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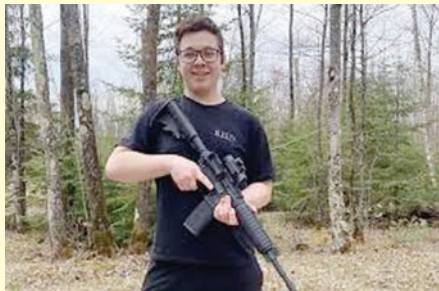
KEEP AMERICA SAFE

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Kenosha shooting suspect faces more homicide charges

The suspect in the Kenosha, Wisconsin, fatal shooting is facing multiple homicide charges, court records show. Social media reveals more about Kenosha shooting suspect



Kyle Rittenhouse, 17, is accused of a single shooting incident during a night of unrest in Kenosha

KENOSHA, WI (TIP): Kyle Rittenhouse, 17, is accused of a single shooting incident during a night of unrest in Kenosha earlier this week that left two people dead and a third person seriously injured, authorities have said.

Since his arrest on Wednesday, the Antioch, Illinois, teenager had been charged with first-degree intentional homicide, Antioch Police said.

Prosecutors filed more charges against Rittenhouse on Thursday, adding one count of reckless homicide, a count for attempted intentional homicide and two counts of recklessly endangering safety. Court records show he's also being charged with possession of a dangerous weapon while under the age of 18, which is a misdemeanor. **contd on page 2**

Trump Mounts attack on rival Biden in his nomination acceptance speech at White House

RNC CLOSES WITH FIREWORKS DISPLAY

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Donald Trump accepted the Republican nomination for a second term on Thursday, August 27, with a blistering attack on rival Joe Biden, claiming that a Democratic victory in November would only exacerbate the racial strife and coronavirus pandemic besieging the nation.

Speaking from the White House South Lawn, Trump portrayed Biden, a career politician with a long record as a moderate, as a far-left extremist who would usher in a lawless, dangerous America.

"This election will decide whether we protect law-abiding Americans, or whether we give free rein to violent anarchic agitators and criminals who threaten our citizens," Trump said on the fourth and final night of the Republican National Convention in a speech that lasted more than an hour.

contd on Page 2



We will rebuild the "greatest economy" in history, said Trump

20 suspects on NCB radar in Sushant case



Sushant Singh Rajput - File photo

NEW DELHI / MUMBAI (TIP): A day after the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) registered a case against late actor Sushant Singh Rajput's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty, the agency is all set to question 20 people in the coming days.

According to NCB sources, the agency has prepared a list of 20 suspects over supply of drugs in the case, including Gaurav Arya, Sued

Lohia, Kwan Entertainment partner Jaya Saha, former Big Boss contestant Ejaz Khan, Farookh Batata and Bakul Chandani, among others.

The development comes a day after the NCB registered a case under Sections 20 (b) 28, 29 of the NDPSAct against Rhea, her brother Showik, Saha, Sushant's co-manager Shruti Modi and Arya.

Sources said Arya is absconding. They said on August 16, a rave party was raided in Goa in which Arya was involved in supplying drugs. According to NCB sources, Khan was arrested by Navi Mumbai Police for dealing in drugs in October 2018, while Chandani, owner of Sarvodaya video library in Khar, was arrested in December 2018 by the Anti Narcotics Cell of Mumbai Police with cocaine and LSD. **(Source: IANS)**

Read detailed story on investigation on page 21

Tropical Storm Laura leaves a trail of death and destruction; At least six dead

"We have thousands and thousands of our fellow citizens whose lives are upside down," Louisiana's governor said.



Hurricane Laura's destructive power left at least 6 dead, trees, electricity poles uprooted, houses razed

NEW YORK (TIP): The most intense hurricane to hit Louisiana in more than a century has left at least six people dead, hundreds of thousands of people without power and an untold number of homes and buildings in ruins. Laura, which was downgraded to a tropical storm Thursday, August 27, after making landfall as a Category 4 hurricane with 150 mph winds, was expected to weaken to a tropical

contd on Page 2

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to resign because of health condition

TOKYO (TIP): Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan will resign because of ill health, the country's national broadcaster reported on Friday, just four days after he exceeded the record for the longest consecutive run as leader in Japanese history, The New York Times reported, Thursday, August 27.

Mr. Abe, 65, had been prime minister for nearly eight years, a significant feat in a country accustomed to high turnover in the top job. During his tenure, he oversaw Japan's recovery from a devastating earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster, restored a semblance of economic health and curried favor with an unpredictable American president, Donald J. Trump.

Yet despite his long hold on power - his second

stint as prime minister, having held the post in 2006-7 - Mr. Abe failed to reach some of his signature goals. He was unable to revise the pacifist Constitution installed by postwar American occupiers, or to secure the return of contested islands claimed by both Japan and Russia so that the two countries could sign a peace treaty to officially end World War II.

The Japanese news media had been speculating about Mr. Abe's health for weeks, particularly after he significantly dialed back public appearances as a new wave of coronavirus infections erupted in clusters throughout the country. When Mr. Abe visited a hospital twice in the span of a week, the rumor mill went into overdrive.



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had been dogged in recent weeks by questions over his health.

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CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Trump Mounts attack on...

"No one will be safe in Biden's America." Despite the pandemic that has killed more than 180,000 Americans, Trump delivered his remarks before a crowd of more than 1,000 people, standing in front of dozens of American flags and basking in chants of "Four more years!" and "U.S.A.!"

After days of civil unrest and violence in Kenosha, Wisconsin, where on Sunday, August 23, police shot a Black man, Jacob Blake, in the back, Republicans on Thursday, August 27 sought to turn the chaos to their advantage by claiming Biden would "defund the police." Biden has rejected that position.

Formally accepting the nomination for the November election, Trump said, "My fellow Americans, tonight with a heart full of gratitude and boundless optimism, I profoundly accept this nomination for President of the United States."

He further also spoke about his vision for America in the upcoming years and said that the US "would build the greatest economy in history" and "quickly return to" full employment.

As the night unfolded, Biden struck back on Twitter, writing, "When Donald Trump says tonight you won't be safe in Joe Biden's America, look around and ask yourself: How safe do you feel in Donald Trump's America?"

In trying to paint Biden as a tool of the "radical left," Trump also distorted the Democrat's policy positions on a host of other issues, including immigration, guns, law enforcement, abortion and energy production.

"If the left gains power, they will demolish the suburbs, confiscate your guns, and appoint justices who will wipe away your Second Amendment and other Constitutional freedoms," Trump said in a reference to a right to bear arms.

Following the speech, fireworks exploded over the Washington Monument as the president and his family looked on, giving Trump and the convention a powerful closing image.

The crowd, seated in white chairs inches apart, showed little evidence of social distancing or face masks despite health experts' recommendations. But the Trump campaign said it had taken appropriate health precautions in arranging the South Lawn event.

In a reminder of the country's divisions, attendees could hear anti-Trump protesters chanting, "No Justice, No Peace," and sounding airhorns near the White House as he spoke.

Trump's campaign comes against the backdrop of a fresh wave of protests over the latest high-profile police shooting of a Black American. In Kenosha, relative calm returned after three nights of civil strife ending on Tuesday, including arson, vandalism and deadly shootings.

In his speech on Thursday, Trump repeated his assertion that China is to blame for the pandemic and promised in his second term to levy tariffs on any company that left America to create jobs overseas, one of the rare concrete policy proposals of the night.

He also promised to rebuild what Republicans have called the "greatest

economy" in history and attacked Biden for saying he would shut down the country if necessary to slow the spread of the disease. Many health experts blame a resurgence of coronavirus cases on states that reopened businesses too soon.

"Joe Biden's plan is not a solution to the virus, but rather a surrender," Trump said.

The program featured several emotional appeals, including from the parents of Kayla Mueller, an aid worker who died after being held captive for months by Islamic State militants in Syria. The Mueller parents said they blamed the Obama administration for failing to rescue Mueller.

Trump kicked off the week on Monday, August 24 by accusing Democrats of seeking to steal the election by advocating for mail-in voting. His previous high-profile speeches have also emphasized grim themes, including his inaugural address in January 2017 that described "American carnage." (With input from agencies)

Tropical Storm Laura...

depression overnight as it moves across Arkansas, the National Hurricane Center said.

"It is clear that we did not sustain and suffer the absolute, catastrophic damage that we thought was likely based on the forecast we had last night," Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards told reporters Thursday. "But we have sustained a tremendous amount of damage. We have thousands and thousands of our fellow citizens whose lives are upside down."

Officials with the Louisiana Department of Health said that three of the six deaths occurred in two coastal parishes - Acadia and Calcasieu. Three other people died in the eastern and northern part of the state. Officials attributed four of the deaths to falling trees.

A 24-year-old man also died from carbon monoxide poisoning from a generator, the department said. Another person who was in a boat during the storm drowned.

The storm caused serious destruction. On the Calcasieu River, the Lake Charles Isle of Capri Casino Barge broke free of its moorings and slammed into a bridge along Interstate 10, the highway that connects Houston and New Orleans.

A few miles away, a fire at a chemical manufacturing plant in the city of Westlake prompted a shelter-in-place advisory after a giant plume of smoke rose into the sky. The fire at the BioLab plant, which makes household cleaners, was burning chlorine.

No injuries or deaths have been reported at the plant or casino.

In the city of Lake Charles, population roughly 78,000, images of a major financial building, the Capital One Tower, showed dozens of windows that had been blown out. Meteorology student Levi Newell, 20, who documented the storm in the city overnight, told NBC News that he saw sections of drywall and roofs whipping through town.

"Lake Charles will look very different when the sun rises," Newell tweeted. "Absolute devastation."

In the nearby community of Moss

Bluff, Brett Geymann told the Associated Press that Laura sounded like a jet engine when it passed over his house at 2 a.m. He compared the storm's destruction to a thousand tornadoes.

"There are houses that are totally gone," he said.

As of 7 p.m. C.T., nearly 540,000 customers were without electricity, according to PowerOutage.us, a site that tracks, records, and aggregates power outages across the U.S. The Louisiana Department of Health estimated that another 220,000 people were without drinking water.

Still, the potentially catastrophic 15 to 20-foot storm surge that the National Hurricane Center had predicted appeared to remain several feet lower. Forecasters attributed this in part to timing - Laura made landfall when the tide had begun to recede - and because the storm shifted east slightly, preventing a direct hit on Lake Charles.

In Texas, where nearly 300,000 customers were without power, according to PowerOutage.us, Gov. Greg Abbott said Thursday that the state "dodged a bullet."

"When you consider the magnitude of the damage that could have occurred here, we dodged a bullet," Abbott said. "If we make it through a Category 4 hurricane that ripped through the coastline all the way up through the Texarkana area, and we have been able to have minimal or perhaps no loss of life - that's a miracle." (With input from agencies)

Kenosha shooting...

Rittenhouse remains in custody of the Lake County Judicial System awaiting extradition to Wisconsin, Antioch police have said.

The teenager is a former member of a youth police cadet program with an affinity for guns, according to police and online profiles.

In Grayslake, Illinois -- about 10 miles from Antioch and 30 miles from Kenosha -- Police Chief Phillip L. Perlini said the suspect in the shooting was a former Public Safety Cadet.

The teenager was arrested Wednesday, August 26, and charged with first-degree intentional homicide, Antioch Police said in a news release. He turned himself in at the Antioch police headquarters, police said.

The shooting came amid protests over the police shooting of Jacob Blake, a 29-year-old Black man.

The victims in the shooting incident Tuesday night were identified as a 26-year-old from Silver Lake, Wisconsin, and a 36-year-old from Kenosha.

Social media accounts believed to belong to the suspect portray a young White man with an affinity for guns who supports "Blue Lives Matter" and President Donald Trump.

A video posted on a Snapchat account believed to belong to the suspect placed him at the scene of protests Tuesday night. The clips show a few seconds of the point of view of someone carrying a long rifle and police announcements can be heard over loudspeakers. In videos posted to a TikTok account, individuals can be seen taking part in target practice and assembling a long rifle. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

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Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Extending Public Health Emergency in New Jersey

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy on Aug 27 signed Executive Order No. 180. The Order extends the Public Health Emergency that was declared on March 9, 2020 through Executive Order No. 103, which was previously extended on April 7, May 6, June 4, July 2, and August 1. Under the Emergency Health Powers Act, a declared public health emergency expires after 30 days unless renewed.

"In New Jersey, we have made significant progress in the fight against COVID-19, but this fight is still not over," said Governor Murphy. "Extending the public health emergency will provide us access to all available resources to continue saving lives and mitigating the spread of this virus."

Executive Order No. 180 extends all Executive Orders issued under the Governor's authority under the Emergency Health Powers Act. It also extends all actions taken by any Executive Branch departments and agencies in response to the Public Health Emergency presented by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Gyms and health clubs in New Jersey can reopen at 25% capacity from their COVID-19 pause starting Sept 1.

Meanwhile, NY Governor Andrew Cuomo, NJ Governor Murphy, And CT Governor Lamont lashed out at Trump administration for Federal Decision to Weaken Covid-19 Testing Guidelines

"The CDC has been a consistent, credible, and reliable guide for our nation for decades, providing clear and science-based guidance on everything from infectious disease to vaccines. That role is vital to our collective



Governor Murphy said, "Extending the public health emergency will provide us access to all available resources to continue saving lives and mitigating the spread of this virus."

public health and it must continue. This 180-degree reversal of COVID-19 testing guidelines is reckless, and not based on science and has the potential to do long-term damage to the institution's reputation. CDC and HHS have not shared their scientific rationale for this change in policy, which substitutes sound science-based public health guidance with the President's misinformation. This abrupt and ill-informed shift threatens the robust testing regimes our states have worked tirelessly to stand up with our federal partners. Health experts recommend testing close contacts of individuals with COVID-19 to identify and prevent asymptomatic spread. This type of robust testing by our states has been a key factor in our success so far to flatten the curve in the tristate area. New York, New Jersey and Connecticut will continue to follow the advice of health experts to contain and prevent the spread of COVID-19, and therefore will not be changing our guidance that prioritizes testing for this population", they said in a joint statement.

NY Governor Issues Guidance for College Campuses Following Reports of Large Student Gatherings

ALBANY, NY (TIP): New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo on Aug 27 issued guidance for infection rates on college campuses and mitigation actions schools must take when the infection rate rises above certain levels. The guidance comes following reports of students at large gatherings, and experiences in other states with clusters developing with return to in-person classes.

"We've seen troubling reports of students

congregating on college campuses, so we are setting a threshold that says if colleges have 100 cases or if the number of cases equal 5 percent of their population or more, they must go to remote learning for two weeks, at which time we will reassess the situation," Governor Cuomo said. "We should anticipate clusters and that's what we're seeing. Be prepared for it, get ahead of it." Schools must return to remote learning with limited on-campus activity when that threshold is reached for a two-week period. If after two weeks, the local health department finds the college has demonstrated that it cannot contain the number of cases, then they could continue to require remote learning, or impose other mitigation measures in consultation with the State Department of Health. During that time, athletic activities and other extracurricular activities must be suspended, and dining hall options must move to take-out only.

If clusters of positive cases emerge on particular areas of a campus while still below 5 percent or under 100 students, but strain the college's ability to isolate and contact trace, the college must return to 100 percent distance learning with limited on-campus activity. The local department of health or State Department of Health may order colleges to suspend on-campus activities upon a finding of the college's inability to control the outbreak, even under the metric.



"The local department of health or State Department of Health may order colleges to suspend on-campus activities upon a finding of the college's inability to control the outbreak, even under the metric", Governor Cuomo said.

City of New York Joins Lawsuit to Stop Trump from Undermining USPS and November Election

NEW YORK (TIP): The City of New York joined a coalition of states and cities from across the country in filing a lawsuit to stop the Trump Administration's attempts to dismantle the United States Postal Service (USPS) and disrupt operations in an effort to undermine the November presidential election. The suit-filed against President Donald Trump, the USPS, and Postmaster General Louis DeJoy-comes a day after the postmaster general finished testifying before Congress in which he refused to reverse policies that have slowed mail operations across the nation.

In recent weeks, the USPS-under Postmaster General DeJoy's directives-has begun to scale back operations that would significantly undermine the USPS's ability to handle what is expected to be a record number of mail-in ballots this November because of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The slowdown is already having life-threatening impacts on veterans and seniors who are not receiving medication, and economic impacts on individuals waiting for their pensions and



Postmaster General DeJoy has come in for short criticism for scaling back postal operations

paychecks. "The Trump Administration will not silence the voice of New Yorkers by trying sabotage the USPS," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "Our city won't stand for partisan political games that disenfranchise voters and put at risk the health and safety of New Yorkers who depend on the postal service to secure food, medicine, and

housing." "Americans have a right to government institutions that fulfill their missions without any kind of bias," said Corporation Counsel James E. Johnson. "For decades, the U.S. Postal Service operated in such a manner: Until now. This is the people's Post Office. The mail should not ship faster or slower based on one's political affiliation or the political strategies of the occupant of the White House. Now, more than ever, New Yorkers are relying on the Post Office to be true to its motto and to deliver lifesaving medicine and election ballots. Lives and our democracy may depend on it."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian Overseas Congress, USA, seeks dismissal of Ankhi Das, FACEBOOK content Chief in India

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian Overseas Congress, USA, an advocacy group that promotes democracy, freedom, and equal justice in India, condemns the FACEBOOK management for its election-year interference, content bias, and suppression of free expression by Indian citizens to help the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), that is in power.

The Wall Street Journal dated August 14, 2020(<https://www.wsj.com/articles/facebook-hate-speech-india-politics-muslim-hindu-modi-zuckerberg-11597423346>), wrote a story on how FACEBOOK's blatant bias and dubious practices in India in favor of the Modi government is having an impact on the social media as regards its citizen's right to express their opinions in public. These revelations shine a light on how major business houses that include Ambani's Jio platform and Tech companies in Silicon Valley are heavily invested in India's



current politics and interferes in its communal fault lines.

"It is quite unfortunate that a company founded in a free society undermines the very essence of that philosophy in a sister democracy in the world and that too in favor of a political party that demonstrated its disdain for pluralism, democracy and freedom of religion," said George Abraham, Vice-Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA.

It has been reported that Ms. Ankhi Das, the content manager in charge of FACEBOOK in India, is said to have told her colleagues "punishing violations by politicians from the @narendramodi party would damage the company's business prospects in the country." Reuters reported that a handful of employees had written a letter asking FACEBOOK to denounce "anti-Muslim" bigotry" from BJP politicians that Ankhi Das said to have protected. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



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Indian software engineer becomes US citizen in rare ceremony at White House hosted by Trump

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Donald Trump has presided over a rare naturalization ceremony at the White House where five immigrants, including a software developer from India, were sworn in as American citizens, as the US leader welcomed them to the "magnificent nation that is comprised of every race, religion and color."

Mr. Trump hosted the naturalization ceremony at the White House and the video of the ceremony was played during the second night of the Republican National Convention on Tuesday.

Immigrants from five countries - India, Bolivia, Lebanon, Sudan and Ghana, stood in a line during the ceremony in the White House.

With their right hand raised and a US flag in their left hand, they were administered the Oath of Allegiance by Acting United States Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf, while Mr. Trump looked on.

Sudha Sundari Narayanan, a software developer from India, was among those sworn in as American citizens.

"Today America rejoices as we welcome five absolutely incredible new members into our great American family. You are now fellow citizens of the greatest nation on the face of God's Earth. Congratulations," Mr. Trump said.

Mr. Trump said the newly sworn-in American citizens followed the rules, obeyed the laws, learned the nation's history, embraced American values and proved themselves to be men and women of the highest integrity.

"It's not so easy. You went through a lot and we appreciate you being here with us today. You've earned the most prized treasured, cherished and priceless possession anywhere in the world. It's called American



Indian Sudha Sundari Narayanan, a software developer was among immigrants from five countries - India, Bolivia, Lebanon, Sudan and Ghana at the naturalization ceremony hosted by President Trump at the White House She is seen in the picture receiving her naturalization certificate from President Trump

citizenship. There is no higher honor and no greater privilege," Mr. Trump said adding that it is an honor for him to be their President.

Later, Mr. Trump read out the names and a few details of the five new citizens.

Mr. Trump said Ms. Narayanan is a phenomenal success, born in India, who came to the United States 13 years ago.

"Sudha is a talented software developer and she and her husband are raising two beautiful, wonderful children 'the apples of your life'. Thank you very much and congratulations. Fantastic job," he said.

Mr. Trump handed Ms. Narayanan, who was wearing a bright coral pink sari, her Certificate of Citizenship.

In his remarks, Mr. Trump congratulated the new citizens and said it is his honor to be with them. He added that with the rights and freedoms each of them now enjoys as citizens, there is no dream beyond their wildest reach because Americans can do anything.

"Today you have also accepted the profound duties and responsibilities that come with American citizenship. By swearing the Oath of Allegiance, each of you has entered a sacred and unbreakable covenant with our nation," he added.

Mr. Trump said the five new citizens have pledged their undying loyalty to the American people, the American Constitution and the American way of life. The history and heritage of the United States are now yours to preserve and pass down to the next generation. Our culture, our traditions and our values are now yours to uphold and live by.

He added that the US Bill of Rights is now yours to support, protect, and defend. As citizens, you're now stewards of this magnificent nation, a family comprised of every race, color, religion, creed, united by the bonds of love.

First Lady Melania Trump also recalled her immigrant journey in the US. During her address at the Rose Garden, she said she arrived in the US when she was 26 years old, adding that living and working in the land of opportunity was a dream come true for her.

"But I wanted more. I wanted to be a citizen. After 10 years of paperwork and patience, I studied for the test in 2006 and became an American citizen. As an immigrant and a very independent woman, I understand what a privilege it is to live here and to enjoy the freedoms and opportunities that we have," she said.

Indian-origin doctor in UK creates '21-Day Immunity Plan' to fight COVID-19



Dr Aseem Malhotra, a UK-based Indian-origin doctor, who has been championing an anti-obesity drive as a means to combat the severe effects of COVID-19, on Thursday, August 27, released a new book that offers a "simple, evidence-based" plan to help improve health parameters.

Twitter photo (@DrAseemMalhotra)

LONDON (TIP): Dr Aseem Malhotra's 'The 21-Day Immunity Plan: How to Rapidly Improve Your Metabolic Health and Resilience to Fight Infection' is pegged as a tried and tested method of how in just 21 days people can prevent, improve and even potentially reverse many of the underlying risk factors that exacerbate how infections, including coronavirus, affect humans and improve their ability to recover.

"Poor metabolic health equals poor immune health. The good news is that within weeks of making simple changes to what we eat, how we move and reducing stress through meditation, we can rapidly improve - both making us healthier and more resilient to infection," said Malhotra, a National Health Service (NHS) trained cardiologist. *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Indian American Neera Bahl Appointed to Georgia State Board of Workers' Compensation



Neera Bahl serves on many Boards of well-known organizations

ATLANTA, GA (TIP): Georgia Governor Brian P. Kemp announced his selection of Neera Bahl to serve on the State Board of Workers' Compensation.

"It is an honor to appoint Neera to this position," said Governor Kemp. "Given her commitment to her community, I am confident that she will make our state proud of her service on this board." Neera Bahl graduated from Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, Atlanta, GA in 2001 after a long career working as a Research Specialist in the Pulmonary Department of University of Alabama, Birmingham and the Department of Dermatology at Emory University, Atlanta for over 20 years. The firm specializes in all areas of Immigration Law filing H, L, P, O, EB1, EB2, EB3, EB5 investor visas and family-based petitions, R1 Religious worker visas, and Citizenship. Neera Bahl serves on many Boards of well-known Organizations. She is also on the Super Lawyer's List since 2012 to present. She is recipient of many prestigious awards.

Former Indian shotput medalist arrested in US for killing wife and mother



Iqbal Singh Boparai, 63 who is a former Asian Championship medalist, was arrested in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania for murdering his mother and wife on Sunday, August 23.

File photo

in Pennsylvania, called police on Sunday, August 23 morning to admit his crime, The Philadelphia Inquirer quoted officials as saying.

When police arrived at Singh's home in Newtown Township, they found Singh covered in blood, suffering from self-inflicted stab wounds. Inside were the bodies of the two women, the report said. Singh was charged on Monday with first- and third-degree murder, court records show, and remained in custody, denied bail given the nature of the charges. There was no indication that he had hired an attorney, it said.

The former shot-putter won a bronze medal at the 1983 Asian Athletics Championship, which was held in Kuwait. *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Indian Origin Man Arrested on Charges of \$21 Million H-1B Visa Fraud Conspiracy



Ashish also attempted to naturalize as a US citizen by submitting false statements.

Representational photo

ALEXANDRIA, VA (TIP): A Sterling man of Indian origin was arrested Aug 20 on charges of conspiracy to commit visa fraud and for inducing aliens to come to the United States using fraudulently obtained H-1B visas. According to court documents, Ashish Sawhney, 48, allegedly used four corporations to orchestrate the improper submission of fraudulent applications for H-1B specialty-occupation work visas. The six-count indictment identifies Sawhney as the director or registered agent for Value Consulting, LLC, Value Software Products, Inc. (formerly known as Value Consulting, Inc.), Business Pointers, Inc., and E-Train ERP, Inc., each of which had offices located in the Eastern District of Virginia and purported to provide information technology staffing and software development services for commercial clients in the United States.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Legislation to Improve Vote-by-Mail Passes Senate

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): In an effort to increase voter participation in the 2020 election, and beyond, the Senate approved a trio of bills, August 27, to increase voting accessibility and improve the vote-by-mail processes.

"The sanctity of our elections is paramount to the continuation of our democracy. With the pandemic continuing to spread across the country, we are once again voting by mail for the upcoming elections," said Senator Singleton (D-Burlington). "However, it is becoming clearer by the day that voters need alternative ways to deliver their ballots. This is why every county should have drop boxes where people can directly submit their ballots. This increased accessibility will encourage voters to partake in this civic duty."

"Voting is the most fundamental right in our democracy. As elected officials we must advance the expansion of greater voter access," said Senator Gill (D-Essex/Passaic). "The problems in May and June highlighted the vulnerabilities within our voting system and underscored the need to improve the process."

"We cannot allow the pandemic to determine this election," said Senator Gopal (D-Monmouth). "It's our job as elected officials to make sure every New Jerseyan eligible to vote can do so easily, confidently and safely. This is the most important election of my lifetime and I am glad the Senate, with this legislation, is addressing the many challenges our current public health crisis presents and ensuring it does not hinder our ability to hold a fair election."

S.2580 - The bill, sponsored by Senator Troy Singleton, would require county boards of election to establish ballot drop boxes in each county at least 45 days before the election.

S.2598/2699 - The bill, sponsored by Senator Vin Gopal and Senator Gill, would prohibit county board of elections from rejecting any mail-in or provisional ballot with a missing signature or a signature mismatch unless the voter is provided the opportunity to address the signature discrepancy.

S.2633 - The bill, sponsored by Senator Gopal and Senator Paul Sarlo, would require a public awareness campaign to promote voting by mail and increase awareness for how mail-in ballots work. In addition, the bill would extend the deadline for submitting mail-in ballots.

Census Takers are in Every Neighborhood Conducting

Non-Response Follow Up Operations on a Compressed Schedule
Health, Safety and Quality of Work is Vital to the Census Bureau

United States
**Census
2020**

NEW YORK (TIP): The United States Census Bureau is actively conducting Non-Response Follow Up operations across every city, town, and municipality in the state to ensure a complete and accurate count of everyone living in the United States. By law, the Census Bureau must provide the first results from the 2020 Census by December 31. To provide complete and accurate results by that deadline, we are doing everything we can to collect a response from every household by September 30. We are urging households to respond, maximizing staff and production hours, and ensuring data quality along the way.

Following Health & Safety Guidelines

To ensure safety of all employees and residents, census takers are wearing masks and following social distancing guidelines. In most cases, census workers will make up to six attempts at each address to count possible residents-this is the same number of attempts we have been planning all along. Census takers will still visit homes during the originally planned hours-between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., local time, including on weekends, to reach people when they are more likely at home. Census takers are also calling some households to help them respond to the census, providing one more way to count hard-to-reach communities and people who have not yet responded.

We continue to urge households to respond through our multilingual advertising campaign and through the efforts of nearly 400,000 partner organizations. We urge everyone to respond now or when a census taker comes to your door-and to encourage everyone you know to do the same. We are even mailing an additional paper census questionnaire to many households that have not responded yet in low-responding areas.

Identifying Census Workers

The Census Bureau is attempting to complete data collection as quickly and safely as possible, while ensuring a complete and accurate count as it strives to comply with law and statutory deadlines. Identifying a Census Bureau employee can be accomplished by checking their ID badge, which includes:

Their name

Their photograph

A Department of Commerce Watermark

An expiration date

Employees will also have an official 2020 Census bag and Census Bureau issued iPhone. If you are still unsure, you can ask the census taker for their supervisor's contact information or the phone number for the local Census Bureau regional census center. Also, census takers should NEVER ask for any of the following information:

Your Social Security number

Your bank account or credit card numbers

Anything on behalf of a political party

Money or donations

Measuring Quality of Work

The United States Census Bureau has created a group of experienced field experts to closely monitor, evaluate, and resolve quality issues. Because census takers are using mobile devices instead of paper, we have a great deal of data about how long the census takers spend interviewing each respondent and where they physically were when the interview was conducted. We are carefully monitoring this information and using it to identify outliers. Based on those outliers, we may re-interview a portion of the census takers' work to verify quality standards are met. The best way to avoid a visit from a census taker at home is to complete the 2020 Census online at www.2020census.gov.

About 2020 Census

The U.S. Constitution mandates a head count, every ten years, of all residents living in the United States and its territories. Census counts determine how many seats each state is allocated in the U.S. House of Representative as well as how over \$675 billion in federal dollars is distributed annually. Individual responses are protected by federal law, never to be shared with any other department, court, or law enforcement agency. Responding to the 2020 Census is easy with four ways to respond: online, by phone, by paper, or with the help of a census taker. **(Press Release)**

Unemployed and Others Can Get Additional Financial Benefits

BY A. D. AMAR, PHD

This past week, states like New York and New Jersey finally decided to accept Trump's offer of \$400 per week in Federal subsidy for every unemployed in their states. They realized, based on the pressure from their residents, that taking \$300 or \$400 additional was better not only for the unemployed, it was also good for their states' economies.

When COVID-19 Federal Assistance of \$600 per week for unemployed Americans seemed to be in peril because of the Democrat, House Leader Nancy Pelosi and Senator Chuck Schumer, and Republican, Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and White House Chief of Staff Mark

Meadows were not coming to a compromise, Trump made his move. On August 8, 2020, he signed four orders to help the working-class families in financial peril.

One of the four orders will allow an assistance of \$400 per week for every American on unemployment. The amount of \$300 of this will come from the new Federal allocation and \$100 from the respective states, drawing on the COVID-19 money already assigned to them.

If the states move fast, Americans will see money in their unemployment benefits soon. While this amount is reduced from the untenable \$600 per week, compare it to what the Obama

Administration paid during the Great Recession of 2009. It was only \$25 per week in Federal assistance to the unemployed; \$400 per week by that measure is a very substantial amount.

Another order from Trump is designed to help those who are employed. This gives those making up to \$104,000 a year a payroll deduction holiday (Social Security reduction) until December 31, 2020. This will amount to approximately 7% increase in take-home pay for the eligible Americans. The deferred amount will be pardoned by Trump during his second term.

Trump has also signed an executive order that will protect renters from being

evicted for the lack of paying rent because the moratorium on evictions that was given during the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) had expired on July 24, 2020. This executive order will protect tenants until December 31, 2020.

The fourth executive order signed by Trump is aimed to help those holding student loans. This order will allow them to defer payments and waive interests on all student loans held by the Department of Education until December 31, 2020.

(The author is Professor of Management, Stillman School of Business, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ 07079, USA. He can be reached at Ad.amar@shu.edu)

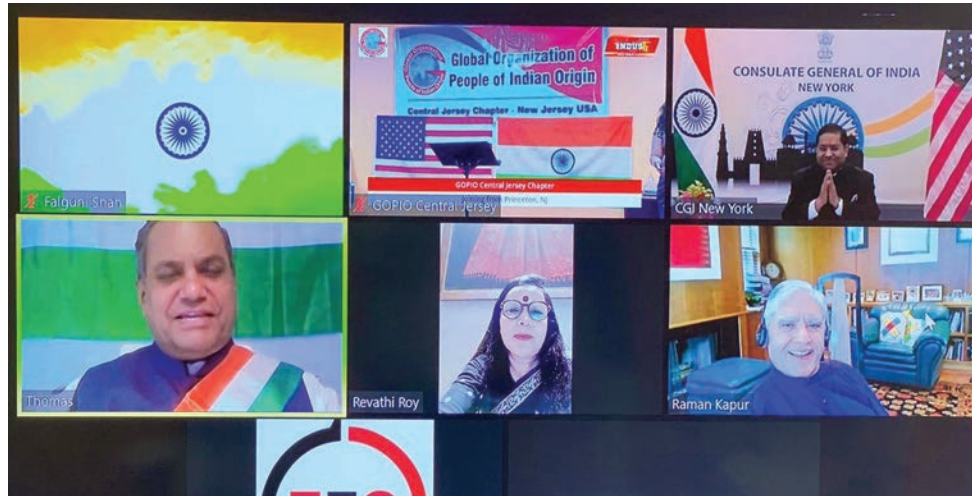
GOPIO Central Jersey Celebrates Independence Day with Community Recognition Awards Ceremony

PRINCETON, NJ (TIP): GOPIO Central Jersey hosted its Community Recognition Awards and India Independence Day celebration on August 15, 2020, on a virtual platform which was attended by invited guests, public officials, community leaders, GOPIO members and awardees from various fields.

Consul General of India in New York, Mr. Radhir Kumar Jaiswal was the Chief Guest and New Jersey State Assemblyman Raj Mukherji was the Guest of Honor for this event. In his address as a Chief Guest Mr. Jaiswal extended his warm wishes and congratulate Indian diaspora on Independence Day. CG Jaiswal added that watching both US and India flags displayed and national anthems sung is a true celebration of democracy in the USA. First time ever, Indian flag hoisting happened at the Times Square in New York which was a proud moment for all Indians.

State Assemblyman Raj Mukherji expressed that I am so proud of Indian Americans in this state and congratulated GOPIO and their members for the involvement in civic and community work. He added that it is a proud moment for all of us that we have a candidate of Indian descent as a Vice-President this November.

Dr. Tushar Patel, President of GOPIO, Central Jersey welcomed all and provided history of GOPIO and described central jersey activities in last 12 years. He read the letter from NJ State Senator Vin Gopal, who was another Guest of Honor but was not able to attend due to a schedule conflict. Dr. Patel expressed his sincere gratitude to all who attended the event and encouraged everyone to



Consul General of India in New York, Randhir Kumar Jaiswal was the Chief Guest and New Jersey State Assemblyman Raj Mukherji was the Guest of Honor for this event

become and lifetime member of GOPIO. He expressed his deepest gratitude to all executive members for their support in last two years and also announced new Executive Team for the next two years term which includes Kunal Mehta-President, Vijay Garg-Executive Vice-President, Nishith Mehta-Vice-President, Amit Kucheriya-Secretary and Kunal Gupta as Treasurer.

Eight accomplished individuals in various fields and professionals were awarded with 2020 Community Recognition Award:

Ms. Falguni Shah is a Grammy nominated singer and songwriter for her mix of Indian classical melodies and western contemporary sounds. She was named as one of the 20 most influential Indian women by the

Economic Times of India in 2015. Falguni Shah was honored with an award for her contributions in performing arts.

Ms. Varsha Singh dedicated her time

and service in providing stroke education and information in the communities throughout the New Jersey for the past 10 years. She holds many national and international positions in stroke organizations and provides her expertise and experience in developing protocols and guidance. Varsha Singh was honored with an award for her contributions in health care field.

Ms. Revathi Kulkarni Roy empowered women by providing them employment since 2007. She pioneered Asia's first ever women's cab service and now runs an all women logistic company "Hey DeeDee" where the riders and drivers are all women. Revathi has been on the list of Fortune Most Powerful Women in business in 2019. Revathi Kulkarni Roy was honored as global achiever and women empowerment.

Mr. Raman Kapur, an entrepreneur, investor, advisor and

mentor to many CEOs and working with young, women and minority entrepreneurs through his TiE New Jersey organization. He is helping future leaders to educate them about unconventional resources for raising capital for startups through various available resources and tools. Raman Kapur was honored in business entrepreneurship award.

Mr. Devendra Singh is the founder and president of Hindi USA which was created in 2001 to promote learning Hindi language for younger generation. In last 19 years, Hindi USA has more than 4,000 student and 400 teachers. Due to his passion to educate and promote Hindi language, Devendra Singh was honored for his community service.

Three other individuals were honored due to their continued efforts and dedication in service during the pandemic. Mr. Neel Shah provided business, tax and other investment opportunities to families by conducting weekly educational webinars during the pandemic to keep them informed. Neel has been involved in providing seminars to many organizations.

Ms. Sudharani Kankanala raised more than \$100,000 during her involvement with Rotary Club. She has dedicated her time with various community organizations to include Red Cross & United Way, North Brunswick Township and Boys Scout.

Mr. Arvind Patel, owner of Rajbhog Foods delivered 14 tons of food which is nearly 27,000 pounds in meals during the pandemic to more than 30 hospitals, medical centers, universities and law enforcement agencies in New York and New Jersey.

NSoJ Founder Timothy Franklyn Named Obama Foundation Scholar by Columbia

NEW YORK (TIP): Timothy Franklyn, Founder, National School of Journalism and Public Discourse, Bengaluru [India] is among eleven individuals who have been chosen to be a part of the latest cohort of Obama Foundation Scholars by Columbia World Projects for making positive changes in their communities across the globe.

The 11 rising leaders from around the world who will study at Columbia University for the 2020-21 academic year, which will begin virtually. These scholars, as exhibited through their commitment to advancing the public good and solving society's most pressing global issues, are on a trajectory to accelerate positive change in their community, their



Timothy Franklyn is the founder of National School of Journalism, Bangalore (NSoJ), which he established in 2015 to produce journalists who care deeply about justice and democracy in India.

region, and the world. The emerging leaders focus on a number of challenges and issue areas, including: training the next generation of journalists in India.

Timothy Franklyn, a social entrepreneur, lawyer, and musician, has been chosen for Nurturing, inspiring, and training the next generation to become courageous and professional journalists who are committed to justice, truth, pluralism, and liberal democracy in India.

Timothy established NSOJ in 2015 to produce journalists who care deeply about justice and democracy in India. He is a partner at Tatva Legal and the frontman of the alternative rock band, Level Rode.



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AS I SEE IT

WHAT BIDEN MAY MEAN FOR INDIA



By Shyam Saran

Biden has made clear that getting control over the pandemic in the US will be his first priority, and it is likely that he will reverse Trump's decision to exit the WHO. Since India is presiding over the WHO Executive Council for the next two years, here is a readily available opening to work closely together with the new administration to evolve and implement a truly global strategy to meet this public health challenge. India will also be a member of the UN Security Council for the next two years and will host the G-20 summit in 2022. For a Biden presidency, unlike for Trump, these will be important to display US leadership and preference for multilateralism. They offer opportunities to forge a mutually rewarding Indo-US relationship.

The Democratic Party Convention in the US is over. As expected, Joe Biden, who was Vice President to Barack Obama during 2008-16, will be the presidential candidate at elections due in November. His Vice-Presidential choice is Kamala Harris, who has both Indian and Jamaican ancestry. If the latest polls are any indication, the Biden-Harris slate should register a comfortable win. However, polls do not always translate into vote count. A low turnout and delayed postal ballots may yet hand over the presidency to Trump. But let us assume that the Democrats win the elections. What will this mean for India-US relations?

If the Modi government had a vote in the US elections, it may be cast for

He has expressed desire to strengthen ties, but we will have to do our bit

Trump. This preference was displayed at the 'Howdy Modi' rally at Houston in 2019, when Modi, in the presence of Trump, spoke of 'Abdi baar Trump sarkar' as a slogan of candidate Trump. While this was explained away as referring to Trump's candidature in 2016, that was not how it was interpreted by the assembled crowd, Trump himself and the Democratic Party. One hopes that Indian diplomats, at various levels, are reaching out and engaging with Biden, Harris and their key advisers so that any negative fallout of Houston is minimized.

What explains the higher comfort level the Modi government appears to enjoy with Trump in the White House? Trump has shown little interest in domestic political developments in India, whether these relate to change in the status of J&K, the passage of the CAA or the general drift towards a majoritarian agenda. Trump's more transactional approach to inter-state relations suits the Modi government which itself is adopting a generally transactional foreign policy, interpreting India's external interests in more narrow and ostensibly realist terms. Trump's deal-making instincts parallel this realist turn in Indian foreign policy. Perhaps another congenial element is Trump's increasingly hostile approach to China. While India may stop short of seeking alliance with the US, it sees its strategic partnership with the US as an important component of its management of the China challenge. Recent developments at the India-China border have heightened the value of American support, even though it is clear that the US will not fight India's battles with China or Pakistan. There may be apprehensions that a Biden presidency could lead to amelioration of tensions with China, perhaps even a kind of *modus vivendi*, which may leave India out in the cold.



Biden has already expressed his desire to strengthen India-US relations

The Chinese have given up on Trump and are rooting for a Biden presidency, even though their expectations of a more amenable administration in Washington may prove to be overly optimistic. The confrontation between the two major powers is now structural and unlikely to change with a change of guard at the White House.

Biden has already expressed his desire to strengthen India-US relations. What may limit his room for man oeuvre on India is the erosion of a two-decade-old bipartisan consensus in the US Congress on strengthening relations with India as a fellow democracy and enjoying shared liberal values. This bipartisan consensus on India has been quite remarkable, having been sustained despite an intensely polarized polity. The Democrats already control the House of Representatives. They may well end up controlling the Senate as well. Democrats are likely to be more focused and critical of some of the political decisions of the Modi government and this may lead to an action-reaction dynamic which vitiates the positive sentiments that currently characterize our relations. Even Biden himself has declared that under his administration, various dictators will not be given a pass. This presages a more ideological tilt in US foreign policy. There is a view that what will count is whether there is real

convergence of interests between the two countries, but even a supportive administration may find itself constrained by opinion within the US Congress. We saw this operate in ample measure while negotiating the Indo-US nuclear deal. In the initial stages, there was a strong opinion against it in the Congress and it took a sustained effort to change the situation. The Bush administration was frequently stymied in delivering on commitments made to India because of congressional

opposition. It is imperative that the outreach to the Congress be intensified. Engaging those who may harbor negative sentiments about the Modi government or its actions will be particularly important. Shunning such critics is the wrong approach.

If a Biden presidency indeed comes about, several initiatives suggest themselves. In greeting the new President, PM Modi may extend an invitation to him to be chief guest at Republic Day, even if that does not materialize due to the pandemic. Biden has made clear that getting control over the pandemic in the US will be his first priority, and it is likely that he will reverse Trump's decision to exit the WHO. Since India is presiding over the WHO Executive Council for the next two years, here is a readily available opening to work closely together with the new administration to evolve and implement a truly global strategy to meet this public health challenge. India will also be a member of the UN Security Council for the next two years and will host the G-20 summit in 2022. For a Biden presidency, unlike for Trump, these will be important to display US leadership and preference for multilateralism. They offer opportunities to forge a mutually rewarding Indo-US relationship.

(The author is a former Foreign Secretary and Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research)

GUEST COLUMN

The RBI's annual report makes clear there is more pain in store for the economy

Three weeks after its monetary policy committee decided to hold fire on interest rates amid accelerating retail inflation, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has forecast more pain for the economy. Its assessment of the economic landscape and its prognosis for near-term prospects posit a stark picture: of demand hollowed out by the severe shock to private consumption, public finances strained by the imperative of funding mitigation measures, anemic appetite for investment among corporates and credit-flow-impeding risk aversion among bankers, to name but a few. The COVID-19-induced economic contraction that manifested itself in the

Sobering assessment: On RBI's annual report

fiscal first quarter, is now almost certain to extend through the July-September period, the RBI said in its Annual Report. Observing that the "reimposition or stricter imposition of lockdowns" in different parts of the country in July and August had mainly contributed to damping the tentative revival in momentum seen in the preceding two months, it said several recent high-frequency indicators pointed to an unprecedented retrenchment in activity. Noting that the services sector has been a prime mover of the Indian economy, the central bank flagged the fact that whatever consumption had survived the shock was now manifesting as essential spending with services including transport and hospitality almost completely eviscerated.

The Central government, which has gamely attempted 'pandemic proofing' demand by increasing its net revenue expenditure by a third in the first quarter, is, however, likely to find itself strapped for resources in the coming months. As a result, it would have little leeway to continue to undergird momentum. States too are expected to find their finances so tightly squeezed as to have to cut capital spending. In its prescription to overcome the funds crunch, however, the central bank appears to run into a contradiction. The RBI suggests that the government should help "crowd in" private investment through targeted public investment that could be funded by monetizing assets in steel, coal, power, land and railways. But

given that private companies have been either too highly in debt and therefore keen to use gains from the government's corporate tax rate cut to repay loans, or loath to raise capital spending when saddled with excess capacity, it is hard to see the government raising much out of its privatization efforts. Ultimately, as Expenditure Secretary T.V. Somanathan has acknowledged, the Centre may opt to marshal its meagre resources more prudently and wait for the curve of infections to start flattening before committing to any further stimulus spending. A revival will ensue only once consumers regain confidence to go out and spend. And that, as of now, seems a fair distance away. *(The Hindu)*

The Marginalization of Justice in Public Discourse



By Rajeev Bhargava

“ Given the compulsion to advance our self-interest, this burden is easily passed on to those among us who are powerless to desist it. Isn't it wrong that the least paid workers and peasants in our society are expected to offer the greatest sacrifices for building the nation? Why this grossly unfair division of social labor? Yet, concern for a fair distribution of benefits and burdens - the core issue of justice - is rare in mainstream public discourse.”

Two ideas appear to dominate our public discourse today. One, somewhat implicitly, self-interest. The second, far more explicitly, national glory. How the pursuit of material or cultural self-interest affects others does not seem to bother us. There is little acknowledgement that the pursuit of greed and narrow self-interest leads to severe inequalities, to an unequal division of social benefits.

Also missing is the thought that the burden of realizing national goals such as development must be shared equally by all. True, nothing of importance is achieved without sacrifice. But why should some people sacrifice virtually everything they have and others benefit without forgoing anything at all? Given the compulsion to advance our self-interest, this burden is easily passed on to those among us who are powerless to desist it. Isn't it wrong that the least paid workers and peasants in our society are expected to offer the greatest sacrifices for building the nation? Why this grossly unfair division of social labor? Yet, concern for a fair distribution of benefits and burdens - the core issue of justice - is rare in mainstream public discourse.

Sharing benefits and burdens

What is distributive justice and why does it matter? Almost two decades ago, my younger daughter startled me by asking, "What is justice, baba?" I happened then to have a bottle of water before me. So, I began explaining to her. "There are many things I can do with this bottle. I can grab it, even if I am not thirsty, keeping it solely for myself. Or, out of love, I can give it to you even if I am thirsty. Finally, I can give it to some other person not because I love her, but because I can see that she needs it most. This is justice." A few days later, as we stopped our car at the traffic lights, a 'beggar' came expectantly towards us and

we gave him a packet of biscuits. My daughter immediately said, "That's justice, no? We gave something away to him even though we don't love him." My daughter hadn't grasped the concept of justice just yet, but she was on the right track. At the very least, justice requires that we not be greedy and grab things; instead, we share them with those we don't know or love. Simply put, a sense of justice is born when we begin sharing things with strangers.

In fact, the idea of distributive justice presupposes not only a social condition marked by an absence of love or familiarity, but also others which the Scottish philosopher, David Hume, termed 'the circumstances of justice'. For instance, a society where everything is abundantly available would not need justice. Each of us will have as much of everything we want. Without the necessity of sharing, justice becomes redundant. Equally, in a society with massive scarcity, justice is impossible. In order to survive, each person is compelled to grab whatever happens to be available. Justice, therefore, is possible and necessary in societies with moderate scarcity.

Justice also presupposes that people are neither totally alone nor organically united with others. If one were Robinson Crusoe, there would be no one with whom to share. And, if one was totally fused with others, with no distinction between self and other, then again, sharing will be unnecessary. Surely, one cannot share anything with oneself! To sum up, justice acquires value in societies with moderate scarcity, where people are forced to deal with those who they don't love. It presupposes a moral psychology in which humans are neither wholly selfish nor entirely benevolent. Since most societies share these conditions, we may safely conclude that justice is a necessary social virtue and has great moral value.

Giving persons their due

But what is justice? The basic idea of justice is that 'each person gets what is properly due to him or her', that the benefits and burdens of society be distributed in a manner that gives each person his or her due. But this begs the question: what is meant by 'a person's due'? Here, a distinction must be made between hierarchical and egalitarian notions of justice. In hierarchical notions, what is due to a person is established by her or his place within a hierarchical system. For instance, by rank determined at birth. Certain groups are born privileged. Therefore, their members are entitled to a disproportionately large share of benefits, and a disproportionately small share of burdens. On this conception, justice requires that the benefits and burdens be unequally shared or

In India today, while self-interest and national glory dominate, concern for distributive justice is rare



distributed. To take just one example, in a society ridden with caste hierarchies, those born in high castes are entitled to a much greater share of wealth, power, cultural status and knowledge. Conversely, those born in 'low castes' get whatever is their proper due - very little, sometimes nothing.

This conception of justice has rarely remained unchallenged. Innumerable examples can be cited in Indian history, where aspects of this hierarchical notion had been temporarily opposed - in the early teachings of the Buddha, passages in Indian epics, Bhakti poetry, and protest movements such as Veerashaivism. In our own times, however, this challenge has become robust, explicit and sustained. This is so because of the prevalence of the idea that each person, regardless of caste, class, color, creed or gender, has equal moral worth. All have an equal, origin ARY capacity of endowing the world with meaning and value because of which they possess moral worth or dignity. If so, we need a different conception of justice, of sharing or distributing, of giving people their due that is consistent with equal dignity. In societies still infested with live hierarchies, people must first struggle for recognition as equals, for what might be called basic social justice. Then, they must decide how to share all social benefits and burdens among equal persons - the essence of egalitarian distributive justice.

Needs and Desert

Two main contenders exist for interpreting what is due to persons of equal moral worth. For the first need-based principle, what is due to a person is what she really needs, i.e., whatever is necessary for general human well-being. Since our basic needs are identical, justice requires their fulfilment in every single person. Beyond this basic threshold, our needs usually vary, and therefore justice further requires the

fulfilment of different needs - say, the specific needs of a scholar, as well as the very different needs of a mountaineer.

Second, the principle of desert for which what is due to a person is what he or she deserves, determined not by birth or tradition but by a person's own qualities, for instance 'natural' talent or productive effort. In short, though we start as equals, those who are talented or work hard should be rewarded with more benefits and be less burdened. Conversely, those contributing unequally to the creation of wealth or cultural assets, don't deserve the same benefits yielded by them. This underpins the idea of equal opportunity to all, albeit with justified inequalities of outcome.

Break the deafening silence

Most reasonable egalitarian conceptions of justice try to find a balance between need and desert. They try to ensure a distribution of goods and abilities (benefits) that satisfies everyone's needs, and a fair distribution of social burdens or sacrifices required for fulfilling them. After this, rewards are permissible to those who by virtue of natural gift, social learning and personal effort, deserve more.

Our society is afflicted by deep material, cultural and knowledge-related inequalities. Worse, these inequalities are growing by the day. Sometimes they are accompanied by blatant assertions of unequal moral worth, though today, a deafening silence on social and distributive justice is more common. It is therefore imperative to ask where we stand in relation to different forms of egalitarian justice mentioned in our Preamble. Alas, we are falling way short of standards of social and distributive justice. When will this trend be reversed? Putting justice back into public discourse should be our priority. Or else, the dreams of our nation will never turn into reality.

(The author is Professor, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi)

Sri Lanka to adopt 'India first approach'

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka will adopt an "India first approach" as its new foreign policy plank and protect New Delhi's strategic security interests, the country's Foreign Secretary, Jayanath Colombage, has said as he sought to allay concerns amid China's growing presence in the island nation.

Admiral Colombage became the first-ever foreign secretary from a military background when he was appointed by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to head the Foreign Ministry on August 14.

In an interview published by Daily Mirror on Wednesday, Colombage said "Sri Lanka will not do anything harmful to India's strategic security interests."

"China is the second-largest economy and India is considered the sixth-largest. In 2018, India was the world's fastest-growing economy. That means we are between two economic giants," he said.

Commenting on the Chinese investment in Hambantota port, Colombage says that Sri Lanka had offered India Hambantota first, but it did not undertake it for whatever reason. — PTI

Flash floods kill 72, destroy hundreds of homes in Afghanistan

KABUL (TIP): A violent flash flood killed more than 70 people and destroyed hundreds of homes just north of Afghanistan's capital on Wednesday, officials said.

The floods swept through Parwan province, which borders Kabul, in the early hours of the morning, washing away men, women and children and destroying 300 homes, according to Ministry of Disaster Management spokesman Tamim Azimi.

Rescuers searched through mud throughout the day for bodies, with the confirmed death toll at 72, and at least 90 injured, Azimi added.

Floods had also swept through eight other northern provinces, killing two in Maidan Wardak and two in Nangahar, according to the Ministry of Disaster Management spokesman, who added that climate change was exacerbating the amount of flooding hitting the country.

A spokesman for President Ashraf Ghani said on Twitter that his office had instructed authorities to provide emergency disaster relief to survivors, adding the floods were causing severe financial losses.

The disaster comes as the war-torn nation already faces a sinking economy due to the coronavirus pandemic and as violence continues despite the United States attempting to usher peace talks between the Afghan government and insurgent Taliban. Reuters

Pakistan Senate rejects two Bills related to FATF grey list

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan's Opposition-dominated Senate has rejected two Bills related to the tough conditions set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), jeopardising the government's efforts to escape from being blacklisted by the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog.

The move drew a strong reaction from Prime Minister Imran Khan, who accused the Opposition leaders of trying to save their illegal money.

The Anti-Money Laundering (Second Amendment) Bill and the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Waqf Properties Bill, passed by the National Assembly a day before, were rejected through a voice vote by the Senate on Tuesday.

The legislations were part of efforts by Pakistan to move from the FATF's grey list to the white list.

The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) put Pakistan on the grey list in June 2018 and asked Islamabad to implement a plan of action by the end of 2019, but the deadline was extended later



on due to Covid-19.

The 104-member Senate, where the Opposition enjoys a majority, rejected two Bills after Leader of the House Shahzad Waseem refused to tender an apology for remarks that he made against the Opposition leadership last week, Dawn newspaper said.

Waseem without naming the Opposition leaders accused them of being involved in money laundering. The Bills will now be taken up for voting at a joint session of Parliament.

"Today in Senate, the Opposition defeated two critical FATF-related Bills: Anti Money Laundering and ICT Waqf Bills. From day one I have maintained that the self-serving interests of the Opposition leaders and the country's interests are divergent," the PM tweeted.

"The Opposition leaders have become desperate to save their corrupt money by trying to prevent parliament from functioning; by seeking to undermine the government's effective Covid-19 strategy — a recognised global success story — and now by trying to sabotage Pakistan's efforts to exit FATF grey list," he added.

Khan further said the Opposition parties were trying to hide behind the facade of democracy to protect their loot and plunder and using blackmail as a tactic to gain concessions on their cases of corruption. — PTI

Taiwan warns of accidental conflict as regional tensions rise



TAIPEI (TIP): The risk of accidental conflict is rising because of tension in the South China Sea and around Taiwan and communication must be maintained to reduce the risk of miscalculation, Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen said on Thursday.

Democratic Taiwan, claimed by Beijing as "sacred" Chinese territory, has complained of Chinese military activities near the island, in what it says in an attempt to force Taiwan to accept Chinese sovereignty.

The United States and China have also been conducting military exercises near Taiwan and in the disputed South China Sea.

"The risk of conflict requires careful management by all the parties concerned. We expect and hope that Beijing will continue to exercise restraint consistent with their obligations as a major regional power," Tsai told a forum organised by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

Relations between China and the United States are widely seen to be at their worst point in decades, with deepening mistrust and friction over the novel coronavirus, U.S. accusations of

unfair trade practices, and disputes over Hong Kong, the South China Sea and Taiwan.

Tsai said the international community had closely followed the situation in Hong Kong as well as China's militarization of the South China Sea.

"As a result there is now greater scrutiny over the situation in the Taiwan Strait," she said.

"There continue to be significant concerns over the potential for accidents, given increased military activity in the region. Therefore, we believe it would be important for all parties to maintain open lines and communication to prevent misinterpretations or miscalculations."

Tsai said Taiwan needed to strengthen its defence capabilities, which she has made a priority.

"We do this because we know that in terms of our current situation, strength can be co-related with deterrence. It also reduces the risk of military adventurism," said Tsai, who was re-elected for a second term in a landslide in January.

Tsai reiterated her commitment to peace and desire to talk.

"We are open to discussions with China, as long as they contribute to a beneficial relationship." But Beijing must accept that as a democracy, only Taiwan's people can decide its future, she said.

China has refused to talk to Tsai, believing she is a separatist bent on declaring a Republic of Taiwan.

Tsai says Taiwan is a country called the Republic of China, its formal name. — Reuters



Nepal reports highest single-day spike in COVID-19 cases

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal recorded its highest single-day spike in COVID-19 cases on Thursday with 1,111 new infections, taking the country's coronavirus tally to 35,529, according to the Ministry of Health.

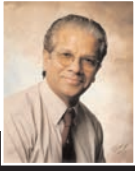
Health Ministry spokesperson Dr Jageshwar Gautam said eight virus-related deaths were reported in the same period. Now, the COVID-19 death toll stands at 183 in the country.

The spokesperson said out of the 12,629 polymerase chain reaction tests conducted in the last 24 hours, 1,111 sample had tested positive. Of the new cases, 777 are men, 334 are women.

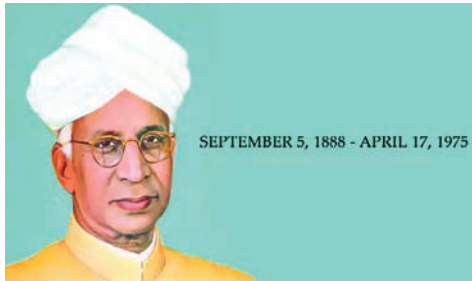
This is Nepal's highest spike daily new coronavirus cases, of which Kathmandu Valley accounted for 377 cases. The previous highest-single day spike was 1016 cases on August 14.

There are 15,273 active coronavirus cases in the Himalayan nation. The number of recovered cases rose to 20,073 after 569 COVID-19 patients were discharged from health facilities on Thursday, Gautam said. PTI

Remembering Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan



By Dr. V.K. Raju



SEPTEMBER 5, 1888 - APRIL 17, 1975

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was an outstanding philosopher, scholar, and humanitarian. His birthday, Sept 5 is Teachers' Day is celebrated in India as Teacher's Day.

For Dr. Radhakrishnan, everything, psychology, epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, education, politics, economics, science, religion, converges and culminates in spirit. He was a philosopher by temperament, teacher by vocation, a statesman by choice, an administrator by discipline and he had demonstrated that versatile potentiality of the human mind suffused with the spirit of service.

It is truly significant that he had been able to offer masterly interpretation of the philosophy of Tagore and the ideology of Mahatma Gandhi even as he had given a lucid exposition of gospel of action enshrined in Bhagavat Gita, and the doctrine of nonviolence preached by Gautama Buddha.

There was a time when Indian philosophy and literature were looked down upon by the West. McCauley, an English historian, had this to say in his minute on Indian Education, "It is, I believe, no exaggeration to say that all the historical information which has been collected from all the books written in the Sanskrit language is less valuable than what may be found in the most paltry abridgement used at preparatory schools in England." But Dr. Radhakrishnan successfully demolished the profound ignorance of the West. He said, "There are narrow minded people all over the world who think that their religion is the greatest and other people should accept. That has not been the tradition of this country. Our culture has spread in different directions in the East and West." After Sri Vivekananda, his concern was to present to the West the richness of the Eastern thought. It is not a common saying that Indian Philosophy begins where Western Philosophy ends.

It is true from his works that East is East, and West is West, it cannot be denied that East plus West is the best. He once said, "So far as the world of religion is concerned, freedom is the atmosphere in which religion can grow." When wisdom dawns, ignorance dies, and evil is cut off at the root. Man's only hope is world community, a brotherhood, where truce is the abiding reality. His philosophy was grounded in Advaita Vedanta, reinterpreting this tradition for

Philosopher, Scholar, Teacher and Humanitarian par excellence on his birthday, Sept 5
The day in India is celebrated as Teacher's Day

all contemporary understanding.

He continued as an academic, he was absorbed into constructive politics. Dr. Radhakrishnan was awarded several high awards during his life, including a Knighthood in 1931, the Bharata Ratna, the highest civilian award in India, in 1954 and honorary membership of the British Royal order of Merit in 1963. He was born in Madras presidency (present Tamil Nadu) to a Telugu speaking family and attended and studied at Madras Christian College. He was Vice Chancellor of Andhra University and Banares Hindu University. He was the Spalding Professor of Eastern Religion and Ethics at the University of Oxford. He was also appointed Haskell Lecturer in Comparative Religion at the University of Chicago. He was first ambassador to Soviet Union, then first Vice President of Indian Republic.

Plato's concept of philosophy king, and the Indian idea of Rajarishi have a striking similarity. This idea was realized in Marcus Aurelius, Janaka, Ashoka and Akbar. In modern times, Dr. Radhakrishnan exemplified this concept when he was elected President of India in 1962. In 1964, the Pope conferred with Dr. Radhakrishnan in Bombay (Mumbai) the decoration of one of the Chiefs of Golden Army of Angels. He passed away in 1975. Dr. Radhakrishnan started as a teacher and spent almost all of his life as a teacher. He was also one of the founders of HelpAged in India; Dr. Radhakrishnan believed that "teachers should be the best minds in the country". Since 1962, his birthday has been celebrated in India as Teachers' Day on the 5th of September, every year.

In Dr. Radhakrishnan's life, there is a message of fulfillment. His journey from a village was neither easy nor fast, but it was accomplished by sheer ability and faith. There is an extraordinary reassuring message of self confidence and determination. He said, "All that we have to do is to develop this solidarity about country. An act of one man to inspire that spirit of oneness to belong to one country, one culture, one tradition. That is very essential." This was his message to youth of the country.

Plato's concept of philosophy king, and the Indian idea of Rajarishi have a striking similarity. This idea was realized in Marcus Aurelius, Janaka, Ashoka and Akbar. In modern times, Dr. Radhakrishnan exemplified this concept when he was elected President of India in 1962. In 1964, the Pope conferred with Dr. Radhakrishnan in Bombay (Mumbai) the decoration of one of the Chiefs of Golden Army of Angels.

**"Na tatra suryo bhaati na Chandra taarakam
Nemaa vidyuto bhaanti kutyamagnih
Tameva bhaantam anubhaati sarvam
Tasya bhasa sarvam idam vibhaati
(Katopanishad 28 5-15)"**

**He is there where the sun does not shine,
Nor the moon, stars and lightning.
Then what to talk of this small flame (in my hand),
Everything (in the universe) shines only after the Lord,
And by His light alone are we all illuminated.
Nirvikara, Nirvishesha**



In this June 4, 1953 picture at the United Nations, Dr. Radhakrishnan (third from right) is seen shaking hands with Mr. Byron Price, Acting Secretary-General of the U.N., as Mr. Rajeshwar Dayal (left), India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and Mr. Shamaldharee Lall, Assistant Secretary-General of the U.N. in charge of the Department of Conference and General Services, look on.- Photo / courtesy United Nations

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, (born Sept. 5, 1888, Tiruttani, India-died April 16, 1975, Madras [now Chennai]), scholar and statesman was president of India from 1962 to 1967. He served as professor of philosophy at Mysore (1918-21) and Calcutta (1921-31; 1937-41) universities and as vice chancellor of Andhra University (1931-36). He was professor of Eastern religions and ethics at the University of Oxford in England (1936-52) and vice chancellor of Benares Hindu University (1939-48) in India. From 1953 to 1962 he was chancellor of the University of Delhi.

Radhakrishnan led the Indian delegation to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO; 1946-52) and was elected chairman of UNESCO's executive board (1948-49). From 1949 to 1952 he served as Indian ambassador to the Soviet Union. On his return to India in 1952 he was elected vice president, and on May 11, 1962, he was elected president, succeeding Rajendra Prasad, who was the first president of independent India. Radhakrishnan retired from politics five years later.

Radhakrishnan's written works

"Sun shines not, moon is not there; stars are not there." But if it is so transcendental, so completely exceeds our human comprehension, what is the next goal? -try within. Look into yourself, you will see the deepest there!

- Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

include Indian Philosophy, 2 vol. (1923-27), The Philosophy of the Upanishads (1924), An Idealist View of Life (1932), Eastern Religions and Western Thought (1939), and East and West: Some Reflections (1955). In his lectures and books he tried to interpret Indian thought for Westerners.(Encyclopedia Britannica)

Here is alist of the books he authored.

1. Religion, Science and Culture
2. The Heart of Hindusthan
3. The Principal Upanishads
4. Indian Philosophy (2 volumes)
5. Eastern Religions and Western Thought
6. A sourcebook in Indian Philosophy
7. The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore
8. An Idealist View of Life
9. East and West in Religion
10. Hindu View of Life
11. Makers of Indian Literature
12. Pursuit of Truth

(The author is a West Virginia based ophthalmologist whose mission in life is to make the world free of preventable childhood blindness. The Eye Foundation of America he founded almost 4 decades ago is fully committed and dedicated to fulfilling his vision)

Lord & Taylor to close all stores

The nearly 200-year-old store chain filed for bankruptcy earlier this month.



All Lord & Taylor stores are clearing their stocks in sale

LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP): Lord & Taylor announced that it would be closing all of its stores, including the four stores that are on Long Island, instead of keeping a few of the department stores open.

Lord & Taylor filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy on Aug. 11 and announced a few days later that it would be closing multiple locations, including the store in

Bay Shore. A few days later, the chain announced it would also close its store in the Walt Whitman Shops in Huntington. But other locations would stay open. Now, however, the chain announced it would close all the stores, including its two remaining Long Island locations: 1200 Franklin Ave. in Garden City, and 1440 Northern Blvd. in Manhasset.

"While we are still entertaining various opportunities, we believe it is prudent to simultaneously put the remainder of the stores into liquidation to maximize value of inventory for the estate while pursuing options for the Company's brands," Ed Kremer, the company's chief restructuring officer, said in a statement. Lord & Taylor is one of the oldest department stores in America. It was founded nearly 200 years ago in 1826. The company, which had seen falling sales in recent years, was purchased by only fashion company Le Tote in 2019. But the closures caused by the coronavirus were the final nail in the company's coffin. The chain is going out of business sales at all of its stores and online. The stores will also be selling fixtures, furniture and equipment. "I am extraordinarily proud of the continued efforts of our store and corporate team members as they have worked tirelessly over the past several months, under unprecedented conditions, to preserve this historic brand," Kremer said. "We have a long road ahead of us and I am grateful and humbled by the dedication and resiliency of our team."

Town Must Remove Roadblocks for Homeless Families

MINEOLA (TIP): In a letter to the editor, Arnold W. Drucker, Nassau County Legislator 16th LD has demanded that Oyster Bay Town officials remove roadblocks for homeless families in Jericho.

The Jericho Family Support Center is a laudable concept that deserves our support, he said, and continued, "The plan involves conversion of the former Hampton Inn on Jericho Turnpike into a transitional housing facility equipped to provide approximately 80 families with case management, childcare, workforce readiness training, health referrals, and 24-7 security.

"Currently, there are approximately 50 families living in inhumane squalor at dilapidated motels in Jericho. They are homeless during a global pandemic, at a time when our neighbors have lost their jobs and incomes at a level not seen since the Great Depression.

"Despite the clear merits of the plan presented by service provider Community Housing Innovations (CHI) and their nearly 30-year track record of success in this field, Oyster Bay Town officials have nevertheless obstructed this project. They have embarked



Arnold W. Drucker, Nassau County Legislator 16th LD has demanded that Oyster Bay Town officials remove roadblocks for homeless families in Jericho.

upon a politically motivated campaign notable for its embrace of fear-mongering, misinformation, shameless self-promotion and wasteful lawsuits - all bankrolled by you, the taxpayer.

"It is the height of callous, heartless hypocrisy. Town of Oyster Bay officials who recently sent self-congratulatory, glossy, full-color mailers to Jericho residents to announce that they "fully enforce local zoning laws... to protect your suburban way of life" have no right to take such a disingenuous victory lap. They are the same people who have consistently failed to

apply town code and its enforcement mechanisms to compel the owners of these squalid motels to clean up their act.

"In fact, CHI's facility is likely to do more to ameliorate any level of perceived blight than Oyster Bay Town officials have in many years. Eligible families residing in those motels or elsewhere in the County would be relocated to the Jericho Family Support Center, where they would benefit from individualized case management with defined goals in support of their return to independent housing. *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Mushaira-Kavi Sammelan is a manifestation of India's diversity - Anurag Kumar

ZAFAR IQBAL

MARYLAND (TIP): "India is proud of its diversity and this program is a manifestation of this diversity," said Mr. Anurag Kumar, Minister for Community Affairs, Embassy of India. He thanked the organizers for holding such a beautiful program every year and appreciated showcasing of new talents through this program. He also conveyed the best wishes from the Ambassador of India, H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu. Kumar indicated that subject to easing of COVID-situation, the Embassy would consider hosting this program.

The Aligarh Alumni Association-Metro DC (AAA-DC), in association with the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin-Metro DC (GOPIO-DC), hosted a successful Mushaira/Kavi Sammelan on Sunday, 9th August 2020, celebrating the 74th Independence Day of the Subcontinent. This annual event has been a part of Washingtonians' literary life for the last fourteen years. AAA-DC and GOPIO-DC are the only organizations that bring local poets of Urdu and Hindi at one platform to promote a sense of brotherhood in the best traditions of Sanjhi Virasat, as well as to encourage and promote the local talents of these literature(s).

This year, because of the COVID-19 situation, the program was conducted using Zoom technology and it was simultaneously broadcast on YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter. Several hundred literary enthusiasts enjoyed the event and

many encouraging and positive comments were posted on the media. A recording of the event is now available on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/AligarhAlumniAssociationOfDC/>) and AAA-DC YouTube channel (<https://youtu.be/qNmKjJ-jAso>).

Greeting authors, poets and the audience, Program Coordinator Dr. Zafar Iqbal said "The goal of this annual program is to provide a forum where diverse people-transcending political, religious, regional, and geographical boundaries could assemble under the same umbrella and appreciate the Ganga-Jamuni culture of the Subcontinent." In addition to sharing poetry, this event also recognizes local poets and authors by releasing their recently published books, he added. He recognized the leaders of four cultural community organizations - Mr. Kaleem Kawaja of the Association of Indian Muslims (AIM), Mr. Pavan Bezwada and Mr. Shammi Singh of the National Council of Asian-Indian Associations, Inc. (NCAIA, Inc.), Mr. Sunil Singh & Mr. Kirpa Shankar of the National Council of Asian-Indian Associations (NCAIA), Mr. Moazzam Siddiqi and Mr. Mohsin Alikhan of the Hyderabad Association of Washington Metro Area (HAWMA), and Dr. Mike Ghose of the Center for Pluralism (CFP), who were co-sponsors of the program. "We are pleased that the Embassy has been supporting this program from the beginning, and it hosted the First

Bilingual Poetry recitation program on 10th June 2011 with the help of AAA-DC and Metro GOPIO," Iqbal added.

Mr. Afzal Usmani, President AAA-DC welcomed and thanked the participants and the audience on behalf of the association. He also applauded the increasing popularity of the program. Welcoming on behalf of GOPIO-DC, Dr. Zafar Iqbal appreciated the participation of poets and guests attending the program. "We have been with this program promoting Ganga-Jamuni culture since the start of the program in 2007," said Iqbal. GOPIO-DC Chairperson, Dr. Renuka Misra could not join the live broadcast due to technical problems.

The event brought the diaspora with multiple ethnic backgrounds together using social media. A special treat was the participation of Dr. Ashok Narayan from his home in India. He retired from the Indian Administrative Service. Participating poets (in alphabetical order) included: Abdullah, Ashok Narayan, Astha Naval, Daler Ashna Deol, Khurram Yusufzai, Mike Ghose, Mohammad Akbar, Mohammad Jaweed, Narendra Tandon, Preethi Govindaraj, Razi Raziuddin, Satyapal Anand, Sukesh Chopra, Suman Vardhan, Vandana Singh, Vinita Tiwari, Vishakha Thaker, and Yusuf Rahat. Stalwart poet, author, and critic Professor Satyapal Anand presided over the mushaira. Afzal Usmani compered the poetry recitation session with remarkable literary skill.

Several poets and authors in the past

have released their books through our program. Some of them are Professor Satyapal Anand, Professor Asghar Wajahat, Dr. A. Abdullah, Dr. K. Mohan, Mr. Raj Kumar Qais, Mr. Anadi Naik, Dr. Astha Naval, Mr. Dhananjaya Kumar Mrs. Rashmi Sanan, Mrs. Daler Deol Aashna, and Mr. Surender Deol.

This year also three recently published books were presented at the event by Dr. Abdullah. Commenting on Dr. Salman Akhtar's book Meer Nama, he said that the beauty of the book that each couplet of 54 Ghazals Meer in it. This book is published in both Urdu and Devanagari scripts. The second book Urdu Ghazal- A Gift of India's Composite Culture was co-authored by Professor Gopichand Narang and Surinder Deol. Dr. Abdullah also presented Deol's book Sahir-A Literary Portrait that has a foreword by Dr. Narang. This book emphasizes Sahir's passion for democratic ethos, Sanjhi Virasat, bhajans, women's rights, and world peace. Reminiscing his fascination with Sahir, Deol said that Sahir's book Talkhian was the first book he had bought during his student days and he reads it now and then.

The AAA-DC started this Independence Day annual Mushaira-Kavi Sammelan tradition more than a decade ago, and GOPIO-DC joined its efforts soon after. It is very gratifying to see that other community organizations are also supporting this program.

(Zafar Iqbal, Ph.D. can be reached at Raabta.india@gmail.com / 240-328-0162)

The U.S.-India health-care partnership will be crucial in the battle against the coronavirus



By Taranjit Singh Sandhu

The India-U.S. partnership in medical research has been complemented by the strength of our cooperation in pharmaceuticals. India's capabilities in R&D and in manufacturing have made its pharmaceutical sector the world's third largest by volume.

As both India and the United States combat a pandemic of unprecedented scale, we have drawn upon the strength of our long-standing health-care ties to help us better understand the novel coronavirus and find workable solutions. In India, the government and the private sector have worked together to ensure the integrity of medical supply chains, and essential medicines from India have continued to reach the United States and some 150 partner countries. But more urgently, the India-U.S. cooperation is proving crucial to confront health challenges posed by the pandemic, including future vaccine development and distribution.

From therapeutics to diagnostics, the medical supply industry in India has ramped up production to meet domestic needs and also respond, where feasible, to global needs. Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the initiative of bringing together leaders of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to deliberate on collaborative efforts to combat the disease, including

establishing a SAARC Emergency Response Fund.

And as we move toward an effective vaccine for the novel coronavirus, India's research laboratories and manufacturing facilities - which produce more than 60 percent of the world's vaccines in a normal year - are integral to the effort. There are at least four ongoing vaccine development programs between Indian and U.S. firms and research institutions.

Over the years, scientific cooperation has become a critical element of India's expanding strategic ties with the United States. Last year India and the United States signed an agreement to promote scientific exchanges, cooperative research projects and the establishment of innovative public-private partnerships. U.S.-India scientific collaborations have expanded in fields ranging from health and energy to earth and ocean sciences, and from space to agriculture. Further, under the bilateral Health Dialogue that commenced in 2015, supported by private-sector engagements, India's partnership with the United States in the health sector has yielded significant results on a global scale. The collaboration under the Vaccine Action Program resulted in the development of the ROTAVAC vaccine against the rotavirus, which causes severe diarrhea in children. The rollout of an affordable vaccine by an Indian company has enabled its use in several developing countries. This success stands as a true testament to the benefits of the India-U.S. partnership for the greater good of humanity. Today there are more than 200 active collaborations between the U.S. National Institutes of Health network of labs and leading research agencies in

India, all focused on delivering affordable health-care solutions.

The India-U.S. partnership in medical research has been complemented by the strength of our cooperation in pharmaceuticals. India's capabilities in R&D and in manufacturing have made its pharmaceutical sector the world's third largest by volume. These strengths have been bolstered by government incentives to encourage investments in the manufacture of active pharmaceutical ingredients. Indian generic drugs have found a ready market across the globe, with Indian firms supplying about 40 percent of generic formulations marketed in the United States. This has allowed American health-care consumers to save billions and enjoy enhanced access to quality medicines. The pharmaceutical sector has also been a significant job creator in the United States, with Indian firms investing billions to establish manufacturing facilities in different states in this country.

When the coronavirus outbreak began, the network of existing collaborations between our countries sprang into action. Using the platform of the India-U.S. Science and Technology Forum, an initiative led by both governments, calls were put out to support joint research and incubate start-up engagements. The initiative was directed at developing technologies for the containment and management of the novel coronavirus, including diagnostics and therapeutics.

As a country we are committed to increasing health-care spending to 2.5 percent of gross domestic product by 2025. Regulatory reforms, policy actions and investment incentives are imparting fresh dynamism to health care in India.



Ayushman Bharat, the National Health Protection Mission, is the world's largest such public-funded program. The pandemic has also not stopped India from undertaking bold initiatives. The recently launched National Digital Health Mission will facilitate the creation of a virtuous health ecosystem, expanding access for hitherto underserved populations. All this opens up immense opportunities for expanding the India-U.S. health-care partnership.

Meanwhile, we continue to combat the virus at home. While the number of coronavirus cases in India has surpassed 3 million, we are encouraged that the recovery rate is also significantly high, at more than 70 percent, and the case fatality rate is below 2 percent. India's health-care providers, comprising 1 million mostly female workers, have also risen to the challenge and have been active at the clinical, treatment and grass-roots levels, playing an essential role in pandemic control. The current pandemic has made it clear that ensuring affordable and timely access to health care is a priority for all. It has emphasized the need to diversify health supply chains and foster new international partnerships for global health safety. India is well positioned to offer a reliable alternative, with its strengths in manufacturing and innovation, and with its skilled workforce. As societies that respect innovation, India and the United States can do much to provide solutions to the novel coronavirus pandemic and to build a healthier, safer world beyond.

(The author is India's Ambassador to the United States)

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Supreme Court reserves verdict on review plea by Mallya

Can a company's assets, attached by authorities following legal proceedings, be considered for liquidation to settle financial liabilities? The Supreme Court on Thursday said it would examine the issue after senior advocate CS Vaidyanathan, representing liquor baron Vijay Mallya's United Breweries (Holding) Ltd (UBHL), said the company's total assets were far greater than its liabilities. The UBHL has challenged the Karnataka High Court's order upholding the decision of a single judge to wind up the company. Vaidyanathan told a Bench headed by Justice UU Lalit that the court should not uphold winding up of the company as it had far more assets than its liabilities.

The Bench also reserved its verdict on a petition of Mallya, who has sought review of its 2017 order holding him guilty of contempt of court for transferring USD 40 million to his children.

Vaidyanathan said the HC erred in not accepting its offer of settlement and gave its finding of upholding the decision to wind up the company.

India speeds up setting up of air defence command

India has accelerated work on setting up an Air Defence command to enhance military synergy and optimally utilise the resources of the armed forces, and it is likely to come up in October, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

Air defence refers to protecting the military's assets from aerial threats such as the enemy's fighter planes and missiles and the new Command --- likely to be headquartered in Allahabad --- will control the air defence resources of all the three services. It will be headed by a three-star air marshal, the officials said.

After taking over as the country's first chief of defence staff (CDS) on December 31, 2019, General Bipin Rawat had asked top officials of headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) to prepare a proposal to create an Air Defence command as part of military's theaterisation plans.

Theaterisation refers to placing specific units of the army, the navy and the air force under a theatre commander. Such commands come under the operational control of an officer from any of the three services, depending on the function assigned to that command.

Congress at its historic low, needs full-time leader: Kapil Sibal

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Congress needs "leadership [that is] 24x7" at a time when it is at a "historic low", senior leader Kapil Sibal said on Thursday in his first interview since he and 22 other leaders signed a controversial letter seeking sweeping reforms within the party.

The letter sent to interim party president Sonia Gandhi on August 7 called for a "visible", "effective" and "full-time" leader; elections at all levels in the party; and establishing an institutional leadership model to collectively guide the party, among other steps.

"If people have access to the letter, they will know it is not an attempt to belittle anyone, including the Gandhi family. In fact, we have appreciated the services rendered by the leadership thus far," Sibal told HT in an interview.

"Our intent is to revive the party. We want to be partners in its revival. That is our commitment to the party constitution and the Congress legacy, and the absolute conviction that the Congress needs others to rally around, to oppose a government which has destroyed the very foundations on which the Indian Republic is built.

"The Congress party is at a historic low and the election results of 2014 and 2019 reflect that," he said.

The letter led to a stormy and marathon session of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the highest decision-making body in the party. In the seven-hour meeting on Monday, there was heavy criticism of those who signed the letter, and the focus of the discussion was largely on its timing, and its leak, rather than on its substance.

Four of the 23 leaders — Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mukul Wasnik, Anand Sharma and Jitin Prasada — are members of the CWC. Other senior



leaders who have signed the letter include Sibal, Shashi Tharoor, Manish Tiwari, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, and Prithviraj Chavan.

"I wish the substance had been circulated, then all those present (at the CWC meeting) would've realised that it (the letter) is about strengthening and reviving the Congress. One of those present even used the expression 'traitor'. I wish those present had reprimanded him. There was not one uncivilised comment made in the communication. I am appalled that expressions like these are allowed within the highest forum," Sibal added.

Sibal said the party constitution calls for certain structures in the party that need to be re-established. "I have some knowledge of the party and its constitution and the constitution provides for several structures which need to be put in place, which are not in place. The intent and language of the letter dealt with the structures not being in place," he said.

The senior advocate expressed disappointment that Jitin Prasada was targeted on Wednesday by a Congress district committee in Uttar Pradesh that wanted action taken against him for signing the letter.

Source: HT

Cong will sit in oppn for 50 yrs if party election doesn't happen: Ghulam Nabi Azad



Asserting that appointed Congress president may not have even one per cent support in the party, senior leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, one of the signatories to the "dissent" letter, on Thursday pitched for elections to the Congress Working Committee and key organisational posts of state chiefs, district presidents, block presidents and said that those opposing are afraid of losing their positions. While adding that prospects of the party would be better if elected body leads the party otherwise "Congress will continue to sit in the Opposition for the next 50 years."

"When you contest the election at least 51 per cent is with you and you contest the election against only 2 to 3 people within the party. A person who will get 51 per cent of votes will be elected. Others will get 10 or 15 per cent votes. The person who wins and get charge of the post of part president, it means that 51 per cent people are with him. The election has the benefit that when you fight elections, at least your party is 51 per cent behind you. Right now, the person who becomes president might not even have one per cent support. If CWC members are elected then they cannot be removed. So what is the problem," Ghulam Nabi Azad told ANI.

Multani disappearance: Punjab Police raid former DGP Sumedh Singh Saini's house

CHANDIGARH (TIP): A Punjab Police team conducted a raid at former state DGP Sumedh Singh Saini's house in Chandigarh early on Friday morning. Saini was not at home at the time.

Police sources said officials of the Mohali police and the SOG (Special Operations Group) were part of the raiding team. DSP-Detective, Mohali, Vikramjit Brar, who is also attached with the Organised Crime Control Unit (OCCU), led the raid.

A Mohali court had reserved orders for a day on Thursday on Saini's bail application in the Balwant Singh Multani disappearance case. The court had added Section 302 of the IPC in the case against Saini recently.

Two Chandigarh police officials, co-accused in the case, had turned approvers, detailing how Multani was allegedly picked, tortured and killed.

The two cops have also vouched as eyewitnesses in the case and in their



Sumedh Singh Saini

statement in the court have also alleged to have been eyewitness to the torture to Multani under custody of former DGP Saini and his shifting in a Gypsy in an unconscious state. They also alleged that later they were told that Multani went missing. The two cops were also allegedly asked to declare Multani as missing and

absconded, following the orders of DGP which they did, they alleged before the court.

An FIR was registered afresh against the former DGP at Mataur police station, Mohali, accusing him of abduction of Balwant Singh Multani, following the complaint of his (Balwant's) brother Palwinder on May 6, 2020.

Sumedh Singh Saini and six other police officers were booked in a 29-year-old case of alleged abduction, torture and stage-managed elimination of Balwant Singh Multani, son of former IAS officer Darshan Singh Multani.

Balwant, the victim, was accused of carrying out an attack on Saini when he was the Chandigarh SSP on December 11, 1991. He, along with Devinder Pal Singh Bhullar, convict in a Delhi bomb blast case, and two others, was booked but the police later claimed Balwant escaped from the custody of Qadian (Gurdaspur) police.

Exams must for promoting final year students: SC

The wait for lakhs of final year students has come to an end. The Supreme Court has announced its verdict on the pleas challenging the decision of UGC asking universities and colleges to conduct exams by September 30 amid the coronavirus pandemic. A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan, which had reserved its verdict on August 18, pronounced the judgment at 10.30 am.

Risk aversion won't do, RBI Governor warns banks

Addressing a webinar, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das today asked banks to avoid extreme risk aversion, as it was "self-defeating". He advised them to smell vulnerabilities early to avoid frauds.

The comments come in the midst of the steadily slowing credit off-take, leading many to wonder if banks have become too "risk-averse" owing to their concerns over asset quality in a pandemic-stricken economy.

As per the RBI's annual report released earlier this week, frauds doubled to Rs 1.85 lakh crore in FY20.

Das warned banks that extreme risk aversion would deprive them of their income and create a situation where they would be unable to earn their bread.

Won't allow Muharram procession, says Supreme Court

The Supreme Court on Thursday refused permission for Muharram processions across the country, saying it would lead to chaos and targeting of a particular community amid the coronavirus pandemic, PTI reported. "If we allow this, there will be chaos and one particular community will be targeted for spreading Covid," Chief Justice SA Bobde said. "We don't want that. We as a court cannot risk the health of all the people."

17 lakh admit cards for NEET, JEE downloaded

The government on Thursday defended its move to go ahead with NEET and JEE exams despite mounting pressure to defer them, saying over two-thirds of candidates have downloaded the admit cards which shows that students want these exams to be conducted at any cost, and asserted that it won't let the Congress party "spoil" students' future to find relevance.

COVID-19

India records single-day spike of 77,266 cases; death toll at 61,529

THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE COVID-19 CASES IN THE COUNTRY STANDS AT 7,42,023

NEW DELHI (TIP): India reported 77,266 new cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), the highest-single-day rise, and 1,057 deaths in the last 24 hours, according to the Union health ministry, which has taken the country's tally past 3.38 million.

This is the second day in a row that India has recorded more than 70,000 Covid-19 cases and over 1,000 fatalities for the third consecutive day, taking the number of patients who have succumbed to Covid-19 to 61,529 till date. The first death was reported on March 12 in India.

According to the health ministry's dashboard at 8am, there are 742,023 active cases. With 60,177 people discharged between Thursday and Friday morning, the number of recovered patients have surged to 2,583,948 and the recovery rate to 76.27%.

"In the past 5 months, more than 3/4 of cases have recovered and less than 1/4 are active now. Effective implementation of the Centre's strategic and graded TEST-TRACK-TREAT approach has led to higher recoveries and lower fatality," the health ministry said on Friday.

Maharashtra continued to report the highest number of Covid-19 cases in the country, with 718,711 infections, including 173,195 active cases and 23,089 deaths. Tamil Nadu is another worst-affected state and has reported 52,362 cases of the coronavirus disease and 6,839 deaths so far. Karnataka has 83,627 Covid-19 cases and 5,091 deaths.

The government said on Thursday nine states and a Union territory have reported 89% of the deaths in the country in the last two weeks and that they need to have continued and rigorous vigil so as to contain the spread of infection as well as take steps to reduce fatalities. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, Gujarat, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh,



Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir are among them.

Union cabinet secretary reviewed the situation in nine states and a Union territory with high Covid-19 case fatality rate and have been urged to proactively limit transmission and keep the mortality below 1%. The states and UT were advised to proactively take steps towards reducing case fatality to less than 1% across all districts.

7-judge bench to reconsider 2004 order on SC/ST categorisation

NEW DELHI (TIP): Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) communities don't constitute a homogenous group and can be further sub-classified to ensure the benefits of reservation in government jobs and higher education institutions percolate down to weaker sections, the Supreme Court observed on Thursday in a ruling that may have far-reaching political ramifications.

In the ruling likely to reignite the debate on application of the so-called creamy layer principle to SC/STs, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by justice Arun Mishra said there are unequals within SC/ST groups, necessitating their sub-classification, which state governments are entitled to do. The bench also called for review of a past top court ruling that SCs and STs were homogenous communities.

"In case benefit which is meant for the emancipation of all the castes, included in the list of Scheduled Castes, is permitted to be usurped by a few castes, those who are adequately represented, have advanced and belonged to the creamy layer; then it would tantamount to creating inequality whereas in case of hunger every person is required to be fed and provided bread. The entire basket



of fruits cannot be given to mighty at the cost of others under the guise of forming a homogenous class," the bench observed.

The bench also said reservation for weaker sections was not contemplated by the Constitution makers in perpetuity and the constitutional goal of social transformation cannot be achieved without taking into account changing social realities.

Creamy layer is a term used to describe better-off individuals among Other Backward Classes (OBCs) who are ineligible for reservations. Households with annual income above Rs 8 lakh fall under creamy layer. SCs have a 15% quota and STs a 7.5% quota in government jobs and university seats. OBCs have a 27% quota. Governments have been against extending this principle to quotas for SCs and STs on the grounds that they have been socially disadvantaged and backward for centuries and application of the creamy layer principle to them will defeat the object of reservation.

GST COUNCIL MEETING

Unacceptable, say states reacting to Centre's options on meeting GST shortfall

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Centre on August 27 placed before the Goods and Services Tax Council two options for borrowing by states to meet the shortfall in GST revenues, pegged at Rs 2.3 lakh crore in the current fiscal. Briefing reporters after the 41st GST Council meeting, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the economy is facing an extraordinary 'Act of God' situation, which may result in economic contraction.

Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said that a special window can be provided to the states, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), at a reasonable interest rate for borrowing of Rs 97,000 crore. The amount can be repaid after five years (of GST implementation) ending 2022 from cess collection.

The second option before the states is to borrow the entire Rs 2.35 lakh crore shortfall under the special window. "States have been given seven days' time to think over the proposal," Pandey said.

Opposing the options for the GST compensation proposed by FM Sitharaman, Kerala's Finance Minister TM Thomas Isaac said in both options the states will have to sacrifice a part of the compensation. He made it clear that full compensation was a constitutional right of the states.

"Full compensation is constitutional right of states. Unacceptable.#GSTCouncilMeet," Isaac said in a tweet on August 27.

Punjab's Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal government said the options given by Centre are not acceptable. "The solution was thrust upon us. The amount will be repaid from the compensation cess which will continue for 2-3 more years. This is not acceptable to Punjab," Badal said, adding that the compensation amount due to the state is Rs 6,500 crore for April-July.

CULTURAL ICONS IN FILM

"TERRENCE MCNALLY: EVERY ACT OF LIFE" - Now on PBS

BY MABEL PAIS

"Theater is collaborative, but life is collaborative. We need more of that spirit more than ever in the days ahead. We need what connects us, what makes us human beings. We need to bring the barriers down, break them down, not build walls, but tear them down. I really hope we're very aware of the decisions we're being asked to make as a country, but it starts with the individual. We need to start loving one another more, and seeing how connected we all really are. The stakes are really high now, higher than ever. And I think that's the message of art."

- TERRENCE MCNALLY

"Touching, insightful and moving . . . like most great documentaries, it leaves you hoping for more."

- NEWSWEEK



McNally walking on Broadway (NY Theater District) - Photos / Courtesy Floating World Pictures

Kaufman and produced by Marcia Ross, it traces McNally's life - from escaping his troubled home in Corpus Christi, Texas to becoming one of America's most groundbreaking and honored playwrights. The film includes interviews with actors Nathan Lane, Angela Lansbury, Rita Moreno, Chita Rivera, F. Murray Abraham, Audra McDonald, Edie Falco, John Slattery, and Billy Porter, to name a few, discussing McNally's remarkable legacy.

Four-time Tony-winner and outspoken LGBTQ activist Terrence McNally went to Columbia University at 17; and traveled the world as tutor to Nobel Laureate John Steinbeck's children. He had his first play on Broadway at age 24. Over a six-decade career, he continued to write dozens of trailblazing plays, musicals, operas and screenplays about sexuality, homophobia, faith, and the power of art. He was the first openly Gay major American playwright. Terrence also wrote, "The first Broadway play with a positive, confident, openly gay character," Paul Libin.

McNally sadly passed away from COVID-19 complications on March 24, 2020.

The film captures McNally's essence and acts as a beacon of hope for future generations of writers, LGBTQ+ youth, and storytellers who also dream of living out loud. It premiered at the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival to stellar reviews and endearing audience reactions. In June 2019, 'American Masters' broadcast the film nationally on PBS. To learn more, visit everyactoflife.com

Key Credits

Jeff Kaufman: Producer, Director, Writer
Marcia S. Ross: Producer
Jay Alix & Una Jackman, Suzi Dietz, Tom Kirdahy, Mark Lee, Ted Snowden & Duffy Violante, Buddy Steves & Rowena Young: Executive Producers
Asher Bingham: Editor
Laura Karpman & Nora Kroll-Rosenbaum: Music
Jordan Black, Autumn Eakin and Anthony Lucido: Cinematographers
Run Time: 1 Hour 22 Minutes



Young Terrence McNally

Now playing

<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/blog/american-masters-celebrates-emmy-nominated-season-2/>

This year's Emmy® nominees for the film presented by 'American Masters' are Co-Producers, Jeff Kaufman & Marcia S. Ross.

ABOUT AMERICAN MASTERS:

Launched in 1986 on PBS, American Masters set the standard for documentary film profiles, accruing widespread critical acclaim and earning 28 Emmy Awards - including 10 for Outstanding Non-Fiction Series and five for Outstanding Non-Fiction Special - 14 Peabodys, an Oscar, three Grammys, two Producers Guild Awards and many other honors.

About WNET

WNET is America's flagship PBS station: parent company of New York's THIRTEEN and WLIW21 and operator of NJTV, the statewide public media network in New Jersey.

Through its new ALL ARTS multi-platform initiative, its broadcast channels, three cable services (THIRTEEN PBS KIDS, Create and World) and online streaming sites. To learn more about public television and its parent company, visit pbs.org and wnet.org respectively.

'MR. SOUL'

"Mr. SOUL!" is an exploration of the birth of diversity in cultural expression and its very existence on national television; a love letter to Black culture, Black history, Black excellence, Black art and Black lives." -Melissa Haizlip, Director-Writer-Producer

"Revives An Extraordinary, Revolutionary Piece Of Black History" - Forbes

BEFORE OPRAH, BEFORE ARSENIOTHERE WAS MR. SOUL!

Before Oprah - before Arsenio - there was Mr. SOUL! Ellis Haizlip makes television broadcast history with "SOUL!", America's first "black Tonight Show."

Right on the heels of the Civil Rights Movement, one fearless black pioneer reignited a Harlem Renaissance for a new era, ushering giants and rising stars of Black American culture onto the

national television stage. He was hip. He was smart. He was innovative, political and gay. In his personal fight for social equality, this man ensured the revolution would be televised. The man was Ellis Haizlip. The Revolution was "SOUL!" - an amazing weekly television show that aired on public television from 1968 - 1973 celebrating Black American culture, art, life and community and shared it with the nation via the airwaves.

Featuring rare live performances and interviews from the legendary Al Green, heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali, Sidney Poitier, Cicely Tyson, James Baldwin, Gladys Knight, Stevie Wonder, Ashford and Simpson, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Sonia Sanchez, The Last Poets, Wilson Pickett, Kool and the Gang, Toni Morrison, Patti Labelle and many more, the film "MR. SOUL!" is directed and produced by Ellis Haizlip's niece Melissa Haizlip featuring music composed by Grammy® winning musician/composer Robert Glasper with narration by Blair Underwood - one of the film's producers.



Ellis Haizlip ('Mr. Soul')
Photo / Courtesy 'Shoes In The Bed' Productions

"SOUL!" was among the first national shows to provide expanded images of African Americans on television, shifting the gaze from inner-city poverty and violence to the vibrancy of the Black Arts Movement. With participants' recollections and a bevy of great archival clips, "MR. SOUL!" captures a critical moment in our nation's cultural rise and whose impact continues to resonate.

AWARDS AND FILM FESTIVAL HISTORY

"MR. SOUL!" premiered at TRIBECA 2018 where audiences embraced the film. The film went on to win a number of awards on the festival circuit playing

over 30 film festivals. The film has won over 17 awards including the International Documentary Association (IDA) Best Music Documentary; the Library of Congress Lavine-Ken Burns Film Award Finalist Prize; AFI Docs Audience Award; Woodstock Best Documentary; and many more.

Watch the trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5bLjXSFR7o>

"MR. SOUL!" will open in virtual cinemas in 50+ partnering theaters and cities on August 28. For more information, visit mrsoulmovie.com

Key Credits : Melissa Haizlip: Director, Writer, Producer, Robert Glasper: Music, Blair Underwood: Narrator, Run Time: 1 Hour 39 Minutes, Release Date: August 28

Talkback

Comedian/Actress/Producer Amanda Seales will guest host the upcoming Mr. SOUL! PREMIERE KICKBACK - a special online talkback celebrating the opening weekend of the award-winning film - Mr. SOUL! - with director Melissa Haizlip as one of the panelists.

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

FILMS FOR OUR TIMES

BY MABEL PAIS

"HEALING FROM HATE: BATTLE FOR THE SOUL OF A NATION"

“It was my good fortune to find myself in the company of this extraordinary group of individuals, committed towards creating a powerful force for good, instead of merely cursing the darkness.” - Peter Hutchison, Director

“A well-filmed, no-holds-barred, raw masterpiece defining the causes and solutions for America's ugliest disease: racism. The information and testimonies revealed are stronger than written case studies in any psychology book. A must-see for both victims and perpetrators of hate.” - Daryl Davis, Activist and Author of 'Klan-destine Relationships: A Black Man's Odyssey in the Ku Klux Klan'



Scene from "Healing From Hate." - Photo / Anthony Karen

**OFFICIAL SELECTION DOC NYC & BIG SKY DOC FESTS
EXAMINING THE ROOT CAUSES OF HATE GROUP ACTIVITY AND FOLLOWING EFFORTS BY FORMER EXTREMISTS TO DE-RADICALIZE WHITE NATIONALISTS**

Healing From Hate" examines the root causes of hate group activity through the bold work of those battling intolerance on the front lines, featuring 'Life After Hate', an organization founded by former Skinheads and neo-Nazis to help others exit hate groups.

Documenting a stunning era of hatred

in America from Trump, to Charlottesville, to Parkland, "Healing From Hate" follows these unique reformers in their work to de-radicalize and re-humanize White Nationalists, transform attitudes of intolerance, and heal communities torn apart by racism.

Having been provided with exclusive access, 'Healing From Hate' follows these counselor-activists in their crusade against violence and intolerance - through community & family engagement, as well as direct "intervention" with radicalized youth - experiencing the conflict of their

struggles firsthand.

The director initially envisioned the project to be the crisis of masculinity (Trump had yet to settle into the Oval Office) in America, he hardly saw the warning signs of what lay ahead in the form of Charlottesville, the rise of the Alt Right, executive branch-endorsed xenophobia & intolerance, and a truly shocking rise in hate crimes - let alone the dramatic ascendance of the Black Lives Matter movement.

"Now Nationalism and extremist hate crimes have been catapulted to the world stage - from the tragic anti-Semitic attack in Pittsburgh, to the brutal assault upon Muslim worshippers in Christchurch, NZ, to the senseless targeting of Hispanics in El Paso - along with a very public debate about who we aspire to be as a people. It was my good fortune to find myself in the company of this extraordinary group of individuals, committed towards creating a powerful force for good, instead of merely cursing the darkness," said Peter Hutchison.

Key Credits

Peter Hutchison: Director
David Kuhn & Lucas Sabean: Producers
Peter Hutchison & David Kuhn: Writers
Lucas Sabean: Editor
Anthony Karen: Photography
Release Date: September 4
WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA
<https://www.healingfromhatefilm.com>
<https://www.facebook.com/HealingFromHate>
<https://www.instagram.com/healingfromhate>
<https://twitter.com/healinghatefilm>

"#UNFIT"



Trump leads crowd to pledge their votes to him in Madison Wisconsin rally during the 2016 campaign.
Photo / Courtesy "Unfit".

"#UNFIT IS NO LAUGHING MATTER." - Daily Beast
"Putting Donald Trump on the couch has become a national pastime, and this movie does it well." - Variety

**SCIENCE OVER POLITICS
- A DUTY TO WARN -
TRUTH OVER PARTISANSHIP
THEATRICAL / VIRTUAL CINEMA
Starts Friday, August 28
DIGITAL & CABLE TV ON DEMAND
Starts Tuesday, September 1**

#UNFIT: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF DONALD TRUMP asks: Is Donald Trump fit to hold the office of President of the United States? "#UNFIT" presents an eye-opening analysis of the behavior, psyche, condition and stability of Donald Trump. It takes a sociological look at the electorate that chose him, and the collective effect he is having on our culture and institutions. During the 2016 campaign, mental health professionals felt policy-bound from speaking publicly. Now, after years of observation, for the first time ever, they have decided enough is enough.

Watch the trailers - <https://youtu.be/SUBnC1HTEw>
<https://youtu.be/TCr9zxWQAYI>

One of the early revelations the film team had in making a film about Trump's psychology was that, although our electoral process feels rigorous, there was one important constituency that was blocked from speaking during the 2016 cycle: mental health professionals. In an unprecedented move, the APA (American Psychiatric Association) issued guidelines to block mental health professionals from commenting on the behavior of political candidates. The comments of the experts in this film are based on observable behavior and require no clinical exam to be valid.

The film aims to take viewers on a deep dive into Trump's psychology and then goes further to gain insights into the psychology of the electorate that put him in power. All of the partisans interviewed have sterling conservative credentials and have set aside their commitment to party and ideology to speak out for the ideals of democracy and the rule of law.

"By instinct or design, Trump has tapped into something very deep and very real that is growing in the United States and around the world, and it is essential that we gain insight into this deep cultural divide, because the way we understand it will shape our ability to respond to it, in this election cycle and in the years to come, because ultimately this moment is not about Trump, it is about us." Dan Partland, Director/Producer, July 27, 2020

KEY CREDITS

Director: Dan Partland, Producers: Art Horan & Dan Partland
Editor: Scott Evans, Music: Tree Adams
Animation: Allen Mezquida, Co-Producer: Scott Evans
Executive Producer: Jason Dreyer
Website: www.unfitfilm.com
Release Date: Starting August 28

The Duty to Warn Coalition - Mental Health Experts

The Duty To Warn Coalition is an association of mental health professionals and other concerned citizens who conclude and advocate that Donald Trump is psychologically unfit. The coalition is of professionals from psychiatry, psychology, medicine, public health, public policy, and social work.

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

"P.S. BURN THIS LETTER PLEASE"

World Premiere - 2020 Tribeca Film Festival Official Selection - 2020 OutFest

"P.S. BURN THIS LETTER PLEASE" reconstructs the pre-Stonewall (New York) era.



A box of letters, held in secret for nearly 60 years, ignites a 5-year exploration into a part of LGBT history that has never been told. The letters, written in the 1950s by a group of New York City drag queens, open a window into a forgotten world where being yourself meant breaking the law and where the penalties for "masquerading" as a woman were swift and severe. Using original interviews, never-before-seen archival footage and photographs and stylized recreations, "P.S. BURN THIS LETTER PLEASE" reconstructs this pre-Stonewall era as Lennie, Robbie, George, Michael, Jim, Henry, Claude, Tish and Terry-former drag queens now in their 80s and 90s-reveal how they survived and somehow flourished at a time when drag queens were both revered and reviled, even within the gay community. The government sought to destroy them, then history tried to erase them, now they get to tell their story for the first time. The drive-in screening takes place on Saturday August 29th at 8:00 PM at the Calamigos Ranch & Resort, Malibu Hills, California. For more information, visit psburnthisletterplease.com

Key Credits

Michael Seligman & Jennifer Tiexiera: Directors
Craig Olsen: Producer
Richard Konigsberg: Executive Producer
Run Time: 1 Hour 40 Minutes
Website: psburnthisletterplease.com
Facebook: @psburnthisletterplease
Instagram: @psburnthisletterplease



Emraan Hashmi to star in a comedy titled Sab First Class Hai

Call it a coincidence or a calculated move, but Emraan Hashmi has maintained a distance from comedies despite his knack for exploring different subjects.

Now, as Bollywood is heading back to work, the actor has greenlit his first laugh riot, Sab First Class Hai.

The film — to be directed by Balwinder Singh Janjua who previously developed the script of Saand Ki Aankh (2019) and Mubarakan (2017) — narrates how the common man sometimes goes beyond his means to fulfil his aspirations.

Hashmi, who has given us everyday heroes in Shanghai (2012) and Tigers (2018), believes Sab First Class Hai studies greed and its intrinsic association with class disparities, through the lens of humour.

"The film is a hilarious yet sensitive story about how the protagonist can go to any length to fulfil his needs.

In the bargain, he may lose his family, his standing in society, and gets caught in a situation he cannot find his way out of. Balwinder's script is a laugh riot, but has its poignant moments as well," explains the actor, adding that he came on board right after the first narration.

ARRIVING JAN 2021: VIRAT, ANUSHKA SHARMA ANNOUNCE PREGNANCY

Congratulations are in order for cricketer Virat Kohli and actor Anushka Sharma! The couple is expecting its first child in January 2021. Anushka announced the news of her pregnancy in an Instagram post, in which she is seen flaunting her baby bump as she stands next to Virat. "And then, we were three! Arriving Jan 2021," she wrote.

Several of Anushka's colleagues from the film industry congratulated her. Alia Bhatt, Varun Dhawan and Dia Mirza dropped heart emojis in the comments section. "Congratsssss stunners," Parineeti Chopra wrote. Other stars including Taapsee Pannu, Sanya Malhotra, Kiara Advani and Pooja Hegde also sent congratulatory messages. People from the sports fraternity, including KL Rahul and Sania Mirza, also wished her.

After being in a relationship for many years, Virat and Anushka tied the knot in a low-key ceremony in Italy in December 2017. In an earlier Instagram live with football star Sunil Chhetri, the cricketer admitted that he never formally proposed to her. He said, "What Anushka said is completely true, we never felt like we needed to do that, we knew that we were going to marry each other, there were no doubts about it ever. So once we knew that everything is going smooth, we were super excited to start our life together. And organically things went on."

Recently, Virat and Anushka took a fun quiz on Instagram to test each other's knowledge about their respective professions. They also answered questions about how well they know each other.

On the work front, Anushka was last seen on the big screen in Aanand L Rai's Zero and has not yet signed her next project as an actor. However, she has had her hands full with her production ventures, including the recently released Amazon Prime Video series Paatal Lok and Netflix film Bulbbul.



Saif Ali Khan announces autobiography

Actor Saif Ali Khan just announced his new venture and Twitter went into overdrive. No, we aren't talking about a new film but his autobiography. The 50-year-old actor is all set to unveil his autobiography in October 2021, which will be published by Harper Collins India, reported news agency PTI. Saif's autobiography is said to be a no-filter account of the actor's personal and professional life, touching upon his family, home, career highs and lows and his love for films. "So many things have changed and will be lost with time if we don't record them. It would be nice to look back; to remember and to record," Saif said in a statement, reported PTI. Describing his new venture as a "selfish endeavour", Saif added: "It has been funny and moving, and I must say, this is quite a selfish endeavour. I do hope others enjoy the book, too, of course."

Meanwhile, Twitter reacted to Saif Ali Khan's autobiography announcement with memes, making references to his star lineage, his struggle and the



nepotism debate. "#SaifAliKhan" found a top spot on Twitter trends on Tuesday.

However, those who are looking forward to Saif Ali Khan's autobiography, defended the actor on Twitter, putting forward this arguments like these: "He experiments with wonderful movies instead of playing safe & being a "star". He's one of the best actors and his movie choices show that."

Arre, aunty kisko bola? Neena Gupta is 'The Bomb' in new Masaba Masaba song

Is there anything that Neena Gupta can't do when it comes to entertainment? Well, the reason we brought this up today is because a new song from her daughter and fashion designer Masaba Gupta's upcoming web-series Masaba Masaba released on Tuesday and we are in love with it.

The song titled Aunty Kisko Bola begins with Mithila Palkar saying, "Just get out of the way, aunty," which acts as a trigger. What follows is a video as vibrant as Neena Gupta's personality. From saree to sun dress, and shimmery skirts and blazers, Neena Gupta carries all the outfits with utmost ease and style while she schools Mithila Palkar for addressing her with the 'A' word, in the song.

Sharing the video of Aunty Kisko Bola, Masaba Gupta wrote: "Who says item songs have an age limit? Khud hi dekh lo." Meanwhile, Neena Gupta wrote this in the caption: "Aunty bulao, magar pyaar se. Nahin toh..."

Masaba Masaba is slated to release on August 28 on streaming giant Netflix. The semi-fictionalised show is inspired by the lives of Masaba Gupta and her actress-mother Neena Gupta. It has been directed by Sonam Nair and has been produced by Ashvini Yardi.





Claudia Schiffer turns 50

Happy birthday to Claudia Schiffer who, at 50 has rightfully earned the title of legendary supermodel. Along with fellow OG supers such as Naomi Campbell, Linda Evangelista, and Cindy Crawford, the German beauty rose to fame as one of the most popular faces of the '90s, and has continued to dominate catwalks and magazine covers ever since. (She's been on the cover of American Vogue 16 times alone.) So, it's no surprise that when it came time to celebrate her milestone birthday today, she would also do it in epic style. It's in her DNA!

Posting her glamorous birthday fit this morning, Schiffer blew out the candles on her tiered confection wearing an equally-delicious Balmain gown. "Thank you @olivier_rousteing for my beautiful @balmain birthday dress," she wrote in the post's caption. "I love it." The lacy blue look was custom-made for her by Rousteing himself, and styled by Lucie McCullin. It perfectly exemplifies the blonde bombshell vibe that Schiffer has embodied since first bursting onto the modeling scene.

GERARD BUTLER AND MORGAN BROWN PART WAYS AFTER DATING FOR MORE THAN 6 YRS

According to recent reports by People magazine, Gerard Butler and his longtime love Morgan Brown have split after over six years together, on and off. While the reason behind the break up is unclear at the time, stay tuned as we learn more. The pair were first linked back in 2014 when the 50-year-old actor and the real estate developer were first seen together. They reportedly broke up once back in 2016 but reunited in 2017.

Gerard and Morgan isn't the only couple who recently broke up. In July, Armie Hammer and Elizabeth Chambers also announced that they have decided to split up after 10 years of marriage. In a statement shared to their respective Instagram accounts, alongside a throwback photo of the pair, the actor and chef stated they've decided to separate. "Thirteen years as best friends, soulmates, partners and then parents," they said. "It has been an incredible journey, but together, we've decided to turn the page and move on from our marriage. As we enter into this next chapter, our children and relationship as co-parents and dear friends will remain our priority."

They continued, "We understand this news lends itself to public dialogue, but in the interest of our children and our family, we're asking for privacy, compassion and love during this time." During their 13-year-relationship, the celebrities welcomed their daughter Harper Grace, 5, and son Ford Douglas Armand, 3.



Britney Spears' sister Jamie Lynn named trustee of singer's fortune

Sisterly support. Jamie Lynn Spears is set to inherit her sister, Britney Spears' fortune in the event that the "Toxic" singer passes away.

Jamie Lynn, 29, has been named the trustee of Britney's SJB Revocable Trust, according to court documents obtained by Us Weekly on Tuesday, August 25.

The docs state that the trust was amended in 2018 to have the Zoey 101 alum listed as "trustee" for her sister's fortune. It was signed off on by the "...Baby One More Time" singer's co-conservators at the time, Andrew Wallet and the girls' father, Jamie Spears.

The papers explain that while Britney, 38, is living, she is the "sole beneficiary" of the SJB Trust, which was set up by the musician in 2004 to protect her children's financial future and her fortune.

When Britney dies, Jamie Lynn will receive "the entire principal of the Trust, including all accrued and undistributed and unrealized income," according to the docs. That income will be combined with "any insurance on the settlor's life or other assets payable to the Trust as a result of settlor's death [and will be distributed by the Trustee to the trustee or co-trustee of the BJS Kids & Family Trust."



MY MARRIAGE WITH CHRIS HEMSWORTH IS 'CONSTANT WORK': ELSA PATAKY

Just like any other couple, Elsa Pataky and Chris Hemsworth have experienced bumps in their nearly decade-long marriage. "It's funny that people think of us as a perfect couple," the Spanish model and actress, 44, said in an issue of Australia's Body + Soul released on Sunday, August 23. "No way. It's been ups and downs, and we still keep working at the relationship."

Pataky added, "I think a relationship is constant work. It's not easy. I always try to see the positives of things."

Pataky met the 37-year-old Avengers: Endgame actor in 2010. That December, the couple tied the knot in Hemsworth's native Australia over Christmas weekend. The pair now share daughter India, 8, and 6-year-old twin sons Sasha and Tristan.



CORONAVIRUS VACCINE EFFORTS THE WORLD OVER

The search to find a vaccine for the coronavirus is well underway. Governments and researchers are aiming to provide billions of people with immunity in eighteen months or less, which would be unprecedented

A global effort is underway to develop and mass-produce an effective vaccine to counter the new, deadly, and highly infectious coronavirus disease, COVID-19. Many governments have warned that daily life cannot return to normal until their populations have built up antibodies to fend off the virus. Accelerated clinical trials are already underway, but vaccine development often takes years.

Developing a successful vaccine is not enough. Many countries also face the looming challenge of producing quantities necessary to provide immunity to all their citizens, and competition is growing over who will have access once a vaccine is ready.

What is the status of COVID-19 vaccine?

There are more than one hundred vaccines in preclinical development by pharmaceutical companies, academic institutions, government agencies, and others. More than seventy of these are being tracked by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Tens of vaccine candidates, across more than a dozen countries, are already undergoing clinical trials.

More than half of these potential vaccines are being developed by firms and research groups in China and the United States. The first human trial in the United States began in Seattle in March with a vaccine by Moderna Inc., which is now undergoing large-scale trials involving tens of thousands of participants. Other U.S.-based candidates include ones by pharmaceutical giants Johnson & Johnson, Merck, and Pfizer. In China, Beijing has already approved one of its vaccine candidates for limited use by the military. Russia also approved a vaccine—to be initially distributed to vulnerable groups—after testing it in fewer than one hundred people, drawing censure from scientists around the globe.

Additionally, several candidates each are being developed in Australia, Germany, and the United Kingdom. The UK's University of Oxford and British-Swedish company AstraZeneca are working on a vaccine that's already in large-scale trials in Brazil, South Africa, and the United States. While several of these candidates are already spurring hope, experts warn that it's too early to determine which, if any, will be successful on a large scale.

Who is involved?

Vaccines are frequently collaborative efforts across sectors of society, with private pharmaceutical firms teaming up with public health agencies or university labs. For instance, a recently approved Ebola vaccine was ultimately developed by multinational pharmaceutical company Merck but also involved Canadian and U.S. public health agencies, a tiny Iowa-based biotech firm, U.S. Defense Department researchers, and the WHO. Here are snapshots of



CAN A VACCINE END THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC?

Public officials worldwide have stressed that the pandemic likely will not end until there is an effective vaccine. Even after a vaccine is approved, however, there remains the tremendous challenge of producing enough of it for the world's population. An estimated one billion doses would need to be manufactured just to vaccinate workers in health care and other essential industries globally, and that is if only a single dose is required for each person.

This task has both motivated countries to prepare for large-scale production, as well as pitted them against one another amid fears of a potentially limited vaccine supply. While Brazil, China, and India all have large vaccine industries, they also have among the largest populations, and they could reserve their vaccine supplies for their own citizens before opening them up to others. Some countries are seeking to strike monopoly agreements with vaccine manufacturers to avoid domestic shortages. Brazil, the United States, and the European Union have all struck deals with AstraZeneca for hundreds of millions of doses of the University of Oxford

some of the major players in the COVID-19 vaccine search.

The WHO and other multilateral institutions such as the World Bank are focused on financing and manufacturing a COVID-19 vaccine for global use, in particular to ensure fair allocation among all countries. Also at the forefront of multilateral efforts is the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), a global alliance that was founded by Norway, India, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the UK-based Wellcome Trust, and the World Economic Forum. Gavi, the Vaccine

vaccine. Experts including CFR's Bollyky have warned that bidding wars over a vaccine will lead to inequitable distribution and, ultimately, fail to eliminate the risk of new outbreaks.

Can vaccine development be sped up?

Many experts say that the timeline of twelve to eighteen months stated by U.S. officials for a COVID-19 vaccine is extremely optimistic. Under normal circumstances, during which the stages of vaccine development occur sequentially, a vaccine on average takes eight to fifteen years to get from the lab into the hands of health-care providers. The fastest a vaccine has ever been developed is five years. Amid this pandemic, however, researchers around the globe are accelerating the process for COVID-19 by carrying out stages of development simultaneously and by looking to new vaccine technologies. "What's different in this context is that you have such an enormous global effort being undertaken," says CFR's Thomas J. Bollyky. "Any entity working in this field broadly is pursuing a COVID-19 vaccine."

Alliance—also founded by the Gates Foundation—is a public-private partnership focused on improving vaccine access for lower-income countries. In June, the WHO, CEPI, and Gavi launched COVAX, a global initiative seeking more than \$18 billion in funding to procure two billion doses of a vaccine by the end of 2021.

The pharmaceutical industry is driving much of the push toward a vaccine. Companies ranging from biotech start-ups to giants such as Johnson & Johnson and China-based Sinopharm have rapidly shifted their

research and development (R&D) efforts to focus on COVID-19. While early research into a vaccine candidate typically receives government funding, such as NIH grants in the case of the United States, the bulk of financing for clinical development generally comes from private sources.

Many of the COVID-19 vaccine candidates involve a university or college assisting in preclinical research or clinical trials. In the case of the University of Oxford's candidate, the research team was already working on vaccines for an unknown disease that could cause a pandemic; then, in January, the group zeroed in on COVID-19. The Gates Foundation has been the leading nonprofit funding COVID-19 vaccine efforts.

How is a vaccine developed?

There are many stages involved in the development and production of a vaccine, from initial academic research to distribution to hospitals and doctor's offices.

Clinical trials are crucial indicators of whether a vaccine is effective. Potential vaccines, as with other drugs, are commonly tested in animals first. Human trials are broken up into three phases, progressively increasing the number of volunteers. If a vaccine candidate appears to be ineffective, has harmful side effects, or is too similar to existing vaccines, it won't move on. Trials are often carried out "blind," by which some groups are administered the vaccine and some receive a placebo.

If a vaccine candidate is considered successful in human trials, the developers can seek approval by a national regulatory agency, such as the FDA or the European Medicines Agency. In the United States, less than 10 percent of all drugs that go into clinical trials make it past this part of the process. In the case of the new coronavirus, the FDA has said that a vaccine would need to prevent or reduce the severity of COVID-19 in at least 50 percent of patients to be approved. Additionally, while the WHO does not approve drugs, the vaccine maker can request prequalification by the WHO—a process to determine quality assurance. Many low- and middle-income countries rely on WHO prequalification when buying medicines. Finally, the vaccine must be approved by national regulators in other countries to be distributed abroad.

Following approval, the vaccine can be manufactured for broad use. However, with the need for billions of doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, experts warn that many more production plants will be needed to fulfill the global demand. COVAX estimated it will require \$5.3 billion to scale up vaccine manufacturing, including by building specialized production plants. The U.S. Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), part of HHS, has also pledged to help scale up manufacturing in the United States.

SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT'S DEATH STILL A MYSTERY

Sushant Singh Rajput, 34, was found dead in his Bandra apartment in Mumbai on June 14.

His death was initially declared a suicide, but his fans found several things amiss. So, there were conspiracy theories. These conspiracy theories stayed on social media till July 25, when Sushant's father KK Singh filed a complaint with the Rajiv Nagar Police Station in Patna, Bihar. An FIR was registered against the late actor's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty, her family, her manager Shruti Modi, and friend Samuel Miranda.

That the case is such a mess has its roots in the way it all began. The Mumbai Police declared it a suicide while registering a case of accidental death. Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh went on record saying Sushant Singh Rajput killed himself because he was depressed.

The death became a mental health issue till the same police began well-publicised questioning of big Bollywood figures one after the other. That gave credence to the allegations that Sushant died because of professional boycott by the industry's biggest studios and superstars.

The crime scene and contradicting statements about the state his body was found in did the rest. A police video from the scene of the incident had an officer saying if the video gets leaked, it will spoil our investigation. There is still a lot of confusion about what all were recovered from his room. The unexplained injuries and allegations of a broken leg added fuel to the murder theory. That the flat was emptied out days later led to accusations of compromising the 'crime scene'.

The presence and absence of collection of fingerprints on the things he used last, the fingerprints on the door and other stuff in the room have also come under the scanner. From a simple case of a suicide, the accidental death, has become a murder mystery and a mess that only Mumbai Police can clean.

FIR against Rhea Chakraborty over drug probe

The Narcotics Control Bureau has registered an FIR against Rhea Chakraborty and others after reports emerged that drugs were supplied to her and the late actor.

The case was registered under sections 20, 22, 27 and 29 of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, which makes possessing, selling of drugs a crime.

The other people named in the FIR are: Rhea's brother Showik, her talent manager Jaya Saha, Sushant Singh Rajput's former manager Shruti Modi and Gaurav Arya.

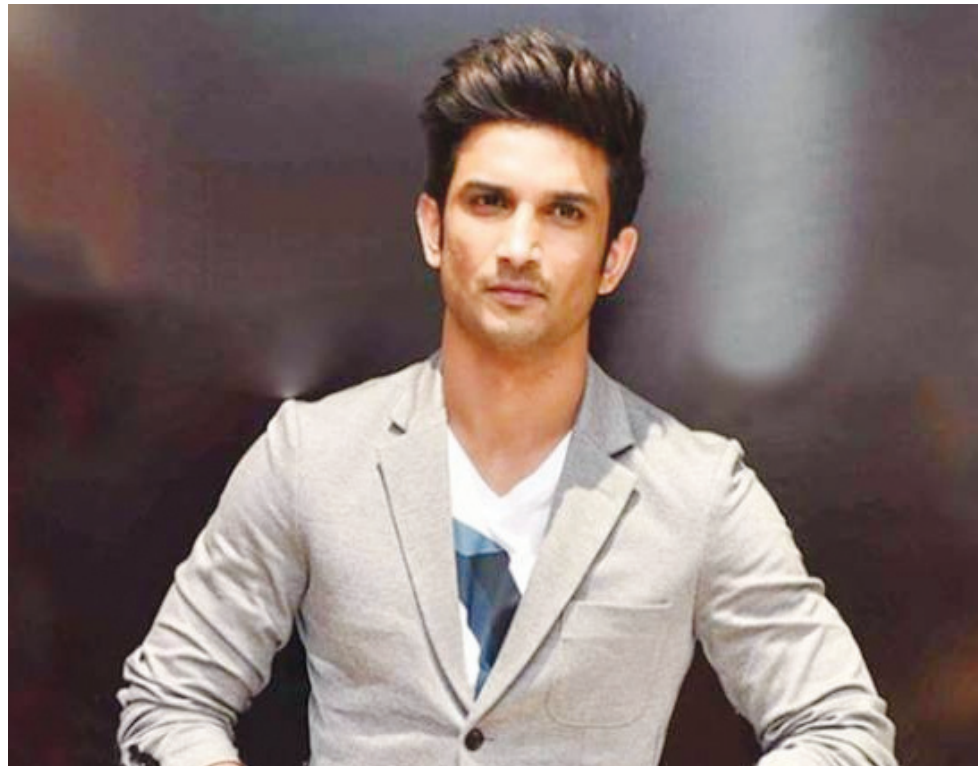
The NCB is the latest agency to be drawn into the case, which is already being investigated by the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate.

The FIR was filed after the Enforcement Directorate sent a letter to the NCB asking the agency to join the probe.

Rakesh Asthana, the NCB director, confirmed that an FIR was filed.

"We received a letter from the ED on Tuesday evening stating that during their probe into financial aspects they found that drugs were supplied to Rhea and Sushant. An NCB team will now conduct an inquiry and people involved will be questioned," said Asthana.

The NCB has been roped in by the ED



A TIMELINE OF EVENTS

JUN 14, 2020: Rajput, 34, found hanging from the ceiling of his apartment in suburban Bandra in Mumbai. Mumbai police start inquest proceedings under CrPC to ascertain the cause of unnatural death.

JUN 18: Rajput's purported girlfriend and actress Rhea Chakraborty records her statement before Mumbai Police.

JUL 6: Filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali records statement in the case.

JUL 18: Filmmaker and Yash Raj Films (YRF) chairman Aditya Chopra records his statement with Mumbai Police.

JUL 25: Rajput's father K K Singh lodges an FIR in Patna for several offences including abetment of suicide against Rhea and her family members.

JUL 27: Mumbai Police records filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt's statement.

JUL 29: Rhea moves SC seeking transfer of the FIR in from Patna to Mumbai.

JUL 31: ED says it has filed a money

laundering case in the matter.

AUG 4: Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar says the state government has recommended CBI investigation in the matter. Mumbai Police Commissioner says 54 persons in all have recorded their statements in the case.

AUG 6: CBI says it has lodged an FIR in the matter.

AUG 7: Centre moves SC seeking to be made a party in Rhea's plea.

AUG 8: Rajput's father K K Singh moves SC, opposing Rhea's plea.

AUG 10: Rhea moves fresh plea before SC alleging media trial.

AUG 11: Maharashtra govt tells SC that Bihar Police lacks jurisdiction. SC reserves judgement on Rhea's plea.

AUG 19: SC upholds transfer of the Patna FIR to the CBI in the case

AUG 26: NCB Books Rhea Chakraborty, 2 Others in NDPS Case, Actor to Go Through Blood Test.

AUG 28: Rhea's 'tell-all' interview to a news channel stirs controversy

to probe if drugs were supplied to Rhea Chakraborty and Sushant Singh Rajput.

ED sources said that during their questioning of Jaya Saha, Rhea's talent manager, they found some conversation between them about drugs.

However, none of the three agencies provided any details into the form of drug or if it was consumed by any of the persons involved in the case. Satish Maneshinde, senior counsel and Rhea's lawyer, said, "Rhea has never consumed drugs in her lifetime. She's ready for a blood test any time."

On day 6 of the probe, the CBI continued to question the late actor's cook Neeraj Singh, roommate and creative manager Siddharth Pithani at the DRDO guest house in Santacruz (East).

The ED is searching the the lockers

owned by Rhea Chakraborty's family

The Enforcement Directorate is currently going through the lockers belonging to Rhea Chakraborty's family. According to Times Now they are scanning all the things in the locker and checking if everything in it is accounted for. According to senior NCB sources related to the probe, the agency has prepared the list of 20 suspects over supply of drugs in the case including Gaurav Arya, Suved Lohia, Kwan Entertainment partner Jaya Saha, ex-Big Boss contestant Ejaz Khan, Farookh Batata, and Bakul Chandani, among others.

CBI grills Siddharth Pithani and two others

The Central Bureau of Investigation

Rhea Chakraborty, 28, has been grilled twice in this case by the ED and her statement recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Besides, she has been booked by the Narcotics Control Bureau.

According to officials, the NCB investigation was launched after the Enforcement Directorate alerted them about purported WhatsApp conversations between Chakraborty and others regarding cannabidiol, LSD, MDMA and marijuana.

(CBI) probe is in full swing and on Wednesday, the premier agency questioned late actor's flatmate Siddharth Pithani and two others for over 13 hours.

Siddharth, cook Neeraj, and the watchman of the building where Sushant stayed were spotted leaving the DRDO guest house where the CBI quizzed them for 13 long hours. In fact, on Tuesday as well, the Pithani, Neeraj and Deepesh Sawant were interrogated for nearly 14 hours.

Meanwhile, sources suggest soon Sandip Ssingh - the filmmaker and self-proclaimed friend of Sushant can be summoned by the CBI for the probe. Sandip's call details have revealed that he was not in touch with Sushant for the longest time.

However, Sandip's constant phone call exchange with the ambulance driver and who took Sushant's body to Cooper hospital and investigating officer Bhushan Belnekar is under the scanner.

Reportedly, Sushant's family has alleged that when due to coronavirus outbreak only 20 people were allowed inside the crematorium for last rites, Sandip took charge to prepare the list of 20 people who would come. Sushant's family's approval was not taken.

France: Lebanon risks collapse post explosion

PARIS (TIP): Lebanon is in such a deep political and economic crisis that the country risks collapsing altogether, France's foreign minister said on Thursday.

Lebanon's government resigned amid accusations of entrenched corruption and negligence after the August 4 explosion that killed nearly 200 persons and devastated entire districts of Beirut.

"This country is on the brink," Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said on RTL radio, citing growing poverty, unemployment and inflation. "The risk today is the disappearance of Lebanon" if it doesn't urgently form a government and institute reforms.

Next week, French President Emmanuel Macron is taking a three-day trip to Lebanon, a former French protectorate. He will offer French support after the devastating port explosion earlier this month, but also ensure that millions in international aid is going to those who need it. AP

Moscow announces advanced trials for new COVID-19 vaccine

MOSCOW (TIP): The mayor of Moscow invited residents Wednesday to join trials of a coronavirus vaccine that Russia approved for use earlier this month in what officials described as a breakthrough on par with the Soviet Union's launch of the world's first satellite in 1957.

The world's first vaccine against the coronavirus to receive a government go-ahead has caused unease among international medical experts, who called Russia's fast-tracked approval and failure to share any data supporting claims of the vaccine's efficacy a major breach of scientific protocol.

Scientists around the world say any widely-used vaccine should first be tested in advanced trials involving tens of thousands of people to prove it is safe and effective before being licensed.

In his invitation to the Russian capital's residents, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin appeared to announce those kind of broad studies would be launched soon. He said the "post-registration research" will last six months and involve 40,000 people.

Sobyenin encouraged Moscow residents to sign up, arguing that the vaccine was based on longtime previous research and proven to be safe.

"We all were eager to see the creation of a vaccine, and now we have it," Sobyenin said.

"Now, Moscow residents have a unique chance to become the main participants in clinical research that will help defeat the coronavirus."

Scientists at the World Health Organization said last week that although they had begun discussions with Russia about its vaccine, they had not yet received any detailed data about it. AP

South African President grilled over COVID-19 graft scandals

JOHANNESBURG (TIP): South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Thursday faced tough questioning by lawmakers over COVID-19 corruption scandals, days after he asked ruling party members to refrain from stealing money meant for the poor.

Many South Africans have been dismayed to see the country's widespread graft problem infiltrate efforts to stop the spread of the coronavirus. South Africa has the world's fifth largest virus caseload with more than 600,000 confirmed infections.

Ramaphosa promised to overhaul the government's procurement system, which he said was vulnerable to corruption. "Clearly, this COVID moment has given us the opportunity" for change, he said, promising "a much more effective" system.

It was his first question-and-answer session with lawmakers since corruption allegations were leveled against high-ranking officials in the government and the ruling African National Congress party.

Graft claims related to the country's \$26 billion social relief package for the pandemic, which included the purchase of large amounts of personal protective equipment, have rocked the country. Ramaphosa's own spokeswoman, Khusela Diko, was placed on leave due to the allegations.

The provincial health minister of the



country's economic hub, Gauteng province, Bandile Masuku, also has been placed on leave after being linked to corruption claims.

The leader of the official opposition, the liberal Democratic Alliance party, criticised Ramaphosa for allowing the former mayor of eThekweni municipality, Zandile Gumede, to be appointed as a provincial lawmaker despite facing corruption charges.

Ramaphosa has been accused of being soft on corruption amid concerns that implicating too many senior leaders of the ANC could split the ruling party.

The President said the matters of the former mayor and his spokeswoman are being investigated by the relevant

entities, which will advise him on the appropriate action to take.

Having secured the presidency on an anti-corruption ticket after predecessor Jacob Zuma was pressured to resign amid multiple scandals in 2018, Ramaphosa has been under pressure to show that his government is taking a tough stance on the scourge.

This week his letter to ANC party members cited "clear progress" since the election, but he scolded: "Today, the ANC and its leaders stand accused of corruption. The ANC may not stand alone in the dock, but it does stand as accused No 1."

Leftist opposition party leader Julius Malema called on Ramaphosa to scrap the current procurement system and establish special courts that would deal with corruption cases, following the model that was used to prosecute crimes committed during the 2010 FIFA World Cup that was held in South Africa.

Corruption cases would be dealt with swiftly under that model, Malema said.

The COVID-19 corruption scandals dominated Thursday's session with lawmakers, but Ramaphosa also was taken to task over the scourge of gender-based violence in South Africa and the country's dire economic situation.

South Africa slipped into recession before the pandemic lockdown that started in March, and its unemployment rate is now above 30 per cent. AP

New Zealand judge sentences mosque shooter to life in prison, no parole, for "wicked crimes"

WELLINGTON (TIP): A New Zealand court sentenced a man who killed 51 Muslim worshippers in the country's deadliest shooting to life in prison without parole, the first time such a sentence has been handed down in the country.

White supremacist Brenton Tarrant, a 29-year-old Australian, admitted to 51 charges of murder, 40 counts of attempted murder and one charge of committing a terrorist act during the 2019 shooting rampage at two Christchurch mosques which he live-streamed on Facebook.

High Court Judge Cameron Mander said in Christchurch on Thursday that a finite term would not be sufficient.

"Your crimes, however, are so wicked that even if you are detained until you die it will not exhaust the requirements of punishment and denunciation," said Mander in handing down the sentence.

"As far as I can discern, you are empty of any empathy for your victims," he said.

Tarrant, dressed in grey prison clothes and surrounded by guards, did not react to the sentence.

Prosecutors told the court earlier that Tarrant wanted to instil fear in those he described as invaders and that he carefully planned the attacks to cause maximum carnage.



"Today the legal procedures for this heinous crime has been done. No punishment will bring our loved ones back," said Gamal Fouda, the Imam of Al Noor mosque which was targeted.

"Extremists are all the same. Whether they use religions, nationalism or any other ideology. All extremists, they represent hate. but we are here today. We respect love, compassion, Muslim and non-Muslim people of faith and no faith." Tarrant, who represented himself during the hearings but did not make submissions, said through a lawyer in court on Thursday that he did not oppose the prosecution's application for a life without parole sentence.

"The hatred that lies at the heart of your hostility to particular members of the community that you came to this country to murder has no place here - it has no place anywhere," Mander said.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said

she was relieved that "that person will never see the light of day". "The trauma of March 15 is not easily healed but today I hope is the last where we have any cause to hear or utter the name of the terrorist behind it. His deserves to be a lifetime of complete and utter silence," she said. Ardern praised survivors and families of the victims who gave emotionally-charged statements in court this week, calling for Tarrant to be sentenced to life without parole.

"I want to acknowledge the strength of our Muslim community who shared their words in court over the past few days," she said. "You relived the horrific events of March 15 to chronicle what happened that day and the pain it has left behind." "Nothing will take the pain away but I hope you felt the arms of New Zealand around you through this whole process, and I hope you continue to feel that through all the days that follow."

The judge asked Tarrant before handing down the sentence if he had any comment. Tarrant just nodded when asked if he was aware he had the right to make submissions, but he did not speak.

Before Tarrant, triple-murderer William Bell was serving the longest sentence in New Zealand with a minimum non-parole prison term of 30 years for his 2001 crimes. AP

Russia: No signs of crime in Navalny coma case so far

MOSCOW (TIP): Russian authorities said on Thursday they have found no indication so far that opposition leader Alexei Navalny's coma, which his allies and German doctors treating him believe may have been brought about by poisoning, was caused by a criminal act.

A preliminary inquiry launched last week hasn't found any indication of "deliberate criminal acts committed against" Navalny, Russia's Prosecutor General's office said.

The statement comes amid growing pressure from the West to investigate the sudden illness of the Kremlin's fiercest critic and authorities' apparent reluctance to do so.

Navalny, an opposition politician and corruption investigator who is a longtime foe of President Vladimir Putin, fell ill on a flight back to Moscow from Siberia on Aug. 20 and was taken to a hospital in the Siberian city of Omsk after the plane made an emergency landing.

Over the weekend, he was transferred to the Charité hospital in Berlin, where doctors found indications of "cholinesterase inhibitors" in his system. They are yet to identify a specific substance. Found in some drugs, pesticides and chemical nerve agents, cholinesterase inhibitors act by blocking the breakdown of a key chemical in the body, acetylcholine, which transmits signals between nerve cells.

Navalny's allies insist he was deliberately poisoned and say the Kremlin was behind it, accusations that officials denounced as "empty noise."

The politician's team submitted a request to Russia's Investigative



Committee, demanding authorities launch a criminal probe on charges of an attempt on the life of a public figure last week, but said they received no response.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday he saw no grounds for a criminal case until the cause of the politician's condition was fully established.

On Thursday, Russian police said they have been conducting a preliminary probe — an inquiry to determine whether a criminal investigation should be launched — to "establish all the circumstances of the incident."

The announcement about the inquiry came after multiple Western and European officials — including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo — called upon Russia to start a full and transparent investigation into Navalny's condition.

On Wednesday night, the politician's illness was discussed in a phone conversation between Putin and Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte.

According to the Kremlin's readout of the call, Putin pointed out that "premature and unfounded accusations" were unacceptable and underscored Russia's "interest in a thorough and objective investigation of all the circumstances of the incident."

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas on Thursday once again urged Moscow to investigate Navalny's condition.

"We still expect of Moscow that a contribution be made from there to things being cleared up," Maas said in Berlin ahead of a meeting with his counterparts from other European Union countries.

"Otherwise, conjecture and speculation will remain that certainly won't improve relations between Germany and Russia, and also relations between the EU and Russia, but will continue to weigh on them," he said.

Peskov on Thursday refused to comment on Maas' statement and reiterated that there were no grounds for a criminal investigation.

"Nothing has changed in that regard. We still, unfortunately, don't understand what caused the condition the patient is in," Peskov told reporters.

He added that the inquiry announced by the Interior Ministry had started "in the first days" after Navalny fell ill and is routine police work "always carried out in cases like this."

The Prosecutor General's office, in the meantime, said they reached out to Germany with a request to share their findings and clinical evidence of the alleged poisoning, adding that German law enforcement confirmed their "intention to cooperate." — AP

Turkey: France stoking tensions in eastern Mediterranean

ANKARA (TIP): Turkey on Thursday accused France of stoking tensions in the eastern Mediterranean, where NATO allies Turkey and Greece are locked in a stiff standoff over competing claims over offshore energy exploration rights.

The accusation came as European Union foreign ministers were set to meet in Berlin as they try to persuade EU-member Greece and its neighbour Turkey to pull back from the brink of a conflict. The ministers were expected to debate a range of sanctions and other policy options that might convince Turkey to temper its insistence on drilling for energy reserves in disputed parts of the eastern Mediterranean. Germany has engaged in shuttle diplomacy between Athens and Ankara to defuse the tensions, while US President Donald Trump on Wednesday had separate telephone calls with the leaders of Greece and Turkey. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg also said he was in "constant contact" with Greece and Turkey. "My message is that the situation must be resolved in a spirit of allied solidarity and in line with international law," Stoltenberg said as he met German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin. "Dialogue and de-escalation are in everybody's interest." — AP

Europe ready to open schools despite recent surge in cases

PARIS (TIP): A mother and her three children scanned the school supplies in a Paris supermarket, plucking out multicolored fountain pens, crisp notebooks and plenty of masks. Despite resurgent Covid infections, similar scenes are unfolding across Europe as a new school year dawns. AP

Remains dug from Japan mass grave suggest epidemic in 1800s

TOKYO (TIP): Archaeologists have dug up the remains of more than 1,500 people, many of them believed to have died in an epidemic, buried in a 19th-century mass grave while excavating as part of a city development project in Osaka in western Japan. Officials at the Osaka City Cultural Properties Association studying the remains said Wednesday that they believe they are of young people who died in the late 1800s. The Umeda Grave, one of seven historical burial sites in Japan's bustling merchant city of Osaka, was unearthed as part of a redevelopment project near the main train station. The more than 1,500 remains were found during the latest round of excavation that started in September 2019, following an earlier 2016-2017 study that dug up hundreds of similar remains at adjacent locations, according to Yoji Hirata, an official at the association. AP

China fires 'carrier killer' missile in disputed sea



BEIJING (TIP): China's military test-fired two missiles into the South China Sea, including a "carrier killer" military analysts suggest might have been developed to attack US forces, a newspaper reported Thursday.

The DF-26B and DF-21D missiles fired Wednesday targeted an area between the southern island province of Hainan and the Paracel Islands, The South China Morning Post newspaper of Hong Kong reported, citing unidentified sources close to the Chinese military. The ministries of defence and foreign affairs in Beijing didn't immediately respond to requests for confirmation. Disputes over control of the South China Sea,

one of the world's busiest trade routes, are a growing irritant in Beijing's relations with Washington and its southern neighbours. The Trump administration this year rejected most of Beijing's claims to sovereignty over the majority of the disputed sea, portions of which also are claimed by Vietnam, the Philippines and other governments.

Wednesday's launches followed Chinese complaints that a US U2 spy plane entered a "no fly zone" declared by Beijing during a military drill off its northern coast.

The DF-21 is unusually accurate and was dubbed "carrier killer" by military analysts who believe it was developed to target U.S. aircraft carriers that might be involved in a potential conflict with China. Beijing has spent heavily over the past two decades on trying to develop missiles, fighter aircraft, nuclear submarines and other weapons to allow China to expand its military reach beyond its shores.

The DF-26B was launched from the northwestern province of Qinghai while the DF-21D was fired from Zhejiang province south of Shanghai on the east coast, The South China Morning Post said. The DF-26 is believed to be capable of carrying nuclear or conventional warheads. That would violate the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty signed by Washington and Moscow during the Cold War. The Trump administration cited China's development of the DF-26 and similar weapons when it withdrew from the treaty last year. AP

MISTAKES YOU'RE MAKING IN THE SHOWER

Taking a shower that's too hot and too long

There's a fine but important distinction between a warm shower and a hot one.

A hot shower can dry out your skin, cause irritation, and even prematurely age you, so it's best to use tepid water.

We say a tepid shower is best, but the time is more important than the temperature. Frankly, it is also tough to ask people not to use hot water, especially in a stressful time. So limit the shower to 10 minutes or less.

Using the wrong cleanser for your skin

If your skin feels tight after washing, you're using the wrong cleanser.

An effective cleanser for your body will feel gentle and like your skin feeling soft rather than dry. Classic soap bars are going to dry the skin and disrupt the skin barrier – they strip the lipids and proteins and not all liquid cleansers are the same. Your skin shouldn't feel tight after washing.

Using the wrong cleanser can strip your skin of necessary oils and disrupt the skin barrier.



Failing to moisturize afterwards

If you shower, towel dry, and don't apply moisturizer, you could be doing some serious damage to your skin.

Using a moisturizer when your skin is still damp locks in needed moisture to keep your skin from becoming dry or cracked. The best way to preserve your skin barrier is to pick the right cleanser that won't strip the skin and then moisturize to seal it in.

Effective moisturizers use

humectants to pull in moisture, emollients to smooth the surface and provide a silky feel, and an occlusive to lock the moisture in.

Using oil to moisturize instead of lotion

Using just an oil after your shower is better than nothing at all, but it still doesn't do the job of a proper moisturizer, according to Waldorf. While oil holds moisture in, it doesn't do add anything additional.



By Tript Arora

CONNOISSEUR'S CHOICE



PUNJABI KADHI PAKORA

This Punjabi kadhi is the recipe I learnt from my husband's maternal aunt. She was a school teacher in Patiala and whenever she cooked kadhi she had to carry 'dabbas' for all her colleagues. The smoothness of Kadhi and the softness of round pakoras was simply unmatched. She had a little secret of making soft and melting pakoras which I learnt over the years. Today, I am going to share that little secret with all of you. Do try it once and I am sure you will love to cook the same way over and over again.

We need

FOR PAKORAS: 1 Cup Besan (Gram flour), 1 medium Potato Chopped, 1 medium Onion Chopped, 2 Chillies Chopped, ½ Tsp Turmeric Powder, 1 Tsp Red Chilli Powder, 1 Tsp Salt, 1 Tsp Carom Seeds (Ajwain), Oil for frying.

FOR KADHI: 250 gm Sour Curd / 1 Litre of Buttermilk (lassi) either of the two, 3 Tbsp Gram flour (Besan), 1Tsp Turmeric Powder (Haldi), 1 Tsp Red Chilli powder, 1 Tsp Dhania Powder, 1 Tsp Salt, 1 Tsp Mustard Seeds, 1 Tsp Cumin Seeds, ½ Methi Seeds, 1 Tbsp Ginger grated, 2 green chillies chopped, 1 Tbsp Dried Methi Leaves, 2 Tbsp Cooking Oil

FOR TEMPERING: 1 Tbsp Oil, 1 Tbsp Kashmiri Red Chilli Powder.

Here We go

Take Besan in a bowl and add ½ cup of water to it. Start mixing it. Make sure there are no lumps. Beat the batter in circular motion till it is light in colour. It will take 5 min approximately.

Mix Haldi powder, salt, red chilli powder and ajwain into it. Add chopped onions, potato and green chilli to it. Mix everything thoroughly.

Meanwhile, heat oil in a kadhai. Here comes the secret to the soft Pakoras. Add 2 Tbsp of hot oil to the Pakora batter. Mix it thoroughly. The batter should be of dropping consistency.

Reduce the flame to low and Take a little batter in your finger tips and drop it in oil one by one. Now increase the flame to medium and fry all the Pakoras to a golden brown. Don't brown them. Take them out and keep aside.

Take a mixer jar and put curd / lassi in it. Add besan and churn it in a mixer jar till curd and besan are mixed well and there are no lumps. If using curd then add 1litre of water also. If using lassi add 250 ml of water. Keep aside.

Heat oil in a Kadhai. Add jeera, mustard seeds and methi dana to it. When it starts cracking add all the dry Spice powder. Keep the temp at the lowest to avoid burning the spice powders. Immediately add lassi & besan mixture. Also add grated Ginger and green chilli. Keep stirring for two minutes on medium flame. When it starts boiling turn the flame to low. Let it simmer for 20 minutes. Don't cover the pan otherwise the kadhi will spill over. After 20 minutes when the kadhi forms a smooth consistency add Pakoras to it. Let it simmer for another 5 min on low flame. After 5 min add kasuri methi and remove from flame.

Heat desi ghee in a pan. Add Kashmiri chilli powder to it. Put this tempering on kadhi and serve hot with rice, roti and paratha.



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Ways to get rid of dampness and smell from clothes

Every year, around this time, our cupboards start to emanate a foul, musty, damp smell that is usually a result of the monsoon humidity, which sticks to your clothes. This year, the situation could be worse because of the pandemic, and the fact that we have not worn our fancy clothes in a long time. But, there is so much we can do to remedy the situation. If you are looking for simple ways to get rid of the smell so that your wardrobe starts to feel fresh again, consider these simple home remedies.

Vodka

Vodka not only offers to uplift your mood, but also takes care of monsoon dampness. Just take a little bit of the liquid and transfer it into an empty spray container. Add some water to it, so that it gets diluted, and then spritz it directly on clothes. The smell will go away in a jiffy.

Is there anything that lemon juice cannot do? Being acidic in nature, it can wipe out the fungi that cause the musty smell. Just mix lemon juice with water and create a potent and effective cleaning solution. Apply it specifically on the areas that have the odour. Once you are done, just



wipe the surface with soap and water, and you are good to go.

Baking soda

This powder is a must-have in all houses because it can take care of so many of your problems. All you need to do is sprinkle baking soda on the areas that seem moldy to you, and ones that are emanating foul odour.

Vinegar

Another household favourite, vinegar can be used beyond cooking, too. As mentioned earlier, fungi cannot live in acidic conditions, and vinegar provides plenty of it. Pour a little bit of vinegar in areas where you sight mold, and then wash them. This can get rid of unwanted smells.

NAPPING FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR COULD BE BAD FOR YOUR HEART HEALTH

If you're a fan of lengthy daytime naps, you may want to rethink your habit, according to a meta-analysis of research presented at the European Society of Cardiology's annual meeting.

Though only the abstract of the study is currently available, the authors, who are from Guangzhou Medical University in China, shared preliminary findings, which suggested that naps for longer than an hour can increase a person's risk of heart disease and early death.

The researchers looked at 20 previous studies on naps, heart disease, and death risk, including data on 313,651 people, of whom a third (39%) reported taking regular naps.

They concluded that naps of any duration increased a person's risk of death by 19%, and said it could be because participants used naps as replacements for a full night of sleep, which is essential for allover health.

But people who took long naps, of 60 minutes or longer, had the highest risk, they said. According to the study, those people were 30% more likely to suffer premature death, and 34% more likely to develop heart disease, than people who didn't nap at all.

The study's findings build on existing research that suggest long naps can contribute to inflammation, high blood pressure, and diabetes, according to lead study author Dr. Zhe Pan. At the



same time, the results conflict with research that's found naps to improve brain function and lower blood pressure.

There was one nap-positive finding in the new study: short naps in the 30- to 45-minute range could improve a person's heart health.

"The results suggest that shorter naps might improve heart health in people who sleep insufficiently at night," as opposed to longer naps that could increase inflammation and mess with a person's nighttime sleep, Pan said in the release.

Previous research found a 60-minute midday nap can lower a person's blood pressure almost as much as blood-pressure medication can. If a person's blood pressure is

too high, it can lead to a heart attack.

The study did have caveats. Since it was an analysis of previous studies, it's possible other factors like participants' lifestyles, ages, or underlying conditions contributed to the results. Therefore, the study authors can't say there's a direct link between naps and heart disease or death risk.

Other research has found naps to be beneficial to brain function, but it all depends on the duration of the nap and how it's being used.

If a person consistently uses a nap to replace sleep lost during the night, it's likely their midday snooze is detrimental to their health.



Here's how anorexia may stunt young women's growth

Girls with anorexia nervosa (an eating disorder causing people to obsess about weight and what they eat) can have stunted growth and may not reach their full height potential, according to a new study.

The study was published in the *Endocrine Society's Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*.

Anorexia nervosa is a condition in which a person loses an unhealthy amount of weight on purpose by dieting, sometimes along with excessive exercise, binge eating, or purging behaviours. People with anorexia nervosa have an intense fear of gaining weight and a disturbed body image (such as thinking they are fat even when they are very underweight).

"Our findings emphasise the importance of early and intensive intervention aiming at normalization of body weight, which may result in improved growth and allow patients to reach their full height potential," said the study's corresponding author, Dalit Modan-Moses, M.D., of The Edmond and Lily Safra Children's Hospital, Chaim Sheba Medical Center, in Tel Hashomer, Israel.

"We suggest that the height impairment is a marker for other complications of anorexia nervosa affecting the person's overall health in several aspects: bone health, cognitive function, and problems with pregnancy and childbirth later in life. Early diagnosis and treatment could prevent, or at least reduce, the risk of these complications."

The researchers studied 255 girls around 15 years old who were hospitalized for anorexia nervosa. They measured their height at the time of admission, discharge and at adult height and found it was lower than expected. Adult height was significantly shorter than expected when compared to the genetic potential according to the average of the patient's mother and father's heights.

"This study may have implications for the management of malnutrition in adolescents with other chronic diseases in order to achieve optimal adult height and bone health," Modan-Moses said.

Things to deal with gum inflammation

Brush your teeth regularly

Brushing is the most important part of your regular oral hygiene routine and one of the reasons for it is so is because it helps in keeping the inflammation-causing bacteria away. You should brush your teeth twice a day (once before eating breakfast and then after having dinner) with a soft or ultra-bristled toothbrush. Do not brush harshly or else you may end up hurting yourself.

Use floss after brushing

Dental floss is not so commonly used by everyone but it is the best way of cleaning the space between your teeth. Unlike a toothpick, floss would clean the area without harming the gums or the teeth. Regular flossing along with proper brushing can prevent the collection of calculus on teeth, thus keeping the gums healthy.

Get dental scaling done

Dental cleaning or scaling is a non-invasive procedure. It is the



treatment done to clean the excessive build-up of plaque (sticky colourless bacterial deposit on the surface of the tooth) and calculus (hardening of plaque) on teeth. Plaque and calculus pull the gums down and transfer the bacteria inside the gums. Dental scaling is a painless procedure which does not require any anaesthesia. It is done with the help of an ultrasonic scaler that

has blunt scaling tips which work via mechanical vibration along with continuous irrigation with water. One should get dental scaling done in every 6 months.

Add vitamin C in your diet

Yes, vitamin C can improve the immunity of the body but it is also a reservoir of antioxidants. These antioxidants help the gums heal and repair themselves. Regular consumption of vitamin C helps in reducing the bleeding from gums and makes them healthier. You can add vitamin C rich foods such as oranges and lemons in your diet and if that isn't possible, you can take over-the-counter supplements.

Regular dental checkups

Everyone should ideally get their dental check-up done twice a year, irrespective of any dental issues or concerns. This could help your dentist rule out any dental issues such as gum inflammation or tooth cavity at an early stage.

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New Facebook Reality Labs to develop next-gen AR/VR products

The social networking giant has renamed its augmented reality/virtual reality (AR-VR) team as Facebook Reality Labs as the company starts building the next-gen computing platform for deeper immersive experiences.

Previously, Facebook Reality Labs was the name given to its research division, which had historically been known as Oculus Research.

The company on Tuesday announced to organize its annual conference 'Facebook Connect' virtually on September 16 and will be free for everyone to attend.

"Our research teams have helped establish Facebook Reality Labs as a pioneer in the AR/VR space as we work to deliver the next computing platform," said Andrew Bosworth, Head of Facebook Reality Labs.

Microsoft brings real time audio transcription to Word

To help students, journalists and researchers, Microsoft has added an audio transcription feature into Word for the web for Microsoft 365 subscribers that will save time and effort with transcription and voice commands in Word.

The Microsoft 365 users can record conversations directly in Word for the web and transcribe them automatically and transcribe in Office mobile will arrive by the end of the year, the company announced on Tuesday.

Currently, there is a five-hour limit per month for uploaded recordings and each uploaded recording is limited to 200MB.

Transcribe detects different speakers so after you finish recording, you can easily follow the flow of the transcript.

Wireless device makes clean fuel from sunlight, water: Study

Researchers have developed a standalone device that converts sunlight, carbon dioxide and water into a carbon-neutral fuel, without requiring any additional components or electricity.

The device, developed by a team from the University of Cambridge in the UK, is a significant step toward achieving artificial photosynthesis - a process mimicking the ability of plants to convert sunlight into energy.

It is based on an advanced 'photosheet' technology and converts sunlight, carbon dioxide and water into oxygen and formic acid - a storable fuel that can be either be used directly or be converted into hydrogen.

Scientists using locusts to make self-driving cars safer than ever

Engineers have recently discovered how locusts will be able to help make self-driving cars safer. Saptarshi Das, an Assistant Professor of Engineering, Science & Mechanics at Penn State University, and other researchers built their collision detector based on what they learned after examining how locusts avoided bumping into each other.

See, it turns out that locusts aren't just single minded eating machines. They have a single neuron called the lobula giant movement detector (LGMD), according to Monday's issue of the online journal, Nature Electronics. The LGMD is how the short-horned grasshopper prevents itself from getting into a collision with other locusts. Das and his team have built a nanoscale collision detector that works in the same way as the escape response of an LGMD neuron.

Das and his colleagues wrote, "We believe that our in-memory task-specific computing and sensing approach can potentially lead to the development of low-cost, energy- and area-efficient collision avoidance systems for applications in robotics and autonomous vehicle designs."

Collisions detectors aren't something new, but this locust-inspired tech may have them beat. Current detectors within self-driving cars happen to be large and heavy. The molybdenum sulfide-based



photodetector is small and uses only a small amount of energy to complete its specific task.

So how exactly does it work? Well, when a locust spots an incoming locust, the image of the approaching insect becomes larger. When the excitation signal increases, the locust changes its speed and avoids colliding with the other locust.

"Because the neuron has two branches, the locust computes the

changes in these two inputs and realizes that something is going to collide. So the avoiding locust changes direction," said Darsith Jayachandran, Das' team member.

"We are always looking for animals with unusual abilities, ones that do something better than humans. Insect vision is something people use regularly to design automatic systems because they fly and don't collide, but then we found locusts are unique," said Das.

Even Google engineers are confused about Google's privacy settings

Google's privacy settings don't just confuse its users — they confuse its employees too, according to internal documents unsealed in a lawsuit over Google's data collection.

"The current UI feels like it is designed to make things possible, yet difficult enough that people won't figure it out," one Google employee said, according to the heavily redacted documents that were newly unsealed today. The lawsuit was originally filed by Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich in May; the new information in the unsealed documents was first reported on by The Arizona Mirror.

"Even top-level Google employees do not understand under what conditions Google collects location data," Brnovich and his team wrote in the complaint. The Arizona investigation was kicked off by a 2018 Associated Press article showing that Google services will store location data from your Android device or iPhone — even if you "pause" a setting called "Location History." Even with that setting switched off, some Google apps automatically store location, along with a timestamp, anyway.

Google did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the newly-unsealed documents. When the lawsuit was filed in May,



a Google spokesperson told The Verge that "The Attorney General and the contingency fee lawyers filing this lawsuit appear to have mischaracterized our services. We have always built privacy features into our products and provided robust controls for location data. We look forward to setting the record straight."

"A user who thought she had opted out of receiving ads based on her location is wrong on two counts." The outrage over the way Google hid extra location settings in "Web and App activity" — deep in Google account settings — did eventually lead the company to improve how it surfaces its privacy toggles. Small changes over the past couple of years culminated in Google's current policy, which is auto deleting location and search history by default for new users. Current users still need to visit their Activity Controls page to alter their settings.

Google launches faster tabs, cool features in Chrome browser

Google has introduced several features including tabs that load faster and let you organise and find them easily in Chrome browser as you work or study from home.

To start with, Google has made tabs 10 per cent faster in Chrome via under-the-hood performance improvements.

Now the users can collapse and expand tab groups so it's easier to see the ones they need to access.

"If you use Chrome in your laptop's tablet mode, you'll soon have an easier time flipping through your tabs, finding the page you're looking for, and browsing the web," Google said in a statement on Tuesday.

Coming to Chromebooks first, a new touchscreen interface has tabs that are larger and more practical to organise, and hide when people don't need them.

"Rolling out on Android in this release, when you start typing a page title into the address bar, you'll see a suggestion to switch to that tab if you already have it open. You can already do this in Chrome on your laptop," Google informed.

"For Android users, we've improved URL sharing to help you quickly copy a link, send it to Chrome on your other devices, and send links through other apps," Google said.

You can also print the page or generate a QR code to scan or download.

This new QR code feature is also rolling out to Chrome on desktop and can be accessed from a new QR icon in the Chrome address bar.

Coming to Chrome Beta, a new feature will help you hover over a tab and quickly see a thumbnail preview of the page. This feature is useful when you have lots of tabs that look the same.

Google said it is also improving Chrome's PDF functionality.

Over the next few weeks, the users will be able to fill out PDF forms and save them with their inputs, directly from Chrome.

If you open the file again, you can pick up where you left off, said the company.

Accenture to lay off 5% global workforce

Tech giant Accenture is expected to lay off at least 5% of its global workforce due to the Covid-19 crisis, the firm told The Australian Financial Review (AFR).

According to the AFR report on Tuesday, in an internal global staff meeting CEO Julie Sweet said despite cutting subcontractors and halting fresh recruitment, the company still needed to reduce numbers as the pandemic had taken hold.

"In a normal year, we transition out about 5 per cent and we hire to replace them, because we are in a demand scenario," Ms Sweet was quoted as saying in the meeting.

"Right now, we're not in a demand scenario, so if we manage out the same percentage of people and don't replace them, it allows us to continue to invest and preserve some people who have lower chargeability for when the market comes back," she reportedly said at the meeting in mid-August.

Oil holds near five-month high

Oil rose towards \$46 a barrel on Wednesday, near the highest since March, lifted by US producers shutting most of their offshore Gulf of Mexico output ahead of Hurricane Laura and a report showing a drop in US crude inventories.

Renewed worries over the Covid-19 pandemic, which has squeezed demand and sent prices to record lows in April, capped gains after reports this week of patients being re-infected, raising concerns about future immunity. Brent crude rose 2 cents to \$45.88 a barrel by 0815 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate crude fell 3 cents to \$43.32. Both benchmarks settled at a five-month high on Tuesday.

"Oil traders will be preoccupied with the hurricane today," said Tamas Varga of broker PVM. "Once the danger passes, demand considerations will come into focus again."

Moody's affirms SBI's deposit ratings at 'Baa3'

Moody's Investors Service on Tuesday affirmed the long-term local and foreign currency deposit ratings of State Bank of India (SBI) at 'Baa3'.

'Baa' rating indicates moderate credit risk.

However, the global rating agency, in a statement, said it has downgraded SBI's Baseline Credit Assessment (BCA) and adjusted BCA to 'ba2' from 'ba1' on account of concern on asset quality due to moratorium.

The downgrade of SBI's BCA to 'ba2' from 'ba1' reflects Moody's view that the bank's asset quality and profitability will deteriorate, it said. 'ba' indicates substantial credit risk.

Alibaba puts India investment plan on hold amid China tensions

China's Alibaba Group has put on hold plans to invest in Indian companies, two sources aware of the plans told Reuters, amid souring business relations and rising political tension between the two nations after a clash on their Himalayan border.

Alibaba, which has fuelled the growth of several Indian start-ups, will not put in fresh funds to expand its investments in the country for at least six months, the sources said.

However, there are no plans to reduce its stakes or exit investments, they added. The sources declined to be identified as the talks are private.

Alibaba did not respond to a request for comment.

The Chinese conglomerate and its affiliates Alibaba Capital Partners and Ant Group have invested more than \$2 billion in Indian companies since 2015 and participated in funding rounds of at least another \$1.8 billion, according to data from PitchBook, which tracks private market financing.

Hitting the brakes could slow fundraising plans for some of Alibaba's investee companies in India, which include payments platform Paytm, restaurant aggregator and food delivery service Zomato, and e-grocer BigBasket.

Ant Group, which is preparing for an IPO, on Tuesday called out the challenges it faces in India.



In its IPO filing, Ant said a change in foreign investment rules in India had led to a "further evaluation of the timing" of its additional investment in Zomato.

Ant also said it counted Paytm owner One97 Communications, in which it has a 30% stake, as an associate or joint venture partner over which it has "significant influence".

India, in April, put investments from China and other bordering countries under greater scrutiny to prevent

opportunistic takeovers amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, a border clash in June, in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed, escalated tensions, and India imposed stricter curbs on Chinese goods and businesses amid calls for boycotts.

"Alibaba and a few others have put on hold their India investment plans for six months and they are hoping that things would cool off a bit after that," said one of the sources.

Honda goes small with first all-electric car Honda e



As many automakers bet on sedans and SUVs in the switch to electric vehicles (EV), Japan's Honda Motor Co Ltd has decided smaller is better for its first-ever all-battery car.

The Honda e, released in Europe earlier this month, is a compact model meant solely for city driving. That contrasts with Tesla Inc, whose Model 3 sedan dominates the battery EV market, and others such as Audi AG and Hyundai Motor Co that have focused on SUVs with long driving ranges. High battery costs have kept EVs at the premium end of the car market, and many automakers are developing bigger, all-purpose models, some of which can drive as far as 570 kilometres on a single charge.

The Honda e, however, has a

battery capacity roughly half that of the Model 3, driving just 280 kilometres per charge.

"Most EVs use large capacity batteries, but often, much of that capacity goes unused during city driving," said Tomofumi Ichinose, chief engineer of the Honda e, told reporters earlier this week.

"We question whether larger vehicles are appropriate for urban areas, and believe that smaller is a better option for cities."

With a retro, ultra-compact design evoking Honda's classic N360 and N600 models from the 1960s, the two-door Honda e is intended as an upmarket city car, whose price tag of around 33,000 euros (\$39,000) is higher than Renault's Zoe ZE50, which is roomier and has a longer driving range.

Tata plots ambitious e-commerce push to take on Amazon, Reliance

India's Tata Group, the sprawling \$111 billion jewelry-to-salt empire, is getting a huge digital makeover. The conglomerate is building an all-in-one e-commerce app for its swathe of consumer products and services, a person familiar with the matter said. The prototypes, which consolidate all of the group's consumer-facing businesses and existing online assets, are ready and a launch is expected by end-2020 or early next year, the person said, asking not to be identified discussing confidential matter. The Mumbai-based group is stepping up efforts to have a significant presence online in a market where internet users are forecast by Cisco Systems Inc. to reach 900 million by 2023. Almost all of them use smartphones to watch streamed content, shop and pay for purchases.

Tata is also seeking to catch up with rivals such as Amazon.com Inc., Walmart Inc.'s Flipkart and new entrant, billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd., who have unveiled grand plans for India. Reliance just finished raising more than \$20 billion from investors, including Facebook Inc. and Google, for its digital services platform.



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 31 - September 6, 2020

ARIES: Ganesha says another period draws to an end and the phase has an intense pitch to it. The trends are encouraging. There is more work and a lot of love; in all probability there will be many loves to contend with. You will be playing the field. The primary focus of the period will be on relationships, bonds, ties of love and affection. There will be some upheavals at home and your interactions at work will also be vastly different.

TAURUS: Ganesha says you will earn good money and there will also be a lot of entertaining; much of it will be official and you gain from it too. Your children will be a source of joy and the interactions with the elderly at home will be more meaningful, warm, and empathetic. You reach out to others and your focus will widen to include extended family and kin, the community and the neighborhood, perhaps even the world at large.

GEMINI: Ganesha says you look at new ideas to get better results. You are looking at every way to maximize your output. You are on the go breathing fire. The family is happy as all misunderstandings have been sorted out and work has a new momentum. You may have to take extra care of your health though as you have been in an indulgent mood for long and will need discipline.

CANCER: Ganesha says it is a good time to get cracking on a new diet or exercise regimen. You may need to slow down; a short stint at a healing center or health spa may not be a bad idea at all. Do this as a preventive measure. It is better to be safe than sorry. There could be times when you feel a bit depressed or think differently or out of the box. Do not let this bother you as much as it bothers your loved ones. These things will pass. Ganesha assures you of that.

LEO: Ganesha says new ideas take you by storm. You look at meditation and yoga and try to change your lifestyle. You need to lose weight, and the party scene also beckons. There will be marriages in the family and friend circles and, of course, you have to attend. Those in the creative fields will be honored for their outstanding contributions.

VIRGO: Ganesha says despite all the distractions, you shine at the workplace. There is no stopping you. You are inspired and hard working. You not only look for new ways to progress but will also try to identify, improve and streamline your efforts. You do not let go. If employed, your prospects are bright. If on your own, you will be in the throes of major expansion. Ganesha is with you.

LIBRA: Ganesha says you also give expression to your fun side. You want to let your hair down and join your friends for a good time. But you also know that this is the time to look ahead. All your future ambitions, plans and projects will necessitate a load of work to make them happen. There will be collaborations and ties, may be even romantic and / or marital relationships, a fair amount of risk-taking and also substantial travelling.

SCORPIO: Ganesha says there are so many things happening in your life and you are caught up in it like a pigeon in a storm. This period has many challenges and you do well to handle them with purpose and elan. Finance and family are well looked after and there could also be an addition to the family. There are many family gatherings and you bond with relatives whom you haven't met for ages.

SAGITTARIUS: Ganesha says journeys, relationships and acquisitions all conspire to come together, and you are both enthused and happy as you cope well despite your hectic schedule. There will be travel, loans, sex, passion, funds, buying / selling / shopping and reaching out to people. Ganesha says that both professional networking and personal bonding will be equally important in this phase.

CAPRICORN: Ganesha says there are wonderful moments spent with your beloved. This is a great way to end the period. Those who are single may think of taking the plunge. Those already married will have a second or third honeymoon. Those who have recently broken up will find new love. Love is in the air and you enjoy every moment of it. There may be a family holiday too to some exotic locale. The potential is endless.

AQUARIUS: Ganesha says there are many sensitive and emotional moments, and you want to share them with those who matter. Your world is in order and you are relaxed and happy. You decide to have fun and join the party. You are in the mood to wine and dine with your friends, be a happy host, enjoy life, live well and love well. Ganesha blesses you as you step into another period.

PISCES: Ganesha says you realize in moments of contemplation that you need love and the warmth of companionship. It is far more important than success, money and material progress. Your attitudes have changed and you firmly believe that marriage, romance, the joys of wedded bliss are much more your scene than being a high achiever. You have lived for yourself long enough and have had professional success in this material world.

Birthday Horoscope August 31 - September 6, 2020

AUG 31: Ganesha says you might still be feeling some of the exciting spin of last night, but the day also offers you a sense of peace and serenity at home that helps bring the new period in with both hope and enthusiasm.

SEPT 1: You might desire a retreat today from hectic holiday activities before you have to re-enter everyday affairs. If you do, you might find some gratifying inner moments to inspire you.

SEPT 2: The morning's malfunctions hint at the day's

instability. Someone is edgily pressed by a spin of ideas, making decisions that upset intended plans. Don't forget that you've got charm to offset troubles.

SEPT 3: Family plans involving faraway interests or travel are exaggerated or out of whack with what's realistic. Set your sights on a lovely dinner. Others entranced by your charm, lavish you with attention.

SEPT 4: What gets said at home could intensely unearth profound family issues from the past or reveal secret feelings that command resolution to re-establish trust.

Resources and values may be at odds.

SEPT 5: Stern judgement or bitter frustration could result if yesterday's issues weren't resolved. If a child or lover is forcing a blocked financial matter, there's going to be a retributive sting over refusals.

SEPT 6: Take some time to calm down today and restore your positive outlook. Unexpected good moods, happy news, or faith and renewed hope get energy retracked. Take action on it tonight.

ONAM: THE HARVEST FESTIVAL

THE 10-DAY FESTIVAL BEGAN ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 22. THE INDIAN PANORAMA WISHES ITS READERS HAPPY ONAM

Onam, a harvest festival that falls in the months of August/September annually, is celebrated across India and the world, and is main festival among Keralites. According to the Malayali calendar month of Chingam, the festival falls on the 22nd Nakshatra Thiruvonam, and marks the beginning of the Malayalam year, called Kolla Varsham.

The festival begins on the day known as Atham, and ends on the tenth day, known as Thiru Onam or Thiruvonam, also the most auspicious day during the festival of Onam. This year, the celebrations leading up to Onam began on Saturday, August 22 onwards and Thiruvonam will be celebrated on August 31.

Onam festival is celebrated to honour the kind-hearted and much-beloved demon King Mahabali, who is believed to return to Kerala during this festival.

Significance

According to Vaishnava mythology, King Mahabali defeated the Gods and began ruling over all three worlds. King Mahabali was a demon king who belonged to the Asura tribe. The kind-hearted king was much-loved by the people. The Gods got insecure of King Mahabali's popularity and Lord Vishnu to step in and help contain Mahabali.

Lord Vishnu took on his fifth avatar, in the form of the Brahmin dwarf Vamana, and paid a visit to King Mahabali. King Mahabali asked Vamana what he wished for, to which Vamana responded, "three pieces of land". When Vamana was granted his wish, he grew in size and in his first and second pace respectively, he covered the sky, and then the netherworld.

When Lord Vishnu was about to take his third pace, King Mahabali offered his own head to the God. This act impressed Lord Vishnu so much that he granted Mahabali the right to visit his kingdom and people every year during Onam festivities.

Rituals

During the ten-day festivities, devotees bathe, offer prayers, wear traditional clothes - women of the household wear a white and gold saree called the Kasavu saree - participate in dance performances, draw flower rangolis called pookkalam and cook traditional feasts called sadya. Sadya is served on banana leaves during Onam.



The 10-day festivities also see people participating in boat races called Vallam Kali, Tiger dances called Pulikali, worship the God or Onathappan, Tug of War, Thumbi Thullal or women's dance ritual, Mask dance or Kummattikali, Onathallu or martial arts, Onavillu/music, Onapottan (costumes), folk songs among other fun activities.

The traditional feast

The traditional Onam sadya (feast) is a 9-course meal that consists of 26 dishes. It includes Kalan (a sweet potato and yam coconut curry dish), Olan (white gourd prepared in coconut curry), Avial (seasonal vegetables in coconut curry), Kootu curry (a dish made of chickpeas), rasam (a soup-like dish made with a base

of tomato and pepper, eaten with rice and other preparations) and the much-loved dessert, Parippu payasam (a rice kheer preparation).

This year, however, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, people have been advised to celebrate Onam within their homes and use locally available flowers for the traditional floral carpet.

Events During Onam Festival

If you want to know what happens during Onam festival in Kerala, then we have made a list of all the events that you can check out!

Tripunithura Athachamayam

This marks the first day of Onam which is celebrated with grandeur and

zeal. The day is filled with colorful inauguration which features a street parade. This includes different Kerala art forms, musicians, dancers and carnival floats and decorated elephants which walks down the streets.

Pookalam: The Floral Decorations and Arrangement

Onam festival is also called the festival of flowers and Pookalam is one of the forms of celebrating this grand festival. This is referred to the ritual where the people make designs on the floor and decorate that with various flowers, usually at the door fronts and temples which looks like a flower mat.

Pulikali: The Grand Tiger Dance

The literal meaning of Pulikali is 'the play of the tiger', which was started 200 years ago. The former king of Kochi took forward the legacy of tiger dance which reflected manliness. For the dance hundreds of people get themselves painted and dressed like tiger and later they perform dance on traditional music.

Vallamkali: The Snake Boat Race

Another fascinating thing about Onam festival is the famous boat race which takes place in Kerala. The Vallamkali or the snake boat race is held on the Pampa river in a grand procession which includes the Aranmula Uthrattathi boat race and Nehru Trophy Boat race. You will be left thrilled after doing this so make sure it is included in your itinerary!

Onam Sadya: The Complete Meal

A festival without delicious food is incomplete and the Onam festival food is one of its kinds and thus the Onasadya or the 'Onam Feast' is the highlight of this 10-day celebration. This is a nine-course meal which comprises of 11-13 traditional dishes which is served on a banana leaf. Commemorated at the last two days, this is a form of worship which starts at 10 am and ends by 5 pm.

Folk Dances: Festivities At Its Peak

Any festival is incomplete without a dance performance, and Onam festival is no different. During the festival you can see a lot of women perform folk dances. One of the dance form is Kaikottikali during King Mahabali is praised. It is a type of clap dance form. Another dance form is the Thumbi Thualli in which the women dance in circles.



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Covid-19 pandemic affecting mental health of millions: WHO

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), said that the ongoing global Covid-19 pandemic has affected the mental health of millions of people.

"For many people, the lack of social interaction caused by the pandemic has had a profound effect on their mental health," Tedros said at a virtual press briefing from Geneva on Thursday.

The WHO chief said that people in long-term facilities such as care homes and psychiatric institutions are at an increased risk of infection, Xinhua news agency reported.

He added that mental health professionals have themselves been infected with the virus, and some mental health facilities have been closed to be converted into treatment facilities for people with Covid-19.

He recalled that mental health was already "a neglected health issue" globally before the pandemic, with close to one billion people living with a mental disorder. Yet relatively few people have access to quality mental health services.

Europe ready to open schools despite recent surge in cases

A mother and her three children scanned the school supplies in a Paris supermarket, plucking out multicolored fountain pens, crisp notebooks and plenty of masks. Despite resurgent Covid infections, similar scenes are unfolding across Europe as a new school year dawns.

Virus or no virus, European authorities are determined to put children back into classrooms, to narrow the learning gaps between haves and have-nots that deepened during lockdowns – and to get their parents back to work.

Facing a jump in virus cases, the authorities in France, Britain, Spain and elsewhere are imposing mask rules, hiring extra teachers and building new desks en masse.

While the US back-to-school saga has been politicised and chaotic, with a hodgepodge of fast-changing rules and backlash against President Donald Trump's insistence on reopening, European governments have faced less of an uproar. And even though the virus has invaded classrooms in recent days from Berlin to Seoul, and some teachers and parents warn that their schools aren't ready, European leaders are sending a message: Even in a pandemic, children are better off in class.

Global coronavirus cases top 24 million, 835,628 dead

Worldwide Covid-19 infections exceeded 24 million as cases continued to climb in Europe and Asia, with Italy, France and South Korea reporting the most new infections in months. New U.S. testing guidelines drew criticism from state leaders and public-health experts, while a top Trump administration official defended the move.

Moderna Inc. presented new safety data from an early trial that provides the first evidence that its vaccine stimulates the immune systems of older people. Abbott Laboratories won US clearance for a 15-minute Covid test that will be priced at just \$5.

The World Economic Forum postponed its annual gathering of business and political leaders in the Swiss resort of Davos to early summer 2021. The European Union's trade chief stepped down after growing criticism that he broke virus regulations in his native Ireland.

Japan Virus Jump Hitting Economy

Japanese Economy Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura said a jump in virus cases from July and heavy rains are dragging on the nation's economy. He told a parliamentary committee the economy's overall recovery trend is not yet back. Nishimura said on Wednesday a second wave of the virus now spreading in Japan is bigger than the one that caused the government to declare a state of emergency in April.

South Korea Sees Most Cases Since March

South Korea had 441 more coronavirus cases confirmed in the past 24 hours, the biggest gain since early March, according to data from the Korea Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. That compared to 320 the previous day. Of the new cases, 154 were confirmed in Seoul, 100 in Gyeonggi province and 59 in Incheon.

Vice Finance Minister Kim Yongbeom said he believed that the nation can handle the resurgence of the coronavirus with current social distancing rules. Still, so-called Level 3 rules would be needed if the situation worsens, he added at a briefing.

WHO Team Didn't Visit Wuhan, FT Says

A World Health Organization team that was meant to investigate the origin of the coronavirus concluded their trip to China without a visit to Wuhan, the Financial Times reported, citing the UN agency. The WHO told the FT that its advance team had remote conversations with senior scientists from the Wuhan Institute of Virology but declined to comment on whether the team had planned to visit the city. The organization said the initial team had been laying groundwork before a larger international investigation but didn't provide details on whether the bigger task-force would travel to Wuhan. China's foreign ministry called concerns over the credibility of the inquiry "totally unjustified," according to the FT.

Singapore will offer Covid-19 tests for travelers to China prior to departure, in an effort to align with new Chinese requirements aimed at stemming the growing number of imported virus cases.

TRACKING THE VIRUS

GLOBAL

Cases	Deaths
24,628,190	835,628

INDIA

Cases	Deaths
3,387,500	61,529



The new travel rules were instituted after China earlier registered dozens of passengers arriving from the Singapore who tested positive for the coronavirus. In response, the world's second largest economy had temporarily suspended a number of flights from Singapore as a precautionary measure.

Texas Deaths Rise, Hospitalizations Decline

Texas virus deaths rose by 229, a number that has remained persistently high as new cases and hospitalizations have declined since July. A total of 11,805 people have died from Covid-19, according to state death certificate data, since the outbreak began. Cases climbed to 592,137 after the state added another 5,507 to the tally Wednesday, including some backlogged data. Hospitalizations declined to 4,806, continuing a two-month downward trend.

Abbott Cleared for \$5, 15-Minute Test

A 15-minute Covid test from Abbott Laboratories that will be priced at just \$5 won emergency authorization for use in the U.S., a breakthrough that could ease the bottleneck that has crimped much of the nation's testing capacity.

The product, dubbed BinaxNOW, works without relying on laboratory equipment at a time when labs can take as long as two weeks to produce results. It uses a nasal swab and a small reactive card, and it can be administered by a range of health-care workers, including pharmacists, at almost any location.

Abbott will start shipping the test within two weeks and intends to manufacture 50 million tests a month by the end of October.

Fauci Concerned Over New Test Guidelines

Anthony Fauci, the top U.S. top infectious disease doctor, told CNN that he is concerned that the CDC's new coronavirus testing guidelines will make

people believe "that asymptomatic spread is not of great concern, when in fact it is."

Fauci said in the CNN interview that he was in surgery when the new testing recommendations were discussed.

EU Trade Chief Quits After Virus-Rule Breach

The European Union's trade chief, Phil Hogan, stepped down after growing criticism that he broke virus regulations in his native Ireland.

Hogan was under pressure over his attendance at a golf dinner last week that violated coronavirus regulations as well as his behavior during quarantine upon arrival in his home country. The resignation came a day after Ireland's government said that Hogan's "delayed and hesitant" response impaired public confidence.

Coronavirus cases in the U.S. increased 0.8% as compared with the same time Tuesday to 5.8 million, according to data collected by Johns Hopkins University and Bloomberg News. The increase matched the average daily gain over the past week. Deaths rose by 0.8% to 179,150.

French New Cases Hit Four-Month High

France reported 5,429 new Covid-19 cases over the past 24 hours, a four-month high that comes after similarly important surges in recent days. Prime Minister Jean Castex will hold a press conference on Thursday to address the health situation as infections rise.

Greece Reports Record New Cases

Greece reported a record-high 293 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, bringing the total number to 9280. The number is the highest daily increase since the beginning of the pandemic. The average age of people who tested positive is 39. The country also recorded five new deaths, bringing the total to 248.

The Pearl City, Hyderabad with its unmatched blend of history and modernity, hypnotizes everyone, whoever sets his/her foot in this beautiful city of Nizams. With a history as old as 400 years and the status of metropolitan city, Hyderabad promises a unique refreshing experience to all.

From historical monuments to natural getaways to mouth-watering world famous cuisine to appealing shopping places and thrilling entertainment parks, this city has it all to keep you glued. There are many tourism places to visit in Hyderabad, from families, young group of friends, children to senior citizens, everyone will find something of their interest in Hyderabad.

This city is a place worth visiting at least once in a lifetime. In fact, it is impossible for anyone to soak in the multifarious charms which the city has to offer in a limited time span.

Located on the banks of the Musi River, the city of Hyderabad was established in 1591 CE by Muhammad Quli Qutb Shahies. The city is noted for its unique culture, a lineage which can be traced back to the Asaf Jahi rulers, who were great patrons of literature, art, architecture, culture, jewelry collection and rich food.

The moment you emerge from the Hyderabad airport, the city that immediately hits the eye is a sprawling metropolis of shopping malls, flyovers and office buildings with glass facades. And you are left wondering, where did the largest princely state of the Nawabs vanish? The city of Hyderabad depicts an interesting confluence of the traditional and the modern, the past and the present. So, don't feel betrayed by these inventions, synonymous of modernity as alongside the metropolis Hyderabad, also exists the Old City with an altogether unique charm of its own.

Hyderabad can be divided into the historic city established by Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah on the southern side of the Musi River that forms the Old City, while the New City encompasses the urbanised area on the northern banks.

The Old City is composed of a maze of disorienting alleyways that expand outward from the Charminar. Most of the historical attractions are situated in the old city. Here is a list of the most popular tourist spots in Hyderabad; the ones which you mustn't not miss:

Charminar

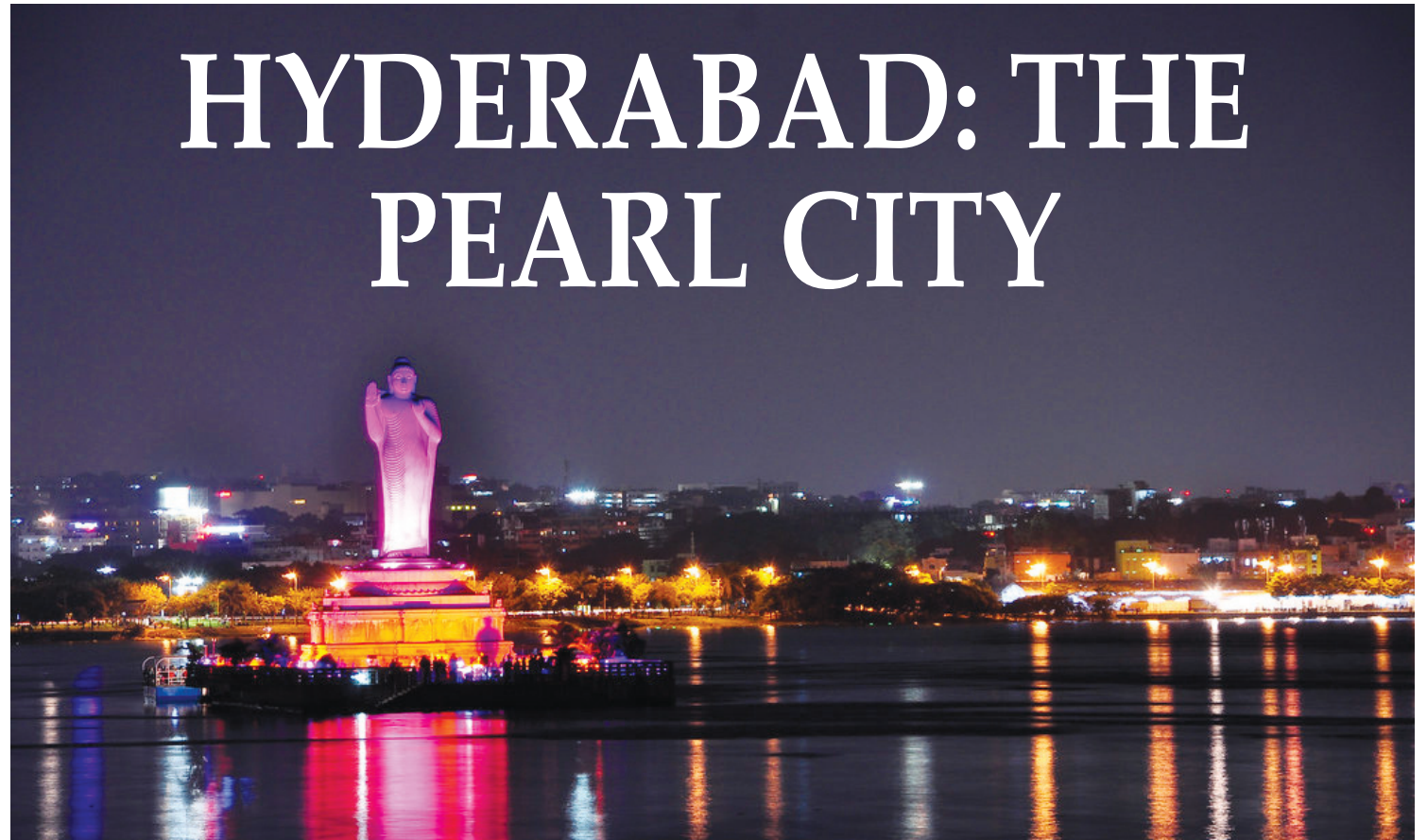
The capital city of Telangana, Hyderabad is a popular tourist destination and presents its visitors with a mesmerising contrast of age old traditions, culture at one end and modern facilities, amenities of a metropolitan city at the other end. Hyderabad is one city, which has no dearth of tourist attractions.

The very well known Charminar of Hyderabad is located at the Old City. This square shaped structure with a height of 56 m and breadth of 30 m was constructed in 1591. It was built by Sultan Mohammed Quli Qutb Shah in the honor of his wife Bhagmati.

Also referred as the 'Arc de Triomphe of the East', Charminar is adorned with four towers in each corner. The minarets on each side, is of 48.7 m height, each with four storeys. Chaminar has a small mosque as well on the top floor. There are 45 prayer spaces which are still visited by people, particularly on Fridays. Lighting in the evening is quite glamorous and makes for a worth watching site.

Golconda Fort

Just 11 km away from the city, the



architectural marvel Golconda Fort is well connected to the rest of the city. Built by Qutub Shahi Kings, this fort presents an impressive structure, with eight gates and 87 bastions.

Its impressive structure has majestic walls which are as high as 15 to 18 foot and a parameter of close to 11 km. Along with brilliant architecture, this fort also captivates its visitors with its system of acoustics, its water supply system, 'Rahban' cannon and Ramdas' prison which has carved Hindu deity in it.

Ramoji Film City

Since 1991, Ramoji Film City has been alluring tourists from every corner of the country. One of the largest film studios in the world it has the capacity to house almost 50 film units within a given point of time.

It is also listed in Guinness Book of World Records as well. Spread over 2500 acres, it is situated about 30 km away from Hyderabad. Its brilliant architecture and sound technical facilities make it suitable for all the pre and post production of a film.

Hussain Sagar Lake

Connecting the twin cities, Hussain Sagar Lake boasts of being the largest artificial lake in Asia. On the tributary of Musi River, it was excavated during Ibrahim Quli Qutub Shah's reign, in 1562 AD. It has got its name after Hussain Shah Wali.

The main attraction is 16 m high white granite statue of Lord Bhudda with a weight of 350 tonnes, situated at the middle of the lake. The lighting show here is worth watching.

One can take a ferry ride to the statue, which takes and brings back visitors at regular intervals. One can indulge in various recreational activities which are offered here such as boating with the choice of speed boats as well as motor boats, water-skiing, parasailing and cruising. The 48 seater launch offering dinner to its guests is a perfect place for private parties.

Birla Mandir

Located atop 280-foot-high hillock of Kalapahad, the beautiful Birla Mandir has derived its name from the industrialist Birlas who have constructed Birla temples in various



parts of the country. Constructed in 1976, it is said it took close to 2000 tonnes of white marbles to build this stunning temple which was brought from Rajasthan. It has drawn its architecture from the amalgamation of three known architectural designs - South Indian Architecture, Utkal temple Architecture

and Rajasthani Architecture.

The temple has 11 ft. tall statue of Lord Lakshminarayana with a magnificent lotus carved around it. It also has separate shrines for deities such as Venkateswara, 'Padmavati' and 'Andal' as well. The complex also houses a separate temple of Lord Bhudda.

Djokovic advances, defending W&S Open champ Medvedev ousted

Only a dozen unforced errors. Every shot crisp in windy conditions. Top-ranked Novak Djokovic had all parts of his game working Wednesday while advancing to the semifinals of the Western & Southern Open.

Djokovic had no problems with his creaky neck or the swirling winds during a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Jan-Lennard Struff that was by far his best showing of the week.

So far, no rust at all after the long layoff from competitive tennis.

"Everything was worked on in the last six months, I had plenty of time," Djokovic said. "I worked on every single thing. It's great it's paying off so early after the break."

In his match Monday against Ricardas Berankis, Djokovic had his sore neck massaged twice by a trainer during a 7-6 (2), 6-4 victory that included seven double faults. The neck has gotten better, and so has his overall game.

Osaka pulls out of semis to protest racial injustice

Naomi Osaka withdrew from the Western & Southern Open yesterday in protest against racial injustice hours after the two-time Grand Slam champion had booked her spot in the semifinals.

The 22-year-old Japanese joins similar protests by athletes in the National Basketball Association and Major League Baseball following the police shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man, on Sunday in Wisconsin.

It is unclear if Osaka will reconsider her decision after organisers suspended play for today as a mark of protest. The semifinals will now be played tomorrow, which is scheduled to be the final day of the event. "Before I am an athlete, I am a Black woman," she said on Twitter. "And as a Black woman I feel as though there are much more important matters at hand that need immediate attention, rather than watching me play tennis."

Osaka defeated Anett Kontaveit 4-6 6-2 7-5 to reach the semis where she was scheduled to face Elise Mertens, who beat qualifier Jessica Pegula 6-1 6-3 to reach her first Premier 5 semifinal. Johanna Konta reached the semifinals with a 6-4 6-3 win over Maria Sakkari. Up next for Konta is a clash with Victoria Azarenka, a 7-6 6-2 winner over Ons Jabeur.



James Anderson breaks into top 10 after reaching 600 test wickets

James Anderson the first pacer to take 600 wickets in Tests has also fought his way back into the top-ten rankings for Test bowlers after his splendid bowling performance in the third and final Test against Pakistan at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton. With the 1-0 series win, England is now 4th with 105 ratings and 3882 points.

The Lancashire fast bowler who is of 6ft 2 inch height has moved up six places in the latest MRF Tyres ICC Test Ranking for Bowlers and occupies the eighth spot with 781 points ahead of the likes of Jasprit Bumrah who is 9th with 779 points and Trent Boult who is 10th with 770 points.

The list is headed by Pat Cummins of Australia with 904 points and is followed by James Anderson's bowling partner Stuart Broad who has 845 points.

First pacer to scale mount 600

The match was definitely memorable for James Anderson as he went on to become the first-ever pacer to reach 600 Test wickets in the history of the game. He also proved that he can still produce some more memorable performances after murmurs of his retirement started in rounds following indifferent performances earlier in the summer. He has 23 wickets already in 2020 and his behind teammate Stuart Broad who has 38 wickets to his name.

But Stuart Broad has played 2 tests more. In the list of most wickets in tests in 2020, England's bowlers occupy the first five spots. England definitely has played more tests than other teams but it will be interesting to see how things shape up at year-end.

James Anderson had taken 5 wickets in the first innings of the final test as fans waited with bated breath but on the fifth day, their hopes were fulfilled when he claimed wickets of Abid Ali and Azhar Ali.



James Anderson celebrating his 600 Test wicket.

It was classical James Anderson again as he dented holes into Pakistan's top-order in the first innings courtesy his advanced seam and swing, but had to wait for his fifth wicket as England fielders missed several chances. He finally claimed the fifth wicket in the form of Naseem Shah who was caught by Dom Sibley to complete his 29th five-wicket-haul in Test match cricket.

But the moment of joy came on the fifth and final day when James Anderson bowled from back of the length and Azhar Ali's thick edge flew to England skipper Joe Root at first slip. He is now focused for his next assignment which is representing his side in Australia in the 2021-22 Ashes.

Besides James Anderson, Stuart Broad has also made some significant gains in the rankings. The fast bowler, who completed his 500th wicket earlier in the summer, has moved to the second position

in the Test rankings. Pat Cummins, however, is still going strong at the top spot with 904 points despite having played only one Test since January.

Anderson now on Mission 700

James Anderson is far from being done after becoming the first pacer to amass 600 Test wickets and he sees no reason why he can't enter the 700-club alongside Shane Warne and Muttiah Muralitharan even though he has hit 38. "I've chatted to Joe about this a little bit and he has said he would like me to be in Australia (for the Ashes next year)," Anderson was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. "I don't see any reason why I can't be. I'm working hard on my fitness all the time. I'm working hard on my game."

"I feel like I've still got stuff to offer this team. As long as I still feel like that I think I'll keep going. Can I reach 700? Why not?"

After Messi bombshell, Barca still hoping he will stay

MADRID (TIP): Barcelona haven't given up on Lionel Messi just yet. A day after the Argentine great told the club he wants to leave, Barcelona said their restructuring project still revolves around the player.

"We want to rebuild for the future together with the best player in history," Ramon Planes, the club's technical director, said today. "We are not contemplating any departure on a contractual level because we want him to stay. We have to show a huge respect for Messi."

"We can't make this a dispute between Leo Messi and Barcelona because neither deserves it," Planes said.

Barcelona are trying to avoid an abrupt ending to Messi's career at the club. His last match with a Barcelona jersey was the embarrassing 8-2 loss to Bayern Munich in the quarterfinals of the Champions League, one of the worst defeats in the player's career and in the club's history. But Messi apparently has already made up his mind, and it seems only a matter of how ugly the termination will get.

Messi's first contract with the club was signed on a napkin after a lunch between



his representatives and club officials nearly 20 years ago, but it was with a burofax — a certified communication method commonly used in Spain, similar to a telegram — that Messi told the club he wants to leave. There was no phone call or meeting with club officials. Just the burofax. In it, Messi invoked a clause in his contract that allowed him to leave for free after the end of the season.

But Barcelona said the clause mentioned by Messi expired on June 10, meaning that the player missed the deadline and would have to pay the clause of 700 million euros if he wants to leave before his contract ends in June 2021. What Messi may contend is that the clause was to expire at the end of the season, which this year was moved back because of the coronavirus pandemic.



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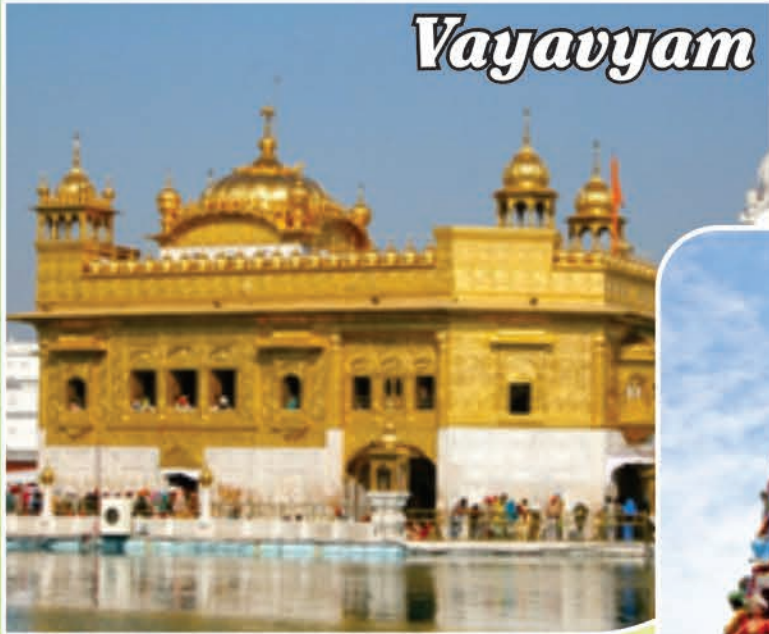
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12 hours before the supreme court verdict on the Babri Masjid / Rama Janma Bhumi controversy, a friend from India suggested that the land under dispute may be divided into 5 equal parts and five temples representing 5 major religions -Hinduism, Islam, 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".