ISRO which is essentially a civilian organization. It is also possible that private communications service providers could fund communications satellites using the MEO, as is happening in the rest of the world, maybe for 5G services for example. The same could apply for Remote Sensing constellations.

The Government should break away and do only those things that industry cannot do. These include developing advanced technologies and systems for healthcare, education, Space sciences and humans in Space. Leave the industry to find its own way and do their own thing guided by an enabling Space policy which should be reviewed and modified from time to time in consultation with all stakeholders.



FROM NEHRUVIAN SELF-RELIANCE TO MODI'S ATMANIRBHAR

The recent brouhaha over the concept of 'self-reliance' brings back memories of the 1970s and one particular slogan that was popular back then. Along with the myriad set of messages about the joys of family planning and male contraception, those who were around in the 1970s would remember this slogan – 'Be Indian, Buy Indian'.

This was a slogan that was imprinted on walls, buses and poster and hoardings across Indian cities. This slogan was particularly popular during the dark days of the Emergency in the mid-1970s.

But this 'ideology' vanished from the political and economic lexicon of the country by the 1980s.

After being in deep freeze for more than three decades, self reliance has made a rather triumphant return now. The pandemic-ravaged world has woken up to the vulnerabilities of being dependent on China's global supply-chains.

Decisive shift

India, which started taking baby steps to reduce dependence on Chinese imports in early May, made a more decisive shift after the border clash in the Galwan Valley which tragically resulted in the deaths of Indian soldiers. The immediate move was to ban 59 Chinese apps including the immensely popular TikTok.

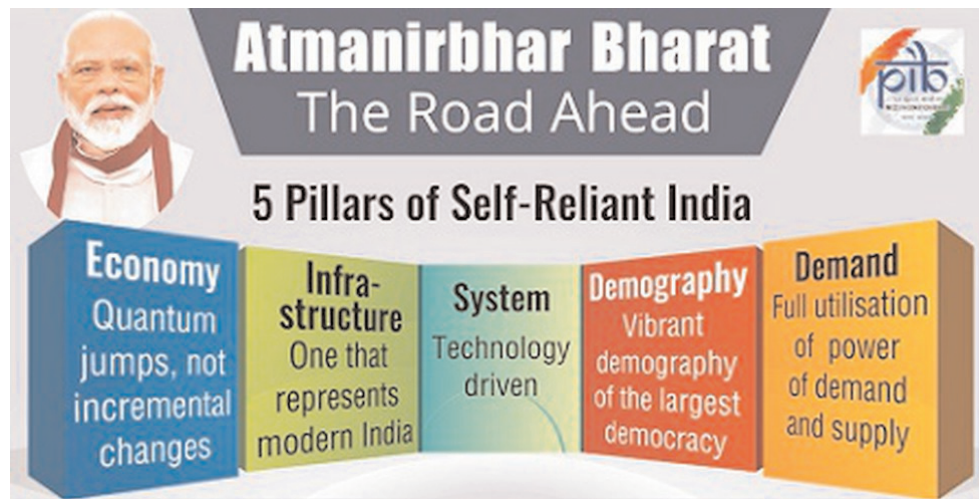
Even before the border clashes, the Modi government had made approval for Chinese investments mandatory. It also put in place a policy to ward off 'predatory' Chinese takeovers of India companies. The border clash gave the government the political heft to move further down the path of self-reliance.

The government now has given a range of incentives to Indian industry to make products that were so far being imported from China. It is giving Rs 10,000 crore for the pharma sector and Rs 40,000 crore for the electronics sector as incentives over five years to develop domestic manufacturing capabilities. This incentive scheme is expected to wean industry away from Chinese imports especially in Advanced Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs). These are performance-linked incentives so industry will have to achieve certain milestones to avail themselves of the scheme.

This has brought cheer to the industry but now comes the hard part. Industry has to roll up its sleeves and get down to business and make a concerted attempt to reduce reliance on China.

Self-reliance and BJP - natural allies

Though the concept of self-reliance went out of vogue soon after the 1991 reforms were ushered in, it didn't quite vanish from the policy agenda. Sections of the BJP and the RSS always harboured a deep suspicion towards foreign investment. For many in the BJP and RSS, developing a strong domestic industry with little reliance on the outside world was a strong component of their version of nationalism. The Swadeshi Jagran Manch, affiliated to the



RSS, is well known for its antipathy towards anything foreign. It has gone on record saying that "FDI has done more bad for the economy than good."

The RSS affiliated-trade union Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh's views on the economy, especially on foreign investments are remarkably similar to

the Left parties. The RSS's economic views are cheekily described as "Communism plus cow" by columnist Gautam Mehta.

Also the BJP's traditional support base in the North and Central India came from small traders and businessmen – the kirana store owners being an

important segment. Which is why even the Vajpayee regime, despite pushing the reforms agenda, especially in cutting import tariff and disinvesting from public sector companies, could not liberalise rules on foreign investments in the retail sector; thanks to the vehement opposition of kirana store owners.

Incrementalist too

Some commentators rather naively assumed that when Narendra Modi became Prime Minister in 2014, he would unleash far-reaching economic reforms which they felt were being stalled during the UPA regime.

But to their disappointment Modi turned out to be just as much as an 'incrementalist' on the reforms front as his predecessors.

The Modi government on one hand went about cutting red tape and boosting India's ranking on 'Ease of Doing Business' with the hope of inviting foreign investments (remember 'Make in India'?). But on the other hand its constant tweaking of e-commerce investment rules at the behest of the BJP-leaning Confederation of All-India Traders (CAIT), shows that the party couldn't quite shake-off its core misgivings towards foreign investments at least in some sectors.

Self-reliance - then and now

Despite the BJP's ambivalent stance on foreign investments and reforms its conception of self-reliance differs significantly from the Nehruvian version which was popular in the 1950s.

In the Nehruvian version of self-reliance, the public sector played a crucial role in developing domestic industrial capacity especially in heavy industry. Foreign investments in the Nehruvian model were shunned and high tariff walls insulated the domestic industry from foreign competition. Though India industry groaned under onerous regulations during this era, many businessmen learned to 'game' the licence-quota Raj and thrive. Also insulated from foreign competition, Indian industry was handed the huge domestic consumer market on a platter.

But the current version of self-reliance has made foreign investment an important component despite the current regime's ambivalence to it. The way the Modi government went about inviting foreign companies looking to relocate from China in the aftermath of the pandemic is proof of this.

Also another significant divergence from the earlier model is the Modi government's commitment towards selling government stake in public sector companies, which no longer occupy the "commanding heights" of the economy. By easing credit for industry, especially the MSME sector, the government now sees itself as a facilitator of business rather than being an economic player producing goods and services.

In a world that is turning inwards, it is hardly surprising to see the Modi government take this course. But will the 'Modi model' or Atmanirbhar Bharat succeed where the earlier version failed, is the Rs 20-lakh-crore question.



INDIA DEFENCE DEALS

To deterrent regional threats and strengthen the defence system, the Government of India has made several defence deals majorly with Russia and the US, among others.

Indian Army is the world's largest Standing army in the world with a strength of around 1.4 million. Not only this, but India is also the world's largest importer of defence-related equipment such as arms and ammunition. India spends billions in the defence sector to strengthen its Armed Forces and safeguard its territory. Below we have mentioned the latest defence deals of India:

Fleet Vessel Ship Agreement

In October 2019, India put the FVS (Fleet Vessel Ship) Agreement on hold after questions were raised on Turkey's links with Pakistan and the recent diplomatic tiff with the Recep Tayyip Erdogan government. Turkish shipyards are major suppliers of warships to the Navy of Pakistan. This raised serious security concerns as the Turkish company was to manufacture ships at HSL. However, in February 2020, the Government of India has given a nod to go ahead with the \$2.3 billion deal after reviewing the concerns as mentioned above.

Under this agreement, the Turkish company will manufacture 5 Fleet Vessel Ship of 45,000 tonnes at HSL (Hindustan Shipyard Limited), Vishakhapatnam. Turkey's TIAS emerged as the lowest bidder for the FVS contract and was given a green signal in the year 2016. These ships will be used by the Indian Navy to carry fuel and other supplies to refuel its warships at sea.

India-US Apache Contract

India and the US have signed \$930 million agreement for 6 Apache Helicopters for Indian Army. The contract was made in the year 2015 by the Indian Air Force for 22 Apache helicopters. Out of 22 helicopters, 17 have already been delivered to India and the rest will be delivered in the year 2023. These helicopters will be deployed on Rajasthan border with Pakistan on western sector.

The contract includes munitions, training, aircraft certification, and components include engines, EO sensors and the radar. Indian Army will get the AH-64E Apache configuration. This is the world's most advanced multi-role helicopter and was inducted in the US Army in November 2011.

The Apache sale is a hybrid procurement - Direct Commercial Sale (DCS) between Boeing and Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Foreign Military Sale (FMS) between the Government of India and the US Government.

The Apache helicopters are produced in Mesa, Arizona and more than 400 Apache helicopters (AH-64E) have been delivered worldwide to date.

The Apache helicopters have advanced digital connectivity, joint tactical information distribution system, more powerful T700-GE-701D engines with upgraded face gear transmission to accommodate more power, the capability to control unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and new composite main rotor blade.

MH-60 Romeo Helicopters Deal

In 2018, after the dialogue between India and the United States in New Delhi, the South Block gave a nod to the Indian Navy to pursue the acquisition of 24 Sikorsky MH-60R helicopters. The contract was finally sealed in February



2020, during President Trump's visit to India.

The \$2.6 billion deal between India and the US includes helicopter, communication systems, weapons systems, eight anti-surface Hellfire Missiles which can be used to hit at ships, MK 54 Lightweight Torpedoes, 50 cannons and precision rocket systems.

MH-60 helicopters are manufactured by Lockheed Martin's Sikorsky Aircraft and will be procured by India via government-to-government route. The delivery of these helicopters will start in the year 2021. The helicopters will be inducted onboard Delhi and Kolkata class destroyers and 15B destroyers

(currently under construction).

The said helicopter is US Navy's primary anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare helicopter. It is capable enough to do search, rescue and supply missions.

These helicopters will replace Sea King anti-submarine warfare helicopters of the Indian Navy. The Sea King helicopter was de-inducted from the service in 1991 and the Indian Navy is currently using an outdated helicopter. In 1971, India acquired these helicopters from the United Kingdom to detect and engage the warships and submarines lurking in the Indian Ocean from Pakistan and China.

India-Israel Defence Pact

The Government of India has signed Rs 800 crore deal with the Israel Weapons Industries (IWI) to procure 16,479 Negev 7.62x51 mm light machine guns (gas-operated) for the Indian Armed Forces. These machine guns are used as squad automatic weapons and will enhance the lethal power of a soldier along with his range. The light machine guns have improved lethality and range over the one currently used by the Indian soldiers.

LMG (light machine guns) were first used in World War II and were later introduced by IWI in the year 2012. The Negev LMG is inducted by Israel as well as several other Defence Forces around the globe. The weight of the said LMG is 7.95 kg without the magazine and other accessories have a length of 1,100 mm, retracted length of 1,030 mm. The LMG can fire 600 rounds in the semi-automatic mode and 750 in the fully automatic mode. The magazines used can either be 100 or 125-round assault drum or an ammunition belt.

Air Force One Deal with the US

The Government of India has signed a \$ 190 million deal with the US Government to procure two self-protection suites (SPS). The deal was signed during President Trump's visit to India in February 2020. These suites will be retrofitted on the two custom-built Boeing-777 aircraft earlier acquired for long-haul VVIP travel.

The aircraft will have two wide-bodied B-777s, fully-integrated advanced missile approach warning sensors, defensive electronic warfare systems, infra-red counter-measures, digital radio frequency jammers and other such contraptions under the overall SPS. This will be similar to President Trump's Air Force One or the Flying Oval Office.

After Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 was shot down over Ukraine last year and similar other incidents, Prime Minister Modi will soon be able to fly in a secure aircraft after the clearance of Desi Air Force One. The aircraft will be used by Prime Minister of India, President of India and more VVIPs for extra-long-haul overseas travel.

The B-777s will be under IAF control rather than earlier decided Air India. Also, IAF pilots have been trained to fly the VVIP aircraft.

India-US Guardian Drones Deal

The US and the Indian Government signed a \$ 2-3 billion deal for the Guardian drones. The US Government has cleared the sale of 22 predator Guardian drones to India. The drones are manufactured by General Atomics.

The Guardian drone can be used for wide-area, long-endurance maritime intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions. It can stay put for 27 hours in the air and can fly at 50,000 feet. The Indian Navy made the request for ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) in 2017.

India's Defence Deal with Armenia

On March 1, 2020, India signed a \$ 40 million deal with Armenia, Europe to



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supply 4 SWATHI weapon locating radars. The radars are capable of locating weapons and are developed by DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) and manufactured by BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited).

Armenia conducted trials of the radar systems offered by Russia and Poland but gave a nod to India's SWATHI weapon. India's radar system provides fast, automatic and accurate location of enemy weapons like shells, mortars, and rockets in its 50-km range. It includes 81mm or higher calibre mortars, 105mm or higher calibre shells and 120mm or higher calibre free flying rockets.

This deal will strengthen the 'Make in India' initiative by the Government of India and will brace the Indian Defence System.

India-Russia Defence Deal

During DefExpo 2020, India and Russia signed 14 MoUs (memorandums of understanding). The MoUs consist of development and production of land, air and naval systems and hi-tech civilian products. This set the defence deals between India and Russia to cross \$16 billion.

Russia is committed to implementing a contract within the promised time frame. This includes the supply of S-400 air defence systems and the production of Kalashnikov rifles and Kamov helicopters.

Rosoboronexport, Russia's state-run organization has signed deals with DRDO for advanced pyrotechnic ignition systems, HAL for the export of spares and services to allies, and BHEL for land systems.

Another deal was signed between Russian Helicopters and Indo-Russian Helicopters Ltd to localise the components used in Kamov Ka-226 helicopters. India is planning to purchase 200 Ka-226 helicopters.

India has already made the payment of the first tranche in 2019 for five S-400 systems. The deal is approximately \$5.4 billion.

Despite the pressure from the US, India signed strong defence deals with Russia. Also, Russia was the largest foreign contributor at DefExpo 2020.

India-Russia air-to-air Missiles Deal

The Government of India has signed Rs 1,500 crore deal with Russia to procure R-27 air-to-air missiles to be equipped on the Su-30MKI combat aircraft. This deal will boost India's capabilities in beyond visual range warfare.

The missile is developed by Russia and is a medium-to-long-range air-to-air missile for MiG and Sukhoi fighter jets.

After the Pulwama attack, emergency powers were granted by the Centre to all the three services to buy types of equipment of their choice up to Rs 300 crore per case within 3 months to safeguard the borders with Pakistan.

India-US Defence Deal of Naval Guns

India signed a deal of \$1.0210 billion with the US to obtain 13 MK45 Naval guns and related equipment.

The MK-45 Gun System will help India to conduct anti-surface warfare and anti-air defence missions while enhancing its interoperability with the U.S. and other allied forces. India will use the enhanced



capability as a deterrent to regional threats and strengthen the defence system.

The contractor of India-US defence deal is BAE Systems Land and Armaments, Minneapolis, Minnesota with gun manufacturing in Louisville, Kentucky.

India is one of the few nations in the world that is granted to procure the latest version of naval guns (Mod 4) by the US. The other countries include--Australia, South Korea, Japan and Thailand.

Combat experience of the French-made jet gives it a critical edge

The five brand new Omni-role Rafale jets recently inducted into the Indian Air Force have been conducting day and night sorties in various terrains, including near the mountains of Himachal Pradesh, as they inch closer and closer to full operational capability. The jets that landed in Ambala on July 29 are the first batch of 36 that India had

inked a Rs 58,000 crore deal with France to acquire as far back as 2016.

Since their arrival, and against the backdrop of heightened tensions between India and China at the border in Easter Ladakh, comparisons between the Dassault-made aircraft and China's J-20 fighter have been inevitable and abundant. However, the reality is that the two aircraft have never been involved in an aerial engagement before so whatever conclusion one may draw, ultimately, involves a fair deal of speculation.

But one area where the Rafale stands head and shoulders above its Chinese counterpart is in combat experience. For all that has been written and said of the fifth generation Chengdu J-20, the inescapable fact remains that it has never been tested in a real mission. The Rafale, on the other hand, has over 30,000 hours of experience participating in a vast range of missions since 2006.

The Rafale in combat
Developed by Dassault Aviation, the Rafale aircraft became part of the French Navy in late 2000. However, its

first taste of operational experience came in March 2007 when a fleet was sent into Afghanistan to assist Dutch troops in the conflict-ridden nation.

The Rafales were tasked with deploying GBU-12 (250kg, laser-guided) bombs in Southern Afghanistan as part of the International Security Assistance Force (SAF). Between 2009 and 2011, three Rafale jets remained stationed at Kandahar Airport to undertake a series of combat missions supporting NATO ground personnel.

The period between 2006 and 2011 saw the Rafale emerge as a trusted, high-proficiency aircraft, time after time demonstrating its value as a key military asset capable of assimilating a variety of weapons and striking targets with great precision.

The next time the Rafales saw action was in 2011 when the French Air Force deployed these aircraft to assist coalition forces during the Libyan Civil War that led to the overthrow of the Muammar Gaddafi-led government.

The jets were the first to enter the high-conflict cities of Benghazi and Tripoli where they showcased their versatility, conducting a slew of different operations with varied mission parameters, employing laser-guided bombs, HAMMERS and SCALP cruise missiles, razing several high-value, dangerous targets like command centres, air-defence systems, tanks, armoured vehicles and artillery systems to the ground.

But those aren't the only times where the Rafale's aerial superiority and threat have been on display. The jets were also involved in the French military intervention operations in support of the Mali government in 2013, as well as in 2014 in Iraq and Syria contributing to the international military effort against the Islamic State (ISIS).

Since being inducted into the French Air Force, not a single Rafale jet has been shot down, having gone under the radar of enemy forces on countless occasions.

India bans import of 101 defence items to boost self-reliance

Defence minister Rajnath Singh announced that the government has prepared a list 101 items on which there would be an embargo on import to give a push to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' (Self-Reliant India Movement).

Announcing the development on Twitter, Singh said it would be a big step towards self-reliance in defence.

The list includes artillery guns, missile destroyers, ship-borne cruise missiles, light combat aircraft, light transport aircraft, long-range land attack cruise missiles, communication satellites, basic trainer aircraft, multi-barrel rocket launchers, a variety of radars, assault rifles, sniper rifles, mini UAVs and different types of ammunition.

The list also spells out when the embargo kicks in for different items -- between 2020 and 2025.

be taken to ensure that the timelines for the production of the equipment on the negative import list are met, Singh said.

"The list also includes, wheeled Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFVs) with indicative import embargo date of December 2021, of which the Army is expected to contract almost 200 at an approximate cost of over Rs 5,000 crore," the minister said.



INDIAN ECONOMY & NEW BEGINNINGS

As India gears up to celebrate Independence Day this year, albeit in a more restricted manner, the future of the economy remains a question mark.

Years after making huge strides in economic growth and development, the Covid crisis has pushed the economy several years back. While our neighbor China's economy is rebounding, the mounting cases in India and re-imposition of local lockdowns continue to block sustained economic recovery.

However, as much as we are wont to compare the two countries, it would be unfair to do so. Both are at different stages of the pandemic, have different demographic characteristics and have vastly different sociopolitical systems in place. It is for this very reason that comparisons between both economies need to end as well. Since the time both the countries gained independence, comparisons have been rife. Both walked parallel economic paths for a long time, struggling on their developmental journey through famines and policy mishaps, particularly in the '60s. Today, both are economic giants, but the similarity stops there.

While their economic outcomes have been broadly similar, the oft-compared nations have always trodden wholly different paths in terms of political systems and economic policies.

Today, China's growth has far outstripped India's, but any comparison between the two boils down to the fact that one is an authoritarian state while the other a democracy. Democracy indeed slows down processes but it has its own merits that authoritarianism lacks. If economic growth were the only goal to work towards, China would have been a model state, but it is not.

Democracy allows everyone to participate in governance, and while it may bring down our pace of economic growth, it prioritizes spreading the benefits of development among all. In the end, economic growth is only a means to progress and better standards of life. In other words, India has chosen the righteous path, however cumbersome it may seem from time to time, which does not warrant a comparison with China.

This Independence Day is an opportunity to go back to the ethos that built and binds India, and work towards carving our own growth journey from there. Unlike China, India has chosen democratic capitalism. It has chosen a political system that is built on the foundation that everyone has equal rights and an economic system that inherently creates inequalities if left to its own devices. India has a whole set of separate challenges - to balance the two and not let one undermine the other. Striking this delicate balance is not a challenge faced by China, and hence India too has to stop looking towards

China and deal with the challenges in way of economic growth the way a democracy does.

As our economy also revisits the idea of self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat), it is important to remember that domestic markets cannot thrive just by restricting the access of global competitors to our market but it also requires buttressing the free market with strong institutions. Without institutions to

put in the checks and balances, the capitalist excesses threaten the ethos of



democracy, that is, equal opportunities to all, the freedom to enter markets. According to the economist Dani Rodrik, free markets cannot stand on their own without a wide range of institutions, both market-creating and market supporting institutions. At a time when the economy has sustained considerable damages from this health crisis, and looks to rebuild and create new beginnings, this is an important reminder. But the institutions can only be as strong as the democracy. If the state is responsible for regulating the market, democracy and democratic institutions are imperative in ensuring that the state does not escape this responsibility.

Russia is an example of embracing free markets without strengthening democratic institutions. After the fall of the Soviet Union, the government rushed to sell state-owned holdings to a handful of businessmen, and the result has been unchecked capitalism and high inequality. The free market is still operating, but it has hardly made deference to a large part of the population who are still excluded from receiving the benefits of development. The Indian economy stands at a vulnerable position today, and if the pandemic has taught us one thing, it is that the economy needs people as much as the people need the economy. While democracy and capitalism may look like opposing forces, as connects between businesses and communities have highlighted at times, the delicate balance can be achieved if institutions are in place that allow capitalism to thrive as

well as restrict its excesses. It is a more sustainable and equitable way to transition to a market-driven economy.

Further, when the idea of democracy pervades the country, the businesses are also informed by democratic values. They are then able to exercise self-regulation, support their business ecosystems, ensure fair competition and work in harmony with their communities.

73 years after independence, today, India stands up against another aggressor, but it is trickier this time around. The weapons are our policy decisions and the warriors are our health workers. As we rise to the challenge, it is critical to not lose sight of the ideals we stand for, and restart our growth journey keeping our people at the forefront.

India's economy shows early signs of recovery

India's economy is showing early signs of recovery four months after a strict lockdown was imposed in the country to contain the novel coronavirus outbreak.

Some vital indicators of the economy including exports, foreign investments and employment numbers suggest that economic activities in India are gradually improving.

EXPORTS ON THE RISE

Exports of certain commodities have gone up. For instance, spice exports from India saw a rise of 34% in rupee terms in June.

The ravaged automobile sector has also seen an increase in exports. Total exports across categories increased 2.95 per cent to more than 4.76 million vehicles in the fiscal ended March 31.

Maruti Suzuki, India's leading carmaker, is also planning to boost its share of exports.

Similar sentiments were echoed by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who recently said that India's balance of payments will be very strong.

"Exports have shown a good turnaround. We are in July at about 91 per cent export level of the corresponding period last year. While imports in July are 70 per cent of last year's level," he said during the inaugural session of the India Virtual FMCG Supply Chain Expo 2020, organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

INDIANS HAVE STARTED INVESTING ABROAD AGAIN

Another sign of recovery is visible from data which shows that Indian businesses are the second-highest investor in the United Kingdom.

Latest investment figures from the Department of International Trade reveal that Indian businesses are the second largest investors into the UK capital, behind the United States.

India has emerged as the second-highest investor in the United Kingdom, with 120 new projects and 5,429 jobs in 2019-20.

In 2020, technology and telecoms companies continue to dominate the list of fastest-growing Indian companies in the UK.

Julie Chappell, Managing Director, International Markets at London & Partners, told India Today TV that despite the global pandemic, Indian companies and investors are still investing in London.

"We did see a dip in economic activity at the start of the pandemic, but that was because of the turmoil the global economy was in. Since the past few months, investments have been increasing by Indian companies. Companies have been opening offices and we expect investment to increase by this year end," she said.

UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBERS FALL

Data from Mumbai-based think tank Centre for Monitoring India Economy (CMIE) also shows unemployment decreasing in June and July. This, too, is an indication of the economy making a recovery.

According to CMIE data, an estimated 121.5 million jobs were lost in April 2020. It recovered to 100.3 million in May and fell to 29.9 million in June. July saw a further recovery in jobs and the number of jobs lost fell to 11 million.

However, it is worth mentioning that most of the recovery in jobs is happening in the informal or unorganised sector. According to Mahesh Vyas, CMIE CEO and MD, there has been no improvement in "better-paying" or salaried jobs and it could take some time.

Even then, the early signs of economic recovery are likely to provide a boost to Indian businesses and the recovery may come earlier than expected.



U.S.-INDIA RELATIONS: THE CHINA FACTOR

Rapidly deteriorating relations with China bode well for United States and India



United States and India could well be closer than they have ever been to forming a stronger alliance to waylay China's regional and global ambitions. In fact, China could be the lynchpin for bringing about the deeper bilateral confidence needed in Washington and New Delhi, to make it a reality.

To recount just a few of the more recent events in the unfolding downward spiral of bilateral relations with Beijing — President Trump blaming China outright for the global pandemic, accusing Beijing of allegedly spying through numerous means, the 5 G Huawei dominance including the house arrest of the company's top official in Canada, and the latest order to close the PRC's Houston consulate, with possible quid pro quos in the offing from China; India's latest clash on the Himalayan border; the seeming bilateral dialogue, followed by Beijing's partial withdrawal but continued militarization; India banning 59 Chinese apps — and quid pro quos to follow.

At an online conference hosted by the U.S. — India Business Council, July 22, 2020, China was the latent variable underlying Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks about democracies, open markets, etc. Not so for U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who let fly a barrage of criticism against Beijing and advised India to cut ties with the Asian economic giant.

The messages appear in sync though they come from different reference points with China as the lynchpin bringing them together. Beijing may yet be the key to building a sustainable more equal bilateral relationship between the United States and India, seeing as how the "Middle Kingdom" is seen by both countries as hegemonic, particularly in the South China Sea and Indian Ocean, spreading its tentacles through aid and other means across the Silk Road and in Africa, and most importantly, dominating the telecommunications sector, to be at Washington and New Delhi's doorsteps.

Despite the rhetoric emanating from U.S. and India (which was repeated one may say during the USIBC conference) about 'natural' partners, growing defense ties and burgeoning trade, it has been a mixed bag for both with constant irritants and obstacles popping up from complaints of slow liberalization to visa, immigration, and trade restrictions.

"It's always been a bit difficult to match up India and the United States to fire out of the same cylinders," says Rick M. Rossow, Wadhvani Chair in U.S. India Policy Studies at The Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C.

American motives to build a stronger strategic relationship with India going back to the President George W. Bush administration were certainly framed—quietly—as a hedge against potential threats from China in the region, Rossow contended.

Now a combination of circumstances has both clarified Washington's anti-China view — emanating both from President Trump and Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden. Putting aside his words, "Trump's actions against China have been pretty consistent," and all in all, "It gives India more comfort," Rossow said.

After nearly 2 decades of hard work, the U.S. and India trust each other more deeply, he said. "And both nations are openly sharing concerns about China's aggressive, expansionist approach to its Asian partners. So the opportunity to

pursue deeper strategic ties is upon us," Rossow said.

At The Summit

The annual India Ideas Summit brought together some high profile movers and shakers apart from Pompeo and Modi. The included India's Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar; Ambassador of India to the United States Taranjit Singh Sandhu, U.S. Ambassador to India Ken Juster; U.S. Senator Mark Warner, D-Virginia; Representative Ami Bera, D-California; U.S. Chamber of Commerce CEO Thomas J. Donohue. Lockheed Martin Corporation CEO James Taiclet, Tata Group Chairman N. Chandrasekaran, ATC CEO Tom Bartlett and more.

The theme of the summit was 'Building a Better Future' one which as the COVID-19 experience had shown, should give equal importance to efficiency and optimization of the past to resilience against external shocks by building stronger domestic economic capacities, Modi said in his address to the USIBC online gathering.

"India is contributing towards a prosperous and resilient world through the clarion call of an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. And, for that, we await your partnership!" Modi said, claiming India presented a "perfect combination of openness, opportunities and options" for interested foreign investors, coming out clearly on the side American principles of a capitalist economy.

"India celebrates openness in people and in governance. Open minds make open markets. Open markets lead to greater prosperity. These are principles on which both India and the USA agree," Modi declared.

This rhetoric, said Rossow, has been repeated on India's side, "But India's actions haven't always followed lofty statements about open markets,

"Prime Minister Modi's speech to USIBC hit the correct tones. But the hard

work lies ahead— key domestic reforms, encouraging trade flows, and pressing India's states to improve their business environments," Rossow said.

Dr. Sudhir Parikh, founder and chairman of the New Jersey-based think tank, Parikh Foundation for India's Global Development, believes China's intransigence and aggressive behavior toward both democracies, is a window of opportunity to ratchet up the U.S.-India relationship.

"The Indian-American community is committed to seeing a steady and strong national security and trade relationship between our two countries. After decades of working on it, we see a moment when it can be made more stable and more like European alliances forged by the United States, or closer to the kind it has with South Korea or Japan."

Unbridled Critique

Pompeo did not mince his words or parse his language when he drew attention to the Himalayan border conflict placing the blame squarely on China, saying, "The recent clashes initiated by the PLA (People's Liberation Army) are latest examples of the CCP's (Chinese Communist Party) unacceptable behavior,"

"It's important for democracies like ours to work together especially as we see more clearly than ever the true scope of the challenge posed by the Chinese Communist Party," Pompeo said, adding, "Our infrastructure projects, our supply chains, our sovereignty and our people's health and safety are all at risk if we get it wrong."

"But with our concerted efforts, we can protect our interests," Pompeo said. "I especially commend India's decision to ban 59 Chinese mobile apps, including TikTok, that present serious security risks for the Indian people," he contended.

"India has a chance to ... take away global supply chains from China and

reduce its reliance on Chinese companies in areas like telecommunication and medical supplies, and others," Pompeo said. The United States wants to work with India on the blue-dot network, an initiative to provide high quality, transparent infrastructure development, Secretary Pompeo said, adding that the private sector was indispensable in overcoming the economic damage suffered because of the pandemic.

To achieve all the goals, Pompeo said, "India will need to encourage an environment that is more open to increased trade and investment." Modi touted that huge market in his USIBC speech. "During the last six years, we have made many efforts to make our economy more open and reform oriented. Reforms have ensured increased 'Competitiveness', enhanced 'Transparency', expanded 'Digitization', greater 'Innovation' and more 'Policy stability'," Modi said in his address. He spoke about India as the "land of opportunities" and the dramatic expansion about to take place in the tech sector through frontline technologies like 5G, Big data analytics, Quantum computing, Block-chain and Internet of things.

In line with Rossow's observations about the Prime Minister's emphasis on investment rather than exports, Modi said the "options to invest in India are extensive," be they in agriculture, healthcare, energy, infrastructure, civil aviation, defense and space, finance and insurance. Investment is the best show of confidence, Modi said. he went further to say India offers many more opportunities. "We have what is needed to power the global economic recovery," from the devastating effects of the pandemic.

For that vision of great investments and great returns, Modi said, there are "few better partners than the United States of America."



SWEET, BITTER AND TEPID: INDIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NEIGHBOURS

Chinese hostilities and perennial lack of trust with Pakistan are not the only political issues that Asian superpower India is facing

India-China: Rival Asian Powers

BOUNDARY DISPUTE: China has differences with India on both the McMahon line in the east (its border with Arunachal Pradesh) and the Ladakh-Tibet LAC. A claimant and effective occupier of Aksai-Chin, China now claims all of Galwan Valley, a part of Ladakh. China also claims the entire Arunachal Pradesh. Border with China: over 4,000 kms.

RIVERS: A grave problem brews, with Chinese diversion of Brahmaputra water, which flows from Tibet and enters India in Arunachal Pradesh. China building dams on its upper reaches, which will reduce the volume of water downstream. Northeastern states concerned.

Belt and Road Initiative: India has refused to join China's BRI despite Beijing's best efforts as a vital road connecting Xinjiang with Pakistan's Gwadar passes through Gilgit-Baltistan in PoK, thus infringing India's sovereignty. India is also mindful of the debt trap ensnaring those who borrow from China.

India-Pakistan: Hostile Neighbours

KASHMIR: Pakistan has fought three wars over Kashmir and challenges the basic Indian position that Kashmir is an integral part of India. Abrogation of Article 370, that scrapped Kashmir's special status, is a new sticking point.

TERRORISM: India charges Pakistan of using terror groups like Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed in fomenting constant trouble in Kashmir. Pakistan-backed terror groups are responsible for attacks on Parliament, 26/11 and the J&K assembly, among others. Pakistan accuses India of aiding Baloch insurgents.

WATER: The 1960 Indus Waters Treaty gave India use of three eastern rivers and Pakistan that of the western rivers of the Indus river system. But a brooding dispute over building of dams is likely to flare up in future as the countries fight over the quantum of water released.

India-Bangladesh: Teething Differences

WATER: The sharing of the Teesta waters is an emotional issue in Bangladesh. No progress yet despite excellent ties between New Delhi and Dhaka.

NRC: Though the National Registrar of Citizens exercise in Assam is an internal affair of India, since many of those excluded from the NRC are Bengali Muslims living near the Bangladesh border, Dhaka fears a reverse migration.

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT (CAA): The act gives citizenship to minority Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and Christians persecuted in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. Dhaka is furious—it says it does not persecute minorities.

ECONOMY: Bilateral trade has grown



steadily. Indian exports stood at US\$ 9.21 billion and import at US\$ 1.04 billion in 2018-19. India announced a second line of credit (US\$ 2 billion) in 2015 for infrastructure projects. Third credit line of US\$ 4.5 billion was announced in April 2017, one of the biggest by India to any country. Both governments are trying to restore pre-1965 rail links and increase frequency of Calcutta-Dhaka Maitree Express and Calcutta-Khulna Bandhan Express. Bangladesh imports 1,160 MW of power from India.

India-Nepal: Old Partners, New Freeze

TERRITORIAL DISPUTE: Nepal released a new map that shows the areas of Kalapani, Limpiadhura and Lipulekh—hitherto regarded by both as part of India—as Nepali territory. Located at the trijunction between India,

Nepal and China, it is of significance. While disputing it, India wants to resolve the issue through dialogue.

WATER: Unresolved, intermittent talks about sharing of river water.

MADHESIS: These are people living in the Nepali Terai adjoining India with deep links with our nation. India's 2015 blockade of Nepal was aimed at getting Madhesis their rights in the new Nepali constitution.

ECONOMY: India is Nepal's foremost trade partner and the leading source of foreign investments. Total bilateral trade stood at US\$ 8.27 billion in 2018-19. Motihari-Amlekhgunj cross-border petroleum pipeline opened in 2019. Indian assistance in post-2015 Nepal earthquake includes about 40,000 houses, over US\$ 1.65 billion in line of credit extended to Nepal. India offers about 3,000 scholarships to Nepalese students every year.

India-Bhutan: Druk Bond

STRATEGIC PARTNERS: India has an agreement for protecting Bhutan's external borders. This is a focal point of the Doklam standoff with China in 2017 as Indian troops tried to stop Chinese road construction in territory claimed by both Thimphu and Beijing.

ECONOMY: India has committed Rs 4,500 crore for the 12th Five Year Plan of Bhutan (2018-23). India assists in developing hydro power. The trade volume stood at Rs 8,560 crore in 2017.

India-Myanmar: Gateway

STRATEGIC PARTNERS: Change in power from military junta to democracy brought a new friendship between the two countries. A niggles was Indian Army's 'surgical strike' deep into Myanmar territory across Manipur against militants holed out in the neighbouring nation in 2015.

ECONOMY: Bilateral trade stood at US\$ 1.7 Billion in 2018-19, an increase of 7.53 per cent from 2017-18. India is the fifth largest trading partner of Myanmar. India is building the Kaladan transport project, which includes a 109-km road from Zorinpui in India to Paletwa in Myanmar. It is part of the Look east Policy. Under the Rakhine state development programme, India has committed over US\$ 25 million.

India-Afghanistan: Close Knit

STRATEGIC PARTNERS: Since 2001, India has been a close ally of the democratically elected Afghan government and provider of diplomatic/strategic assistance to Kabul, though it has never sent its military to support the Western troops there. India's assistance is mainly humanitarian help in reconstruction. It has over 140 community development programmes (US\$ 120 million), covering education, health etc.

ECONOMY: Bilateral trade stood at US\$ 1.5 billion. The nations have a dedicated air freight corridor, launched in 2017. Afghanistan also exports to India through Chabahar port in Iran.

India-Sri Lanka: Ties Under Watch

TAMIL MINORITIES: Even after the end of its civil war, Sri Lanka is loath to give its Tamil minorities all that was promised in the India-Sri Lanka Accord of 1987. New Delhi keeps urging Colombo to settle the issue.

THE CHINA FACTOR: Delhi is wary of the Dragon's growing influence in Sri Lanka. Memories of the time when Chinese submarines docked in Colombo during Mahinda Rajapaksa's last term not forgotten.

FISHING DISPUTES: Fishermen of the two countries drift into each other's waters, arrests are made and boats seized. A recurring problem not easily solved.

ECONOMY: India announced line of credit worth US\$ 450 million in 2019 for infrastructure projects. Bilateral trade in 2018 amounted to US\$ 4.93 billion.

**Rahat Indori**

Noted Urdu poet and Bollywood lyricist, Rahat Indori breathed his last at a hospital in Indore, Madhya Pradesh on August 11, 2020. He had tested positive for COVID-19 on August 10. A doctor at Sri Aurobindo Hospital said Indori suffered two heart attacks. "He was admitted to hospital on Sunday, after testing positive for COVID-19. He had 60% pneumonia," said Dr Vinod Bhandari.

Anupama Pathak

Bhojpuri star Anupama Pathak has allegedly died by suicide at her Dahisar residence in Mumbai. Aged 40. Teportedly the actress committed suicide on August 2. A day before her death, she went live on Facebook (unverified account) where she spoke about feeling cheated and not being able to trust anyone.

Sameer Sharma

Television actor Sameer Sharma, who was known for his acting in serials Yeh Rishtey Hain Pyaar Ke, Dil Kya Chahta Hai, Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki, was found hanging at Malad residence in Mumbai.

Kumkum

Veteran Bollywood actress Kumkum passed away on Tuesday. She was 86. She acted in more than 100 films. Mourning the loss, Naved Jafri took to Twitter to share some pictures of the actress along with a heartfelt note. He wrote: "We have lost another gem. I have known her since I was a kid and she was family, a superb artist and a fantastic human being, innalillahe wa innailaihe raajeoon. Rest in peace kunkum aunty (sic)."

Ranjan Sehgal

TV actor Ranjan Sehgal breathed his last on July 11 at a hospital in Chandigarh, Punjab. He was 36. Ranjan had reportedly been unwell for quite some time and lost his life due to multiple organ failure.

Jagdeep

Legendary comedian Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Jafri, better known by his screen name Jagdeep, breathed his last today in Mumbai. He was 81. The last rites of the actor will be performed tomorrow at Mustafa Bazaar in Mazgaon, Mumbai. Jagdeep started his film journey as a child artist in director BR Chopra's 1951 film Afsana. He went on to work in more films like Ab Dilli Door Nahin, Munna, Aar Paar and Do Bigha Zamin as the child actor. He has appeared in more than 400 films.

Susheel Gowda

Television Actor Susheel Gowda, who has acted in TV serial Anthapura, died by suicide in his home town Mandya, Karnataka. Aged 30, Susheel was one of the popular faces in TV industry.

Saroj Khan**CELEBS WHO LEFT US**

Bollywood choreographer Saroj Khan passed away after a cardiac arrest on Thursday night. She was 71. Khan had complained of breathing last month, following which she was admitted to Mumbai's Guru Nanak Hospital. When she was first hospitalised in the last week of June, a COVID-19 test was done, which turned out negative. One of the most prolific choreographers of the Hindi film industry, Khan, fondly called Masterji in Bollywood, had called the shots in over 2000 songs spanning over three and a half decades.

Sushant Singh

Bollywood actor Sushant Singh was found dead at his Bandra residence here in Sunday morning, police sources said. He was found hanging at his home and a domestic help alerted the police. A team of Bandra Police has rushed to investigate and details are awaited.

Chiranjeevi Sarja

Popular Kannada film actor Chiranjeevi Sarja died at a private hospital in Bengaluru following a cardiac arrest. He was 39. "Sarja was brought to our hospital (Apollo) in an unresponsive state. Attempts to revive him failed and was declared dead by the doctors," the official told media. In a statement later, the hospital said Sarja was shifted to emergency room for treatment after he was brought to the hospital in an unresponsive state at around 2.20 p.m.

Wajid Khan

Singer-composer Wajid Khan of music director duo Sajid-Wajid, popular for their work on superstar Salman Khan's films such as Wanted, Dabangg and Ek Tha Tiger, died in wee hours of Monday (June 1) in a city hospital due to complications arising from a kidney infection. He was 42.

Rishi Kapoor

Veteran actor Rishi Kapoor passed away in Mumbai early in the morning. According to reports, the 67-year-old actor was admitted to Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital after complaining that he was not feeling well. In 2018, Rishi Kapoor was diagnosed with cancer for the first time, following which the actor was in New York for nearly a year to undergo treatment. He returned to India in September 2019 after recovering.

Irrfan Khan

Actor Irrfan Khan, one of the most versatile and



respected actors in the Hindi cinema, has passed away in Mumbai today. He was 54. Irrfan was admitted in Mumbai's Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani hospital due to a colon infection, his spokesperson had confirmed.

Nimmi

Yesteryears actress Nimmi passed away at her residence in the city on March 25. She was 88 and had been ailing for a while now. Her last rights will take place on March 26. Nimmi, whose name was Nawab Banoo, made her Bollywood debut in Raj Kapoor's 1949 release, "Barsaat", which was Kapoor's first major hit. The film co-starred Nargis.

Kushal Punjabi

Actor Kushal Punjabi, who has appeared in several films and television shows, committed suicide by hanging himself from a fan with a nylon rope on Thursday (December 26) night. The incident happened at 11.10 pm at his residence at Bandra West. An ADR has been registered and further investigation is underway. A suicide note written in English has been found by the police. The suicide note states that no one is responsible for his death. He has also mentioned about the distribution of his property among his family in the suicide note.

Shreeram Lagoo

Veteran actor Shreeram Lagoo, who worked on stage, Bollywood and Marathi films, passed away at a private hospital here late on Tuesday (December 17) following age-related health issues, family sources said. He was 92 and breathed his last at the Dinanath Mangeshkar Hospital. The film industry and political circles condoled the demise of Lagoo, including actor Ashok Saraf and state Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant.

Viju Khote

Veteran Hindi and Marathi film-theatre actor Viju Khote passed away due to multiple organ failure on September 29, 2019. He was 77. The actor, most famous for playing the dacoit Kalia in "Sholay" and Robert in "Andaz Apna Apna", died at his residence. "He passed away today at 6.55 am peacefully in his sleep at the residence. He has been unwell since quite some time. He had multiple organ failure," actor Bhavana Balsavar, his niece, told PTI.

Vidya Sinha

Vidya Sinha, who acted in films like Pati, Patni Aur Woh, Rajnigandha, Chhoti Si Baat among others, passed away on August 15, 2019. She was 71. Earlier in the week, Vidya was put on ventilator support in the hospital in Mumbai. She was diagnosed with lung disorder a while ago and her condition had become worse since three months. The disorder had originated a few years ago and Vidya was brought in while she was in a serious condition.





REMEMBERING JOHN LEWIS: THE FILM "GOOD TROUBLE"

BY MABEL PAIS

"The word 'Satyagraha' in Sanskrit means two things 'non-violence' and 'insistence on the truth'..... And that is what John Lewis was all about." Nancy Pelosi, Speaker - US House of Representatives
He Always 'Insisted On The Truth' 'The Conscience of the Congress' 'When He Spoke, People Listened When He Led, People Followed' 'One Country, One Destiny' 'Living Example of Courage and Faith and Action' Among Big Six leaders of the Civil Rights Movement

At the funeral of Civil Rights Icon Congressman John Lewis held on July 30 at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, Speaker Nancy Pelosi said of John Lewis, "when he spoke, people listened; when he led, people followed." She also said that 'Satyagraha' is what John Lewis was all about.

He said to Pelosi, "In my life I have done all I can to demonstrate that the way of peace, the way of love and non-violence is the more excellent way. Answer the calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe in." Pelosi went on to say, "Non-violently he insisted on the truth wherever he went: in Nashville, in Selma, in Washington D.C., at the Lincoln Memorial; and he insisted on the truth in the Congress of the United States."

John Lewis died on July 17, 2020.

Inspired and mentored by Rev. Martin Luther King and his visit to India, in 2009 Congressman John Lewis led a congressional delegation visit to India in order to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's visit to India.

Inspired by his own visit, Congressman Lewis started the Gandhi-King Exchange Act to seek to apply the philosophies of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to conflict resolution efforts and current policy challenges.

The Congressional committee on July 29 honored the two icons (King and Lewis) of Civil Rights by passing a bill written by the late American Civil Rights leader John Lewis (and co-sponsored by Congressman Ami Bera). The Act would establish an exchange initiative between the United States and India to study the work and legacies of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.

JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE, The Film

"She's (Dawn Porter, Director) dedicated her career to giving voice to the voiceless, and I like to think of my job as an ally, fighting for her vision." - Laura Michalchshyn, Co-Producer

"Dawn Porter directed this documentary and she brilliantly puts the spotlight squarely on Congressman John Lewis. Good Trouble is his show." - Erica Alexander, Co-Producer

"RIGHT ALWAYS WINS" - John Lewis

JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE, directed by acclaimed filmmaker Dawn Porter (TRAPPED,



John Lewis, Voting Rights Demonstration



John Lewis with peaceful protestors, Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, on March 7, 1965



John Lewis, Activist-Public Servant

GIDEON'S ARMY), chronicles the life and career of the legendary Civil Rights activist and Democratic Representative from Georgia. Using interviews and rare archival footage, JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE chronicles John Robert Lewis' 60-plus years of social activism and legislative action on civil rights, voting rights, gun control, health-care reform and immigration. Using present-day interviews with Lewis, now 80 years old, Porter explores his childhood experiences, his inspiring family and his fateful meeting with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1957. In addition to her interviews with Lewis and his family, Porter's film also includes interviews with political leaders, Congressional colleagues, and other people who figure prominently in his life.

In Porter's film, John Lewis gets the opportunity to tell us about his life, in his own words. His story. And it's a good story.

A Profile in Courage and Principles: Persistent Yet Calm

'It's going to be okay, because right always wins,' he told co-producer Erica Alexander "to keep my eyes on the prize and never give up, never give in. Don't become bitter and hostile." She learned from John Lewis how to be young, gifted and black in American

politics when she campaigned with him and other supporters in Georgia. "Mr. Lewis was the perfect teacher and a patient host. He was also a gentleman, who opened our doors and helped us up the steps. It was heaven. I didn't know then that that real-world work, and access, would lead to making the congressman's documentary." Alexander said.

Early Life

Now we get to know what it was like for him growing up a black sharecropper in Alabama in a large, loving family. He honed his fiery, oratorical skills, by preaching to the family's chickens. He tells us how he met Martin Luther King and began his work as a student activist with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), traveling through Jim Crow south as a Freedom Rider. As the young chairman of the SNCC from 1963 to 1966, Lewis was one of the 'Big Six' Civil Rights leaders of the era. This all leads to the fateful day on the Edmund Pettus Bridge (Selma, AL), where white policemen stormed their peaceful march and cracked his skull open, nearly killing him. In his appearance on national television that afternoon, bloodied and bruised, Lewis called for President Lyndon Johnson to intervene on behalf of voting rights. Until his last, he still bore scars from that brutal encounter.

ABOUT REP. JOHN R. LEWIS :

The Conscience of the Congress

But John Lewis not only survived all of that, and more, he thrived and became a husband to his beautiful wife and political partner, Lillian Miles, a father to his son John Miles Lewis, and was elected to the Congressman from Georgia who earned the respect of his red and blue state peers, who lovingly call him, "The conscience of the Congress."

"To young legislators, he demonstrates that you can live your principles and get things done, while still being true to yourself. To his seasoned colleagues, he's a consistent and loyal friend. So, my goal was to include the kinds of voices that would speak to each of these different experiences," Porter said.

A Timely Topic

John Lewis: Good Trouble explores a variety of issues that are associated with Lewis but pays particular attention to one that is perhaps most closely associated with the Congressman's tenure in politics: the Voting Rights Act. "Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) made the comment that John Lewis can't be separated from the Voting Rights Act, and she's absolutely right," says Porter. "Many of his early activities were centered on gaining access to the vote, so we really wanted to highlight what that battle has been like for both him and the country. And considering how much voter suppression we've seen recently, that subject speaks volumes right now."

KEY CREDITS

Dawn Porter: Director
Laura Michalchshyn, Dawn Porter, Erika Alexander and Ben Arnon: Producers
Jessica Congdon: Editor
Tamar-kali: Music
Length: 1h 36m
Release Date: Currently running
Tickets: johnlewisgoodtrouble.com

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



Women's Suffrage Centennial Celebrated

BY MABEL PAIS

19TH AMENDMENT: August 26, 1920 WOMEN GIVEN RIGHT TO VOTE: THEY FOUGHT FOR IT

Only in the late 1940s and 1950s Restrictions on Asian American Voting Removed

The word "suffrage" (origin from Latin) means a vote. In the United States, the word means the 'right to vote'. Woman suffrage, therefore, refers to women's right to vote.

Seventy-two years passed between the first demand for the vote in 1848 and to the passage of the 19th Amendment law on August 26, 1920. August 26 is now known as 'Women's Equality Day'.

The 19th Amendment, in essence, gave American women the right to vote. Specifically, it prohibited denying anyone the right to vote because of their sex. The actual text reads, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

First of all, the Constitution in 1920 mandated a minimum voting age of 21, so the 19th Amendment allowed for women 21 and over to vote. Then, although the 19th Amendment included women of color, many were unable to vote. In the southern United States, restrictive state or local laws called for poll taxes and/or literacy tests before a citizen could vote. Eighty percent of African Americans lived in the southern U.S. in 1920. As more black women moved north, they were able to vote more freely. Full exercise of black voting rights was intended with the Voting Rights Act of 1965; however, even today some states continue to erect barriers to black voting. Native American women were largely excluded from voting before the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924; some states and localities still passed laws effectively barring Natives from voting until the late 1940s. Not until the late 1940s and 1950s were restrictions on Asian American voting removed.

To learn more, visit 2020centennial.org

A Century After the Passage of the 19th Amendment NJPAC Salutes The Pioneers of Protest Who Won Women the Right to Vote

"And at a moment when we're all discovering anew the incredible power of protest, we wanted, in particular, to note that so many of the ways we practice political resistance today were first practiced by women insisting on their right to vote." - Sarah Rosen - Managing Director, Women@NJPAC.

Governor Christine Todd Whitman, New Jersey Secretary of State Tahesha Way, and NJ Congresswomen Bonnie Watson Coleman and Mikie Sherrill Join Celebration on August 17

The struggle for women's enfranchisement, finally achieved in August 1920, took the work of three generations. During the last 10 years of this fight, women's rights advocates pioneered such modern strategies of resistance as parades, protests and picketing to bring about the largest expansion of voting rights in American



Women Suffragettes protest - Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

history - when women finally won the right to vote, 100 years ago this summer.

A century after the ratification of the 19th Amendment, Women@NJPAC and Newark Council President Mildred C. Crump will bring together some of New Jersey's groundbreaking women leaders to celebrate this legacy, which started the journey toward full voting rights for every American, at Pioneers of Protest: Celebrating 100 Years of Women Voting, an interactive virtual town hall discussion, at 7PM on Monday, August 17, on Zoom. Participants can register for this free event at <https://www.njpac.org/conversation-registration/>

Program

Pioneers of Protest: Celebrating 100 Years of Women Voting

Introduction: Ras Baraka, Newark Mayor and Mildred C. Crump Newark Council President
Panelists: Christine Todd Whitman, former NJ Governor Tahesha Way, New Jersey Secretary of State Bonnie Watson Coleman, Congresswoman (12th congressional district) Mikie Sherrill, Congresswoman (11th congressional district)

The panelists will lead a discussion about the impact of women's enfranchisement and address the influence that both race and socioeconomic status had on the fight for the vote.

Moderator:

Sahar Aziz, Professor of Law, Chancellor's Social Justice Scholar, Founding Director of the Interdisciplinary Rutgers Center for Security, Race, and Rights

"Women@NJPAC is focused on celebrating the power of women, and the transformational role we play in our communities. We're thrilled to host this truly unique event to mark a milestone in our country's history -- especially in an election year!" said Sarah Rosen, Managing Director of Women@NJPAC.

"And at a moment when we're all discovering anew the incredible power of protest, we wanted, in particular, to note that so many of the ways we practice political resistance today were first practiced by women insisting on their right to vote. The Mothers of the Movement, the Wall of Moms in Portland -- they're walking in the footsteps of their

great-grandmothers who won us all access to the ballot box," she added.

Citizens Right To Vote

"Holding this event now, just as this year's election season enters its final months, is so important," noted Nina Wells, former New Jersey Secretary of State and a longtime NJPAC and Women@NJPAC Trustee who helped organize the gathering. "This conversation is a vital part of our collective effort to ensure that all of our citizens participate in this hard-fought, critically important right this year," she added.

Women@NJPAC encourages women voters to submit a video using spoken word, poetry or a reflection of their choice (one minute or less) about what voting means to them, with the hashtag #NJWomenVote100. Post the video on Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook! Responses received before this event may be incorporated into the discussion on August 17.

For more information, visit NJPAC's website at njpac.org

About Women@NJPAC

Women@NJPAC is celebrating 26 years and more than \$53 million raised to support NJPAC and its programs that enrich the lives of current and future generations of cultural citizens. Originally called The Women's Association of NJPAC, this "sisterhood for good" was born in 1994, when nine founders advocated for women to have a seat at the table as NJPAC fundraisers and decision-makers. Now known as Women@NJPAC, the organization's powerhouse board and 2,500+ members help NJPAC fulfill its mission to bring the life-enhancing power of the performing arts to everyone, with a special focus on making the arts a part of every child's education.

Website: njpac.org/women

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Governor Christine Todd Whitman
Photo / Courtesy NJPAC



Tahesha Way
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Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman
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Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill.
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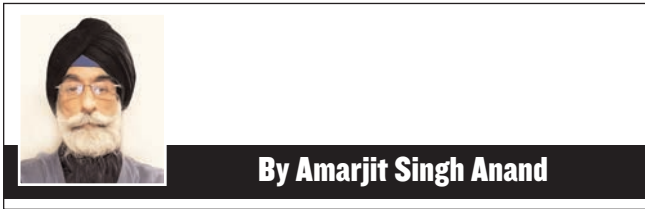
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(Mabel Pais writes on Social Issues, Spirituality, The Arts and Entertainment, and Health & Wellness)



SIKHS IN THE MAKING OF INDIA



By Amarjit Singh Anand



The Golden Chain: The foundation of Sikhism was laid down by Guru Nanak. Guru Nanak infused his own consciousness into a disciple, who then became Guru, subsequently passing the light on to the next, and so on. The word "Guru" is derived from the root words "Gu", which means darkness or ignorance, and "Ru", which means light or knowledge. The Guru is the experience of Truth (God).

The history of Sikhism starts from the Blessed Advent of Sree Guru Nanak Sahib, in circa 1469, in Talwandi region, then part of a much larger India. His Tenets include Truthful living, humility, liberty, equality, justice, compassion, honest earning, serving the needy selflessly and protecting the weak and the meek. All this, he said would be tantamount to a Divine Life and real, true, actual worship and attainment of God and fulfillment of the purpose of human-birth.

For over a thousand years, this region was invaded by a small bunch of horse-riders, from Mongolia, Persia, Afghanistan, and the like. Taimur, Ghazni, Ghoris, Nadir Shah, Abdali are a few of those invaders, who plundered Hindu Temples, looted gold, took women and children as slaves, killed everyone who crossed their path.

And then appeared a man on earth, the likes of whom are seen, once in a millennium. Guru Nanak Sahib confronted Babur, an invader who established his empire on Indian soil. Guru Nanak Ji's Divine ambrosial words were adequate to transform a ruthless mass-murderer into one who fell at the Guru's feet, pledging to rule with justice. Babur sought a boon of ruling for several generations and Guru Nanak Sahib granted it and it came to fruition for seven generations, exactly during the lifetime of ten Divine Gurus.

The Divine Preceptor of ONENESS of humanity traversed 27,000 miles, across various continents, in 25 years of his 70 years' sojourn on this planet, during which he reformed several tyrannical rulers, vociferously advocated human rights and women's rights, brought about social revolution, by speaking out against slavish mentality, superstitious belief system, hollow ritualistic practices, religious bigotry and suppression of the downtrodden social and economic classes.



Heroic Sikh soldiers . Air Marshall Arjan Singh and Lt. General J.S. Aurora

Guru Nanak Ji was the pioneer, enunciating the cause of Inter-Religious Peace and Harmony.

Guru Arjan Sahib and Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib attained martyrdom for the cause of Freedom of Religion and Interfaith acceptance and harmonious coexistence.

Guru Gobind Singh Sahib, tenth Spiritual Master, sacrificed his entire family including four sons, all under 17, fighting the tyrannical regimes, bent upon annihilating the Freedom of Religion, Culture and Traditions.

During these five centuries, hundreds of thousands of Sikhs have performed the supreme sacrifice of life, for the protection of their motherland.

They have been in the forefront against marauding invaders and the oppressive British regime. The maximum number of those exiled from India or those executed by the British, after fake trials, were Sikhs.

Illustrious Martyrs include Bhagat Singh, who instilled courage in the masses by kissing the gallows, as a reward for serving the cause of India's freedom. Udham Singh, avenged the Jallianwala Bagh massacre perpetrated by the British, after twenty-one years, and was also hanged.

Sikh regiments and battalions have served the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces, worldwide, whether in war-torn countries or civil-wars, and in regions ravaged by natural calamities as famines, floods,



The President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee presenting the Padma Shri Award to New York based Ajaypal Singh Banga, at a Civil Investiture Ceremony, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on March 28, 2016

droughts or earthquakes.

Fighting in the World Wars, as part of the British Indian Army, the highest number of "exceptional gallantry" Awards from the British Empire were bestowed upon the Sikhs. The epic saga of twenty-one Sikhs attaining martyrdom facing ten thousand Tribal Afghans is unparalleled in world history.

The role of the Sikhs in the Liberation of France is well recognized.

Today, the Sikhs reside in several countries and have made a mark for themselves, in various spheres of endeavor.

The Sikhs, whether in India or while living as law-

abiding citizens and contributing significantly to the economic growth of their adopted nations of abode, have maintained strong connections with their land of origin. The foreign exchange remittances, to India, from the Sikhs are exemplary, in rejuvenating the Indian economy.

Whether the armed forces or politics, and technology, business or various professions, the arts or sports, Sikhs have excelled unproportionately, in correlation to their very negligible percentage of the world populace.

Revered Saint Bhagat Puran Singhji, personally, served the residents in a leprosy-home which he established. Being an epitome of humility and selfless



Giani Zail Singh was President of India. Dr. Manmohan Singh remained Prime Minister of India for a decade

service, he refused to be nominated for the Nobel Prize.

To name a few luminaries : Dr. Manmohan Singh (Prime Minister of India) Zail Singh (President of India) Air Marshal Arjan Singh, Lt. Gen. Jagjit Singh Aurora (effected the surrender of ninety thousand Pakistan army personnel) Bhai Mohan Singh (industrialist, Founder of Ranbaxy pharmaceuticals)

Amrita Pritam (poet par excellence) The 'Flying-Sikh' Milkha Singh (Olympian sprinter) Ajaypal Singh Banga (CEO, Mastercard) Dr. Narinder Singh Kapany (inventor of fiber-optics) Capt. Tania Shergill, the youngest Adjutant and the only lady to become the Parade-Adjutant, on India's Republic Day, 2020.

Yogi Harbhajan Singh Khalsa was the Preacher of Sikhism in the Western Hemisphere, where the Sikh universal doctrine has been embraced by people from various races and those having different religious and cultural affiliations.

There are several Sikh parliamentarians in various countries. Gurbax Singh Malhi, elected to the Canadian Parliament in 1992, created history, when laws had to be amended, to accommodate a turban-wearing member to sit in the Parliament.

In the scenario of the post 911 tragedy, several Sikhs were murdered and bore the brunt of hate crimes, due to the mistaken-identity syndrome, but succeeded through relentless endeavors, to enhance awareness about the Sikhs.

During the current global pandemic, the Divine Guru's teachings of compassionate sharing, came to the fore, when millions of people were served with edibles, medicines, clothing, shelter and all essential services.

During the unprecedented lockdown, several governments officially requested the Sikhs to prepare food in Gurdwaras, to be served to individuals, as well as to be sent to hospitals and other institutions for the old and the infirm, orphans, and economically weaker sections.

Wherever the Sikhs reside, they assimilate extraordinarily well, in the mainstream life of any nation, culturally, politically, socially, economically, lending a spiritual and ethically sublime touch to all that they are involved in or are called upon to do.

Amarjit Singh Anand, Initiator:
www.1GOD1humanity.org/events



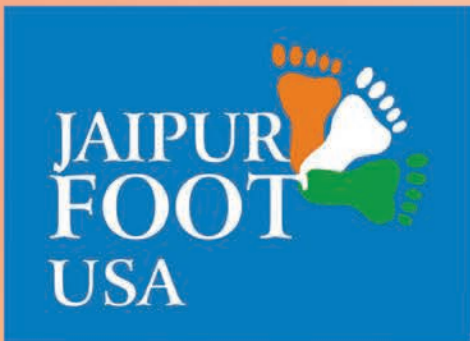
HAPPY 74th INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA



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Heartiest Greetings on the 74th Independence Day of India

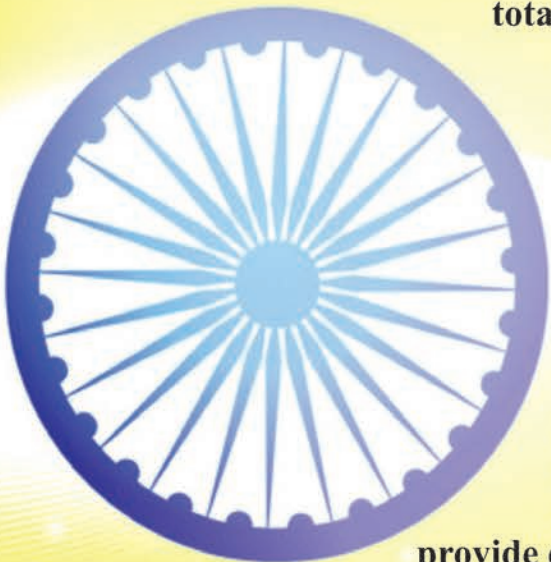
Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), also known as Jaipur Foot, founded in 1975, by a visionary DR Mehta who, now is the Chief Patron of BMVSS, is the world's largest organization which has since its inception rehabilitated over 1.78 million differently abled people in 80 camps across 36 nations of the world. . BMVSS provides all assistance, including artificial limbs, calipers and other aids and appliances totally free of charge.

The vision of Jaipur Foot is to ensure the physical, economic and social rehabilitation of the disabled, to enable them to regain their mobility and dignity and become self-respecting and productive members of society which, in short means, restoring the glory of life.

The Mission of Jaipur Foot is to provide prosthetics or artificial limbs, calipers and other physical aids and appliances, free of charge, to as many disabled people as possible through its centers, outreach programs and rehabilitation camps, both in India and abroad; provide economic support for livelihood (on selective basis) as an anti-alleviation program; and undertake in-house or collaborative research for the improved quality and lower cost of aids and appliances.



The Jaipur Foot is the most widely used prosthetic in the world





APPLY ICE CUBES & BID ADIEU TO BEAUTY WORRIES

Humidity and hot weather during the monsoon can worry your skin too much. It can cause annoying pimples and leave scars on your face. If tackling them has become a bit difficult for you, you need to straightly head towards your freezer.

It treasures the most effective and priceless beauty arsenal. If you have ice cubes in your freezer, you do not need to look for any product in the market. Ice cubes work magical when it comes to flushing away your beauty woes. Rubbing them on your face can not only make you feel fresh but can make it look radiant too. If you wish your face to look smooth, ice facial is what you need to do. It boosts blood circulation to your face and does all the good things that you can think of. Before trying this interesting beauty trend, let us know some significant benefits of rubbing ice cubes on your face.

Make Your Skin Glow

Rubbing ice cubes on your face will constrict the blood vessels, in the beginning, resulting in slow blood flow to the area. But, soon your body will start circulating more blood to your face to balance the level. This is what makes your



skin look radiant and glow.

Reduce Dark Circles

If you have stubborn dark circles under your eyes, ice cubes are what you need to apply on the affected area. To deal with dark circles, you need to boil rose water and add cucumber juice to it. Now, apply rub ice cubes on the affected area and then apply the mixture. Gradually, repeating this daily will help you get rid of this problem.

Treats Acne

Reoccurring acne can make your face look unattractive. It may also result in pain if not handled in time.

To bid adieu to irritating acne, you need to apply ice cubes on your face. Doing this will reduce oil secretion from your skin and minimize the appearance of acne. Also, ice cubes work wonder in curing the swelling caused by acne.

A healthy lifestyle can not only make you live longer but also make you look younger. Most of us wish to age gracefully, or at the very least not look and feel older than we actually are. You may believe it all depends on genetics, but it can actually be achieved with a lot of discipline and good habits too.

Smoking

It is already a well-known fact that smoking affects all the body organs but a less common side-effect is that it also speeds up the normal ageing process of the skin, resulting in premature wrinkles. Smoking increases inflammation in the body which thereby damages the collagen and elastin protein of the skin, thus making the skin sag and wrinkle at an early age. Quitting smoking will benefit your overall health.

Stress

Stress is known to cause many illnesses in the body such as insomnia, depression, anxiety and even Alzheimer's disease. But not many people know that stress can accelerate your ageing process. Stress causes inflammation in the body, which damages various parts of the body including the skin fibres. This makes the skin look dull and lifeless. Stress also damages the cellular structure of the body, which causes premature ageing of the cells.

Exposure to sun

Continuous exposure of the skin to the ultraviolet rays of the sun can damage the elastic fibres of the skin. The elastic fibres of the skin help the skin remain firm. When they get

Bad habits that make your skin age faster



damaged, the skin starts getting wrinkly and loose. Continuous exposure to sunlight also leads to age spots (otherwise called dark spots) on the face, hands and other sun-exposed areas. You must apply sunscreen on your hands and face before stepping out in the sun.

Sleep deprivation

Continuous sleep deprivation can not only lead to dark circles but also other signs of ageing such as dark spots and fine lines, much earlier than expected. Researchers from the University of California found that even a single night of insufficient sleep can make the cells of the body age quicker in the case of older adults.

Sleep deprivation not only causes premature skin ageing but also decreases the ability of the skin to fight against the harmful rays of the sun.

Alcohol

Alcohol consumption not only increases the levels of triglycerides in your body but also allows fine lines and wrinkles to appear at an early age. Alcohol consumption makes these signs of ageing grow deeper with time. Alcohol causes dehydration in the body and also depletes it of vitamin A, which is essential for keeping the skin firm and youthful. Alcohol makes the skin dry, thus making it look dull and lifeless.



By Tript Arora

CONNOISSEUR'S CHOICE



Arbi Butter Masala

Sounds a bit weird but when you will make this dish you are going to love this. The people who don't relish this vegetable will start asking you for more. If you don't disclose the content no one will guess it. Soft arbi wrapped in creamy gravy will delight the palate. This vegetable is known by many names. Taro root in English, ghuiyan in some parts of India and chamadumpa in telugu . But like Shakespeare said What is in a name? fits this dish. It tastes just awesome. So do give it a try, you will love the results.

We Need

500 gm Arbi / Taro root, 10 pods Garlic, 2 " Piece Ginger, 1 Big onion, 2 Medium Tomatoes, 6 Cashews, 1 Tsp Melon Seeds, 2 Green cardamom, 2 cloves, 1" Piece Dalchini, 1/2 Tsp Turmeric Powder, 1/4 Tsp Black Pepper Powder, 1/2 Tsp Red Chilli Powder, 1 Tsp Kashmiri Chilli powder, 2 Tsp Butter, 3 Tbsp Cooking Oil, 2 Tsp Kasoori Methi, Salt to taste.

Here we go

- Wash Arbi thoroughly. Take a pressure cooker and add Whole Arbi (without peeling). Add 300 ml of water. Pressure cook till one whistle. Let it cool. Peel the boiled Arbi just like you peel potatoes. Flatten it between your palms a bit. Avoid breaking it. Keep it whole.
- Coarsely chop Onion , ginger, garlic and Tomatoes.
- Heat a pan and put 2 Tbsp of oil in it. When the oil is heated add boiled Arvi to it. Roast it from both the sides. Remove from the pan and Keep aside.
- Add 1 Tsp of oil to the same pan and add green cardamom, cloves and Cinnamon. When whole spices start sputtering add onions. Saute till translucent . Add ginger and garlic also. Saute for 2 minutes. Add Tomatoes. Also add salt, turmeric, red chilli powder, black pepper powder, cashew and melon seeds. When tomatoes turn mushy add 1 cup water. Cover the pan with a lid and let it simmer on low flame till cashew appears cooked i.e. approximately for 10 min. Let it cool.
- When cooled shift the masala to a grinder and grind to a fine paste. Heat the same pan and put butter in it. When butter starts melting add Kashmiri Mirch powder and kasoori Methi. Saute till Methi is fragrant. Add ground paste to the pan along with pan fried Arbi. Saute for a minute. Adjust the consistency with water and cover the pan with a lid. Keep the flame on low and let it simmer for ten min. In between do keep on checking it. All the flavours will be incorporated in the gravy after 10 min. Switch off the flame and serve hot with naan Or chapati.



You Can reach me at: www.triptasfoodtunnel.com
Email : triptasfoodtunnel@gmail.com.
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FOODS THAT ARE CAUSING BELLY FAT

Whether you want it to admit it or not, there are some foods that no matter what, go right to your gut and cause what feels like nearly instant weight gain. And it goes right where you don't want it. Yes, we're talking about the dreaded fat that sticks right to your belly.

White Bread

If you're thinking not all bread is bad, you're right. It's highly-refined, white bread that should be avoided when you're working to lose belly fat. Studies have shown that eating whole grains can actually lower visceral fat deposits in your belly, but eating refined grains leads to more.

Diet Soda

If you want to get your beach body back, you should cut out sugary beverages and replace them with diet versions, right? Sorry, but that's just wrong. Many studies have found an association between the consumption of diet sodas and wider waist circumference. What's more, diet soda drinkers have a higher percentage of belly flab than those who don't sip the beverage, a study in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society found.

Fruit Juice

It's natural, it's packed with Vitamin C—what could be wrong? Well, while 100% fruit juice is a better pick than sugary drinks like Sunny D, even the all-natural stuff still packs up to 36 grams of sugar per cup—about the same amount of sugar you would get if you ate four Krispy Kreme glazed donuts. What's more, most of the sweetness in juice comes from fructose, a type of sugar associated with the development of visceral adipose tissue—yep, that's belly fat.

Chocolate

Let's start by making it clear that not all chocolate is bad. In fact, dark chocolate is swimming in health benefits, and according to a study published in Heart, eating up to 3.5 ounces of chocolate a day can help lower your risk of heart disease. Plus, it can help reduce belly fat! But it's milk chocolate that is the problem. Milk chocolate bars are loaded up with sugar and are typically packing a ton of calories. An American Journal of Clinical Nutrition study



found that the food that was associated with the most with weight gain was chocolate bars.

Canned Soup

Again, when it comes to canned soups you're going to want to make sure you're choosing the right ones. See, there are plenty of soup options that sneak in a ton of sodium, which not only causes belly bloat but actually can increase your appetite and hinder your ability to know when you're full.

Potato Chips

In the contest to find the very worst possible food for your belly, Harvard researchers believe they have a winner. It's not just that potato chips are saturated with saturated fat, causing abdominal fat gain. It's not just that they're crusted with salt, causing mid-level bloat. It's not even a pure calorie play—there are plenty of more caloric snacks out there. What makes potato chips so epically bad for your belly is not what they have, but what they lack: the ability to make you feel satisfied.



Blueberry-enriched diet may help women's muscle growth, repair

A new research study investigated how serum from subjects consuming a diet enriched with blueberries would affect the cells responsible for muscle growth and repair.

The emerging study, "Consumption of a blueberry-enriched diet by women for six weeks alters determinants of human muscle progenitor cell function," was conducted at Cornell University. The results of the study were published in the Journal of Nutrition.

The study was conducted over six weeks with 22 women, 12 aged 25-40 and 10 aged 60-75. For the blueberry-enriched diet, participants consumed the equivalent of 1.75 cups of fresh blueberries/day, given as freeze-dried blueberries (19 g in the morning and 19 g in the evening), along with their regular diet. Participants were also asked to avoid other foods rich in polyphenols and anthocyanins.

Serum was obtained from the participants 1.5 hours after consuming the morning dose of blueberries. The researchers then investigated how the serum would affect muscle progenitor cell function through proliferation or cell number, capacity to manage oxidative stress and oxygen consumption rate or metabolism.

The results showed the six-week blueberry-enriched serum obtained from the women aged 25-40 increased human muscle progenitor cell numbers in culture. There was also a trend toward a lower percentage of dead human muscle progenitor cells, suggesting resistance to oxidative stress, as well as increased oxygen consumption of the cells. There were no beneficial effects seen in the muscle progenitor cells treated with serum from participants aged 60-75 who consumed the blueberry-enriched diet.

Feel dizzy when you stand up? You could be at higher risk of dementia

People who get a feeling of dizziness when they stand up maybe at an increased risk of developing dementia, according to a recent study.

The study has been published in Neurology, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology.

The condition called orthostatic hypotension occurs when people experience a sudden drop in blood pressure when they stand up.

The study found the link with dementia only in people who have a drop in their systolic blood pressure, not in people with only a drop in their diastolic blood pressure or their blood pressure overall.

Systolic is the first, or top, number in a blood pressure reading and systolic orthostatic hypotension was defined as a drop of at least 15 mmHg after standing



from a sitting position.

"People's blood pressure when they move from sitting to standing should be monitored," said study author Laure Rouch, Pharm.D., Ph.D., of the University of California, San Francisco. "It's possible that controlling these blood pressure drops could be a promising way to help preserve people's thinking and memory skills as they age."

The study involved 2,131 people,

who were an average age of 73 and did not have dementia when they enrolled. Their blood pressure readings were taken at the start of the study and then one, three and five years later. A total of 15 per cent had orthostatic hypotension, 9 per cent had systolic orthostatic hypotension and 6 per cent had diastolic orthostatic hypotension.

Over the next 12 years, the participants were evaluated to see if anyone developed dementia. A total of 462 people, or 22 per cent, did develop the disease.

The people with systolic orthostatic hypotension were nearly 40 per cent more likely to develop dementia than those who did not have the condition. Fifty of the 192 with systolic orthostatic hypotension, or 26 per cent, developed dementia, compared to 412 of the 1,939 people without it, or 21 per cent.

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RAJASTHAN

All is Well That Ends Well

Congress party gets an Independence Day gift in Rajasthan

BY DR YASH GOYAL

JAIPUR (TIP): Hitting hard at Opposition BJP for its interference in the internal affairs of the Congress party, the Gehlot Government in Rajasthan on Friday, August 14, won the Confidence Motion by a voice vote in the state Legislative Assembly after over 3 hours of debate.

The victory of the Congress in the State has sent a clear message to the saffron party that its Mission Lotus in the garb of 'Congress Mukht Bharat' would not be applicable in a majority led government anymore, not in Rajasthan, at least. The ruling members in the House blamed the judiciary and the Governor for causing hurdles in the democratic process. Opposition BJP without creating an uproar in the House could not move its 'no confidence motion' notice against Gehlot government.

Proving that he is with the Congress, Pilot interrupted the BJP legislators in the House claiming that he was the 'strongest warrior' of the Congress party despite his new sitting arrangement. 'I am sitting on border line close to the Opposition members but I will protect my party at all costs. This is not important where one sat but what mattered was what people had in their heart and mind about him', he warned.

This was all made possible as a 'Ram-Bharat Milap' was witnessed in the Pink City a day ago when a known Jadugar turned Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot, former Deputy CM, came face to face with warmth and anticipating to revive the Congress government's image and prestige in public once again.

It seems to give the impression that All Is Well with the Congress Party in Rajasthan. However, only time will tell whether there was a genuine feeling of brotherhood in the hug, or it was another feigned show of amity.

After a major revolt, and leading the rebel camp with 18 MLAs for the last 31 days, Pilot was given a warm welcome on his arrival at CMR by AICC's top functionaries K C Venugopal (now RS MP from Rajasthan), Avinash Pandey, Randeep Surjewala, Ajay Makan and PCC President G S Dotasra.

Gehlot and Pilot shook hands enthusiastically, while Gehlot was also seen holding Pilot's right upper arm as a gesture of unity and political bond. Both were wearing face masks and no emotions were captured, but their glowing eyes gave the impression that both were pleased.

The brief Ram-Bharat-Milap was followed by Congress Legislature Party meeting in which Pilot faction also made attendance. Still scared of poaching, the Gehlot camp MLAs returned to the hotel, whereas Pilot flock's MLAs returned to their residences separately.

Ending a month-long tug of war between the CM and his rebel faction that was piloted by Sachin with 18 dissidents over 'political ambitions of youngsters' in Rajasthan now appears to be settled down, like dust storm in the sandy desert. Rebels have cooled down their feet, and Opposition party (BJP) gave up the hope to be king makers in case Gehlot government fell.

Four days ahead of the Assembly Session slated for August 14, a sudden somersault by Pilot, who was sacked on twin posts of Deputy-CM and PCC President, has stunned everyone, especially the ambitious rival BJP that has projected 'Congress Mukht Bharat' since 2014 and tried this slogan in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur and Goa to 'topple' the governments.

After quandary with Gehlot government, keeping only Twitter handle open, and hiding with his flock under alleged Haryana Government's hospitality, Pilot got an appointment very late and met the Congress

leaders Rahul Gandhi & Priyanka Gandhi Vadra with his 18 supporting MLAs. This is utterly surprising that when Pilot first moved to Delhi in early July to approach and raise his resentment to the party high command, he was not heard because Gehlot had disclosed alleged audio-clips on 'horse trading deal struck' in which the names of a veteran Congress MLA Bhanwarlal Sharma and Union Minister for Jalshakti Gajendra Singh Shekawat, LS MP from Jodhpur in Modi Government surfaced on police records.

The deadlock of government's functioning has been partially paralyzed since July 12 when Pilot had revolted with his camp against CM threatening that the Gehlot government had come in minority. The soup was thicker when Gehlot had sacked Pilot and two other ministers Ramesh Meena and Vishwendra Singh for their alleged involvement in poaching with huge cash secretly offered by the BJP for toppling the ruling government having majority of 119 MLAs in a house of 200. Pilot was furious and moved to coup when he was served a notice by SOG under section 124-A of IPC along with CM, and Chief Whip.

The instability of the state government has revolved around Gehlot vs Pilot over supremacy, Speaker vs Court (High Court and Supreme Court) over notice to rebel MLAs under the Anti-defection Law (10th schedule of the Constitution) by the Speaker C P Joshi, Gehlot vs Governor over calling early assembly session, and Gehlot vs BSP's Mayawati over direct merger of six MLAs with the Congress last year. After facing the legal challenges under the Article 174 of the Constitution and rejecting Gehlot cabinet's three-time proposal to convene the assembly session on a short notice, the Governor Kalraj Mishra finally issued order to convene the session on August 14, covering 21 day-notice.

The BJP appointed Governor's clash with a non-BJP Chief Minister in Rajasthan was nothing new. In Delhi, it was CM Arvind Kejriwal vs Lt Governors, Mamata Banerjee vs Jagdip Dhankar in West Bengal, Uddhav Thackeray vs Bhagat Singh Koshiyari in Maharashtra, P Vijayan and Arif Mohd Khan in Kerala, V Narayana Swami vs Lt Governor Kiran Bedi in Puducherry, and K Chandrasekhar Rao vs T Sundararajan in Telangana.

Pilot faction got scared when it calculated that its herd hiding with a meagre 19 rebels could not cut the ice, and rival party (BJP) which he did not want to join at this juncture would not support him despite alleged 'poaching' of some MLAs. Gehlot succeeded in keeping 102 MLAs in 'political quarantine' under unprecedented security cover, and when time came, paraded his loyalists before the Governor.

Later Gehlot's confidence weakened when BJP and BSP moved to the courts against merger of all six BSP MLAs into the Congress last year. Probably under pressure of raids by Central investigating agencies like IT, ED, CBI against Gehlot's one MLA, friends and relatives, the government bowed down and adopted damage control exercise. The Special Operation Group (SOG) of state Police dropped the sedition charges (section 124-A of IPC) in two cases of horse trading exposed in alleged audio-conversation clip between one BJP Minister and a Congress MLA. The case is now referred to the slow-paced Anti-Corruption Bureau.

A hypothesis indicates that the government's move to go on back foot was a big respite for Pilot camp. Though Pilot was now free from SOG but not having desired support of other party MLAs and deficiency of outside support from rebel party to kick out the ruling government, perhaps they returned to alma mater with their list of grievances. This time Pilot also lacked active support of Gurjar community on which he won the assembly poll in 2018 from the Tonk constituency. It



A handshake and a smile. Sachin Pilot (right) meets Ashok Gehlot (center) at Chief Minister's residence-
Photo / Yash Goyal

was the political compulsion to live inside the party and sit in the assembly as a legislator and not to face any 'disqualification' clause under Anti-defection Act by flouting any whip of the treasury bench.

A question remains unanswered whether a three member AICC Committee comprising Ahmed Patel, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and K C Venugopal will redress 19-MLAs' grievances and look into demands which include re-allocating cabinet berths to two MLAs. Will Pilot get any parallel post in the cabinet of Gehlot who bluntly described Pilot as 'Nikkama, Nakara and Conspired against his own government'. However, in his face saving move Pilot received a warm welcome to Jaipur where he held a series of individual media interactions. Pilot, son for late Union Minister Rajesh Pilot and former MP Mrs. Rama Pilot, assured that he has not asked for post but there should be no vendetta politics. This is a hidden deal when Gehlot says he was unaware under what conditions Pilot group has come back to the party fold.

Why and how the veteran MLA Sharma, whom the SOG police has failed to search in the audio-conversation case in the country, made a surprise landing at CM's House after Pilot met Gandhi family in Delhi remains a mystery. Gehlot had openly assailed Sharma's attempts to destabilize his government and former CM B S Shekawat's government and turning coat frequently in the past.

At a recently held CLP meeting, a number of MLAs and a few Ministers have expressed their displeasure at homecoming of 'rebels'. A million-dollar question would chase CM how he is going to appease Independent MLAs who had merged their affiliation with the Congress - 6 BSP turned Congress MLAs, and BTP legislators while fulfilling his promise of ministerial reshuffle in near future after assembly session. Another big puzzle Congress party will have to address is how to accommodate the Pilot camp in the state in remaining term of the government.

Is this a victory of Ashok Gehlot, 3rd timer Chief Minister in Rajasthan, without a floor test in State Legislative Assembly after a suo moto surrender of Sachin Pilot with his 18-rebellion Congress MLAs before the Congress High Command for an 'amicable mediation' on his flock's grievances? It seems to be a win-win situation more for Pilot and less for Gehlot government as 'horse trading of lawmakers' is unpredictable alike Cricket in future too. Political Pandits feel after some time Pilot may raise his ante against Gehlot rule if more rebels join to saddle him (Gehlot) out of power. Gehlot urged his MLAs to forgive him and move, but would it be so easy for the voters who have noticed fragility of oldest party, the Congress. Caste politics would again emerge as a threat to the Gehlot who is always known as Jadugar of Politics.

(Dr Goyal is a senior journalist, and has worked for PTI and The Tribune)



Facebook will now warn you before you share Covid-19 articles

Facebook and other social media platforms have been struggling with misinformation around the pandemic. Facebook's latest effort to help combat this is a pop-up warning before users share a Covid-related article.

This new notification screen is rolling out to Facebook users globally. Facebook wants to give users more context about the Covid-19 article they plan to share on the platform. It also says that the new notification screen "will help people understand the recency and source of the content before they share it". This pop-up notification will appear for all Covid-19 content except those from government health authorities and global health organisations such as the World Health Organization.

Amazon wins loyal Walmart shoppers as Americans stampede online

Walmart Inc. shoppers are a pretty loyal bunch. But when virus-spooked Americans began avoiding stores earlier this year and shifting spending online, far more Walmart customers went to Amazon.com Inc. than Walmart.com. So even though Walmart, too, has thrived as an essential service amid the pandemic, Amazon is benefiting more. In the first week of February, for every dollar shoppers spent with the two rivals, 66 cents went to Walmart and 34 cents to Amazon, according to Facteus, which tracks credit and debit-card spending for millions of shoppers. In the first week of August, that gap narrowed to 55 cents to Walmart and 45 cents to Amazon. Walmart, through a spokesman, declined to comment.

Microsoft back in smartphone business with dual-screen device

Microsoft is back to selling smartphones for the first time since it abandoned its mobile business more than four years ago. The company began taking orders Wednesday for the Surface Duo, a new dual-screen Android device that costs USD 1,399 and begins shipping in September.

The high-priced gadget is designed to impress, but is also arriving during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, with unemployment in double digits and budget-wary consumers spending more time at home to avoid the coronavirus pandemic.

A new experiment hints at how hot water can freeze faster

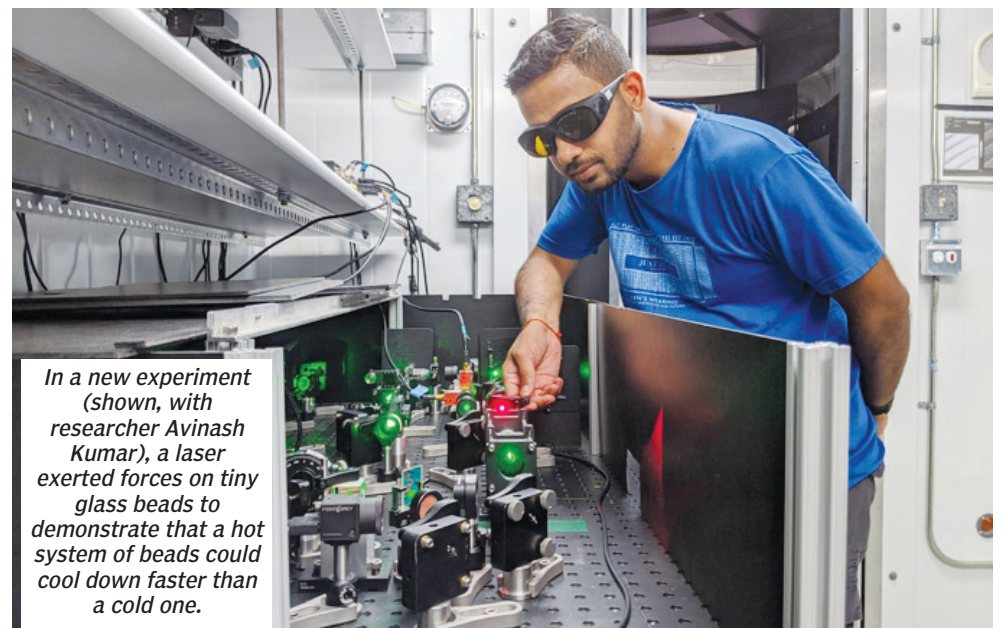
A study of tiny glass beads suggests that the Mpemba effect is real

A hot object can cool more quickly than a warm one, a new study finds. When chilled, a warmer system cooled off in less time than it took a cooler system to reach the same low temperature. And in some cases, the speedup was even exponential.

The experiment was inspired by reports of the Mpemba effect, the counterintuitive observation that hot water sometimes freezes faster than cold. But experiments studying this phenomenon have been muddled by the complexities of water and the freezing process, making results difficult to reproduce and leaving scientists disagreeing over what causes the effect, how to define it and if it is even real.

To sidestep those complexities, Avinash Kumar and John Bechhoefer, both of Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, Canada, used tiny glass beads, 1.5 micrometers in diameter, in lieu of water. And the researchers defined the Mpemba effect based on cooling instead of the more complicated process of freezing.

The result: "This is the first time that an experiment can be claimed as a clean, perfectly controlled experiment that demonstrates this effect," says theoretical chemist Zhiyue Lu of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In the



In a new experiment (shown, with researcher Avinash Kumar), a laser exerted forces on tiny glass beads to demonstrate that a hot system of beads could cool down faster than a cold one.

experiment, a bead represented the equivalent of a single molecule of water, and measurements were performed 1,000 times under a given set of conditions to produce a collection of "molecules." A laser exerted forces on each bead, producing an energy landscape, or potential. Meanwhile, the bead was cooled in a bath of water. The effective "temperature" of the beads from the combined trials could be derived from how they traversed the energy landscape,

moving in response to the forces imparted by the laser.

To study how the system cooled, the researchers tracked the beads' motions over time. The beads began at either a high or a moderate temperature, and the researchers measured how long it took for the beads to cool to the temperature of the water. Under certain conditions, the beads that started out hotter cooled faster, and sometimes exponentially faster, than the cooler beads.

How to limit who can reply to your tweets; who can't

Twitter is on a roll as it's bringing new features every passing day. It recently introduced Instagram Stories like fleets in India that disappear in 24 hours. The social media giant is now giving more control to users. Twitter has pushed out a new update that allows users to choose who can reply to their tweets and who can't. This new setting is now available for every user globally including India.

Notably, users who are restricted from replying to your tweets will still be able to view, retweet, retweet with comment, like and share your tweets. Let's take a quick look at how you can enable the setting to limit unwanted users from responding to your tweets. Well, before getting into how the new feature works, you just note that this isn't the first time Twitter has introduced features that provides more power to users.

How to choose who can reply to your tweet

- Open Twitter on your phone or desktop.
- Tap on the globe icon and select who can reply to your tweet: Everyone, People you follow or Only the people you mention.
- Once you select the option you want, compose your tweet and tap tweet.
- Take note that once you



publish the tweet, you will not be able to change its reply settings.

How to choose who you can reply to

- Inside of the compose screen, you can see the people in the conversation you will reply to. There you can click on the "Replying to" option to bring up the editing screen, which will consist of a list of people who are a part of the conversation.
 - To add people into a conversation, you can simply type their username into your tweet. And to remove people you can tap on the checkmark icon to deselect participants inside of the editing screen.
- If you have blocked any accounts, they will be visible to you in the recipient list with the blocked indicator.

Huawei patents smartphone with all-screen fingerprint unlock tech

Chinese smartphone maker Huawei has reportedly filed a patent for smartphones with all-screen fingerprint unlock technology.

In addition, the firm disclosed that the new full screen fingerprint technology will allow the users to respond to text messages without the need to unlock the phone.

The users will still have the option to "activate sensors in a chosen area on the screen while deactivating the rest on the screen space." The company confirmed it has filed a patent for the new technology in six markets including China, Europe, the US, Japan, Korea as well as India and is awaiting approval, reports Android Authority.

In the patent, the company has outlined a few potential applications for the technology, such as fingerprint verification for individual applications, through their icons.

Huawei recently filed a patent for smartphones with an under-display selfie camera.

The Chinese tech giant filed two patents back in 2019 that has finally been published by the CNIPA (China National Intellectual Property Office).





ByteDance in talks with Reliance for investment in TikTok: Report

China's ByteDance is in early talks with Reliance Industries Ltd for investment in its video-based app TikTok's business in India, TechCrunch reported on Thursday, citing sources.

The two companies began conversations late last month and have not reached a deal yet, according to the report.

Reliance, ByteDance and TikTok did not immediately respond to Reuters requests for comment.

The Indian government in June banned 59 Chinese apps, including TikTok and WeChat, for threatening its "sovereignty and integrity" after border tensions with China.

'Apple must pay \$500 million over patent violations'

Apple must pay more than \$500 million in damages and interest for 4G patent infringements held by intellectual property company PanOptis, a Texas court has ruled.

The US tech giant -- now worth almost \$2 trillion -- will appeal Tuesday's decision, local media said.

PanOptis, which specializes in licensing patents, took Apple to court in February last year, claiming it refused to pay for the use of 4G LTE technologies in its smartphones, tablets and watches.

"The plaintiffs have repeatedly negotiated with Apple to reach an agreement for a FRAND license to the Plaintiff's patent portfolios which Apple is infringing," the court filing read.

Passenger vehicle sales decline in July

Sustained penchant for sport-utility vehicles helped India's passenger vehicle industry clock a modest year-on-year decline in sales in July, and offer early signs of revival in a market clobbered by the pandemic-induced turmoil and an economy that's forecast to contract this fiscal year.

A total of 182,779 passenger vehicles were sold last month, down 3.9% from the year-earlier, showed data released on Tuesday by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM). July sales performance, however, far surpassed the 105,617 passenger vehicles sold in June, when sales had plunged nearly 50% from the year-ago.

A good summer crop, adequate monsoon rains and comparatively fewer Covid-19 infections in rural India is helping a gradual recovery in the sale of small cars, sports-utility vehicles and two-wheelers. The utility vehicle segment posted 14% y-o-y growth last month to 71,384 units.

Ferrari sets record for most expensive car ever sold online

The uniquely engineered, 1-of-40 1966 Ferrari 275 GTB was sold for a massive \$3.08 million

In an auction that ended Aug. 7, Gooding & Co. sold a 1966 Ferrari 275 GTB the color of a white sand beach for \$3.08 million. Even more unbelievable: It was done online. The uniquely engineered, 1-of-40 coupe commanded the most expensive sum ever paid for a car sold on the Internet.

Such a high sale for a car not actually seen in person is a canny indicator of the relative health of the collector-car market in the midst of Covid-19. But not a surprise.

"I think this car is virus-proof in the sense that it is a really, really exceptional 275. It's basically an all-original car with an original interior, a lot of original paint, and long-term ownership," David Gooding, auction house president and chief executive officer, said in an interview before the sale. (In true auction house discretion, Gooding & Co. declined to identify the person who purchased the vehicle.) "It's special—pandemic or not."

Indeed, the best Ferraris are faring very well in the pandemic world: They constituted four of the top five lots at the Gooding auction, and six of the top 10 results of RM Sotheby's "Driving into Summer" sale in May, which saw a 2003 Ferrari Enzo alone sell for \$2.64 million—until last week the highest price paid for a car in an online auction. Three of the



top 10 sellers in a Barrett-Jackson online auction in July were Ferraris, a critical anomaly for an outfit known almost exclusively for selling American muscle cars and rough and ready trucks.

The results sent a strong "Yes, you can!" message to any industry collectors and enthusiasts wondering if their cancelled summer sales would hold up in an online format—especially for the most elite and perfect collectable cars, such as racing Aston Martins, Jaguars, and racing Ferraris.

"There is serious, armor-plated Kevlar

protecting the 1 Percent who give a toss about this car passion," says Steve Serio, a car broker to the rich and famous.

"Vehicles above that \$100,000 price point—think, cars that sell at Pebble Beach—or the parts of the economy not as closely tied to the oil industry, [will] see little change," echoed Hagerty's John Wiley in a recent report on the effects of the novel coronavirus on the collecting world. All told, more than \$70 million worth of classic and collectable cars have been sold online by the world's top auction houses since the start of the pandemic.

GDP growth might hit the lowest since 1947, warns Narayan Murthy

BENGALURU (TIP): Flagging fears that the country's GDP growth may even touch its lowest since independence in the backdrop of coronavirus pandemic, Infosys founder N R Narayana Murthy on Monday said the economy should be brought back on track and people should be prepared to live with the pathogen.

He also pitched for developing a new system that should allow every player in every sector of the country's economy to operate at full steam with suitable precautions.

"India's GDP is expected to shrink by at least five per cent. There is a fear that we may even reach the lowest GDP (growth) since independence, since 1947," Murthy said.

The software icon was participating in a discussion on 'Leading India's Digital Revolution' during the 16th edition of Institute of Engineering and Technology's India Digital Conversations held virtually.

"The global GDP has gone down. Global trade has shrunk, global travel has almost disappeared. The global GDP is likely to shrink between 5 per cent and 10 per cent," he said.

Murthy said that right from the first day of the national lockdown



on March 24 his view had been that people have to be prepared to live with the virus for three reasons -- there is no vaccine, no cure for coronavirus and the economy cannot be brought to a halt.

The earliest possible vaccine was from Oxford University, which may be available in the country anywhere from six to nine months, he said.

"But even if we are able to vaccinate 10 million people a day, it is going to take 140 days to vaccinate all the Indians. That is a long period to prevent the spread of the disease," Murthy said.

"...we cannot make the economy come to a halt. Over all, 140 million workers have been affected by this virus. So the smartness is in defining a new normal. This normal should allow our economy to grow while moving on the earth and fighting the virus," the tech leader said.

UK economy faces long climb back to health after historic 20% crash

Britain's economy shrank by a record 20.4% in the second quarter when the coronavirus lockdown was tightest, the most severe contraction reported by any major economy so far, with a wave of job losses set to hit later in 2020.

The scale of the economic hit may also revive questions about Prime Minister Boris Johnson's handling of the pandemic, with Britain suffering the highest death toll in Europe. More than 50,000 UK deaths have been linked to the disease. "Today's figures confirm that hard times are here," finance minister Rishi Sunak said. "Hundreds of thousands of people have already lost their jobs, and sadly in the coming months many more will."

The data confirmed that the world's sixth-biggest economy had entered a recession, with the low point coming in April when output was more than 25% below its pre-pandemic level.

Growth restarted in May and quickened in June, when the economy expanded by a monthly 8.7% - a record single-month increase and slightly stronger than forecasts by economists in a Reuters poll.

However, some analysts said the bounce-back was unlikely to be sustained.





Shree Ganeshaya Namah



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

Weekly Horoscope August 17 - August 23, 2020

ARIES: Ganesha says Partnerships and money are the spheres that keep you busy at the start of the period. By partnerships is meant not just business or financial tie - ups, but the entire range of marital, romantic partnerships, siblings, relatives - all those you form equal ties with. The point to note here is equality - balance - in the relationship. You also seek to create an income to match and keep you with expenses and leave something over for a rainy day.

TAURUS: You will weigh up and consider future plans for earning very carefully now. Additional avenues of earning will be explored, so also will long - term investments. You try for present comfort and also future security - not just for yourself but the family, your dependents - in all your financial activities. You will strive for inner calm, serenity too - also to provide a secure domestic environment for your loved ones.

GEMINI: Your intimate family circle, your really close friends and relatives provide support, cooperation, ideas in all your endeavours. I must mention that many of these efforts will be directed towards getting some extra cash. A second job, business, enterprise could be contemplated and put into action - mode. Romantic and professional / business attachments and liaisons could both happen.

CANCER: You are ready to dare all in your somewhat determined efforts to get extra mileage in both money and romance. In fact, you are so keen to impress that you may move to a better locality / home / job / faith / house of worship. You certainly don't do things by halves - it's all or nothing that you gamble for. You just might strike it lucky, chuckles Ganesha.

LEO: Your daring, rashness, risk - taking of last period now get transformed into a zest for life, laughter, loving, fun and games! The good things of life, lots of wining and dining, luxuries, comforts, fine living are all sought, and attained. You have the energy, gusto, daring, for all this and also for start - ups, ventures, projects that will have you going places. Great work!

VIRGO: It is not that you neglect personal and domestic finances. In these you aim at creating a suitable cushion for home and family. Your personal equations continue to be warm, harmonious, vitally important. You never waver from your allegiance to family values, whatever area you're operating in. Even if it's huge financial issues, your heart is with your home and loved ones.

LIBRA: You are an achiever, a path - breaker at work but don't compromise on good times, shared pleasures in the intimate family circle. Even your love and marriage are replete with affection, bonding, closeness rather than passionate encounters. Shared investments and funds are the key now, rather than large financial issues. The strong point in all your activities is the theme of share and share alike - making for greater closeness, greater love.

SCORPIO: Love and finance, money and honey. Let's look at the money angle first. Finances are clearly demarcated, allocated, leaving little or no room for error or doubt I wish I could say the same for love. Here there is an element of mystery, of risk - taking. You're willing to chance your heart, your emotions in an "all for love" kind of attitude. It just may not be reciprocated but that doesn't deter you greatly.

SAGITTARIUS: You are sympathetic to a degree that will make you risk everything for someone close to you - not necessarily a lover or spouse. There are huge expenses and requirements of cash, so you need to take on extra work, or even a second job in order to cope. So, you're in for a phase of hectic activity, perhaps travel. Certainly, a huge amount of work. I can't say if you'll feel it's worth it, but you do it anyway.

CAPRICORN: Inspiration, ideas, creativity at white heat come to you. All your plans / projects / ventures / involvements get greatly energised. You are active on several fronts, sustained and encouraged by support and cooperation from close friends, associates and like - minded people. You also manage to charm your way into the heart of someone you cherish - either romantically and emotionally or professionally.

AQUARIUS: In your sign, this phase has you concentrating fair and square on your income, earning, finances - more with a view to providing for and nurturing your family, children and even relatives. You want to hold the purse - strings, call the shots, be in control. This just might lead to arguments / discussions, but you are communicating well. In love and romance, too, you will experience greatly intensity - even when you fight!

PISCES: You are into a bout of such hard work, such all - out effort that it's mind - boggling to watch. Health problems, stress and exhaustion could well be the outcome; that anyone could foresee. You don't need an astrologer to tell you so. What Ganesha advises is that a) you should find the time for personal matters, a little rest and relaxation with loved ones and b) a turning to meditation, relaxation techniques, spiritual pursuits, leisure activities - all of which you might have been neglecting.

Birthday Horoscope August 17 - August 23, 2020

AUG 17: You're off and running early in connection with work or daily routine, but may have to contend with a few snags that slow you down; respond calmly to them. Pay attention to minor health complaints.

AUG 18: You can easily prioritize tasks that need to get done around the house and feel enthusiasm for getting them done. Others, however, whose visions are limited, might not share your view.

AUG 19: If you've got romantic plans in mind, be carefully what you eat or drink; otherwise, you won't

be able to see them through. Seclusion or a getaway could be what you're after.

AUG 20: GANESHA says this period signals, fresh opportunities, particularly concerning travel, education, distant interests, or ways of thinking, and in a way that blends the old with the new or builds on it.

AUG 21: An active imagination, paired with insight and foresight, should be considered a valuable asset for getting ahead; listen to that small voice within. A gift,

bonus, or support brings joy.

AUG 22: Overconfidence and overdoing are to be avoided, especially concerning the law, travel, and education, as well as distant interests and those closer to home. It's counterproductive to overreach or push.

AUG 23: Give wide berth to temperamental types who easily fly off the handle; even well - meaning suggestions may not be appreciated. It's not a time to trust anyone's bubble.



ATTAINING ONENESS WITH SHIVA

The state of liberation or pure consciousness is not a mere theory. You can bring it into your mundane states of consciousness and experience it as your natural state. In Shaivism, yogis attempt to do this through yoga, mantra and tantra. According to Shaivism, beings are caught in samsara (the cycle of births and deaths), because they are filled with maya and subject to egoism, attachments and delusion, which create karma. Their consciousness is clouded, and their energies and abilities (shaktis) are limited due to the maya shaktis.

The beings who have fallen thus into their animal nature (pashu vritti) are but Shiva only in their ignorant state. The self which exists in them is pure consciousness, filled with infinite shaktis, which is also the original and pure (sahaja) state of Shiva only. However, it remains hidden due to the power of maya shaktis and does not participate in worldly activities, but remains passive as a witness.

Becoming one with that pure consciousness without duality and bringing its illumination, knowledge and potency into our wakeful, dream and deep sleep states as our essential and natural state, this is the ultimate goal of life and liberation, which Shiva yogis aim to achieve. In other words, they do not want the transcendental state of turya (blissful nonduality) to remain confined to transcendental states, but bring it into the other three states also namely jagrat (wakeful), svapna (dream) and deep sleep states and make it a continuous and uninterrupted condition of their existence upon earth.

As liberated beings (jivan muktas) they want to live in oneness or nonduality with Shiva in their mortal bodies, until they complete their time upon earth. They do not want to attain liberation or oneness with Shiva in rare moments of self-absorption or keep it confined to transcendental realm. Whether their minds and bodies are active or inactive and whether they are awake or asleep, they aim to experience it in all states and conditions as their natural (sajaja), continuous, pure and experiential state.

How can it be done? Shaivism suggests three main approaches. The first one is to be practiced keeping the main focus upon the pure consciousness of Shiva; the second one, with the help of shaktis, who are hidden in the mind and body and the universe; and the third one through persistent, self-effort. As their names imply, they are known as Shambhavopaya, Shaktopaya and Anavopaya respectively.

Of the three, the last one is considered the most difficult and inferior, and the first one the most excellent. In all the three approaches, the guidance and help of an enlightened guru are imperative since many problems can arise on the path, as the shaktis play their own tricks to prevent the escape. Sometimes, if you are lucky or if you made great progress in your past lives and earned merit and grace, Shiva may voluntarily become your divine guru and open your mind to illumination and supreme knowledge.

In Shambhavopaya, you meditate upon your essential nature as eternally indestructible, independent and infinite, pure consciousness, and try to make it your natural state by merging into it without duality or distinction. You bring that awareness not only into your wakeful state but also your dream and deep sleep states, so that your transformation as a pure being is complete in all respects and remains so



in all states and conditions. It is not easy because you have to overcome your limited identity (anavatvam), which is defined and limited by your name and form and your belief that it represents your true self.

As the pure self, you have to remember constantly that you are the effulgent pure consciousness, which is eternal, infinite and indestructible, with infinite power to will (iccha shakti), know (jnana shakti) and act (kriya shakti). In your deepest aspect, you are Shiva himself, with the world as your extension and creation. You do not know it because you are veiled by a thick cloud of gross and subtle impurities. With your mind and senses and other tattvas in your body, which are instruments of maya and ruled by maya, you cannot look through them to know your true nature.

However, although your true nature is hidden behind a cloud of maya and you cannot see it in wakeful condition, occasionally it may manifest in you in rare moments when there is a sudden shift or opening in your consciousness and you experience strange sensations, otherworldly, psychic or mystic states. Just as the light of the sun appears through the openings in a clouded sky,

these brief moments of illumination arise when the light of your pure consciousness manifests through the crevices in your wakeful or dream states, when you are lost in some activity or when your defenses are down and your mind enters a trance like reverie or condition.

Those moments may arise spontaneously or naturally in unexpected

moments of quietude, or through specific yogic practices, mudras, mantras or the use of mind-altering and intoxicating substances. They are used by Shiva yogis for contemplation to cultivate equanimity and grow nearness to the pure self which is hidden in them. Contemplating upon them and upon the nature and consciousness of Shiva, they dissolve their limited selves in its knowledge and illumination and become absorbed in it. Once they experience the awakening (Bhairava udyama) in a state of nonduality, they gradually bring its light and bliss into their wakeful consciousness and become stabilized in it.

There are other practices which produce similar results. For example, you can create an opening in your consciousness by freeing your mind when you are about to jump from thought to another or by remaining focused upon the silence which arises in the small space between one thought and another or between one activity or modification of the mind and another. You can use them as the doorways to enter the supreme state of your pure self.

Yogis also try to access the ocean of pure consciousness by meditating upon blissful states which they may occasionally experience during mundane activities such as eating, drinking, sleeping, etc. The pleasure or happiness which you experience in your body in your wakeful state is but a faint form of the transcendental bliss of turya only. By meditating upon it, you can open your mind and bring the illumination of your blissful, pure consciousness into your wakeful and dream states.

These experiences grow in intensity and the illumination of pure consciousness begin to manifest frequently in your consciousness, as you engage in self-purification, invoking the shaktis who are hidden in your mind, body, speech, breath, nadis, intelligence and consciousness. Since the same shaktis are also hidden in creation in various aspects as sacred sounds, mantras and letters, names and forms, etc., yogis contemplate upon them to awaken them within themselves. They harness their power to transform their minds and bodies so that they become the living embodiments of Shiva.

Source: Hinduwebsite.com

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Imran Khan acting like 'God', has ruined Pak cricket: Miandad

Legendary Pakistan batsman Javed Miandad has lashed out at his former teammate Imran Khan, saying the current Pakistan Prime Minister has ruined cricket in the country.

Miandad said that Imran had ruined the state of affairs of cricket in Pakistan by appointing officials in the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) who have zero knowledge of the sport.

"All officials in the PCB do not know the ABC of the sport. I will talk to Imran Khan personally about the sad state of affairs. I will not leave anyone that is not right for our country," Miandad said in a video released on his YouTube channel.

Indirectly referring to PCB CEO Wasim Khan, he said: "You have brought a person from abroad, if he steals from us, how you will even catch him?"

"The players that are currently playing should have a big future in cricket. I don't want these players to end as labourers in the future. They (PCB) have left players unemployed after dumping the departments and now they cannot offer employment themselves. I was saying this before as well but they didn't understand," he added.

It feels like he 'just doesn't age': Watson on Dhoni

Former Australia all-rounder Shane Watson is an integral part of the Chennai Super Kings outfit and the burly Aussie is all set for another crack at the tournament that had resurrected his career way back in 2008.

He has excelled under the leadership of MS Dhoni at CSK and believes that the former India captain still has a lot to offer on the cricketing field.

"MS still loves playing. He is an evergreen cricketer and it feels like he just doesn't age. Look, with the kind of skills he has and the hard yards he puts in, MS can go on and play into his 40s," Watson told The Times of India in an interview.

Dhoni will be back in action in the IPL after a break of more than a year from competitive cricket. He last played a competitive match in the 2019 ICC World Cup, when India had lost in the semi-final of the tournament to New Zealand.

Since then there has been speculation about Dhoni's future with many saying that he has perhaps played his last match in an India jersey. But Watson believes otherwise.

"MS has been able to manage his body well. The way he is able to run consistently and showcase skills behind the stumps are just incredible. I am a big fan of MS and would want to see him continue playing whether it's for CSK or internationally," Watson said. Watson had won the IPL with Rajasthan Royals in the maiden season in 2008, playing a pivotal role with both bat and ball.

Serena sets up Venus clash on return after Covid-19 hiatus

Serena Williams made a winning return to competitive tennis on Tuesday as she rallied from a set down to beat Bernarda Pera 4-6 6-4 6-1 at the Top Seed Open in Lexington, Kentucky on Tuesday in her first match of the Covid-19 era.

Williams was five points from falling to the American left-hander in the second set but suddenly showcased her fighting spirit and pulled away to set up a second-round showdown with older sister Venus, a 6-3 6-2 winner over Victoria Azarenka.

"It's good just in general because I haven't played. A lot of players have been playing - little things and little matches and playing against other players - but I've only been training so this was really good for me," said Serena, who is gearing up for the Aug. 31-Sept. 13 U.S. Open.

The Top Seed Open, the first WTA Tour tournament in the U.S. since the Covid-19 outbreak halted play, provided a taste of what is to come for the 38-year-old American as she bids for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title in New York, with empty, silent stands taking the place of roaring crowds.

"I've been through so many things in my career so this was totally different," said Serena. "Being in New York will be a little different because there's this massive stadium."

Venus, who fell in the first round at the Australian Open, Acapulco, and



Monterrey earlier this year, cruised through her clash of former world number ones as she turned aside the one break point she faced during an 80-minute win over Azarenka.

In other action, former U.S. Open

champion Sloane Stephens was upset by Canadian Leylah Fernandez, Kazakhstan's Yulia Putintseva beat Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic and Coco Gauff beat fellow American Caroline Dolehide.

2nd test: England eye series win



SOUTHAMPTON (TIP): A rare winning start to a Test series isn't stopping the questions from mounting up for England cricket captain Joe Root. Can Jos Buttler still be trusted as the wicketkeeper? How much has fast bowler Jimmy Anderson left in the tank?

And, perhaps most significantly of all, how does England go about replacing Ben Stokes?

Another victory will clinch a first Test series win against Pakistan in 10 years — and a second series of this pandemic-affected summer, having already beaten the West Indies — but Root's team has issues to address.

For starters, Stokes, the world's No. 1 allrounder, will be missing because he has returned to New

Zealand for family reasons. It deprives England of a player who often digs the team out of trouble — with ball or bat — and will lead to a more specialist batsman, likely Zak Crawley, being added to the lineup.

Buttler should keep his place despite missing three chances behind the stumps in the first innings — two against opener Shan Masood who went on to make 156. The wicketkeeper also made amends for a falling batting average by scoring a crucial 75 as England successfully chased down a target of 277.

His batting is set to ensure he staves off being replaced by fellow gloveman Ben Foakes despite his rival typically being more accomplished behind the stumps.

Bulked-up Mitchell Starc hopes to test 160kph mark

Mitchell Starc remains wary of injuries from bowling too fast but the Australia paceman hopes to push the 160 km per hour mark in the coming home summer after adding five kg to his frame during a long off-season.

The left-armer is one of only a handful of bowlers to have recorded a delivery over that mark, sending down a sizzling 160.4 kph yorker during the second test against New Zealand at the WACA in 2015.

Starc broke down early in the next match at Adelaide Oval, the inaugural day-night test match, with a stress fracture.

He also strained a pectoral muscle last year after cranking up the pace against Sri Lanka in Canberra.

However, feeling refreshed and stronger from the long break since Covid-19 put a halt to cricket in March, Starc hopes he might be able to return to top speed.

"It would be nice but at the same time the two occasions I've been up around that (160 kph) mark I've snapped my foot," he said in comments published by Cricket Australia's website.

"Hopefully that's not the case but when everything is going well, that rhythm is happening and conditions suit, then I can get that speed gun up.





PANCHGANI: THE TABLE LAND

Deriving its name from the five hills surrounding it, Panchgani is a popular hill station near Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra, famous for its various sunset and sunrise points and scenic valley view.

Located at an altitude of 1,334 mts, Panchgani is also known as Paachgani as the five hills that form the Sahyadri mountain ranges offer Panchgani its name. The picturesque backdrop of hills on one side and coastal plains on the other makes for an amazing view. In the British era, the place was treated as a summer resort and hence many colonial period establishments can be seen here. Mahabaleshwar is like a twin city to Panchgani.

Other than the verdant green valleys, and soothing environment, the red, juicy strawberries are a major attraction of Panchgani. Rightly known as the 'Strawberry Garden of India', the farms of Panchgani are full of enchanting views of luscious berries, especially during February and March.

PLACES TO VISIT

Kaas Plateau

Declared as the UNESCO World Natural Heritage sites of India in 2012, Kaas Plateau in Panchgani is a magical place with landscapes with lakes, flowers and butterflies all around. Kaas Plateau is a biodiversity hotspot situated at a mighty altitude of 1200 metres and is a major biodiversity hotspot owing to the many varieties of endemic flowers and butterflies that are found here.

Housing about 850 species of beautiful wildflowers, the 1000 hectare area of the plateau is now a reserved forest which is famous for its natural beauty and flora, Kaas Lake and how it turns into a valley of flowers during monsoon. Recently, the place has started gathering a bit of tourist rush and popularity for all the natural treasures that it holds. However, to preserve the virgin charms of this location, the number of visitors have been restricted to 3,000 per day. State Transport buses ply from the parking area to Kaas Plateau and cost INR 10 per person each side.

The months beginning from August to October witness the Kaas Valley transforming into a blooming beauty of endemic flowers such as Anjani, Paner, Sonki, Kondal, Deepkadee and Kaasa. The sheer variety of colours, shapes and sizes is a delightful sight to behold and makes Kaas Valley an undeniable hit among scientists, naturalists and adventure lovers alike. The many blossoms of the valley stand in stark contrast to the azure of the sky with numerous delicate butterflies fluttering their way through this kaleidoscopic maze.

Table Land

Table Land is a plateau that marks the highest point of Panchgani with the height of 4500 feet above sea level. It is also the second-longest mountain plateau in Asia. It is a famous tourist attraction as it offers a jaw-dropping view of deep valleys and majestic hills. It is best visited during the sunrise and sunset.

Table Land is also known for activities like horse riding, trekking, merry go rounds, arcade games, and mini trains.



Best described as a beautiful marvel of nature, this plateau is a very popular attraction of the Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani region. The base rock of this plateau is majestic laterite entirely covered with dense foliage of miniature bluebonnet grass.

Mahabaleshwar

Less than half an hour away from Panchgani is the city of Mahabaleshwar, an extension of its sceneries countless view points and strawberries and raspberries.

Do take a trip to Mahabaleshwar, while here. Wilson Point, Elephant Head Point, Pratapgarh Fort, Arthur's seat, Mahabaleshwar temple, Lodwick Point, Elphinstone Point, Lingamala falls, Chinaman's fall are just some of the enchanting attractions in Mahabaleshwar.

Kate's Point

Kate's Point is a famous viewpoint in Maharashtra, located around 15 km outside Panchgani, on the way to Mahabaleshwar. The huge rock overlooking the Krishna valley is often thronged by tourists. The point gives a great view of the valley and waters of Dhom Dam and Balakwadi.

Kate's Point is named after the British Governor Sir Malcolm's daughter. Kate's Point is the most picturesque point of Mahabaleshwar and Panchgani and is often used as a cover image by most magazines.

Paragliding in Panchgani

Panchgani makes a great destination for paragliding because of its scenic view. Various reliable paragliding clubs are there in the city. You could go on a joyride or take courses across levels, starting from elementary to advanced level.





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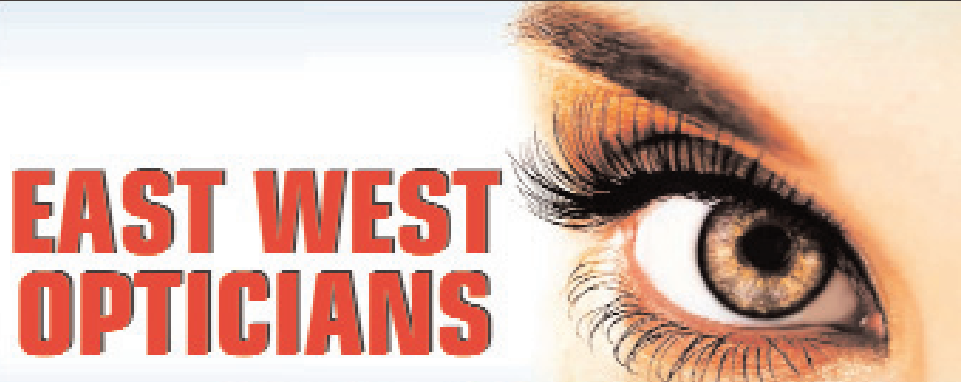
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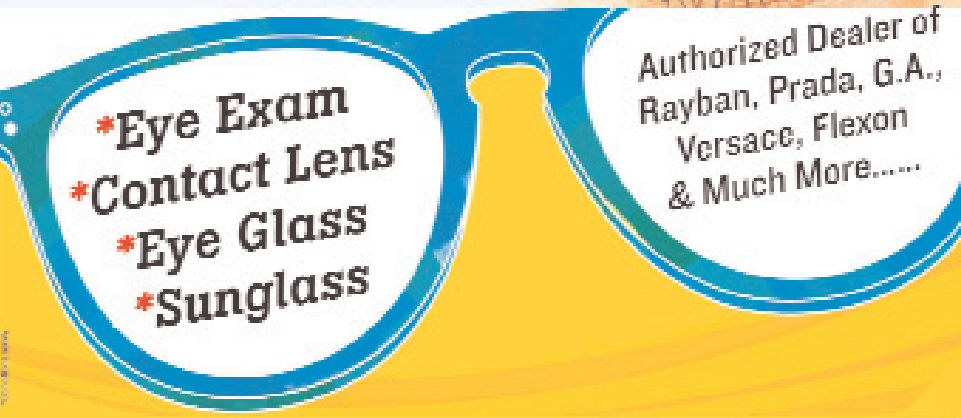
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