




AMERICA UNITED AGAINST COVID-19

KEEP SAFE

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

KEEP AMERICA SAFE

The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL

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

Last date for submission of articles: Aug 10
Last date for booking space for advertisement: Aug 10

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

For any question, please call 646-247-9458

STAY SAFE AND BLESSED



COVID-19 Coronavirus

COVID-19 Worldwide Update Page 11

Another bid to raise K-issue at UN; Pak, China get no support



India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador TS Tirumurti said that many members of the Security Council underlined that J&K was a bilateral matter between India and Pakistan and also stressed on the importance of the Simla Agreement.

NEW YORK (TIP): India crossed swords with China and Pakistan over the changes in Jammu & Kashmir and the laying of the foundation stone of Ram Temple in Ayodhya, asking both countries to desist from interfering in its internal affairs.

At the meeting of Security Council which was closed, informal, not recorded, and without any outcome, almost all countries underlined that J&K was bilateral issue & did not deserve time and attention of Council, according to India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador TS Tirumurti.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said he was not surprised at Pakistan Foreign Office terming the construction of Ram Temple as indicative of growing

contd on Page 2

Carolyn Maloney makes it to November Elections

BIDISHA ROY

NEW YORK (TIP): In a tough contest, multiple times Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney finally defeated the challenger Suraj Patel who appeared all set to upset Maloney's apple cart in the Primaries for the 12th Congressional district. New York State Board of Elections certified its results for the 2020 primary, including the NY-12 race, which was won by incumbent Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney with a decisive winning margin after all valid absentee ballots were counted.

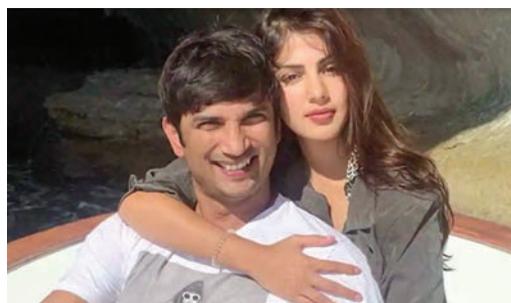
On Election Day, NYU professor Suraj Patel was within 2 percentage points of the 14-term incumbent. Patel challenged Maloney in 2018 and lost 59% to 40%. This year turned out much closer. After every absentee ballot was counted,

contd on Page 2



In a tough contest, multiple times Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney finally defeated the challenger Suraj Patel who appeared all set to upset Maloney's apple cart in the Primaries for the 12th Congressional district.

CBI files FIR in Sushant Rajput suicide case, names Rhea Chakraborty, 5 others as accused



Sushant Singh Rajput and Rhea Chakraborty were believed to be in a relationship

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday, August 6, said it has re-registered the Bihar Police FIR in the Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case to initiate its probe.

The case has been registered after receiving all the details from Bihar Police, an official said.

A senior agency official said, "CBI has today registered a case related to the death of Sushant Singh Rajput on the request of Bihar Government and further notification from Government of India and taken over the investigation of the case, earlier registered at police station Rajiv Nagar, Patna vide FIR no.241/2020 dated 25-7-2020." He went on to add that the case was registered against six accused, including Rajput's controversial friend Rhea Chakraborty, Indrajit Chakraborty, Sandhya Chakraborty, Showik Chakraborty, Samuel Miranda and Shruti Modi.

contd on Page 2

Will end the freeze on green cards, oppose suspension of H-1B visas: proposed Democratic Party Platform



For Representation only

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Democratic party will end the freeze on green cards and take steps to end its backlog, if voted to power in the November presidential elections, the party's proposed 2020 platform said.

READ FULL STORY ON PAGE 12

Gurdwara Oak Creek Shootout Remembered: Biden, US lawmakers Pay Tribute

WASHINGTON (TIP): Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and several lawmakers on Thursday, August 6, joined the Sikh community to remember the victims of the 2012 tragic Oak Creek gurdwara shootout, urging the people to reduce gun violence and give hate no safe harbor.

On August 5, 2012, a white supremacist opened fire inside the Oak Creek gurdwara in Wisconsin, killing six people. A Sikh priest, who received injuries in the shootout that left him paralyzed, passed away in March this year. "Eight years ago, a white

supremacist targeted a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, WI - ultimately taking seven lives in an unspeakable act of terror," Biden, the former vice president, said in a statement. "To truly honor those we lost, it's up to all of us to stand up to bigotry in our lives, give hate no safe harbor, and reduce gun violence,"

contd on Page 2

The six Sikh devotees killed in the shootout on August 5, 2012 included one woman - Paramjit Kaur, 41; and five men - Satwant Singh Kaleka, 65, the founder of the gurdwara; Prakash Singh, 39; Sita Singh, 41; Ranjit Singh, 49; and Suveg Singh Khattrra, 84.

Remembering Martyrs of Aug. 05, 2012



Sardar Suveg Singh Khattrra Sardar Satwant Singh Kaleka Bhai Ranjit Singh



Bhai Sita Singh Bibi Paramjit Kaur Bhai Prakash Singh

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER:

Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja

VICE PRESIDENT:

Chitagam Saluja

CHIEF EDITOR:

Prof Indrajit S. Saluja

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

Bidisha Roy

SPL. REPORTER UNO:

H.S. Panaser

GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:

Om Parkash Malik

DIRECTOR**ADMINISTRATION:**

Gauri Beri

CONTRIBUTING**PHOTOGRAPHERS:**

Baldev Singh / BJ Videos

Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction

Jay Mandal,

Mohammad Jaffer,

SnapsIndia

Mohammad Shahzad,

Zia Khan,

Nisha Rani

Vaaho Photographers,

Vijay Shah - Photo Journalist.

CORRESPONDENTS :**SACRAMENTO:**

Parminder S. Aujla

NEW YORK :

Chitagam

FRESNO:

Tarlochan Singh

DALLAS:

Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon

OVERSEAS**CORRESPONDENTS****LONDON**

Nirpal Singh Shergill

SPL CORRESPONDENT**DELHI BUREAU CHIEF:**

Ashishpal Singh

CHANDIGARH:

Manjit Sidhu

LUDHIANA:

A.S. Arora,

R.P.Sharma

DALLAS BUREAU CHIEF & VP

Lovllien Kaurr

972-330-3139

editor@theindianpanorama.com

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South

Richmond Hill, NY 11419,

Tel: 646-247-9458

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.com

DISCLAIMER

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

CONTD FROM PAGE 1**Carolyn Maloney...**

Maloney maintained her lead and pulled ahead slightly, cementing her victory. However, Patel filed a lawsuit in order to get more ballots counted, and a judge ruled in his favor. The state Board of Elections intends to appeal the decision, although it's unlikely to change the results either way. The city Board of Elections did count those extra ballots before certifying the results.

"I'm thrilled the voters of NY-12 have decided to return me to Congress for another term, with a decisive winning margin that clearly reflects the will of the voters. This has been a historic election, with historic turnout and participation - and a historic wait time for results. We've learned many lessons for November, and must take a number of actions to protect the safety of our vote in the general election" said the Congresswoman.

She continued, "These include: increased funding for the post office, an end to measures taken by the President that might impact timely delivery of applications or ballots, and conducting oversight to ensure that voters have faith in the results of their elections. In addition to my work on this at the Federal level, I will support my state colleagues in their efforts for election reform to solve the challenges we have seen here in New York."

Maloney also applauded a Federal court decision that called for the counting of those ballots that were received by the Board of Elections on June 24th and 25th without a postmark. "While these ballots do not change the result of the election, it is important that every valid vote in our primary be counted. I look forward to working with our party to ensure resounding victory in November."

New York City Council Member Ritchie Torres officially became the Democratic nominee in the crowded open race for the 15th Congressional District in the Bronx. Meanwhile, other results - like Rep. Eliot Engel's loss to Jamaal Bowman in the 16th Congressional District in the Bronx and Westchester County - were cemented with the final vote tally after all the absentee ballots were counted.

Reps. Jerrold Nadler and Yvette Clarke, who both faced spirited challenges this cycle, also maintained their victories after they came out ahead after the June 23 primary vote. Three Black newcomers - Mondaire Jones, Bowman and Torres - maintained their leads in the final results in the Bronx and Westchester and Rockland counties.

New York will also be getting some new members of Congress. Rep. Chris Jacobs has already been sworn into Congress after the results of his special election for the 27th Congressional District in Western New York were certified, replacing the disgraced former Rep. Chris Collins. Jacobs also emerged victorious in his

Republican primary election for the same seat. In the crowded race to replace retiring Rep. José E. Serrano in the Bronx, Torres pulled ahead of his 11 opponents. Meanwhile, Jones, a former attorney with the Westchester County Law Department, won the Democratic primary in the 17th Congressional District, where Rep. Nita Lowey is retiring.

Meanwhile, on Long Island, Nancy Goroff emerged as the winner in a tight race for the chance to take on Republican Rep. Lee Zeldin in November.

In other places, including the 8th, 18th, 20th, 21st, 23rd and 26th districts, no primary was held.

CBI files FIR in...

Late yesterday evening the Centre agreed to handover the case to the CBI and Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), the nodal ministry for the investigative agency had issued a notification in this regard.

The case has been handed over to the CBI after a reference in this regard from the Bihar Government was received by the Centre.

Rajput, aged 34, was found hanging from the ceiling of his apartment in suburban Bandra in Mumbai on June 14 and since then Mumbai Police has been probing the case keeping in mind various angles.

Bihar Police also swung into action following a complaint filed by Rajput's 77-year-old father Krishna Kishore Singh, a resident of Patna.

Patna Police had registered an FIR under various sections of the IPC related to alleged criminal conspiracy, cheating and abetment to suicide among others on his complaint against Rajput's friend Rhea Chakraborty.

The CBI has decided to get the probe done by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) under Superintendent of Police Nupur Prasad and will be supervised by DIG Gagandeep Gambhir and Joint Director Manoj Shashidhar, both senior IPS officers from Gujarat cadre, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the Maharashtra Government has raised objection to the move as Bihar does not have jurisdiction to start probe in a different state.

Mumbai Police had registered an accidental death report and an investigation is underway in the case.

(Source: Tribune, India)

Gurdwara Oak Creek...

Biden said as several US lawmakers joined the Sikh community in remembering the victims on the 8th anniversary of the attack.

The six victims killed included one woman: Paramjit Kaur, 41; and five men: Satwant Singh Kaleka, 65, the founder of the gurdwara; Prakash Singh, 39; Sita Singh, 41; Ranjit Singh, 49; and Suveg Singh Khattrra, 84. All of the male victims wore turbans as part

of their Sikh faith. "Eight years ago, today a white supremacist walked into a Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, WI, fatally shooting 6 people. We just honored El Paso and next week is the anniversary of Charlottesville. How much longer will the rising threat of white supremacy go virtually unaddressed?" Indian-origin Senator Kamala Harris said in a tweet. Congresswoman Judy Chu said, "eight years after the horrific murder of six Sikh Americans in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, we continue to remember the lives that were needlessly lost due to white supremacy and gun violence".

"Today, as our nation continues to grapple with systemic racism and inequality, it is more important than ever that we recommit ourselves to rejecting hate and intolerance in all forms. Whether it is a gurdwara in Oak Creek, a church in Charleston, a synagogue in Pittsburgh, or a Walmart in El Paso, an attack on any racial or religious community is an attack on us all. These acts of domestic terrorism do not reflect our values as a nation, and we must denounce violence and hatred wherever they arise," she said. Congresswoman Grace Meng said that this reminds of the everlasting impact of that day, as Sikh priest Baba Punjab Singh who passed away in March, rightly ruled a homicide due to his paralyzing injuries from the Oak Creek shooting. (Source: PTI)

Another bid to raise...

majoritarianism in India, "though such comments come from a nation that practices cross-border terrorism and denies its own minorities their rights". Nevertheless, the remarks were deeply regrettable, he added.

The MEA said it expected the Chinese side to work sincerely towards complete disengagement and de-escalation. Answering questions, the spokesperson laid emphasis on the agreement between the two Special Representatives, Ajit Doval and Wang Yi, on the border issue

For the second day in a row, India repulsed China's attempt to initiate a discussion on Jammu and Kashmir at the UN Security Council. "This was not the first time and as on previous occasions, this attempt too met with little support from the international community. We firmly reject China's interference in our internal affairs and urge it to draw proper conclusions from such infructuous attempts," the spokesperson said. Sources suggested India's stepped-up engagement with Russia and its ties with the US, the UK and France ensured there was barely any support for China on the issue.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador TS Tirumurti said many other members of the Security Council underlined that J&K was a bilateral matter between India and Pakistan and also stressed on the importance of the Simla Agreement. (Source: TNS)

New York seeks to dissolve NRA over financial mismanagement

NEW YORK (TIP): The lawsuit alleges NRA leaders paid for family trips to the Bahamas, private jets and expensive meals that contributed to a \$64 million reduction in the NRA's balance sheet in three years.

New York state's attorney general sued to dissolve the National Rifle Association on Thursday, alleging senior leaders of the non-profit group diverted millions of dollars for personal use and to buy the silence and loyalty of former employees.

The lawsuit filed in a Manhattan court by Attorney General Letitia James alleges NRA leaders paid for family trips to the Bahamas, private jets and expensive meals that contributed to a \$64 million reduction in the NRA's balance sheet in three years, turning a surplus into a deficit.

The NRA responded by suing Ms. James in federal court, saying she had violated the NRA's right to free speech and seeking to block her investigation.

Ms. James alleged in a statement that NRA leaders "used millions upon millions from NRA reserves for personal use," failing to comply with the NRA's own internal policies in addition to state and federal law.

She told reporters the NRA "has operated as a breeding ground for greed,

abuse and brazen illegality," adding that "no one is above the law."

The lawsuit names the NRA and four leaders including Wayne LaPierre, the executive vice-president who has been atop the leadership for nearly three decades.

The confrontation pits Ms. James, a Democrat, against the largest and most powerful gun organization in the United States, one closely aligned with President Donald Trump's Republican Party.

The actions are certain to further polarize a country where the NRA is revered by conservatives as a champion of the U.S. Constitution and its Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms while at the same time it is vilified by liberals as an enabler of rampant gun violence.

Mr. Trump sought to make it an issue for his re-election on November 3 against Democratic challenger Joe Biden.

"Just like Radical Left New York is trying to destroy the NRA, if Biden becomes President your GREAT SECOND AMENDMENT doesn't have a chance," Mr. Trump said on Twitter. "Your guns will be taken away, immediately and without notice. No police, no guns!"

Mr. Biden has not called for

confiscating guns. He has said he would seek to ban assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines, let people who own assault weapons sell them back voluntarily, and expand background checks.

'POWER GRAB' : The NRA branded the lawsuit a "baseless, premeditated attack" and a "power grab" tied to the campaign.

"We not only will not shrink from this fight we will confront it and prevail," NRA President Carolyn Meadows said in a statement.

Apparently expecting Ms. James' suit, the NRA fought back with the suit of its own in the Northern District of New York, saying Ms. James had been targeting the NRA politically ever since she ran for attorney general in 2018, vowing to take on the NRA which she called a "criminal enterprise."

The NRA is subject to New York law because it is registered there as a non-profit. Its physical headquarters are in Fairfax, Virginia, near Washington, D.C.

Ms. James' suit coincided with another one filed against the NRA and its foundation by the attorney general for Washington, D.C., in the district's Superior Court, alleging the misuse of charitable funds and wasteful spending.



New York State Attorney General Letitia announced, August 6, that the state is suing the National Rifle Association, James said that the state is seeking to put the powerful gun advocacy organization out of business over allegations that high-ranking executives diverted millions of dollars for lavish personal trips, no-show contracts for associates and other questionable expenditures.

Photo / Courtesy AP

Briefing reporters, Ms. James denied the New York suit was motivated by the NRA's support for Mr. Trump. Her written statement said the NRA's power had gone unchecked for decades, "which is why, today, we seek to dissolve the NRA."

Gun control groups such as Everytown for Gun Safety and Moms Demand Action, both funded by billionaire and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, praised the suit.

"We have been warning regulators and the public about this corruption for years," Everytown said on Twitter.

Moms Demand Action sarcastically offered that "our thoughts and prayers are with Wayne LaPierre and his cronies at the NRA," mocking the common refrain used following mass shootings.

Bollywood joins Battery's Diversity Fest on India's Independence Day

By Mabel Pais

NEW YORK (TIP): Battery Dance for its 39th year's celebration is going virtual with a world of dance in nine mixed programs August 14-22, 2020, available online nightly 7pm-8pm via YouTube. The curatorial team has chosen 52 filmed performances including 28 premieres from 19 countries. Themed evenings include World and U.S. film premieres from India, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Japan and North America.

The centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, recognizing women's right to vote, is celebrated in a program by women choreographers. Black Voices in Dance, Tribute to New York City, Battery Dance & Friends and a special program celebrating India's Independence Day round out the Festival. The company's brilliant roster of dancers and filmmakers hail from the U.S., Belgium, Canada, Curaçao, France, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Netherlands, Palestinian Territories, Romania, South Africa, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.

**HIGHLIGHT: SATURDAY | AUG 15
JAVED SANADI | BOLLYWOOD**

Javed Sanadi is an Indian choreographer who shot to fame after choreographing and performing on popular Indian Dance reality shows like Jhalak Dikha Jaa and Dance India Dance. Today, he is one of the most



Javed Sanadi, Bollywood choreographer
Photo / Javed Sanadi - FacebookTeam.

recognized names in the Indian Dance Scene, best known for choreographing A-list celebrities like Amitabh Bachchan, Shahrukh Khan, Govinda among others. Javed will teach a community class on Bollywood as part of Battery's annual India Independence Day celebration.

All performances are free online on YouTube and will begin @ 7PM EDT

REGISTRATION IS FREE FOR THE FULL FESTIVAL OR FOR INDIVIDUAL DAYS.

BY REGISTERING YOU RECEIVE THE LINK TO PERFORMANCES, REMINDERS & BONUS CONTENT!

PROGRAM

FRI	o AUG 14	Black Voices in Dance
SAT	o AUG 15	India Independence Day
SUN	o AUG 16	Middle East
MON	o AUG 17	Europe & Japan
TUE	o AUG 18	Women's Right to Vote Centennial
WED	o AUG 19	Africa
THUR	o AUG 20	North America
FRI	o AUG 21	Battery Dance & Friends
SAT	o AUG 22	Tribute to NYC

WORKSHOP SERIES (Live Through Zoom!)

Register at
<https://batterydance.org/battery-dance-festival/free-classes/>

August 14: 10	11am - Will Ervin Butch Queen Contemporary USA
August 15: 10	11am - Javed Sanadi Bollywood India
August 16: 10	11am - Hoedy Saad Voguing Lebanon
August 17: 10	11am - Emma Evelein Choreography for Film Netherlands
August 18: 10	11am - Kathryn Posin Contemporary Ballet USA
August 19: 10	11am - Oscar Buthelezi South African Contemporary Fusion SA
August 20: 10	11am - Allen Kaeja Improvisation Toronto
August 22: 10	11am - Dolly Sfeir Contemporary USA

Check out the trailer -
<https://youtu.be/jaN9Ae2WpTc>

New Jersey Governor reduces indoor gathering limit to 25 people



New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy announced a curtailment in the number of indoor gathering from 100 to 25 persons - File photo

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy announced a reduction of indoor gathering capacity limit in response to the increase of COVID-19 cases in New Jersey. Indoor gatherings are now limited to 25 percent of a room's capacity, but regardless of the room's capacity, the maximum limit shall be 25 persons, down from 100 persons. For purposes of determining this limit, any private residence or residential unit shall be treated as a single room.

However, the change will not be applicable to the following events: weddings, funerals, memorial services, religious services or celebrations, and political activities. These events may continue under the previous rules that limited these events to 25 percent of a room's capacity, but with a limit of 100 persons.

"In order to protect public health, we are retightening the restriction on indoor gatherings due to uptick of COVID-19 cases in New Jersey," said Governor Murphy.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian Origin Texas Scientist and Mother of Two Killed while Jogging



Sarmistha Sen studied in UT Dallas and University of Birmingham, Alabama and worked on cancer research for most of her career.

DALLAS (TIP) An Indian origin scientist and mother of two was found dead near a creek in Plano, Texas, on Aug 1 morning after going out for her regular jogging.

On August 1, 2020, Plano Police Officers were dispatched to a Welfare Concern of a female found lying on the ground near the creek at the intersection of Legacy Drive and Marchman Way. Upon arrival, Officers located a deceased female in the creek area. The female has been identified as Sarmistha Sen, a 43-year old Plano resident. This investigation is being classified as a Homicide. A person of interest related to this Homicide investigation is currently in custody at the Plano City Jail charged with Burglary.

Sarmistha was born on January 2nd, 1977 in Sindri, India. Sarmistha grew up in Sindri and later moved to Bangalore, India for higher studies and work. Sarmistha got married to Arindam Roy and moved to Plano TX in 2004. She studied in UT Dallas and University of Birmingham, Alabama and worked on cancer research for most of her career.

Sarmistha was an avid runner. She was an early riser and she liked to jog around the Chisolm trail every morning. Along with her husband Arindam, Sarmistha has two little kids, Neil is 12 and Ryan is 6 years old. They recently also got a puppy named Milly. Milly is only 3 months old.

Sarmistha lived a free and fearless life inspiring many with her infectious energy and carefree smile. Sarmistha was an avid runner, gardener and a great cook. She practiced healthy mindful living and she could cook extremely healthy food that tasted amazingly good. She was a trained singer of Indian classical music and loved to teach and perform music. She was passionate about cancer care and was a lifelong supporter of cancer research.

Indian National Sentenced for International Fraud Scheme

ALEXANDRIA, VA. (TIP): An Indian national was sentenced August 4 to over a year in prison for his role in defrauding hundreds of people of at least \$150,000. "Anikkhan Yusufkhan Pathan participated in an international fraud scheme that victimized 200 hard-working Americans," said G. Zachary Terwilliger, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Doctor Appointed New York City Health Commissioner

NEW YORK (TIP): NYC Mayor de Blasio on Aug 4 announced the appointment of Dr. Dave A. Chokshi as Commissioner of the City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Dr. Chokshi has served at the highest level of local, state, and federal health agencies, including NYC Health + Hospitals, where he was in senior leadership roles over the past six years. As Chief Population Health Officer, Dr. Chokshi's team transformed healthcare delivery for over one million New Yorkers. Most recently, he served as a key leader in the City's COVID-19 response.

"Dr. Chokshi has spent his career fighting for those too often left behind," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "Never has that been more true than during the COVID-19 pandemic, where he has helped lead our City's public health system under unprecedented challenges. I know he's ready to lead the charge forward in our fight for a fairer and healthier city for all."

"I couldn't be prouder of our City's response in the face of a once-in-a-lifetime public health crisis," said Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Commissioner Dr. Dave A. Chokshi. "I'm honored to serve the people of New York City with the extraordinary team at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Together, we will emerge from this pandemic as a stronger, fairer, and healthier city."

Dr. Chokshi comes to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene with a wealth of experience in public health, clinical medicine, and health policy. Raised in Baton Rouge as the son of immigrants, he served at the Louisiana Department of Health before and after Hurricane Katrina, with a focus on reshaping the State's healthcare system in the wake of the storm. He was also a Rhodes Scholar,



Dr. Dave A. Chokshi has served at the highest level of local, state, and federal health agencies, including NYC Health + Hospitals, where he was in senior leadership roles over the past six years

earning an MSc in global public health from the University of Oxford.

Dr. Chokshi served as a White House Fellow in the Obama Administration and was the principal health advisor to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. In 2016, President Obama appointed him to the Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health.

Dr. Chokshi will continue his clinical practice at Bellevue Hospital, where he has taken care of patients as a primary care physician since 2014. He trained at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and Brigham & Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School. During his training, Dr. Chokshi did clinical work in Guatemala, Peru, Botswana, Ghana, and India.

Dr. Chokshi served on the FEMA delegation to New York City after Hurricane Sandy in 2012, coordinating with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on a door knocking

initiative to bring food and medication to stranded seniors in high rises across hard-hit areas of the city. As Special Advisor to New York City Health Commissioner Tom Farley, Dr. Chokshi contributed to the City's response to opioid addiction, obesity, and disease prevention in 2011.

He lives in Jackson Heights, Queens-just a few blocks from Elmhurst Hospital-with his wife, an educator in New York City public schools, and 14-month-old daughter.

"For the last 15 years, I have seen Dr. Chokshi touch the lives of patients and communities in profound ways as a physician and public health leader," said Dr. Vivek Murthy, Former Surgeon General of the United States "He is of a rare breed of leaders who combine brilliance and strong judgement with humility and compassion. These qualities and his unflinching moral compass will serve New York City well as it faces the COVID19 pandemic and longstanding public health challenges. In Dr. Chokshi, New York has found a leader worthy of its trust and support."

"I've known Dave for a decade, first in Washington when we both served our nation's veterans, and now serving New Yorkers through the COVID-19 crisis," said Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Raul Perea-Henze. "In every situation, he has been a leader who brings people together and believes in scientific driven solutions. I'm happy and proud to welcome him to be part of the health team that will keep New York safe for years to come."

"Dr. Chokshi is the right choice for Health Commissioner," said California Surgeon General Nadine Burke Harris. "During this extraordinary time, he has the wisdom, experience and the heart to lead."

Indian American to Help Lead \$25 Million Quantum Computing Center



EECS Prof. Umesh Vazirani, who is co-director of the Berkeley Quantum Computation Center (BQIC) and leads the quantum computing effort at the Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing (SITC), will serve as co-director of the new institute

SAN JOSE (TIP): The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded UC Berkeley \$25 million over five years to help lead the establishment of a multi-university institute focused on advancing quantum science and engineering. EECS Prof. Umesh Vazirani, who is co-director of the Berkeley Quantum Computation Center (BQIC) and leads the quantum computing effort at the Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing (SITC), will serve as co-director of the new institute.

Other participants from EECS will include Prof. Ming Wu, Prof. Shafi Goldwasser, Prof. John Kubiatowicz, and Associate Prof. Boubacar Kanté. The center will be one of three Quantum Leap Challenge Institutes (QLCI) designed as part of the federal government's effort to accelerate the development of quantum computers, train a future workforce to build and use them, and position them to be as ubiquitous as smart phones. The new institute for Present and Future Quantum Computation will connect Berkeley, UCLA, UCSB, USC, Caltech, UT Austin, MIT, and UW, to combine the talents of top experimental and theoretical scientists in the fields of computer science, chemistry, physics, materials science, engineering and mathematics, to solve problems and devise strategies around this currently rudimentary technology.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Pleads Guilty to Bankruptcy Fraud

PARMINDER AUJLA

SACRAMENTO, CA (TIP): Kulvir Singh Cheema, 59, of Ripon, pleaded guilty July 30 to filing a false bankruptcy declaration, U.S. Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced.

According to court documents, when Cheema, the owner of a trucking company, filed for bankruptcy in April 2011, he provided false information about his employment, income, residence, and other facts. He also concealed certain assets such as trucks and bank accounts that he controlled and that were held in other names. In addition, in January 2010, in contemplation of filing for bankruptcy, Cheema fraudulently transferred ownership of his residence in Ripon from himself to another person. Cheema's untruthful statements on his bankruptcy petition were designed to give the false impression that he was bankrupt with no assets. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Researchers Win \$1 Million DARPA Award



Stony Brook University Professor Omkant Pandey of the Department of Computer Science, along with Sanjam Garg of the University of California, Berkeley, have been awarded a \$1 million grant from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

NEW YORK (TIP): Stony Brook University Professor Omkant Pandey of the Department of Computer Science, along with Sanjam Garg of the University of California, Berkeley, have been awarded a \$1 million grant from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to develop safe and secure verification methods for sensitive processes.

Verification is a critical part of our everyday lives. Governments and businesses put various regulations and verification processes in place to detect and prevent fraud (for example, when we go to a bank, the bank must verify who we are before providing access to our money). In many cases, the verification is carried out by computer programs over highly sensitive data associated with these applications.

Pandey and Garg's research looks at how to prove that a verification was done correctly by the computer without sharing sensitive details, such as the actual data. To do this, they will use a technique called Zero-Knowledge Proofs from cryptography, which proves that a mathematical statement is true but reveals nothing except the validity of the statement.

Samir Das, Chair of the Computer Science Department, said: "Professor Pandey's research in this award will advance the security of future computer systems more efficiently and significantly contribute to the nation's cyberdefense. Professor Pandey is a key member of our highly visible cybersecurity group."

Sanjam Garg is an Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley. His research interests are in cryptography and security, and more broadly in theoretical computer science. He obtained his PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2013 and his undergraduate degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi in 2008. He is the recipient of various honors such as the 2020 Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship and the 2013 ACM Doctoral Dissertation Award. Sanjam's research has been recognized with best paper awards at EUROCRYPT 2013, CRYPTO 2017, and EUROCRYPT 2018.

The research, titled "EPCC: Efficient Proofs for Cryptographic Code" focuses on how efficiently zero-knowledge proofs can be constructed for different kinds of procedures. Current technology for these proofs requires the full details of the verification procedure to be known to all parties. Some procedures involve cryptographic algorithms such as encryption, which makes the proofs very inefficient. The researchers will develop more efficient proofs by reducing the need for sharing full code of the cryptographic parts of the verification procedures.

Indian Origin Researcher Krupa Haranahalli Awarded by American Chemical Society



Haranahalli received her PhD in Chemistry from Stony Brook and is now a postdoctoral fellow in the Institute of Chemical Biology and Drug Discovery and Department of Chemistry

NEW YORK (TIP): Krupa Haranahalli, a postdoctoral researcher from Stony Brook University's Department of Chemistry and Institute of Chemical Biology and Drug Discovery, received the 2020 Scarborough Postdoctoral Award by the Medicinal Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society.

Haranahalli received her PhD in Chemistry from Stony Brook and is now a postdoctoral fellow in the Institute of Chemical Biology and Drug Discovery and Department of Chemistry, working with Distinguished Professor Iwao Ojima and Professor Maurizio Del Poeta. She recently won the 2019 Young Academic Inventor's Award from the National Academy of Inventor's SBU Chapter. Haranahalli is also an excellent science communicator and won the award for best talk at the SBU Postdoc Spotlight in 2017.

"This award reflects Krupa's excellence as a junior scientist," said Dr. Kathleen Flint Ehm, Assistant Dean in the Graduate School and Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs. "Not only is her work innovative and cutting edge, but she excels in her ability to share the impact of that work with the world. She is poised to be a leader in her field."

In addition to receiving \$3,500 as part of the award, Dr. Haranahalli was asked to present her research in person at the Fall 2020 National Meeting of the American Chemical Society, but the meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19. Instead, her talk will be part of the virtual meeting.

The Scarborough Postdoctoral Award is named in memory of Robert M. Scarborough, an accomplished medicinal chemist and inventor of drugs such as Natreacor and Integrilin and is sponsored by Portola Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a cardiovascular company founded by Dr. Scarborough.

(Source: Stony Brook University)

Indian American Professor Kameshwar Poolla Named 2020 IFAC Fellow



Kameshwar Poolla is the Cadence Design Systems Distinguished Professor, in Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences, and Department of Mechanical Engineering at University of California, Berkeley

BERKELEY (TIP): Prof Kameshwar Poolla, the Cadence Design Systems Distinguished Professor, in Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences, and Department of Mechanical Engineering at University of California, Berkeley, has been named 2020 Fellow of the International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC) for 'Contributions to system identification and robust control with applications to manufacturing and energy.' The IFAC Fellow Award is given to persons who have made outstanding and extraordinary contributions in the field of interest of IFAC, in the role as an Engineer/Scientist, Technical Leader, or Educator. The first Fellows were elected at the IFAC World Congress in Prague in July 2005. Kameshwar Poolla received his B.Tech. degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay in 1980.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Vikram Iyer Named 2020 Marconi Society Young Scholar



Vikram Iyer has won a Marconi Society Paul Baran Young Scholar Award, which honors "the world's most innovative young engineers in Information and Communications Technology"

CLEVELAND, OH (TIP) : The Marconi Society on Aug 4 recognized Vikram Iyer, a PhD candidate in electrical and computer engineering at the University of Washington as a 2020 Marconi Society Paul Baran Young Scholar for his innovative work to develop bio-inspired and bio-integrative wireless sensor systems. The Marconi Society Young Scholar Award recognizes the world's most innovative young researchers who are creating tomorrow's information and communications technology in service of a digitally inclusive world. Iyer's contributions enable traditionally stationary Internet of Things (IoT) devices to move, putting a new and scalable category of data collectors into the world to help us understand our environment at scale and with a fine degree of detail. Iyer began by developing ultra-low power wireless communication and localization techniques for IoT devices and then became interested in applying these to tiny, bio-inspired robots the size of an insect.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian Origin Texas Man Sentenced for Wire Fraud

CONCORD (TIP): Shiva Chandan Reddy Thudi, 26, of Irving, Texas was sentenced on July 29 to 12 months and a day in federal prison for wire fraud, United States Attorney Scott W. Murray announced.

According to court documents and statements made in court, Thudi attended college in New Hampshire from 2015 to 2017. During that time, he established relationships with and defrauded several individuals who were foreign citizens living in the United States. In essence, Thudi falsely told his victims he was seeking investors to share in the profits of business ventures that involved his producing and distributing films in the United States. In reality, Thudi was not a movie producer or distributor and, instead, he used his victim's money for his own personal benefit. To keep the scheme going, Thudi engaged in a classic Ponzi scheme by using money paid by later victims to pay supposed "returns" on the "investment" made by earlier victims.

When interviewed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Thudi admitted he stole substantial amounts of money from the victims by selling illusory ownership interests in several films to them. Additionally, he admitted that he used the victims' money for his personal benefit and to make lulling payments to keep the scheme going. In total, Thudi stole more than \$160,000 from his victims.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



IDP USA

INDIA DAY PARADE
LONG ISLAND - NEW YORK



SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2020 AT 4PM
1st Time Ever CAR PARADE

STARTS FROM PATEL BROTHERS HICKSVILLE & ENDS AT BADSHAH FARMERS MARKET HICKSVILLE
PRESIDENT MUKESH MODI & TEAM INVITES ALL
TO BRING CULTURE AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY



DR. RAJ BHAYANI
GRAND MARSHALL



FREE PARTICIPATION
REGISTER YOUR CAR AT
www.idpusa.org



HON. SHATRUGHNA SINHA
DEPUTY CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
GUEST OF HONOR

Parade Can Be Seen Live
On YouTube
By Yahoo Photo

Live Parade Will Be Covered
By Radio Zindagi 104AM

PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



PRIZE SPONSORS



DR. UMILESH ARYA

SATISH S. BEDI

D P SINGH

INDU JAGHAI

KANCHANA POOLA

VIKAS DHALL

SHASHI MALIK

CONTACTORS

GOBIND BATHIA
ANJU & SANJU SHARMA
ANMOL DHAWAN
ANU JAIN

DEEPAK BANSAL
DR. BHAVANI SIRINIVASAN
GOVIND GUPTA
KAMLESH SHAH, CPA
MOHINDER MIGLANI
MOHINDER TANEJA

NEELEMA SRIVASTWA
NEERU BHAMBRI
NEETU CHABRA
ONKAR SINGH
PAUL BINDRA
PREETPAL MANN

PUPUL CHOPRA
REKHA CHICHARA
RENU KAPOOR
SANJEEV JINDAL
VINOD MONGA



Please Contact For More Information | **917-215-1491, 516-857-5297, 516-633-5229**

Our Parade Can Be Seen Live On Youtube Please Visit :- www.idpusa.org

PAID BY: BROADCAST PRINTING & DESIGN - 516 633-5229

GUIDELINES OF
COVID-19
All those who will be wearing
masks at the event.

WEAR MASK
SOCIAL DISTANCE
PLEASE COOPERATE WITH OUR
VOLUNTEERS & ENJOY INDIA DAY PARADE

IDP PARADE ROUTE AUG. 15, 2020
STARTS FROM PATEL BROTHERS
THEN PASS APNA BAZAR
PASS ACAMAI HINDI TEMPLE
END AT BADSHAH FARMERS MARKET



Our Parade Can Be Seen Live On Youtube Please Visit :- www.idpusa.org





Andy Singh
516-441-7000
16 E. Old Country Road
Hicksville, NY 11801
E-mail: herman@omnimortgage.com



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

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



Anu Jain
NYS Licensed Realtor
A Trusted and Successful Name
FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS!
BECAUSE TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE AND
YOU DESERVE THE BEST
CALL NOW
(516) 728-4186
anujainrealtor@gmail.com
WWW.SEARCHHOMELONGISLAND.COM

RealtyConnectUSA
175 Crossways Park Dr. W, Woodbury NY 11797. (516) 744- 9076

**For advertising in
The Indian Panorama,
call 646-247-9458**

Full Service Unisex Salon
Rita's Beauty Parlor
THREADING SPECIALIST
SPECIALIZING IN : ● Eyebrow Threading
● Ayurveda Herbal Facials ● Mini Facials
● Full Body Waxing ● Brazilian Waxing
Bridal Makeup ● Mehendi
● Unisex Hair Cuts and Hair Styling
● Fruit Based Color Highlights
and Ladies Body Massage

Soothing Relaxing Atmosphere
Quality Services
High on Hygiene & Sanitized Parlor





Open Tuesday to Sunday
10.00 am to 7.30 pm

454 S BROADWAY, HICKSVILLE, NY 11801
516-622-9300 / 347-608-9424

Email: ritabeautyparlor@aol.com
www.ritasbeautyparlor.com

 **Call now**
and say coupon **TIP50FF**
to avail discounts
BOOK ONLINE APPOINTMENT



STATE BANK OF INDIA
460 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022

HIRING

**STATE BANK OF INDIA, NEW YORK BRANCH IS
LOOKING TO HIRE SUITABLE CANDIDATES FOR THE
POSITION OF ENTRY-LEVEL ASSOCIATES**

ASSOCIATE (GENERAL BANKING), the candidate should possess minimum educational qualification of a High School diploma and be capable of working in a computerized environment.

Must be flexible and work well with a diverse workforce. The role requires to work in office work set up.

The positions have an annual base salary of \$29,120.00, plus group life insurance, health and dental insurance (fully paid for by the bank) and 401k benefits.

Interested candidates, please submit your resume to:
Vppna.nyb@statebank.com
pna.nyb@statebank.com and
on or before August 10, 2020

STATE BANK OF INDIA IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT EMPLOYER
ALL CANDIDATES MUST HAVE VALID AUTHORIZATION TO WORK IN THE US

GRADE CONSTRUCTION

CIVIL ESTIMATOR(S) WANTED

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

Basic Requirements:
Effectively and efficiently develop and manage takeoffs and proposal estimates for various construction projects.
Highly self-motivated, experienced and able to multi-task.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities:
Position may involve performing other duties as required, which may not be mentioned below. Search for bid opportunities, analyze bid documents, prepare plan take off calculations, prepare cost estimates and assembling of bid packages.
Research construction history for techniques related to job elements and productivity, value enhancing, value engineering, and alternative constructability.
Ensure bid proposals are completed in a timely fashion to allow for team review prior to submission.
Work in a productive and efficient manner while maintaining the highest level of quality work.

Education and Experience Requirements:
Experience in estimating and proposal development – MINIMUM 5+ years.
Attention to detail and accuracy are essential skills for this position.
Proficiency in B2W- Bid 2 Win estimating software, Insite earthwork takeoff software.
A strong background in public works projects, heavy highway, private work- residential and commercial construction.
Excellence in communication skills, both written and verbal and strong attention to detail.
Strong work ethic and willingness to work as a team to efficiently complete jobs to the highest customer satisfaction.
Must be able to speak, read and write in English.
Organized individual committed to performing duties with detail and accuracy.

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

Send resume to: Ralph@gradeconstruction.net



By Radhika Ramaseshan

The Sangh's utmost priority was to unshackle the temple movement from the clutches of the Brahmin clergy and broad-base its appeal by reaching out to the backward castes and Dalits so that the BJP would outgrow its urban, Bania base in the heartland and win over the constituents that were historically wedded to the Congress and the Socialists.

A snapshot of the dais bearing the luminaries who partook of the rituals marking the start of the Ram temple construction in Ayodhya encapsulated the mandir's journey and the vicissitudes it traversed across India. Barring Mahant Nritya Gopal Das, none of the Ramjanmabhoomi era 'superstars' were present. The mahant was the only living relic of an eon that started inconspicuously in 1985 with the consecration of the bricks that will go in raising the temple. Since then, the saga was signposted by events that contested the premises on which post-Independence India was envisioned and founded, altered the political and social fundamentals and upended the notion of Hinduism as an inclusive and receptive faith.

The mahant aside, the others on the stage were tangentially engaged with the temple chapter or did not figure in it. PM Modi was among the convenors of LK Advani's 'Ram rath yatra' in 1990, when it was launched from Somnath, but he did not accompany him outside Gujarat. Madhukar Dattatraya Deoras (Balasaheb) was then the RSS sarsanghchalak while Anandiben Patel, the UP Governor, and Yogi Adityanath, the CM, were unheard of. Modi visited Ayodhya again when he steered Murli Manohar Joshi's motorized chariot on the 'Ekta yatra' in 1991-92. He stopped briefly at Ayodhya as a guest at Mahant Das's Maniram ki Chavni temple complex. He did not campaign in Ayodhya in 2014 and 2019, choosing to stop over at Goshaijanj, that is 25 km from the pilgrim town and part of the Ambedkar Nagar Lok Sabha constituency.

Mahant Das heads the

Ramjanmabhoomi Nyas, a trust which the VHP constituted after the Babri mosque's demolition to oversee the temple construction. Once the SC paved the way, the Centre initially seemed reluctant to engage the VHP and the affiliated clergy. These stakeholders rose to such positions of dominance in the late '80s and '90s that they resented the BJP's political expropriation of the temple 'movement', and the ruling Congress's proclivity to play games by creating a parallel front of Ayodhya's seers to counter the VHP. But they desisted from protesting aloud because those days, the diktat of the RSS ran strong over its constituents. VHP leaders like Ashok Singhal, Giriraj Kishore and Omkar Bhave were dedicated pracharaks and would never have dreamt of defying its writ. They worked in tandem with the RSS's uncelebrated Moreshwar Nilkanth Pingle (known as Morapant) who conceptualized the Ram temple, drew up a blueprint and amplified its 'historical' and political underpinnings. When the BJP stepped in, its leaders had little to do except disseminate Pingle's theories and messages to the country in road shows.

However, there's one exception in the cast of characters to hold forth from Ayodhya on Wednesday. That is Adityanath. The CM's spiritual forbear, Mahant Avaidyanath, founded the Sri Ramjanmabhoomi Mukti Yagya Samiti in 1983 before the RSS-VHP embarked on a programme to 'liberate Ram's birthplace'. Avaidyanath was originally a Hindu Mahasabha member but importantly, he was the custodian of the Gorakhnath Math, a premier religious institution of east UP. Adityanath took over the monastery after his guru passed away and learnt his politics from him.

Avaidyanath was deeply political, a feisty orator and the perfect candidate to foster the Sangh's temple agenda in UP, which he did. His speeches often spurred communal conflicts but that suited the RSS-BJP at that point, particularly because UP was rife with caste confrontations following the implementation of the Mandal

AS I SEE IT

Temple done, polls ahead

Milked dry, it remains to be seen if the issue can stay electorally relevant



PM Narendra Modi at Ram Mandir in Ayodhya on August 5. The temple will possibly be one element in BJP 2.0's overall Hindutva 'nationalism' playbook for which the Opposition has no answers yet.

Commission's recommendations. The pro-Dalit BSP also registered its presence around that time. Avaidyanath was elected to the Lok Sabha from Gorakhpur a number of times and Adityanath effortlessly slipped into his shoes.

The Sangh's utmost priority was to unshackle the temple movement from the clutches of the Brahmin clergy and broad-base its appeal by reaching out to the backward castes and Dalits so that the BJP would outgrow its urban, Bania base in the heartland and win over the constituents that were historically wedded to the Congress and the Socialists. Ayodhya seemed the right epicenter for the project because the custodians of its myriad temples were from various castes, except the Dalits. The RSS fulfilled its objective electorally since 1989 in the heartland but every now and then, other formidable social coalitions that pushed the communal programme on the back burner triumphed. In the ebb and flow, the temple receded in the background. Doubtless, the BJP got the fillip it needed in 1989 and 1991 in the name of Ram but once the mosque was felled, the issue was subject to the law of diminishing returns. Vajpayee's charisma saw the BJP through a couple of elections before Modi took over. The temple was there and not there: it featured as a ritual in its election manifestoes and except for the VHP and

its collaborators, nobody seemed in a great hurry to see a bhavya structure supplant the 'makeshift' one.

What happens here on? UP votes in 2022. The Opposition is mum. Unlike in the 1990s when the Sangh's displays of strength at Ayodhya provoked corresponding responses from a vibrant Opposition, no leader is inclined to say a word for fear of antagonizing the Hindus for whom Modi symbolizes the potent mix of Hindutva and 'nationalism'. At least in the heartland. Social media juxtaposed images of Modi and Ram, a first because at the crest of Advani's popularity, the idea of fusing his persona with that of the 'Maryada Purshottam' did not occur even as a flight of fancy.

Since Adityanath faces his first test two years hence, the onus of 'branding' the temple and recycling the political message falls on him before Modi takes over the task in 2024. The 'mandir wahin banayenge' slogan saw the BJP through in a couple of elections. But when the party went to the people in the 1993 UP elections with the claim 'jo kaha so kiya', an allusion to the Babri demolition, it didn't resonate. In the end, the temple will possibly be one element in BJP 2.0's overall Hindutva 'nationalism' playbook for which the Opposition has no answers so far.

(The author is a senior journalist)

J&K, a year after abrogation of Article 370

GUEST COMMENT

August 5 marked a year since Jammu and Kashmir was stripped of its special status and reorganized into two UTs. In one stroke, an assertive BJP claimed, a solution had been found to the Kashmir imbroglio and the stumbling block to the integration of the Valley removed. The jubilation in the rank and file came as no surprise. What did was the overwhelming sense of endorsement in the rest of the country. How Kashmir and the Kashmiris felt mattered little. And, apparently, still does not. Jammu was ecstatic, initially at least. Having

read the fine print, the apprehensions are far from muted. Ladakh felt it had gained freedom from the stranglehold of distant and uninterested administrators. The slow pace of change is testing its enthusiasm.

The non-BJP parties did show a semblance of resistance, but quickly realized the power of silence in the changed climate of burning patriotism and nationalism. Omar Abdullah has been scathing in his attack, saying he felt betrayed more by the Opposition. What deserves serious attention is his charge against the Modi government of

Free political prisoners, allow voices of dissent

reducing the political mainstream into an object of ridicule. Four-time legislator MY Tarigami's argument is pertinent: "The continued detention of political prisoners, particularly legislators, shows that if democratic rights are not even available to the voices that speak on behalf of the Indian union, how would ordinary people even think of enjoying them?" The only fallout of disallowing political discourse is anger, sullenness and further alienation, not integration.

Since the clampdown in the Valley last year, high-speed Internet remains out of

reach. That amounts to two lockdowns, including the one induced by Covid-19, without a basic necessity. Carrying out such an exercise anywhere else in India is unimaginable. The legal challenge to the abrogation of Article 370 is still on, restoration of statehood is a popular demand. Allow voices of dissent. Dispel the notion, as a former CM feels, that all the Centre wanted to do on August 5, 2019, was to 'punish and humiliate' the people.

(Tribune, India)

Overcoming Challenges, Building Partnerships: The Promise of a New India



By Taranjit Singh Sandhu

"The green shoots of an economic rejuvenation must be nurtured with the support of friends and partners. The strength of India's strategic partnership with the United States will be central to the times ahead. Through the pandemic, we have worked together to maintain the integrity of our product supplies, under stress from shortages or dependency on single country sources. As a responsible pharmaceutical manufacturer and stakeholder, we have kept open medical supply chains and made sure that essential medicines from India reached the U.S. and other partner countries."

August is a special month for India. On August 15th, we celebrate Independence Day, this year marking 73 years since our freedom from colonial rule. As we are confronted with a pandemic of unprecedented scale, our celebrations this year will suitably respect the necessary health protocols-social distancing and limited gatherings-both in India and abroad. Much like July 4th in the United States, August 15th for us is a moment of celebration, reflection and introspection.

The last few months have been a challenging period for India, with our 1.3 billion people, bustling cities and far-flung villages. Yet so far, in combating the pandemic, we have held the line. And we have used the crisis as an opportunity for change. The absolute number of COVID-19 cases in India is over 1.8 million, but the recovery rate is also significant: over 65 percent. The case fatality rate (CFR) has dropped to 2.13 percent, well below the global CFR. Even as we continue to save lives and deal with economic consequences, we are encouraged by the fact that two out of every three Indians infected with the novel coronavirus have already recovered, and many more are well on their way back to health.

There could be many reasons for this-biological, immunological and social. Even so, it is obvious that the early and decisive steps in the initial stages of the pandemic, along with the persuasive appeals and urgings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, led our citizens to embrace discipline of lockdowns, social distancing, self-isolating and following relevant medical and health protocols. We have continuously raised the bar on testing, and today more than half a million tests are being carried out each day in India. The world's largest health insurance

OUR EFFORTS IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR IN TACKLING COVID-19 HAVE BEEN PART OF A CLEAR VISION OF PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT AND BETTER GOVERNANCE-ALIGNING IT WITH THE SOCIAL EQUALITIES AND PERSONAL FREEDOMS THAT ARE THE RIGHT OF ALL INDIANS, AND ENSURING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS OF EVERY RESIDENT. NO LONGER DOES JAMMU AND KASHMIR REMAIN SEQUESTERED FROM THE MANY CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, DEMOCRATIC PRIVILEGES AND EMPOWERING LEGISLATIONS-INCLUDING GENDER AND CHILD-FRIENDLY LAWS-THAT HAD PROGRESSIVELY BEEN ROLLED OUT, OVER DECADES, IN THE REST OF INDIA.

scheme, Ayushman Bharat, covers 500 million citizens, and with the aid of over one million health workers-mostly women-spread across the country, it has followed a rigorous program of containment and contact tracing. India's federal polity has empowered state governments to take the lead in these strategies, providing the flexibility for a phased opening up of the country, whether in Kerala or Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh or Assam. At its core, India's countrywide COVID-19 response has seen a whole-of-society approach, followed the science, and invoked both common sense and the common good.

Even as we have sought to protect the health of our citizens, we have endeavored to ensure that it did not come at the cost of their economic well-being. The government has moved quickly to ensure food security, with \$20 billion worth of food grains provided to 800 million individuals and \$7 billion transferred to families. In Jammu and Kashmir, one year after full integration with the rest of India, a special relief package of \$50 million was announced for those adversely affected. Another 293,000 households have received drinking water connections. And 17 dedicated hospitals with 85,000 beds are operational, with a testing rate of 44,744 per million.

Our efforts in Jammu and Kashmir in tackling COVID-19 have been part of a clear vision of promoting development and better governance-aligning it with the social equalities and personal freedoms that are the right of all Indians, and ensuring the economic and social progress of every resident. No longer does Jammu and Kashmir remain sequestered from the many constitutional rights, democratic privileges and empowering legislations-including gender and child-friendly laws-that had progressively been rolled out, over decades, in the rest of India.

Just as we have sought to ensure that no part of the country is neglected, we have put in place policies for long-term economic transformation: strategies for a world that awaits us at the end of this pandemic. The COVID-19 experience has served as motivation to redouble our efforts to use innovation, digital technologies and manufacturing potential to contribute to mutually fruitful partnerships.

Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, we have unveiled a set of transformative reforms targeting the five pillars of an Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India): economy, infrastructure, technology-driven systems, a vibrant demography and demand. These reforms will unleash the country's full economic potential, enable India to play an important role in global economic revival and make India a trusted participant in global supply chains. They will open up



President Trump joined Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Howdy, Modi" rally at the NRG Stadium in Houston. -Photo / Courtesy NY Times

our markets in key sectors, from defense production to agriculture, mining to infrastructure, accelerating foreign investment and igniting the entrepreneurial spirit of our people. They will also go hand-in-hand with an immediate stimulus of \$270 billion, close to 10 percent of India's GDP, with a specific focus on heavily impacted small and medium enterprises.

The green shoots of an economic rejuvenation must be nurtured with the support of friends and partners. The strength of India's strategic partnership with the United States will be central to the times ahead. Through the pandemic, we have worked together to maintain the integrity of our product supplies, under stress from shortages or dependency on single country sources. As a responsible pharmaceutical manufacturer and stakeholder, we have kept open medical supply chains and made sure that essential medicines from India reached the U.S. and other partner countries.

As the world moves towards a vaccine, India's research labs and vaccine manufacturing facilities are part of the global efforts-at least three of them are direct products of India-U.S. collaboration. And when the vaccine will be ready for distribution, Indian companies with expertise and capabilities in manufacturing and vaccine delivery will step up to the plate and play an important role in public health outreach across the world, including in Africa and Latin America.

The India-U.S. collaboration in health is only one example of the range and depth of the partnership. Already, we are witnessing renewed interest in India from U.S. digital and innovation giants-in the last three months, more than \$40 billion has been pledged as investments that will spur economic growth and create jobs in

both countries, leveraging our complementarities for mutual benefit. Those are not stand-alone events: from biotechnology to artificial intelligence, defense to renewable energy, fighting against terrorism to cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, there is no area of human endeavor that has not benefited from our binational cooperation. High-skilled professionals and students from India bring in important skill sets and bridge technological gaps, enabling U.S. companies to be globally competitive while generating more jobs. This innovative lot will play an even more significant role in post-COVID economic recovery in the U.S.

But even beyond businesses and joint ventures, India and the U.S. are bound together at the people's level-our partnership founded on the fundamental belief in the power of our democracies and our shared values. Through the visionary foresight of the political leaderships in both our countries, we have built a truly extraordinary cooperation. And both our governments are committed to build on these excellent foundations and advance this partnership that not only benefits our two peoples, but also contributes to the global economic recovery and responds to the challenges of our times.

As India approaches the 75th year of our democracy, we remember the genius of our founding fathers-many of whom were inspired by the ideals of the American Constitution. That moment was not an end, but rather the beginning, of a relentless process of nation-building, of the expansion of individual liberty and of India's economic, social and political empowerment. In renewing that commitment, India's natural partnership with the United States will be a source of strength.

(The author is ambassador of India to the United States)

Nepal reimposes Covid restrictions following spike in cases

KATHMANDU (TIP): The Nepal government on Thursday reimposed restrictions in capital Kathmandu and other coronavirus-affected districts following a spike in the number of fresh virus cases. The country's COVID-19 tally on Wednesday reached 21,390 after 380 new cases were reported. The virus death toll stands at 60. The restrictions will be applicable throughout Kathmandu Valley and all districts with more than 200 active coronavirus cases, according to the Health Ministry. Kathmandu Valley has so far reported 787 cases.

According to the restrictions, hotels, restaurants and beauty-parlours will be shut down. Public gatherings, parties and seminars are also banned.

There is a complete halt on vehicular movement from 9 pm to 5 am. Vehicles will be subject to checks from 7 pm to 7 am. Further, the odd-even rule will be implemented, according to which vehicles with odd and even number plates will be allowed to ply on alternate days. The border with India is also closed in this period. Meanwhile, six security personnel at Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda's home have tested positive for coronavirus. However, all family members of Prachanda have tested negative.

The Nepal government on March 24 had first decided to enforce a nationwide lockdown in view of the COVID-19 outbreak. The restrictions were lifted on July 21 after a dip in new cases was recorded. — PTI

Sri Lanka General Election: Early results show Rajapaksa clan heading for landslide win

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka's powerful Rajapaksa family-run Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) appeared to be heading for a landslide win in the country's parliamentary election, according to early results announced on Thursday. The SLPP has polled more votes than its rivals, scoring over 60 per cent of the total votes in the five results declared so far from the South, dominated by the Sinhala majority community.

The nearest rival is the new party formed by former presidential candidate Sajith Premadasa who has relegated his mother party, the United National Party (UNP), to the fourth place. The Marxist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) too has performed better than the UNP, the oldest party in the country, official results showed. In the North, dominated by the Tamil minority community, the main Tamil party has bagged the Jaffna polling division, while the Rajapaksa ally in the Tamil north, the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) has beaten Tamil National Alliance (TNA) in another Jaffna district polling division. PTI

Pakistan's leader of Oppn Shahbaz Sharif indicted in corruption case

LAHORE (TIP): A Pakistani court on Thursday indicted Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Shahbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shahbaz in a corruption case.

Separately, the Lahore Accountability Court issued bailable arrest warrant against former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, currently in London for treatment, in a land allotment case involving Geo Media Group owner Mir Shakilur Rehman.

The accountability court in Lahore indicted Shahbaz, 68, on the charges of using taxpayers' money to construct a drain in Chiniot (250 km from Lahore) in (2010-2013) which allegedly benefitted a business run by his sons.

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) alleged that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president used his position at the time as chief minister of Punjab to approve the drain's construction at a cost of Rs 36 crore, benefitting the Ramzan Sugar Mills which is owned by his sons Hamza and Salman.

"The public funds were misused for the benefit of a family business. The people getting benefits from the drain



were few in number," the court said.

Salman is absconding in London and Hamza is in jail on judicial remand. Hamza is the Punjab Assembly's Opposition Leader.

Sharif told the court that wrong charges were framed against him and his son. The 70-year-old PML-N chief said he had saved billions of rupees in different development projects in the province. The court adjourned the hearing till August 27.

In the other land case, the accountability court issued bailable arrest warrants against three-time premier Nawaz Sharif.

Special Prosecutor Haris Qureshi said the suspect (Nawaz Sharif) was not brought to the court in the light of the government's COVID-19 standard operating procedures.

The judge directed the prosecutor to treat the case as 'special' and ensure the appearance of the suspect at the next hearing.

The prosecutor also submitted a report about non-service of the court's summons to Nawaz Sharif at his Lahore address. The report said the suspect was in London.

At this, the judge issued bailable warrants for the arrest of the former premier and adjourned the hearing till August 20.

Sharif had left for London in November last year after getting bail in a money laundering case, and the Al-Azizia case in which he was convicted for seven years. He left for the UK to treat a heart ailment.

The former prime minister recently submitted his medical reports to the Lahore High Court stating that because of coronavirus doctors had advised him not to go outside, therefore he could not return. — PTI



17 killed as boat capsizes in Bangladesh

DHAKA (TIP): A passenger boat carrying about 50 people, including madrassa students and teachers, capsized on Wednesday in northern Bangladesh, killing at least 17 people, according to a media report.

The incident happened in Netrokona district's Madan upazila.

A total of 48 people, including madrassa students and teachers, from Mymensingh, boarded the boat for a cruise.

So far, 17 bodies have been recovered, 30 people have been rescued alive, while one passenger remains missing, an official of Madan upazila was quoted as saying by the Dhaka Tribune.

The cause of the accident is not immediately known.

Such accidents are common in Bangladesh.

Poor safety standards of vessels and their reckless driving have been repeatedly blamed for frequent ferry accidents in riverine Bangladesh. In most of the cases, the ferries carry passengers beyond their capacity.

In June, at least 32 people had died after a ferry capsized near Dhaka. PTI



Will run for second term, says Suu Kyi

YANGON (TIP): Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi on Tuesday formally declared her intention to seek a second term in an election in November that is seen as a test of the Southeast Asian nation's tentative democratic reforms.

After decades of military rule, Suu Kyi, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for campaigning for democracy, took the reins in 2016 after an electoral landslide, but has been forced to share power with the generals. Her international reputation slumped over Myanmar's treatment of Rohingya Muslims but she remains popular at home, where her image is undented by accusations of complicity in atrocities against the minority.

On Tuesday, Suu Kyi waved to a crowd on the outskirts of the former capital Yangon to submit an application to run as a candidate. — Reuters

Pakistan International Airlines sacks 63 employees for fake degrees

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) last month sacked 63 of its employees, including five pilots, on charges of fake degrees, embezzlement and absence from duty.

All five of the sacked pilots were holding fake licences, said PIA spokesperson Abdullah Khan, adding that all the employees were dismissed in accordance to the law. Last month, the airline had sacked 17 pilots, including 12 captains after they were found to be having 'dubious' flying licences. — PTI

Pak PM appoints new health minister

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday appointed his focal person on COVID-19 as the new health minister, the third in less than two years, amidst the ongoing fight against the coronavirus that has claimed nearly 6,000 lives and infected over 280,000 people in the country.

Dr Faisal Sultan has been appointed as Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) with the status of a federal minister. He is the chief executive officer of Shaikat Khanum Cancer Hospital, Khan's charity hospital.

"The prime minister has been pleased to appoint Dr Faisal Sultan as SAPM on National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination with immediate effect. Dr Faisal Sultan shall hold status of federal minister," according to an official statement. PTI

GLOBAL COVID CASES TOP 19M AS EUROPE TIGHTENS CURBS



Coronavirus cases worldwide passed 19 million Thursday, as European nations imposed new travel restrictions and containment measures with fears growing over a second wave of infections.

The global figure, compiled by AFP from official sources at 2300 GMT, was driven by surges in Latin America and India -- and a new milestone in Africa as the continent hit one million cases.

Global deaths from the pandemic have topped 700,000, and Europe remains the hardest-hit region worldwide with more than 200,000 fatalities since the virus first emerged in China late last year.

More than half of Africa's cases are in South Africa, which has the fifth highest number of infections in the world, after the US, Brazil, India and Russia.

Nevertheless the African continent remains one of the least affected, according to the official figures, with only Oceania registering fewer Covid-19 cases.

As governments across the globe struggle to salvage economies ravaged by months of lockdown, many have been forced to look at new measures to curb outbreaks of Covid-19 since they lifted initial containment orders.

In Australia, the second-largest city Melbourne entered the country's toughest lockdown yet on Thursday, closing non-essential businesses and requiring hundreds of thousands more people to stay home.

The pandemic has killed at least 712,315 people worldwide with the United States recording the most deaths with almost 160,000, followed by Brazil with nearly 100,000. Globally, 40 percent of all cases have been recorded in the two countries.

Germany is the latest to introduce mandatory tests for travellers returning from designated risk zones, starting on Saturday, as fears grow over rising case numbers blamed on summer holidays and local outbreaks.

Germany's list of "risk zones" currently includes most non-EU countries, as well as certain provinces in Belgium and Spain.

TRACKING THE VIRUS

GLOBAL

Cases	Deaths
19,260,188	717,704

INDIA

Cases	Deaths
2,027,074	41,585

'90% OF RECOVERED COVID-19 PATIENTS IN WUHAN HAVE DAMAGED LUNGS, SOME HAVE TO RELY ON OXYGEN MACHINES'

A team of doctors in China has claimed that lungs of 90 per cent of Covid-19 patients who recovered in Wuhan, the city where the outbreak of the disease was first reported, are still damaged.

The team is led by Peng Zhiyong, the director of Zhongnan Hospital of Wuhan University. It has been conducting follow-up visits with '100 recovered patients' since April.

The findings of the research have been startling. Peng's team said that the recovered patients could only walk for 400 metres in six minutes, unlike their healthy peers who could cover a distance of 500 metres in the same time. This is based on the walking test with the patients.

The first phase of this one-year programme finished in July. The average age of the patients in the study was 59.

The researchers also said that some recovered patients have to rely on oxygen machines even three months after being discharged from the hospital, researchers from another team said. This study was conducted by Liang Tengxiao, a doctor from the Dongzhimen Hospital, Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, on patients above the age of 65.

The results of their study also showed that antibodies against the novel coronavirus in 10 per cent of the 100 patients have disappeared, according to



reports published in Chinese news outlets. The 100 patients' immune systems have not fully recovered, it further said, adding that the patients suffered from depression and a sense of stigma.

The coronavirus disease first started from Wuhan, in China's Hubei province, late last year and spread across the globe. Hubei province has reported a total of 68,138 confirmed Covid-19 cases till now. The disease has claimed 4,512 lives in the province, according to the official data.

China, meanwhile, reported 37 new coronavirus cases in the mainland as of Thursday, the country's health authority said on Friday.

Pak to lift Covid restrictions from August 10: Minister

Pakistan will ease several restrictions, which were put in place five months ago, from Monday as the country registered a dip in the cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), a senior minister has said.

Asad Umar, minister for planning, announced on Thursday restrictions on the hospitality and recreational sectors would be lifted from August 10. "Restaurants and cafes, outdoor and indoor, will be allowed to open from Monday, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) will be finalised in the next two to three days," Umar said.

The recreational sector, which includes public and amusement parks, theatres, cinemas and arcades will also be allowed to open from Monday along with business and expo centres and salons. Marriage halls can open from September 15 and hotels can host wedding ceremonies, he said.

Permission was also being given for organising tournaments and matches involving non-contact sports without the presence of an audience from Monday, in addition to allowing indoor gymnasiums and sports clubs to open.

3 Covid-19 vaccine candidates set to enter final stage of trial

Researchers and pharmaceutical companies around the globe are racing to find a vaccine for the coronavirus disease. While some companies are still focussing on the initial round of clinical trials for their vaccine candidate, others have raced ahead to third and final phase of testing.

In fact, US President Donald Trump, whose government is pouring in billions for a Covid-19 vaccine, said on Thursday it was possible that the United States would have a coronavirus vaccine before the November 3 election.

However, top US infectious diseases official Anthony Fauci, a leading voice in the healthcare fraternity, had given a more conservative outlook. He had said on Wednesday that drugmakers will likely have tens of millions of doses of coronavirus vaccines in the early part of next year. Fauci said there could be a billion vaccine doses available by the end of 2021, and that the



world could get past the pandemic by then.

The companies which are the front runners in the race to find a Covid-19 vaccine are Moderna, Pfizer and Novavax.

Here is a look at how these companies are preparing their vaccine candidates and where do they stand:

Moderna is developing the mRNA-1273 vaccine to fight the Sars-CoV-2 virus which causes the respiratory disease known as Covid-19. The company announced last week that it has started phase 3 clinical trials in the United States. The trial is being conducted at nearly 100 research sites in the US. Moderna had conducted the second phase of clinical trial in May, but the results are available only for the first phase. Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine generated an immune system response, but many volunteers participating in the company's drug trial reported side effects like fatigue, chills, headache and muscle pain.

Will end the freeze on green cards, oppose suspension of H-1B visas: proposed Democratic Party Platform



CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Running into 90 pages, the platform was considered by the 2020 Platform Committee at its meeting on July 27

Green Card, known officially as a Permanent Resident Card, is a document issued to immigrants to the US as evidence that the bearer has been granted the privilege of residing permanently. The proposed platform, among other things, has expressed opposition to the decision of President Donald Trump to temporarily suspend issuing of H-1B visas.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of

thousands of employees each year from countries namely India and China.

The 2020 Democratic Party Platform, which is similar to an election manifesto in India, would be adopted by the party's delegates during its national convention in Wisconsin. The four-day convention from August 17 to 20 would formally nominate former Vice President Joe Biden as its candidate for the November 3 presidential elections.

"We support awarding visas for permanent, employment-based immigration in a way that is responsive to labor market needs. We want to attract and keep talent in this country, which is why Democrats will end the Trump administration's freeze on green cards for new immigrants and instead pursue a meaningful reform agenda," said the proposed platform.

"A 21st-century immigration system that honors American values is an essential prerequisite not just to recovering from the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, but to strengthening its democracy and guaranteeing America's long-term economic competitiveness," it said.

"That's why Democrats believe in

improving and increasing opportunities for legal, permanent immigration. Our family, humanitarian, and diversity pathways have contributed immeasurably to the vibrancy and productivity of American society and should continue to be the centerpiece of our immigration system," the proposed platform said.

"Democrats oppose President Trump's illegal chaotic, and reckless changes to the legal immigration system, including decisions to slash family-based immigration as well as H-1B and other visa programs that can help our economy," it said.

A Biden administration, the platform said would eliminate unfair barriers to naturalization, reduce application backlogs and make US immigration processes faster, more efficient, and less costly.

"These reforms will strengthen our communities, our families, our economy, and our country," it said.

According to the platform, the Democrats believe family unity should be a guiding principle for its immigration policy. As such it would prioritize family reunification for

children still separated from their families, and would restore family reunification programs ended by the Trump administration, it stated.

"We support legislation to treat the spouses and children of green card holders as immediate relatives and end their unfair separation. We will eliminate family-based green card backlogs and reform the system to speed up family-based visas," the platform said.

"And we will work with Congress to eliminate immigration barriers, such as the three- and 10-year bars, and remove the 10-year waiting period for waivers to the permanent bars that keep loved ones apart," it said. It said they would immediately terminate the "discriminatory travel and immigration bans that disproportionately" impact Muslim, Arab, and African people, and invite those whose visas have been denied under these "xenophobic and un-American policies to re-apply to come to the United States".

"We will support legislation to ensure that no president can enact discriminatory bans ever again," it said. (Source: PTI)

USCIS Hikes Visa Application Fees to 'Help Meet Operational Needs'

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Department of Homeland Security, on July 31, announced a final rule that 'adjusts' fees for certain immigration and naturalization benefit requests to ensure U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services recovers its costs of services. As per the new fee schedule, employers filing visa petitions will have to pay an average of 20% more from October. This final rule is effective from October 2, 2020. Any application, petition, or request postmarked on or after this date must include payment of the new, correct fees established by this final rule.

Unlike most government agencies, USCIS is fee funded. Fees collected and deposited into the Immigration Examinations Fee Account fund nearly 97% of USCIS' budget.

As required by federal law, USCIS conducted a comprehensive biennial fee review and determined that current fees do not recover the cost of providing adjudication and naturalization services. DHS is adjusting USCIS fees by a weighted average increase of 20% to help recover its operational costs. Current fees would leave the agency underfunded by about \$1 billion per year.

"USCIS is required to examine incoming and outgoing expenditures and make adjustments based on that analysis," said Joseph Edlow, USCIS deputy director for policy. "These overdue adjustments in fees are necessary to efficiently and fairly administer our nation's lawful



immigration system, secure the homeland and protect Americans."

The rule accounts for increased costs to adjudicate immigration benefit requests, detect and deter immigration fraud, and thoroughly vet applicants, petitioners and beneficiaries. The rule also supports payroll, technology and operations to accomplish the USCIS mission. The rule removes certain fee exemptions, includes new nominal fees for asylum applicants, and reduces fee waivers to help recover the costs of adjudication.

According to the final rule, employers filing visa petitions will now pay \$555 fee (21 percent increase) for H-1B high-skill visas and \$850 (75 percent increase) for L (intra-company transfer) visas, The Economic Times reported.

This final rule also encourages online filing by providing a \$10 reduction in the fee for applicants who submit forms online that are electronically available from USCIS. Online filing is the most secure, efficient, cost-effective and convenient way to submit a request with USCIS.

USCIS last updated its fee structure in December 2016 by a weighted average increase of 21%.

Trump signs executive orders banning TikTok, Wechat

WASHINGTON (TIP): U.S. President Donald Trump has signed executive orders banning popular Chinese apps like TikTok and WeChat, terming them a threat to the national security and to the country's economy.

The ban comes into effect in 45 days, Mr. Trump said in his two separate executive orders signed on Thursday.

India was the first country to ban TikTok and WeChat, citing national security concerns. India has banned as many as 106 Chinese apps, a move welcomed by both the Mr. Trump administration and the US lawmakers.

In a communique to the Congress, Mr. Trump said the spread in the United States of mobile applications developed and owned by the companies in China continues to threaten the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the country.

"At this time, the order takes action to address one mobile application in particular, TikTok," he said.

TikTok, a video-sharing mobile application owned by the Chinese company ByteDance Ltd, automatically captures vast swaths of information from its users, Mr. Trump said.

This data collection threatens to allow the Chinese Communist Party access to Americans' personal and proprietary information - potentially allowing China to track the locations of federal employees and contractors, build dossiers of personal information for blackmail, and conduct corporate espionage, he alleged.

TikTok also reportedly censors



After signing an executive order banning TikTok and WeChat, U.S. President Donald Trump said the mobile applications developed and owned by the Chinese firms continued to threaten the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the country.

File photo / courtesy Reuters

content that the Chinese Communist Party deems politically sensitive, such as content concerning protests in Hong Kong and China's treatment of Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities. TikTok may also be used for disinformation campaigns that benefit the Chinese Communist Party, the president said.

"To deal with this threat, the order prohibits, beginning 45 days after the date of this order, to the extent permitted under applicable law, any transaction by any person, or with respect to any property, subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, with ByteDance Ltd. (a.k.a. Zijie Tiaodong), Beijing, China, or its subsidiaries, in which any such company has any interest, as identified by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary)," Mr. Trump said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

U.S. will end reliance on China, other nations for pharmaceuticals and medical supply, says Trump

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Trump and leaders of several countries have accused China of not being transparent in reporting the deadly disease, leading to huge human casualties and economic crisis across the world. China, however, has denied U.S.' accusation of covering up the extent of its coronavirus outbreak and accused America of attempting to divert public attention by insinuating that the virus originated from a virology laboratory in Wuhan.

"What China did is a terrible thing. Whether it was incompetence or on purpose, it was a terrible thing that they did not only to the United States, but to the world. A terrible thing," Mr. Trump told reporters at the White House on Thursday before flying to Ohio to visit a Whirlpool manufacturing plant.

What China did to the rest of the world and the U.S. is a disgrace, said the President, asserting that Beijing would have to pay the price for the wound it has inflicted on America and the world by spreading the deadly coronavirus.

Hours later addressing workers at the manufacturing plant in Ohio, Mr. Trump alleged that the previous Obama-Biden administration was perfectly happy to let China win. "Over the course of the next four years, we will bring our pharmaceutical and medical supply chains home and we will end reliance on China and other foreign nations,"

Mr. Trump said as he laid out his vision to bring millions more jobs and thousands more factories back to American shores.

"Today, to define our path forward, I am making our incredible workers six more promises that I will keep over the next four years. First and foremost, we will defeat the China virus," he said, adding that the strategy shelters those at highest risk while allowing those at lower risk to get safely back to work and school.

Instead of a never-ending blanket lockdown, causing severe long-term public health consequences, "we have a targeted and data-driven approach", he said.

"Today, using the Defense Production Act, we are engaged in the most rapid industrial mobilization since World War II. Over the last six months, we have witnessed one manufacturing miracle after another," he said. Mr. Trump said he had signed a new executive order to ensure that when it comes to essential medicines, the U.S. buys American. This executive order will require that the U.S. government agencies purchase all the essential medicines it needs from American sources.

"My fifth promise to American workers is to bring back American jobs and factories using every tool at my disposal - including tariffs, countervailing duties, and new trade deals based on the principle of fairness and reciprocity," he said. "As long as I am President of the

United States, I will fight for you with every ounce of energy and strength that I have. I will be your voice. I will defend your jobs. I will stand up to foreign trade cheaters and violators," Mr. Trump said. As seen in this pandemic, the United States must produce essential equipment, supplies, and pharmaceuticals for itself, he said.

"We cannot rely on China and other nations across the globe that could one day deny us products in a time of need. We can't do it. We can't do it. We have to be smart," he said. "And speaking of pharmaceuticals, we instituted four moves, rebates, favorite nations, and other things buying from other nations where they have the product, the same exact pills, identical, made in the same factory for a fraction, just a small fraction of the cost. We buy from other countries as opposed to buying through this ridiculous quagmire of political scam that we've been going through for many years," Mr. Trump said. (Source: PTI)



President Donald Trump.
File photo / courtesy AP

Stanford Researchers Exploring Sustainability of Indian Sugar Industry

NEW YORK (TIP): A group of Stanford Researchers analyzed the interconnected food, water and energy challenges that arise from the sugar industry in India - the second-largest producer of sugar worldwide - and how the political economy drives those challenges.

Stanford researchers conducted the first comprehensive analysis of India's sugar industry and its impact on water, food and energy resources through the lens of its political economy - that is, how entrenched political interests in sugar production threaten food, water and energy security over time. The results show that a national biofuel policy encouraging production of ethanol made directly from sugarcane juice may make India's water and energy resources more sustainable. Using sugarcane juice instead of molasses would also free up land and irrigation water for growing nutrient-rich foods. The research was published July 24 in Environmental Research Letters.

The researchers focused their analysis on Maharashtra in western India, one of the country's largest sugarcane-producing states. Sugarcane cultivation in Maharashtra



Lead study author Ju Young Lee, center, is pictured with local farmers and agricultural experts while visiting a sugarcane field in Maharashtra in western India in August 2018.

Photo / courtesy Ju Young Lee

has increased sevenfold in the past 50 years to become the dominant user of irrigation water. The study found that in 2010-11, sugarcane occupied only 4 percent of Maharashtra's total cropped areas but used 61 percent of the state's irrigation water. Meanwhile, irrigation for other nutritious food crops remained lower than the national averages.

As part of continued efforts to examine the Indian sugar industry and its impacts, lead author Ju Young Lee, a PhD student in Earth system science, also developed satellite imagery analyses to identify sugarcane from space.

The researchers worked with stakeholders in India, including NGOs, academics and government officials, to focus the goals of the project. The research is part of Food Water Energy for Urban Sustainable Environments (FUSE), an international consortium supported in part by the National Science Foundation through the Belmont Forum to address competition for scarce resources in stressed urban food-water-energy systems - including the impacts of climate variability. Source - Stanford University

IAICC Offers Free Memberships for Businesses Facing Hardship during Pandemic

NEW YORK (TIP): For the benefit of businesses facing hardship during the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic, the Indian American International Chamber of Commerce (IAICC), headquartered in Washington DC, is offering free memberships to Small Businesses, Small Business Associations (SBA), Professional Organizations, and individuals that cannot afford to pay the regular membership fees, until January 2022. This effort is mainly aimed at promoting and fostering economic development for the benefit of businesses in India and the United States during these unprecedented times.

"IAICC is evaluating the current situation, and the associated impact on Indian-American owned businesses in USA, and likewise American owned

businesses in India. With its strong advocacy efforts and knowledge in US-India trade relations, IAICC is also working toward other solutions that can help businesses strengthen their capabilities," said National President & CEO, KV Kumar in a press release.

Mr. Kumar also met with the SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza at the 2020

Legislative Summit for The Latino Coalition, in Washington DC. During the meeting, Mr. Kumar talked about the ongoing pandemic, IAICC's long association with SBA, and also briefed Carranza about how IAICC initiated, supported and successfully mediated the signing of an MoU between SBA and the Government of India, in collaboration with the American Chamber of Commerce, in January 2007

in New Delhi, India. Ms. Carranza thanked Mr. Kumar for his unwavering support, appreciated IAICC's efforts, and said she looked forward to the continued collaboration with IAICC in future.

Recently, the Chamber also welcomed new members to serve in leadership positions. As such, Dr. Samir Mitragotri, will take over as the Chair of National Academic Advisory Board, Ms. Gurdeep Kaur Chawla will serve as Director of IAICC's National Executive Board, and Dr. Narashimulu Neelagaru, and Mr. Kumar Allady as Regional Chairman and Regional President, respectively, for the SE Chapter based in Atlanta, GA. In addition to her role in the Executive

Board, Ms. Chawla has also agreed to serve as Chair of Government Relations, Education and Trade Committees of the Chamber.



IAICC is evaluating the current situation, and the associated impact on Indian-American owned businesses in USA, and likewise American owned businesses in India, said National President & CEO, KV Kumar

CORONAVIRUS CASES

India sees highest one-day spike of over 62,000 Covid-19 cases, tally past 2 million

NEW DELHI (TIP): India reported more than 62,000 cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), for the first time in a single day, and over 880 deaths across the country, Union health ministry's data showed on Friday.

The country, which had been recording over 50,000 fresh cases every day since July 30, saw 62,538 Covid-19 cases and 886 fatalities between Thursday and Friday morning, pushing its infection tally to 2,027,074 and death toll to 41,585, according to the health ministry's dashboard at 8am.

India crossed two million Covid-19 cases on Thursday, three weeks after it crossed a million cases on July 16. According to an HT analysis, nearly 38% of new cases since the day India's tally crossed a million Covid-19 infections have come from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar. These five states together were responsible for less than 19% of cases before July 16 when India hit the million-mark.

Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar, which accounted for less than 19% of the first million, have reported nearly 42% of new Covid-19 cases since July 16.

Data shows the spread of the Sars-CoV-2, the virus which causes the coronavirus disease, has shifted geographies in the last three weeks, targeting the hinterland and the

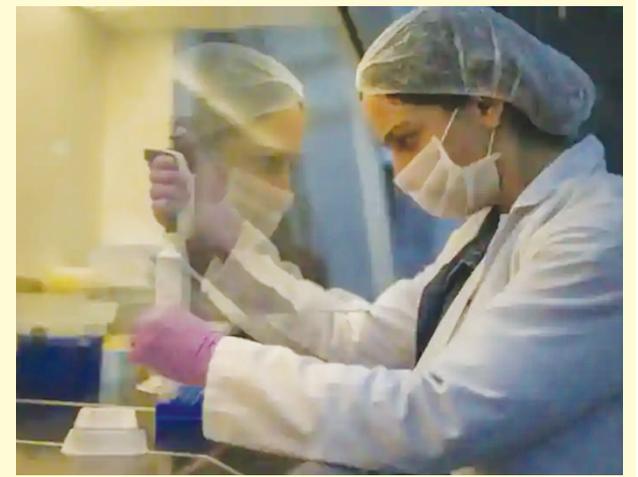


southern peninsula instead of just Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Delhi.

According to the health ministry's dashboard on Friday, there are 607,384 active cases and 1,378,105 patients of the viral disease have been cured, taking the recovery rate to 67.98%. In the last 24 hours, 49,769 people were sent home from hospitals across the country. The ministry data shows India's case fatality rate (CFR)

stands at 2.07%.

The gap between the active and recovered cases has widened to 770,721 and according to the health ministry "focused and coordinated containment, widespread testing combined with supervised isolation and effective treatment have resulted in increasing recovery rates and steadily falling case mortality". "These have ensured declining percentage active cases," it said on Thursday.



India ramped up Covid-19 testing infrastructure to 1,370 labs now, says Health Ministry

NEW DELHI (TIP): India substantively ramped up its testing infrastructure from one lab in January 2020 to 1,370 labs currently, the Union Health Ministry said on Thursday.

In view of Covid-19, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Thursday informed that the country has substantively ramped up its testing infrastructure from one lab in January 2020 to 1,370 labs as of now.

"#IndiaFightsCorona India has substantively ramped up its testing infrastructure from one lab in Jan 2020 to 1,370 labs today. Expanded diagnostic lab network and facilitation for easy testing across the country has given a boost and India has done more than 2 crore tests presently," said the MoHFW in a tweet on Thursday.

The Health Ministry also said that the daily new recoveries are increasing steadily.

"The progressively increasing daily new recoveries are due to a focused attention on surveillance, containment and effective clinical management. India created a network of Covid Dedicated Hospitals to manage the cases," it said.

It also said, "India has one of the lowest deaths/million compared to many countries."

"Focused and coordinated implementation of 'TEST, TRACK, TREAT' strategy focusing on early identification and effective clinical management has resulted in low and continuously sliding Case Fatality Rate (CFR)," the Ministry added in another tweet.

Fire in Guj Covid ward, 8 killed

AHMEDABAD (TIP): EIGHT patients of Covid-19 admitted in ICU were killed in Ahmedabad early on Thursday morning after a private hospital in Navrangpura area of the city caught fire. There were 49 patients in the 50-bed Shrey Hospital at the time, eight of them in the ICU, located on the fourth floor, which was completely charred.

The 22-year-old hospital, designated a coronavirus facility on May 16, had no fire clearance, Ahmedabad Fire and Emergency Services Chief Fire Officer M F Dastur said. Hospitals have to renew their fire no objection certificates (NOC) every year. A hospital director, Bharat Mahant, and an unidentified ward boy have been detained for interrogation. Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has ordered an inquiry headed by Additional Chief Secretaries Sangeeta Singh and Mukesh Puri, and sought a report within three days. A paramedic attached to the hospital who tried dousing the flames was injured. Mahant claimed there were 35 staff members in the hospital at the time. The eight killed, between the ages of 42 and 82, included three women, and a father and son.

The fire, reported around 3.30 am on Thursday, is suspected to have started due to a short-circuit in the ICU, spreading from there to the third floor. The eight died of suffocation before the firemen could make it to the fourth floor, that was the topmost.

DCP, Zone 1, Ahmedabad City, Ravindra Patel said they were waiting for forensic reports to determine if there was any negligence. "Then an FIR will be filed." Sources said there was no hospital staff in the ward when the fire started.

KEEP OFF: INDIA'S TERSE COUNTER TO CHINA AFTER ITS KASHMIR BARB

NEW DELHI (TIP): India on Wednesday tersely asked Beijing to keep out of the internal affairs of other countries after China contended that India's "unilateral" changes to the status of the former state of Jammu and Kashmir were illegal and invalid.

As the Pakistan government observed Yaum-e-Istehsal or a "day of exploitation" to protest India's decision last year to scrap Jammu and Kashmir's special status and split it into two union territories, Beijing had also called on New Delhi and Islamabad to resolve the dispute over Kashmir through dialogue and consultations.

India's decision on August 5 last year had triggered a strong response from China, mainly because it believed the move would affect its territorial claims in Ladakh region.

Responding to a query from Pakistan's state-run APP news agency about the impact of India's move a year later, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told a regular news briefing that Beijing is closely following the situation in Kashmir.

He said: "Any unilateral change to the status quo is illegal and invalid. This issue should be properly resolved peacefully through dialogue and consultations between the parties concerned."

China's position on the Kashmir issue, Wang said, is "clear and consistent". He added: "This issue is a dispute leftover from history between Pakistan and India. That is an objective fact as laid out by the UN



Charter, UN Security Council resolutions and the bilateral agreements between Pakistan and India."

External affairs ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava responded to Wang's remarks through a brief statement: "We have noted the comments of the Chinese MFA spokesperson on the Indian union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The Chinese side has no locus standi whatsoever on this matter and is advised not to comment on the internal affairs of other nations."

Wednesday's developments also came against the backdrop of the months-long India-China border standoff in Ladakh, which has taken bilateral relations to a new low. India has accused China of failing to deliver on commitments to withdraw its troops from friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and asked it to sincerely implement measures for disengagement and de-escalation.

RBI allows one-time recast of retail loans to soften Covid blow

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a major relief to corporate and retail borrowers, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) today allowed banks to go for one-time restructuring of loans that are facing Covid-19 stress, while keeping interest rates unchanged because of prospects of high inflation rates and perilous state of the economy.

In a measure that will affect the flow of credit at the grass-roots level, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said priority sector lending guidelines in the social sector had been revised after five years. There will be incentives for banks to lend to low credit-flow districts, small and marginal farmers and the weaker sections.

Earlier, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided in favour of unchanged interest rates after headline inflation breached the upper limit of six per cent in June and could rise further due to floods in eastern India, ongoing lockdown-related disruptions, high taxes on petroleum products, and rise in gold prices on safe haven demand.

The RBI saw agriculture as the sole bright spot; its prospects strengthened on the back of good progress of the southwest monsoon. At the same time there was a clear appreciation of the dangers ahead: "The outlook is heavily contingent on the heightened risks associated with a second wave of infections and the discovery of a vaccine."

The RBI decided on six steps that would fine-tune policy instruments in several areas. These include

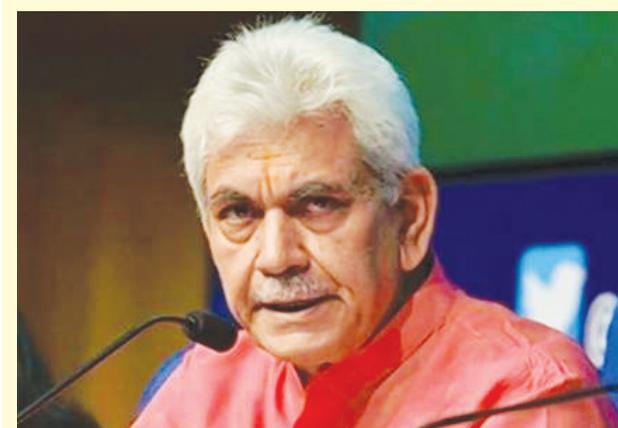


enhancing liquidity support for Nabard and National Housing Bank (NHB) by Rs 5,000 crore each; easing financial stress by setting up an expert committee headed by noted banker KV Kamath to restructure corporate and personal loans under stress due to the lockdown and extending the date for restructuring of MSME loans; putting in place safeguards for receiving bank credit; hiking the limit for advances against gold ornaments and jewellery from 75 per cent to 90 per cent till March 31 for higher credit flow; deepening digital payment systems by facilitating retail payments in offline mode; and increasing customer safety in cheque payments.

Higher loans against gold ornaments

- Banks can give loans up to 90% of gold jewellery value for non-agri purposes
- At present, banks sanction loans up to 75% of the value of such items
- Enhanced loan to value ratio will be applicable up to March 31, 2021

The restructuring of loans will be allowed as per the prudential framework issued on June 7, 2019. Only accounts classified as standard, but not in default for over 30 days as on March 1, 2020, will be eligible



EX-UNION MINISTER MANOJ SINHA IS SURPRISE PICK FOR NEW J&K L-G

NEW DELHI (TIP): THE Centre on Thursday named former Union minister Manoj Sinha as the new Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, picking a politician for the post after G C Murmu resigned. If Murmu's resignation late on Wednesday, on the anniversary of the scrapping of special status of J&K, came as a surprise, so was Sinha's appointment. Known as an efficient minister, both in the Railways and Telecom portfolios he held in the previous Narendra Modi government, Sinha, 61, was seen as sidelined in the BJP recently. After losing the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the three-time MP from Uttar Pradesh had failed to secure a Rajya Sabha nomination. Currently, he was not officially assigned any post in the party. However, during the Delhi Assembly elections earlier this year, he was given responsibility for a few seats.

Sinha arrived in Srinagar on Thursday afternoon and was received at the airport by Chief Secretary B V R Subrahmanyam and DGP Dilbagh Singh. Late on Thursday, Murmu was named as the new Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

A B. Tech in Civil Engineering from the Institute of Technology, BHU, Varanasi, Sinha had a good working relationship with his officials as a minister apart from his standing as a mass leader. This is seen as an advantage in the tricky post he now heads for, in Srinagar.

New Education Policy focusses on how to think, says PM Modi

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the new National Education Policy focusses on 'how to think', while the education system till now in the country emphasised on 'what to think'.

He also said that there were no major changes in the country's education system over the years. As a result, instead of promoting values of curiosity and imagination, herd mentality was being encouraged.

The prime minister made these remarks while delivering the inaugural address at the 'Conclave on Transformational Reforms in Higher Education under National Education Policy' via video link.

Modi said it is a matter of happiness that after the introduction of the National Education Policy, no region or section has said that it has any kind of bias, or is leaning towards one side.

There is a lot of emphasis on teacher training in the National Education Policy, he pointed out.



Punjab hooch tragedy: 2 SITs formed to fast-track investigation

133 DEAD: Not a single person will be spared, says Punjab CM

CHANDIGARH (TIP): Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Dinkar Gupta on Wednesday ordered the constitution of two Special Investigation Teams to fast-track investigations into all the FIRs registered in the hooch tragedy that claimed 113 lives.

Additional Director General of Police (Law & Order) Ishwar Singh will supervise both the SIT investigations, according to an official statement issued here on Wednesday.

Punjab Police had registered a total of five FIRs – three in Tarn Taran and one each in Amritsar and Gurdaspur's Batala – in the case.

Gupta said SP-level officers had, for the first time, been nominated as investigating officers for these cases to ensure conviction of the offenders.

The investigating officers have been directed by the DGP to ensure thorough and comprehensive investigations to unravel the entire backward and forward linkages of the case, both inside and outside the state of Punjab, under the supervision of the SIT.

The investigating officers shall also be responsible for filing final reports in the concerned courts under their own signatures expeditiously, said the DGP.

Facing intense criticism over last week's hooch tragedy in the state, including by MPs from his own party-Congress, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Friday visited Tarn Taran to meet family members of the victims, in what is his first



outing since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking to media, he said, "All those found guilty will be punished. Not a single person will be spared. A special prosecutor has been appointed and an investigation into the matter is underway".

Notably, with over 80 out of 113 deaths thus far, Tarn Taran is the worst-hit among the three districts where the tragedy started last Wednesday; the other two districts are Gurdaspur's Batala and Amritsar.

Also on Thursday, 135 more people were arrested in connection with the case, taking the number of those arrested thus far to over 170.

AYODHYA BREAKS GROUND

RAM TEMPLE: PM performs prayers, lays first brick of temple at grand ceremony, devotees celebrate occasion nationwide

AYODHYA (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the first brick of the Ram Mandir at a grand “bhoomi puja” ceremony in Ayodhya on Wednesday, and said that August 5 will stand as a symbol of the commitment of several generations that devoted their lives to the construction of the temple, just as August 15 symbolises the sacrifices of countless Indians for Independence.

Modi spoke of Ram as a thread of India’s unity in diversity, referring to the multiplicity of Ramayanas across the country, highlighting Ram’s appeal across the world, and distilling Ram’s messages — of social harmony, non-discrimination, care for the poor, protecting those who seek refuge, and commitment to the motherland. He also said that the more power a nation has, the greater is its capacity for friendship. These were all messages widely read in sync with India’s contemporary governance and security priorities.

In the backdrop of the protracted political, social and legal dispute that has marked the issue of the Ram temple, Modi added that the temple should be constructed on the foundation of mutual love and brotherhood, and it was only through everyone’s participation (“sabka saath”) and with everyone’s trust (“sabka vishwas”) that India can achieve development for everyone (“sabka vikas”). He also pointed to the economic benefits of the temple for the wider Ayodhya region, where pilgrims from across the world would come to pray.

The beginning of the construction comes after a 135-year-old legal dispute culminated when the Supreme Court, last November, awarded the disputed land to Hindu parties. It also comes in the wake of a three-decade-long mobilisation by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its ideological affiliates, and the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992 -- an act declared illegal by the same SC verdict -- that led to communal violence and deaths in various parts of the country.

The event was preceded by days of preparation and festivities in Ayodhya. Modi landed in the town on Wednesday morning, visited the Hanuman Garhi temple, planted a tree, participated in the rituals associated with bhoomi puja, and then released a special postal stamp on the occasion.

He then addressed a select audience, carefully curated due to pandemic-related restrictions, but his speech was beamed across the country. The event also saw the participation of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat as a special guest — a rare occasion when the PM and the RSS chief shared the stage and spoke on the same platform. Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath and the head of the Ram Temple trust, Nriya Gopal Das also spoke at the function following the bhoomi puja ceremony.

Adityanath welcomed the guests, highlighted how this day had arrived after waiting for five centuries, and emphasised that it had come through peaceful, constitutional and democratic methods. The wishes of India’s 135 crore [1.35 billion] people and the Sanatan Dharma followers have been fulfilled,” he said.

Bhagwat spoke of a sense of

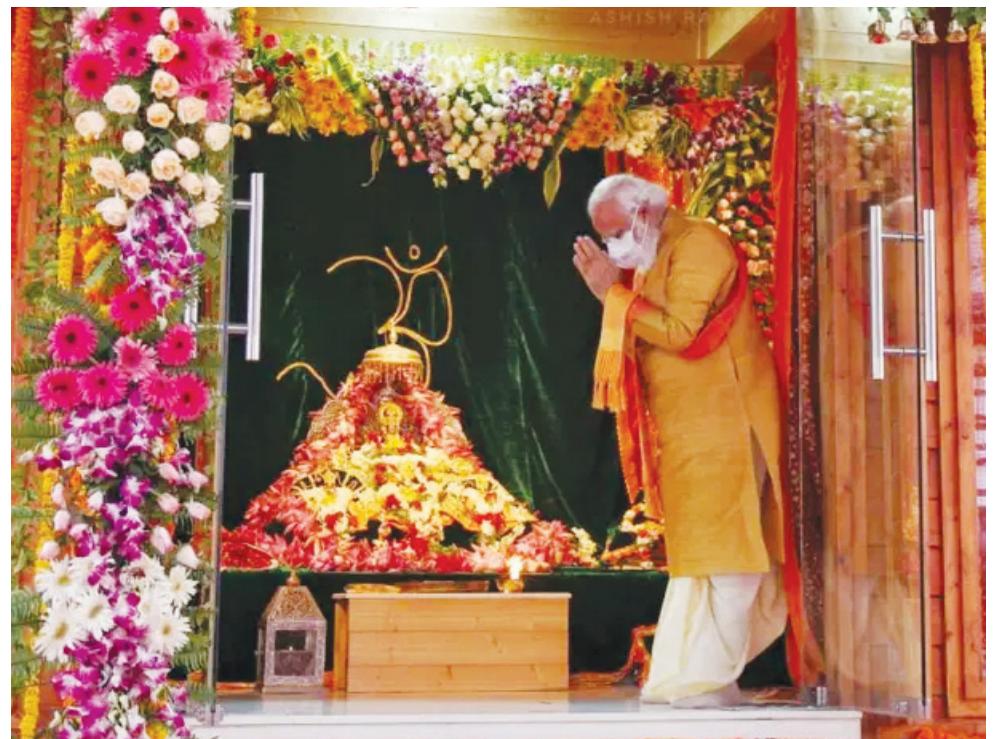


satisfaction and joy at seeing the temple being constructed. “Today is a new beginning of a new India,” he said. “There is a wave of joy in the country now...”

Modi used a 40kg silver brick, donated by Das, for the ceremony and presented a kalash (holy pitcher) made of five metals for the ceremony. The event happened under a canopy decorated in shades of red, yellow and gold.

In the audience sat 175 guests, drawn from 135 spiritual traditions and eminent citizens from Ayodhya. Of the three Muslim invitees, only Iqbal Ansari -- the son of the oldest litigant in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit, Hashim Ansari -- attended the event. “Lord Ram belongs to everyone. Ram temple will also bring overall development to Ayodhya,” said Ansari.

In his address, Modi spoke of how it was an emotional day for all Indians, many of whom could not believe that they could see this moment in their own lifetime. He said that “Ram Lalla” (the child deity), living in a tent, will finally find a home in a grand temple, and Ram Janmabhoomi would finally be free of the cycle of breaking and rebuilding.



The Prime Minister unveiled a plaque to mark the laying of the foundation stone of the temple. He also released a commemorative postage stamp on ‘Shree Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir’.



MILESTONES IN THE AYODHYA RAM TEMPLE JOURNEY

From November 9, 1989, when the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) conducted a shilanyas here, to Wednesday, August 5, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid a 40 kg silver brick to begin the construction of the Ram temple, Ayodhya has witnessed a medley of historical, cultural, religious and political events.

If the Shilanyas marked the beginning of the fall of the Congress, then India's leading political party, the Ram Mandir Bhumi Poojan ceremony signifies the emergence of the new politics brought in by the BJP.

1858: Puja on premises

An FIR was filed on November 30 by Mohd Salim against a group of Nihang Sikhs who had conducted rituals inside the Babri Masjid. Sheetal Dubey, the station house officer of Avadh, wrote in his report: "Mr Nihang Singh Faqir Khalsa resident of Panjab, organised Havan and Puja of Guru Gobind Singh and erected a symbol of Sri Bhagwan, within the premises of the Masjid." The dispute and riots led to the British building a seven-foot-high wall to separate the places of worships for Hindus and Muslims.

1885: Case for temple

Raghubar Das, who identified himself as mahant at the chabutra in the outer courtyard, filed a suit in the Faizabad civil court against the Secretary of State for India in Council seeking permission to build a makeshift temple there. The suit was dismissed. Subsequent civil appeals too were dismissed by the District Judge of Faizabad and the court of the Judicial Commissioner. A riot in 1934 led to demolition of a portion of the structure, which the British rebuilt.

1949: Emergence of idols

Abhiram Das, a Hindu priest, claimed he had a recurring dream of Ram making an appearance under the main dome of the Masjid. In the night of December 22 that year, idols were found at the place he had mentioned. While many Hindus believed that it was a miracle, then Faizabad DM K K Nayar on the morning of December 23 informed UP Chief Minister Govind Ballabh Pant about a group of Hindus entering the site and placing the idol. An FIR was filed, the gates to the structure were locked, and the city magistrate attached the property. A long legal battle ensued.

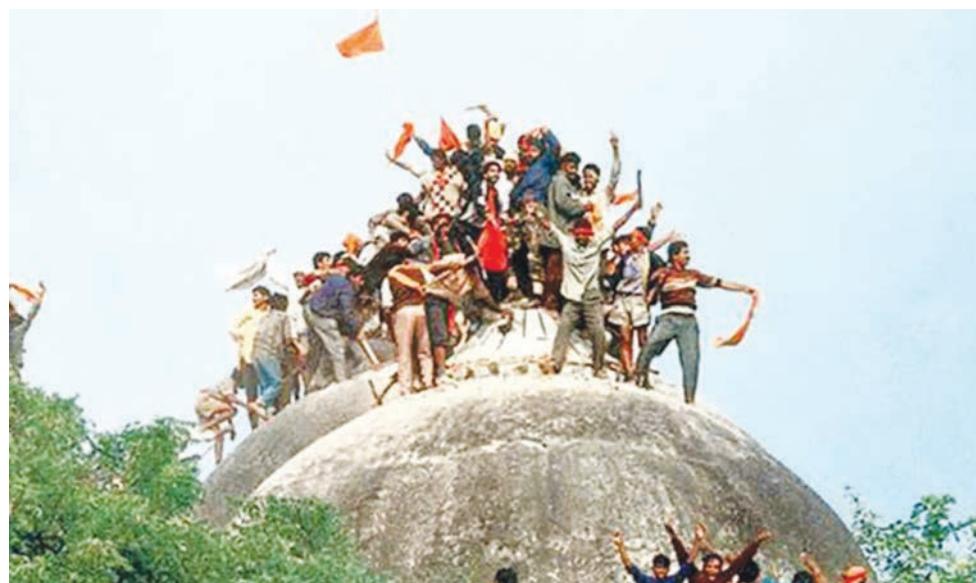
1989: VHP's Shilanyas

Exactly three decades before, on the same day the Supreme Court approved the construction of the Ram Temple at the disputed site, on November 9, 1989, the VHP had put the first stone for the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

At a time when then-Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who had stormed to power with a brute majority in the Lok Sabha, was on a slippery wicket – due to his mishandling of Sri Lanka and the Kashmir situation as well as the intensifying attack against him by the Opposition on the Bofors scandal – the VHP was charged at the ground over the cause of Ram Mandir.

Ever since it had announced a foundation laying ceremony at Ayodhya, Hindus from across the world started sending it financial assistance for the cause. The VHP was all set, but the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court ordered a status quo.

Determined to defy the court order, VHP collected funds and bricks with Shree Ram written on them, organised kar sevaks and held prayers to go ahead



Babri Masjid demolition



with the Shilanyas.

Rajiv Gandhi's government, apparently hoping to cash in on Hindu sentiments to tide over the intensifying political agitation and public anger against his government, decided to let the VHP conduct the ceremony. Then-Home Minister Buta Singh, who met VHP leader Ashok Singhal, granted him permission to go ahead.

Later, as the fervour and communal tension escalated, the Centre and the state governments tried to get the VHP leaders to agree on conducting the Shilanyas outside the disputed site.

But on November 9, a congregation of VHP leaders, including Sadhus, dug a 7x7x7 ft pit to lay the singhdwar (main entrance) of the sanctum sanctorium, clearly on the disputed land, defying the agreement they had made with the authorities.

1990: L K Advani's Rath Yatra

The most important milestone in the BJP's political journey. The BJP had campaigned heavily over the Ram Temple on the disputed site issue ahead of the 1989 elections, in which it won 89 seats, a giant leap from its tally of two in the previous Lok Sabha polls.

Sensing the political opportunity the Ram Temple could create – Lord Ram is the most revered and a uniting figure for Hindus, who follow different rituals and practices across the country – Advani, in

September 1990, decided to go for a yatra to educate people about the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, which had so far been propagated by the VHP mainly.

Advani's Toyota-turned-chariot procession from Somnath, Gujarat, to Ayodhya via central India stirred Hindu sentiments and mobilised the community behind him. Advani almost attained the image of a saint and a savior. It led to the events in December 1992.

1992: Babri Masjid demolition on December 6

Frenzied karsevaks, inspired by the calls of the BJP and VHP leaders, clambered up the domes of the 16th century Babri Masjid and pulled it down, again breaking the assurances given to the Centre and the state governments. The communal violence this sparked across the country left almost 2,000 people dead.

President's Rule was imposed in several states, dismissing the BJP governments in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. But it embarked the BJP on a wider political path that led to its emergence as the most prominent and widespread political party in the country, replacing the decades-long dominance of the Congress.

Liberhan Commission

The justice M S Liberhan Commission

of inquiry was appointed within two weeks of the demolition and was asked to submit a report within three months. The Commission availed 48 extensions and finally submitted its 10,000-page report on January 30, 2009

The legal battle is back in April 2002

The matter was back at the courts and yet another legal battle began. A three-judge Bench of the Allahabad High Court was hearing to determine the ownership of the disputed land. The HC ordered the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to excavate the site and determine if it was a temple earlier.

In 2003, ASI found evidence of the presence of a temple under the mosque. This re-energized the VHP, and its chief Ashok Singhal asked the then-BJP government to make a legislation to hand over the site to the Hindus so that the construction of the temple could begin.

In September 2010, the High Court, which took the ASI's findings along with other evidence before it into consideration, ruled that the disputed land should be divided into three parts – a third should go to Ram Lalla Virajman, represented by the Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha; one-third to the Sunni Waqf Board; and the remaining to the Nirmohi Akhara.

In December, the parties moved Supreme Court. Neither the VHP-BJP nor the Muslims was happy with the order. In May 2011, the apex court stayed the High Court order.

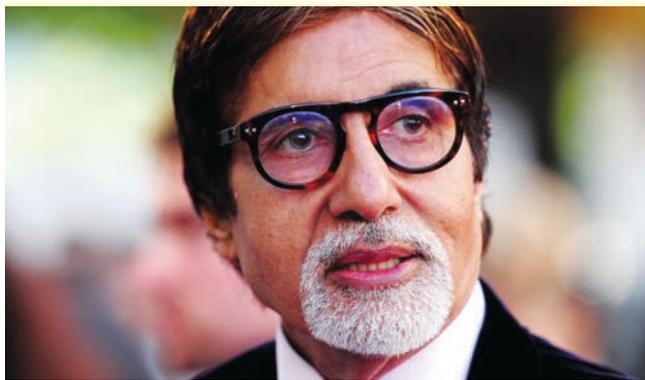
Meanwhile, the VHP continued its campaign with vigour. But the BJP's coming to power and its silence over the temple as well as the RSS leadership's advice not to escalate pressure over the Ram Temple forced them to lie low.

Towards the end of 2018, the VHP again raised its pitch, with hundreds of thousands of Hindu seers and followers assembling in Ayodhya. It along with Shiv Sena organised Dharma Sabhas in different parts of the country and pressed the government to issue an ordinance for the construction of the temple. They were later backed by even the RSS leaders. BJP's senior leaders had to hold several rounds of discussions with the RSS' top leadership to convince them that the government had to wait for the Supreme Court verdict.

A five-judge Supreme Court bench led by then Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi ruled in favour of Ram Lalla, and said the entire disputed land spread over 2.7 acres will be handed over to a trust formed by the government, which will monitor the construction of the Ram Temple at the site. The 2019 judgment laid the foundation for the Bhoomi Pujan function on Wednesday.

February 5, 2020

The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of the Trust, with the Prime Minister making the announcement in the Lok Sabha. The Trust, named Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirtha Kshetra, is to take decisions independently on the construction of the Ram temple and related issues. It has been handed over the whole 67.703 acres acquired "to maintain the sanctity of Ayodhya and for the construction of the temple, keeping in mind the needs of crores of devotees," Modi said.



AMITABH BACHCHAN CALLS HOME 'A PRISON CELL'

Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who is home quarantined after undergoing treatment for coronavirus at Nanavati hospital for three weeks, on Wednesday took to his blog to share how many thoughts have occupied his mind. "The mind revolves at greater speed than it did ever before," he wrote in his blog on Wednesday.

Talking about the experience of staying away from his family while being so close to them, Big B shared on his blog, "And in the solitude of your own home.. no contact .. a prison cell where the visiting hours, often seen in films, occurs through glass shields and telephoned conversation .. to see and connect in hand actions .. they be family, just a few inches away, yet so far."

Senior Bachchan continued, "and in these hours of just sitting nursing the post discharge medical routines to be followed .. the mind revolves at greater speed than it did ever before, towards many of the written words, or opinions that disturb, not you or those you converse with, but those that have been built up to insure continuity and lasting presence on their gadgets of the box .. and the clarity of thought argument response is so valid and loud that at times one wishes to bring it up .. share .. let the World know the 'other side' .. temperament though delivers a 'hold back' policy .. or a design to 'let it all out' .. and wait for it to be made popular so them that seek exposure , after recognising its 'popularity' jump on with thoughts that coalesce with the issue , even if it is coming days past .. for what ..? just so the exposure that shall be stage managed , give the much needed chart of their own standing than for the standing of the issue.

KAJOL TURNS 46: AJAY DEVGAN, RENUKA SHAHANE AND OTHERS WISH THE ACTOR

Bollywood actor Kajol celebrated her 46th birthday on August 5. Wishing the actor on her birthday, husband Ajay Devgn shared a picture on Instagram with a caption that read, "Happy returns of the day, forever & always."

Kajol's best friend and filmmaker Ryan Stephen shared adorable photos on Instagram and revisited his 28 years long journey with the actor. He wrote a long post that read, "Kajol has never been difficult. She's anything but that! If she likes you she will be all there! She listens, unlike most stars who just want an audience. She cares. She will go out of her way to be there for you. She is all heart. Nothing about her is ever put on or fake. If she doesn't want to do something she will just say no. Or in her case, before she can, her face says it all! Most people I have realised do not like hearing no. Their egos can't stand it. 28 years ago my heart told me to call her and I am so happy I listened to it. Because here we are today, best friends for life. I'm sure this is a connection from some previous life."

Filmmaker Syed Zeeshan Quadri tweeted, "Wish you a very happy Birthday @itsKajolD. The whole country loves you and wants to see so much more of you. Wish you the best returns of the day and the year



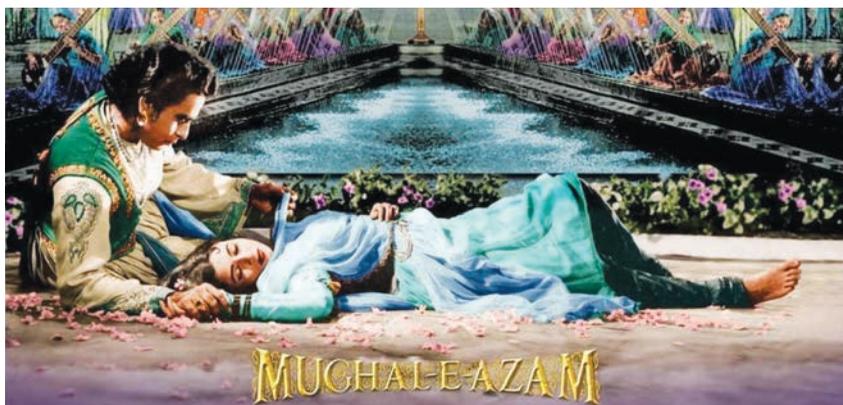
ahead. #HappyBirthdayKajol"

Renuka Shahane shared a happy picture of herself with Kajol on Twitter. Wishing the actor, she wrote, "Happiest birthday to my precious, gorgeous, one in a billion girl @itsKajolD Love you sooo much ? May you be blessed with

everything you wish for & more"

Kajol's sister Tanishaa Mukerji thanked the actor for "teaching me how to love." "Happy birthday my gorgeous beautiful soul... my sister! Thank you for teaching me how to love! Love you sooooo much!" Tanishaa tweeted.

MUGHAL-E-AZAM SCREENPLAY ENTERS OSCARS LIBRARY TO MARK 60TH ANNIVERSARY



Indian cinema classic Mughal-e-Azam celebrates its 60th anniversary this week with director K Asif's son Akbar Asif presenting the screenplay of the film to the Oscars library in Hollywood.

Akbar Asif, the UK-based son of the late director, said he presented the screenplay to the Academy Awards to mark the big anniversary of his father's historical epic starring Prithviraj Kapoor, Dilip Kumar and Madhubala.

Three versions of the legendary screenplay – in Hindi, Roman text and English translation, are now

available at the Margaret Herrick Library, a world-renowned reference and research collection of the Academy devoted to the history and development of the motion picture as an art form and an industry.

"The journey of Mughal-e-Azam started with words from the greatest writing team ever assembled in Hindi cinema and I thought the best way to honour them was to permanently preserve their screenplay in the world's most renowned film library," said Akbar Asif, a businessman based in London.

KATRINA KAIF IS READY FOR DATE NIGHT WITH A BOWL OF POPCORN AND BANDISH BANDITS

Katrina Kaif's plan for Tuesday night is sorted (going by her latest Instagram entry) and can you guess what's on the list? A date night with a bowl full of popcorn and Amazon Prime Video's latest show Bandish Bandits. Katrina Kaif posted an Instagram reel video on her profile on Tuesday and she wrote in her caption: "Ready for my series date with Bandish Bandits. Congrats my dear friends Anand Tiwari and Amritpal Singh Bindra. Catch it on Amazon Prime Video." Besides Bollywood veteran Naseeruddin Shah, Bandish Bandits also stars Shreya Chaudhary, Ritwik Bhowmik, Kunaal Roy Kapur and Meghna Malik in pivotal roles.

Bandish Bandits streaming on OTT platform Amazon Prime Video, opened to largely positive reviews from critics. In his review for NDTV, film critic Saibal Chatterjee gave the show a 3-star rating and he wrote: "Bandish Bandits is a rare treat - a web series woven around Indian classical music. It unflinchingly conveys the beauty and power of the ragas even when they are blended with pop-oriented arrangements."

Coming back to Katrina Kaif, the actress was last seen in Ali Abbas Zafar's 2019 film Bharat, co-starring Salman Khan and Disha Patani.





SEAN PENN SAYS HE MARRIED LEILA GEORGE IN A 'COVID WEDDING' ON ZOOM

Actor Sean Penn has confirmed that he tied the knot with his girlfriend Leila George in an intimate ceremony during the coronavirus pandemic.

There were rumours floating on social media that 59-year-old Penn had secretly married George, 28. The two have been in a relationship for the past four years.

On Tuesday, the actor broke the news during a virtual appearance on talk show *Late Night with Seth Meyers*.

Meyers asked Penn about the rumours and he confirmed them by showing his wedding ring.

The Oscar winner revealed that he and George got married on 30 July.

"We did a COVID wedding. By that I mean it was a county commissioner on Zoom and we were at the house, my two children and her brother, and we did it that way," Penn said.

George, who has starred in films such as *Mortal Engines* and *The Kid*, is the eldest child of actors Vincent D'Onofrio and Greta Scacchi.

Penn was previously married to actor Robin Wright with whom he shares two kids — daughter Dylan Frances, 29, and son Hopper Jack, 26.

He was also married to pop star Madonna for four years from 1985 to 1989.



JOEY KING JOINS BRAD PITT'S BULLET TRAIN

Kissing Booth actor Joey King has joined the cast of Brad Pitt's upcoming movie *Bullet Train*.

Sharing her excitement about being a part of the project, she wrote on Instagram, "I'm so excited it's kind of unbelievable! Is this real life?"

Based on Isaka Kotar's Japanese novel *Maria Beetle*, the film will be directed by David Leitch.

Zak Olkewicz has penned the script, reported *Variety*.

Leitch and Kelly McCormick are attached to produce the project through 87North, along with Antoine Fuqua.

Sony Pictures has been keeping plot details and character descriptions under wraps and no date has been set yet for shooting.

Joey King is fresh out of the success of the second film in her teen romance franchise *The Kissing Booth*. The film released on Netflix on July 24 and the streaming platform recently announced a third installment that will come out in 2021.

AMY ADAMS AND ADAM MCKAY TO REUNITE FOR NETFLIX SERIES KINGS OF AMERICA

Hollywood star Amy Adams is once again teaming up with director Adam McKay for the Netflix series *Kings of America*.

The duo have previously worked together on 2006 comedy *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby* and more recently *Vice*, a satirical biopic on former US Vice President Dick Cheney.

The limited series will chronicle stories of three powerful women whose lives were inextricably intertwined with the world's largest company: a Walmart heiress, a maverick executive, and a longtime Walmart saleswoman and preacher who dared to fight against the retail giant in the biggest class action lawsuit in US history.

Adams, 45, will star as one of the leads and executive produce via her production company Bond Group Entertainment along with Stacy O'Neil, Netflix announced in a press release.

McKay will direct the first episode of the series and also executive produce along with Betsy Koch via Hyperobject Industries.

Diana Son of *13 Reasons Why* fame will serve as showrunner on the show, which has been created and written by Jess Kimball Leslie.

Adams, best known for films such as *Arrival*, *American Hustle*, *Doubt*, *The Master* and *The Fighter*, will next star in Joe Wright's *The Woman in the Window*.



SARAH PAULSON PLAYS THE SCARY 'NURSE-MONSTER'

Cold, menacing and strangely comical are a few of the words that would best describe the trailer of Netflix's upcoming thriller series *Ratched*. The show has been adapted from the novel *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and features the talented Sarah Paulson in the titular role, as the unhinged nurse *Ratched*.

Created by Evan Romansky and executive-produced by the brilliant Ryan Murphy, *Ratched* seems to promise a delightful but delirious look at the mental health system where nothing is as simple as how things first appear.

Sarah Paulson, who has established herself as a credible actor over the years, is menacing as the unstable, scary nurse who first does things with the idea to help her patients, but very quickly becomes overpowered by the darker side of her 'self'.



BHAGAVAD GITA: Timeless Wisdom For Today's Challenges

By Mabel Pais

"As the entire planet faces the COVID pandemic, collaborating across faith traditions has become more important than ever. The Gita shares deep lessons on unity, duty, and equanimity that can share spiritual light in challenging times." - Jon Radwan, Director - Seton Hall University's ICR (NJ)

The Bhagavad Gita and Humanity Today," the International Gita Symposium 2020, will take place on August 14, 2020 online free and open to the public, 8-10 a.m. (US Eastern time, 8-10 p.m. (Singapore Time). Seton Hall University's Institute for Communication and Religion (SHU-ICR), New Jersey and the Gita Jayanti Committee, Singapore will co-host.

This virtual forum brings international scholars and faith leaders together to explore practical wisdom shared in the Bhagavad Gita, an ancient Hindu spiritual masterpiece. This event will feature both expert presentations and audience questions to help connect timeless wisdom to contemporary challenges.

Seton Hall has a strong history of interfaith collaboration, and the Bhagavad Gita has been taught as a Core text required of all Freshmen since 2006.

Members of Seton Hall faculty participating in the event include A. D. Amar, Ph.D., Professor of Management, Stillman School of Business; Michael Stebbins, Ph.D., Toth/Lonergan Visiting Professor in Interdisciplinary Studies; Jon Radwan, Ph.D., Director - Institute for Communication and Religion (ICR); and Rabbi Alan Brill, Ph.D., Cooperman/Ross Endowed Chair for Jewish-Christian Studies.

ICR Director Jon Radwan is looking forward to the event with great excitement. "Seton Hall's Institute for Communication and Religion is kicking off its fourth year with our biggest event yet, our online International Gita Symposium." He added, "As the entire planet faces the COVID pandemic, collaborating across faith traditions has become more important than ever. The Gita shares deep lessons on unity, duty, and equanimity that can share spiritual light in challenging times."

Guest speakers include Mr. G. Srinivasan, Chairman, Gita Jayanti Committee, Singapore; Swami Sarvapriyananda, Minister and Spiritual Leader of Vedanta Society of New York; Swami Samachittananda, President of Ramakrishna Mission, Singapore; Professor Vineeta Sinha, Head of Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore; and Mr. Mohamed Imran, Director of Centre for Interfaith Understanding, Singapore.

This online event will be held 8 - 10 a.m. (EDT time). It is free and open to the public. Those interested in understanding the wisdom of The Bhagavad Gita and appreciating its contemporary relevance are invited. Non-Hindus are especially welcome.

The event will be simulcast by



Kurukshetra, the battlefield of the Mahabharata



Dr. Jon Radwan



Dr. A.D. Amar



Dr. J.M. Stebbins



Dr. A. Brill



Mr. G. Srinivasan



Swami Sarvapriyananda



Swami Samachittananda



Prof. Vineeta Sinha



Mr. M. Imran

Photos / Courtesy SHU.EDU

Shemaroo, a leading media and content distribution company in India.

MUST REGISTER to attend.

To learn more about topics presented, for speaker bios and to register, visit <https://www.shu.edu/communication-religion/international-gita-symposium.cfm>

To learn more, Singapore registrants, visit <https://gitajayanti.org.sg/events/gitasymposium2020.html>

To register, Singapore registrants, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yag63lg8>

PROGRAM

Friday, 14 August 2020

8 - 10 a.m. (USA EDT time), 8 - 10 p.m. (Singapore Time)

Welcome

Dr. A.D. Amar, Professor of Management, Stillman School of Business, Seton Hall University, USA

Greetings

Mr. G. Srinivasan, Chairman, Gita Jayanti Committee, Singapore

Moderator

Dr. Mike Stebbins, Toth/Lonergan

Visiting Professor in Interdisciplinary Studies, Seton Hall University, USA

Presentations

Inter-Religious Inclusivity and The Bhagavad Gita" by Dr. Jon Radwan, Director - Institute for Communication and Religion, Seton Hall University College of Communication and the Arts, USA.

"Bhagavad Gita and Interfaith Theology" Rabbi Alan Brill, Cooperman/Ross Endowed Chair for Jewish-Christian Studies, Seton Hall University, USA.

"The Bhagavad Gita applied to mankind today" Swami Sarvapriyananda, Minister and Spiritual Leader of Vedanta Society of New York of Ramakrishna Mission, New York, NY, USA.

"The Bhagavad Gita and spiritual life" by Swami Samachittananda, President of Ramakrishna Mission, Singapore.

"The Bhagavad Gita: Manual for Modern Living" by Professor Vineeta Sinha, Head of Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore.

Online Quiz on audience's knowledge of The Bhagavad Gita

Vote of Thanks

Mr. Mohamed Imran, Director of Centre for Interfaith Understanding (CIFU), Singapore

Questions:

Contact Jon Radwan, Director of the Institute for Communication and Religion, at Jon.Radwan@shu.edu

About Gita Jayanti Committee Singapore

Gita Jayanti Singapore celebrations had its humble beginnings in the late 1990s.

In 1997, Krishna Our Guide (KOG) and the National University of Singapore Hindu Society observed the holy day by congregationally reciting the Gita in full. Dr. T.K. Krishnamurthy of the NUS Law Faculty graced the occasion, which attracted a participation of around 200 enthusiastic devotees.

1998 saw the event being erected on a grander canvas. All Hindu temples and various Hindu organisations in Singapore contributed to the noble effort of making Gita Jayanti a major annual event for all, hosted by Singapore Hindus. H.H. Swami Hariharji Maharaj at 102, founder of the Geeta Ashram, was the special guest-of-honor.

In 2000, under the leadership of Dr. V.P. Nair from the Chinmaya Seva Centre, another highlight was added to the event - the Geeta Chanting and Essay Writing Competitions. Rolling trophies for both competitions were sponsored by Dr. Nair. The competitions, the only one of their kind, attracted active participation from the children, youth and parents alike. Swami Mitrananda from the Chinmaya Mission graced the occasion with his dynamic presence.

The 2002 celebrations saw yet another programme being added to the already mammoth scale of the event - the Gita Forum, which hoped to expand the reach of the timeless message of the Gita and magnify the event's nationwide scope. To learn more, visit <https://www.gitajayanti.org.sg>

ABOUT SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

One of the country's leading universities, Seton Hall, New Jersey has been showing the world what great minds can do since 1856. Home to nearly 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offering more than 90 rigorous academic programs, Seton Hall's academic excellence has been singled out for distinction by The Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report and Bloomberg Businessweek.

Seton Hall embraces students of all religions and prepares them to be exemplary servant leaders and global citizens. In the past decade, Seton Hall students and alumni have received more than 30 Fulbright Scholarships as well as other prestigious academic honors, including Boren Awards, Pickering Fellowships, Udall Scholarships and a Rhodes Scholarship. For more information, visit www.shu.edu.

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

FILM FESTS HONOR WOMEN

By Mabel Pais

Bentonville (Arkansas) 6th Fest

"Within the context of a pandemic, and the continued fight for social justice, we renew our deep commitment to underrepresented storytellers around the world. This year's virtual structure presents a unique opportunity that is not lost on us as we use the power of the digital world to share BFF's messaging to far-reaching global audiences, arguably more than we ever have." - Geena Davis: Actor, Festival Co-Founder

BFF's 6th Annual Film Festival

Co-founder Academy Award®-winning Actor Geena Davis

A Hybrid Structure, Showcasing 68 Films

Dedicated to Representation in Media

Over 80% of BFF's Feature Film Directed by Women

65% BIPOC and 45% LGBTQIA+

August 10-16

Virtual Screenings, Panel Discussions and Special Live Events

The Bentonville Film Foundation (BFF) announced their spotlight and competition program of independent feature films, documentaries, shorts, and episodic titles for the 2020 Bentonville Film Festival, August 10-16.

Co-founded by Academy Award®-winning actor Geena Davis, BFF is a one-of-a-kind event, uniquely dedicated to championing underrepresented voices in film, entertainment and media. The 6th annual film festival will be presented as a hybrid structure, pairing digital screenings, panels and events alongside select on-the-ground premieres and conversations.

The program includes 68 films representing female, BIPOC (65%) and LGBTQIA+ (45%) filmmakers. More than 80% of films at the 2020 Bentonville

Film Festival were directed by women, including 4 Spotlight features: Opening night film, Oge Egbounu's acclaimed directorial debut, "(In)visible Portraits", which shatters the too-often invisible otherizing of Black women in America; Philippa Lowthorpe's "Misbehavior", starring Keira Knightley and Jessie Buckley, which tells the bizarre true story of protest and controversy at 1970 Miss World contest; "Parkland Rising", an inspiring look at the students of Parkland, Florida, who started an international movement to call attention to the need for better gun safety laws, by two time EMMY award-winning filmmaker Cheryl Horner McDonough; and Elegance Bratton's "Pier Kids", an intimate look at homeless queer and trans youth of color in New York City that must contend with overwhelming amounts of homophobia and abuse.

The Festival has a lineup of Spotlight Features, films in the Narrative Competition, Documentary Competition, Shorts Competition, and Episodic Competition. For more information, visit www.bentonvillefilmfestival.com

SPOTLIGHT FEATURES

"(IN)VISIBLE PORTRAITS" | DIR: Oge Egbounu, U.S.A.

"MISBEHAVIOUR" | DIR: Philippa Lowthorpe | Writer: Rebecca Frayn, UK

"PARKLAND RISING" | DIR: Cheryl Horner McDonough | USA

"PIER KIDS" | DIR/WRITER: Elegance Bratton | U.S.A.

NARRATIVE Competition

"A SHOT THROUGH THE WALL" | DIR/WRIT: Aimee Long | USA

"BREAKING FAST" | DIR/WRIT: Mike Mosallam | USA

"DEFINITION PLEASE" | DIR/WRIT: Sujata Day | USA

"FAREWELL" | DIR/WRIT: Chris Chalk | USA

"FREELAND" | DIRS/WRIT: Kate McLean, Mario Furloni | USA

"GOSSAMER FOLDS" | DIR: Lisa Donato | WRIT: Bridget Flanery | USA

"I'LL MEET YOU THERE" | DIR/WRIT: Iram Parveen Bilal | CO-WRIT: Rajeev Dassani | USA

"LINGUA FRANCA" | DIR/WRIT: Isabel Sandoval | U.S.A./Philippines

"SENECA" | DIR: Jason Chaet | WRIT: Armando Riesco | U.S.A./Puerto Rico

"TAKE OUT GIRL" | DIR/WRIT: Hisonni Johnson | WRIT: Hedy Wong | USA

"THE PLANTERS" | DIR/WRIT: Alexandra Kotcheff, Hannah Leder | USA

"THE SUBJECT" | DIR: Lanie Zipoy | WRIT: Chisa Hutchinson | USA

DOCUMENTARY Competition

"AHEAD OF THE CURVE" | DIR: Jen Rainin | USA

"AMAZING GRACE" | DIR: Lynn Montgomery | USA

"BLACK BOYS" | DIR: Sonia Lowman | USA

"COMING CLEAN" | DIR: Ondi Timoner | USA

"THE DONUT KING" | DIR/WRIT: Alice Gu | CO-WRIT: Carol Martori

"HUNGRY TO LEARN" | DIR: Geeta Gandbhir | USA

"JULIA SCOTT: FUNNY THAT WAY" | DIR: Susan Sandler | USA

"MAVERICKS" | DIR: Michael Michele | USA

"MY DARLING VIVIAN" | DIR: Matt Riddlehoover | USA

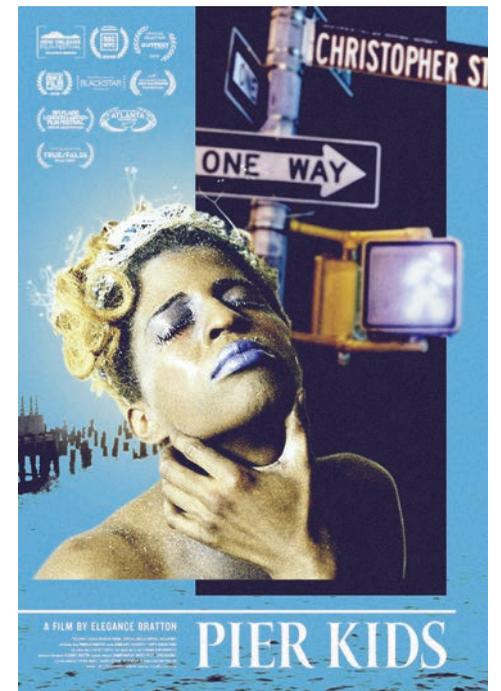
"THE NEW BAUHAUS" | DIR: Alysa Nahmias | USA

"PERSONHOOD" | DIR: Jo Ardinger | USA

"TRANSHOOD" | DIR: Sharon Liese | USA

SHORTS Competition

There are 26 short films.



Pier Kids, poster - Photo /Bentonville FF

EPISODIC Competition

There are 14 episodic shorts.

SPOTLIGHT SHORTS

There are 4 spotlight short regional reels.

About the Bentonville Film Festival

Co-founded by Academy Award® winner Geena Davis & Inclusion Companies CEO Trevor Drinkwater, the Bentonville Film Festival is a one of a kind annual event that champions inclusion in all forms of media. The Bentonville Film Festival is held every year in Bentonville, Arkansas, and includes an impactful Inclusion, Research and Content Summit. Connecting engaged entertainment industry leaders and major corporate changemakers with a diverse array of storytellers affords BFF the unique opportunity to amplify commercially viable content and champion stories that adequately represent the world around us. Because if they can see it, they can be it! For more information and updates, visit www.bentonvillefilmfestival.com.

Women Texas 5th Fest: Leaders, Radicals, Story tellers

"Curating. Discovering, introducing, and presenting dynamic female filmmakers and giving them an enthusiastic platform to show their work, discuss it, and celebrate their audacity to put those thoughts, ideas, and visions onscreen for us all to share is what is behind the work we do - whether we see that film on a big screen or in our living rooms or our laptops." - Justina Walford, WTxFF Founder-Artistic Director

Women Texas Film Festival 5th edition

August 13-16 : Olivia Peace's TAHARA Opening Night and WTxFF favorite Lisa Donato's GOSSAMER FOLDS Closing Night

Women Texas Film Festival, the critically acclaimed Dallas-based Festival in its 5th year, focuses solely on the work of visionary female filmmakers, August 13-16. Pivoting to an all-virtual presentation, Olivia Peace's teenage comedy "TAHARA" opens the film festival and Lisa Donato's "GOSSAMER FOLDS" is the Closing Night Selection for WTxFF. These will again feature LGBTQIA+ stories, provocative documentaries, and Texas-based female filmmakers

throughout its lineup.

Opening Night : TAHARA | DIR: Olivia Peace | USA | 1h22m

Carrie Lowstein and Hannah Rosen have been inseparable for as long as they can remember. When their former Hebrew school classmate, Samantha Goldstein, commits suicide, the two girls go to her funeral as well as the "Teen Talk-back" session designed to be an opportunity for them to understand grief through their faith. But, after an innocent kissing exercise turns Carrie's world inside out, the best friends find themselves distracted by the teenage complications of lust, social status, and wavering faith.

Closing Night : GOSSAMER FOLDS | DIR: Lisa Donato | USA | 1h36m

In 1986, ten-year-old Tate is uprooted and unwillingly moved to the suburbs of Kansas City. As his parent's marriage unravels, Tate finds solace in the unlikely friendships of his next-door neighbors: a retired college professor and his transgender daughter, Gossamer.

Additional FEATURE-LENGTH FILMS

A WHORE LIKE ME | DIRS: Sharon Yaish, Yael Shachar | Israel | 1h2m

DOBERMAN | DIR: Azul Lombardia | Argentina | 1h12m

FAR EAST DEEP SOUTH | DIR: Larissa Lam | USA | 1h16m

FATED HEARTS | DIRS: Elif Akarsu Polat, Cigdem Bozali | Turkey | 1h43m

HONEYBEE | DIR: Rama Ra | Canada | 1h30m

NEVER GOING BACK | DIR: Janette A. López | Mexico | 1h6m

OUTLAW | DIR: Ksenia Ratushnaya | Russia | 1h35m

SEND ME TO THE CLOUDS | DIR: Teng Congcong | China | 1h36m

THE REFORMIST: A FEMALE IMAM | DIR: Marie Skovgaard | Denmark | 1h30m

The Shorts Program is categorized as COMEDY SHORTS (85m), HORROR SHORTS (61m), ISOLATION SHORTS (98m), MAGICAL REALISM SHORTS (91 min), TEXAS SHORTS (77m).

All films can be viewed for free with an option to donate. Seating is limited. Also, all films except exclusive screenings can be viewed at any time starting August 13th



A scene from "Tahara" - Photo / CourtesyWildworks PR

at 5pm until midnight August 16th.

Q&As and panels will be announced and viewable here: <https://wtxff.eventive.org/>. Stay tuned for details at womentxff.org.

ABOUT WOMEN TEXAS FILM FESTIVAL

Women Texas Film Festival (WTxFF) promotes established and emerging female storytellers in film and TV, celebrating the range and power of women's voices. WTxFF screens qualified films that have women in at least one key creative role: Writer, Producer, Director, Cinematographer, Editor. For more information on Women Texas Film Festival, visit www.WomenTxFF.org.

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

Chinese court sentences Canadian to death for making drugs

BEIJING (TIP): A Chinese court sentenced a Canadian to death on Thursday for making drugs, the third Canadian to be sentenced to death for drugs in China since Canada detained a top executive of Chinese company in 2018.

The Canadian, identified as Xu Weihong, was sentenced after a trial in the southern city of Guangzhou, the Guangzhou Intermediate Court said in a notice on its website.

It did not say what drugs he had been convicted of making, nor give any other details about his crime. The court ordered his property to be confiscated. Reuters was not immediately able to determine if Xu has a lawyer. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin, asked about the case at a regular briefing, said drug crimes were very serious and everyone was equal before the law.

"China's relevant authorities handled the case independently according to law. I don't think it should have any effect on China-Canada relations," Wang said.

A Chinese national, Wen Guanxiong, was also charged with making drugs in the same case and jailed for life, the court said in its notice.

The Canadian embassy in China did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Relations between China and Canada deteriorated sharply after Canada detained Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of telecoms equipment giant Huawei Technologies, in Vancouver in late 2018, on a warrant from the United States.

China last year sentenced Canadians Robert Lloyd Schellenberg and Fan Wei to death on drug charges in separate cases. Both men have lodged appeals. Two other Canadian men -- businessman Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig, a former diplomat -- were detained in China days after Meng's arrest, and were charged in June 2020 with espionage.

China has denied that their arrest is linked to Meng's case. Reuters

Bank of England holds interest rates at record low

LONDON (TIP): The Bank of England left its benchmark interest rate at a record low of 0.1 per cent amid caution about how rapidly the United Kingdom will recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The bank also left its target for buying government and corporate bonds unchanged at 745 billion pounds (USD 980 billion). The decision announced on Thursday was widely expected as economists forecast data released next week will show the economy shrank less than expected in the second quarter. In May, when the central bank released its last report, policymakers estimated gross domestic product would shrink 25 per cent during the quarter. The average of economist estimates now puts the decline at less than 19 per cent. AP

75th anniversary of Hiroshima bombing

HIROSHIMA (TIP): Bells tolled in Hiroshima on Thursday for the 75th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing.

Though thousands usually pack the Peace Park in the centre of the Japanese city to offer paper cranes as a symbol of peace, entry was sharply limited.

As the Peace Bell sounded, the crowd observed silence at the exact time the bomb exploded. Reuters

Japanese PM Shinzo Abe pays homage to the victims of the atomic bombing at Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima.
REUTERS



French President Macron urges independent probe of blast

BEIRUT (TIP): French President Emmanuel Macron says an independent, transparent investigation into the massive explosion in Beirut is "owed to the victims and their families" by Lebanese authorities.

During a visit to the city on Thursday, Macron walked past gutted silos and charred carcasses of cargo containers.

Angry crowds approached him and the Beirut governor as they walked through a blast-torn street, and through a devastated pharmacy.

After meeting with political leaders later, the French leader mentioned the "anger in the street" he had witnessed earlier.

He said: "There is a political, moral, economic and financial crisis that has lasted several months, several years. This implies strong political responsibility."

He said he discussed addressing corruption and other needed reforms with Lebanon's president and prime minister.

"I came here to show the support of the French nation for the Lebanese people," Macron said, stressing the word "people".

Media reports in the nation of Georgia say the tons of ammonium nitrate that exploded in Beirut originated from the Georgian city of Rustavi, home to a large chemical production plant.

The company that operates the plant issued a statement on Thursday that neither confirmed nor denied the provenance of the 2,750 tons of the chemical stored in a Beirut warehouse that is believed to have been touched off by a fire.

The ammonium nitrate — a highly explosive component of fertilizers — had been stored there since 2013 despite repeated warnings.

Rustavi Azot said it has been operating the plant "only for the past three years" and was unable to confirm whether the ammonium nitrate was produced in



He said: "There is a political, moral, economic and financial crisis that has lasted several months, several years. This implies strong political responsibility." He said he discussed addressing corruption and other needed reforms with Lebanon's president and prime minister.

Georgia or in the city of Rustavi.

Cyprus' foreign minister says a team of Cypriot doctors will travel to Lebanon on Sunday to help treat the wounded from Tuesday's blast in Beirut.

Nikos Christodoulides told private Sigma TV that Greece will provide a military transport plane to carry specialized equipment needed in Lebanon.

He said Cyprus will also dispatch additional rescuers and paramedics on top of the 10 emergency response personnel and eight sniffer dogs sent on Wednesday.

Christodoulides said private companies have responded to an appeal to provide quantities of aluminium and glass that Lebanon needs to rebuild.

Denmark is donating 12 million kroner (\$1.9 million) to Lebanon, chiefly to be channelled via the Red Cross, and 600 chemical protection suits.

Development Minister Rasmus Prehn said Tuesday's explosions in Beirut come "at the worst possible time" for Lebanon. "The country's economy and health care are already completely on their knees," he said.

"And COVID-19 just makes the situation worse. At the same time, the country is home to 1.5 million refugees who also need support."

So far this year, Denmark has provided 32 million kroner (\$5.1 million) in humanitarian aid to Lebanon, mainly to help refugees in the Middle Eastern country. AP

New disease kills 7, infects 60 in China

BEIJING (TIP): A new infectious disease caused by a tick-borne virus has killed seven people and infected 60 others in China, official media here reported on Wednesday, warning about the possibility of its human-to-human transmission.

More than 37 people in East China's Jiangsu Province contracted with the SFTS Virus in the first half of the year. Later, 23 people were found to have been infected in East China's Anhui province, state-run Global Times quoted media reports.

A woman from Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu, who suffered from the virus showed onset of symptoms such as fever, coughing. Doctors found a decline of leukocyte, blood platelet inside of her body.

After a month of treatment, she was discharged from the hospital.

At least seven people have died in Anhui and East China's Zhejiang province due to the virus, the report said.

SFTS Virus is not a new virus. China has isolated pathogen of the virus in 2011, and it belongs to the Bunyavirus category. Virologists believe that the



Virologists believe that the infection may have been passed on to humans by ticks and that the virus can be transmitted between humans.

infection may have been passed on to humans by ticks and that the virus can be transmitted between humans, it said.

Sheng Jifang, a doctor from the first affiliated hospital under Zhejiang University, said that the possibility of human-to-human transmission could not

be excluded; patients can pass the virus to others via blood or mucous.

Doctors warned that tick bite is the major transmission route, as long as people remain cautious, there's no need to over panic over such virus contagion, it said. PTI

Google pulls 2,500 China-linked YouTube channels over disinformation

BEIJING (TIP): Google says it has deleted more than 2,500 YouTube channels tied to China as part of its effort to weed out disinformation on the videosharing platform.

The Alphabet-owned company said the channels were removed between April and June "as part of our ongoing investigation into coordinated influence operations linked to China."

The channels generally posted "spammy, non-political content," but a small subset touched on politics, the company said in a quarterly bulletin on disinformation operations.

Google did not identify the specific channels and provided few other details, except to link the videos to similar activity spotted by Twitter and to a disinformation campaign identified in April by social media analytics company Graphika.

The Chinese Embassy in the US didn't immediately respond to a message seeking comment. Beijing has in the past denied allegations of spreading disinformation.

Disinformation seeded by foreign actors has emerged as a burning concern for American politicians and technologists alike since the 2016 presidential election, when Russian government-linked actors pumped hundreds of thousands of deceptive messages into the social media ecosystem.

Many have spent the past four years trying to avoid a repeat of 2016, with companies like Google and Facebook issuing regular updates on how they're combating online propaganda.

The bulletin also mentioned activity tied to other countries, including Iran and Russia. Reuters

3 men rescued from Pacific island after writing SOS in sand

WELLINGTON (TIP): Three men have been rescued from a tiny Pacific island after writing a giant SOS sign in the sand that was spotted from above, authorities say.

The men had been missing in the Micronesia archipelago for nearly three days when their distress signal was spotted Sunday on uninhabited Pikelot Island by searchers on Australian and U.S. aircraft, the Australian defense department said Monday. The men had apparently set out from Pulawat atoll in a 7-meter (23-foot) boat on July 30 and had intended to travel about 43 kilometers (27 miles) to Pulap atoll when they sailed off course and ran out of fuel, the department said. Searchers in Guam asked for Australian help. The military ship, Canberra, which was returning to Australia from exercises in Hawaii, diverted to the area and joined forces with U.S. searchers from Guam. The men were found about 190 kilometers (118 miles) from where they had set out. AP

Meghan Markle wins plea to keep friends anonymous in UK court

LONDON (TIP): Meghan Markle, the Duchess of Sussex, on Wednesday won an attempt to keep five of her friends anonymous in her ongoing High Court legal action in London over breach of privacy against 'The Mail on Sunday' newspaper owners Associated Newspaper Limited (ANL).

Lawyers for Markle, who turned 39 on Tuesday, had argued for the friends who gave an interview to 'People' magazine to remain anonymous in reports of the proceedings. The legal team for ANL, which denies all allegations, had resisted the application.

"I have concluded that for the time being at least the court should grant the claimant the orders she seeks, the effect of which will be to confer protection on the sources' identities," said Justice Mark Warby in a ruling at the Royal Courts of Justice.

"That is confidential information, the protection of which at this stage is necessary in the interests of the administration of justice. This is an interim decision," he noted.

The 'People' article referenced in court involved the former actress' friends speaking out against her alleged bullying and they have so far only been identified in confidential court documents, according to 'The Daily Telegraph'.

Markle, the wife of Prince Harry, says her friends gave the interview without her knowledge, and denies a claim made by ANL that she "caused or permitted"



the article to be published in 'People'.

The UK court battle revolves around the reproduction of sections of a "private and confidential" handwritten note Markle sent to her estranged father, 75-year-old Thomas Markle, in August 2018.

The focus is on five articles in total – two in the 'Mail on Sunday' and three on 'MailOnline' – which were published in February 2019 and reproduced parts of the letter.

Markle is seeking damages from ANL for alleged misuse of private information, copyright infringement and breach of the UK Data Protection Act.

Publishers ANL wholly deny the allegations, including the claim that the letter was edited in any way that changed its meaning, and have pledged to strongly contest the case.

The court has previously heard that Markle became "the subject of a large number of false and damaging articles" in the press while she was pregnant with her son Archie, which caused her "tremendous emotional distress and damage to her mental health". The case will proceed to trial at a later date.

Harry and Meghan are now based in the US with their one-year-old son Archie after they stepped back as frontline royals earlier this year. The couple recently also began court proceedings in July in Los Angeles after drones were allegedly used to take pictures of their baby boy.

On Tuesday, members of the royal family took to social media to wish Markle for her 39th birthday. A picture of Markle with Queen Elizabeth II was posted on the British monarch's official Twitter account with the words: "Wishing The Duchess of Sussex a very happy birthday!"

A similar message also appeared on the account of Harry's brother Prince William and wife Kate Middleton, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. PTI

OPTIMISING YOUR SPACE WITH CURTAINS

The right curtains and how they hang can make or break the look of a room. And, unlike other features and furniture, can be used cleverly to alter one's very perception of the size of the space they're in. Here are our top tips on using curtains to make the most of your space.

How to make a room look bigger or smaller?

Hang them high on the wall, right up near the ceiling. This draws the eye upwards creating an illusion of height.

Stripes can fool the eye so depending on the size of your room, the right stripe direction can make it appear larger or smaller. For small rooms with low ceilings choose vertical stripes to add height. Horizontal stripes will visually shorten wide walls and/or high ceilings.

Avoid heavily colored horizontal patterns or large flowered prints, which tend to dominate a room, closing it in.

Choosing a fabric in a slightly lighter shade of the wall colour will also help to open up a room. Dark coloured curtains will do the opposite if you want to make a large space cosier.

Adjustable or long solid curtain rods can also work towards creating that impression of spaciousness. This way you can pull the curtains right to the side exposing the frame and therefore the full width of the window, making it look larger and letting in more light.

How long should curtains be?

Down to the floor is the best length. They look good and in winter, perform better at retaining



heat. If there is something in the way under the window (eg. a heating device or perhaps it's a bay window) you will only be able to hang them to the sill or just below.

We'd also recommend considering shorter curtains in children's rooms also. Floor length curtains pose a safety risk as they can be reached and pulled down or kids play in them, wrapping themselves up and potential restricting breathing.

Should they touch the floor?

There are several variations on what constitutes 'floor length'.

Floating curtains offer a simple

and sensible casual look. By leaving no more than a centimetre of space between curtain and floor they're practical too as floating curtains don't gather dust on the floor. They are also easier to open and close so there's no room they won't work in (except the bathroom, laundry and kitchen).

Touching curtains require expert measurement as just a centimetre too short or long and you have a completely different look. However, it is a clean and simple choice perfect for all rooms (same exceptions as above). Better on hard surface floors as opposed to carpet, which it can pull against when opening and closing.

OVERNIGHT HAIR MASK FOR NOURISHMENT

Hair masks work the best to add shine, strength, nourishment and promote hair growth. Certain masks also target specific issues like hair fall, frizz and dryness. Today, we're here to bring to you a hair mask that works for overall nourishment while also dealing with hair and scalp issues.

All you need

- 2 tablespoons of coconut oil
- 2 tablespoons of yoghurt
- 3-4 vitamin E capsules depending on your hair length
- Mix all the ingredients in a bowl until you get a smooth paste.
- Start applying the same on your scalp and hair while massaging thoroughly for 15 minutes.
- Wear a shower cap and leave on the mask to work its magic overnight.
- Wash off with shampoo and conditioner in the morning to reveal a soft, shiny mane.

Benefits

- Coconut oil works as a great conditioner while also promotes scalp health. It also deals with scalp issues like dandruff. It also contributes to dealing with hair problems like split ends and breakage.
- Filled with proteins and lactic acid, it is one of the



best natural ingredients to cleanse the scalp and smoothen hair shafts.

- Vitamin E oil is one of the best ingredients to nourish hair topically. The anti-oxidant deals with scalp issues and promotes hair growth.



By Tript Arora

CONNOISSEUR'S CHOICE



BAKED VEGETABLES

This recipe is close to my heart as I evolved it to get my daughter to eat veggies. She used to be a fussy eater when it came to vegetables so I used this method to make her eat some greens. And it worked like magic on her. You can make it too to make your kids eat vegetables. Not just kids but grown-ups also will drool over this one. Firstly take vegetables of your choice e.g today I have made



with carrots, corns, french beans and red bell pepper as these were lying in my fridge. You can also add broccoli, mushrooms and peas subject to availability. Boneless chicken can also be added. It tastes super. Saute these vegetables with garlic and add them to white sauce, with chilli flakes and oregano. Top it with cheese, oregano and chilli flakes. It is then baked in oven till the cheesy layer on top melts. The creamy soft vegetables wrapped in melted cheese just disappear in the mouth.

We need

2 Cups of finely chopped vegetables, 10 cloves of garlic finely chopped, 1 Tbsp cooking oil, 1 Tbsp grated Ginger, 2 Tbsp All purpose flour (Maida), 2 Tbsp Salted (Yellow) butter, 1Tsp Black pepper powder, 1 Tsp Chilli flakes, 1 Tsp Oregano, 1 Tsp Pizza Seasoning (optional), 350 ml Milk, 1/2 Tsp Cinamon powder (optional), 1/4 Tsp of Nutmeg powder, 2 Tbsp grated Mozzarella cheese, Salt to taste.

Here we go

- Heat a pan and add cooking oil to it. When the oil is heated add finely chopped garlic to it. Saute it for a minute. But the garlic should not change colour. Now add finely chopped vegetables to it. Saute it for two minutes. Add ginger and salt to it. Vegetables will release water after the salt is added. Cover the pan and let the vegetables cook in its own water. It will take 5 min on low flame to get the vegetables done. Meanwhile stir it two three times to cook them evenly. Switch off the flame when veggies become soft but not mushy. Keep aside.
- Now let us make white sauce. Heat a pan and add butter to it. As soon as it melts add all purpose flour to it. Mix well. Saute till the raw smell of flour goes but the colour of flour doesn't change.
- Gradually add milk (at room temperature). While adding milk keep on stirring it with a whisker, so that no lumps are formed. Add milk in batches. Soon the mixture will turn into smooth white sauce. Keep on stirring otherwise it will stick to the bottom.
- Add black pepper powder and cinnamon powder to the sauce. Grate a nutmeg with a fine grater and add 1/4 tsp of it to the white sauce. It enhances the taste of the dish. Now is the turn to add previously sauteed vegetables to the white sauce. Mix well. Add oregano and chilli flakes. Keep on stirring to combine the flavours.
- Cover it with a lid. Let it simmer for 5 minutes. Keep on checking it in between. When the mixture looks homogenous, switch off the flame. Mix well.
- Take this out in a baking dish. Spread some grated mozzarella cheese on top. Sprinkle chilli flakes and oregano on it. Bake it in a preheated oven on 180 degrees for 8 min or until cheese melts and form a layer. Take out from oven and serve hot with Garlic bread.

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

ANTIBIOTICS MAY UP HEART DISEASE RISK IN PEOPLE WITH DIABETES

Researchers have found that bacterial infections may elevate the risk of coronary heart disease in individuals with type 1 diabetes.

For the findings, published in the *Journal of Internal Medicine*, the research team wanted to investigate the association between bacterial infections and the risk of coronary heart disease (CHD) in type 1 diabetes.

"We were able to study the association between antibiotic purchases, endotoxemia and incident coronary heart disease in one of the largest cohorts of individuals with type 1 diabetes," said study authors from Folkhalsan Research Centre (FRC), in Finland.

"As diabetic nephropathy has a substantial impact on both the risk of CVD as well as the risk of infections, we further studied this association at different stages of diabetic nephropathy," authors added.

The findings showed that among 3,781 individuals with type 1 diabetes, 370 developed coronary heart disease over an average follow-up of 13.7 years.

Antibiotic purchases, reflecting bacterial infections in outpatient care, were significant risk factors for coronary heart disease, with a 21 per cent increased risk for each annual antibiotic purchase, according to the researchers.

A high blood level of bacterial lipopolysaccharides (large molecules



derived from the outer layer of gram-negative bacteria) was also a risk factor for coronary heart disease.

"In broader terms, the present study demonstrates how infections associate with the development of late diabetic complications and perhaps even more importantly, how infections associate with the development of coronary heart disease, as the latter relationship has been disputed during recent years," said author Johan Rasmus Simonsen

from FRC.

"Interestingly, in our study this association to incident coronary heart disease was seen specifically with antibiotic purchases, making the potential pathophysiologic mechanisms behind this finding intriguing and warranting further studies."

The researchers noted that more studies are needed to further elucidate the pathophysiologic mechanisms behind this association.



STUDY EXPLAINS HOW YOU CAN CUT DOWN THE RISK OF DEMENTIA SIGNIFICANTLY

A recent study has found that there are some specific things that make a person more susceptible to developing dementia, and that if these risk factors are reduced, the chances of dementia decrease, too. In fact, the study mentions 12 risk factors which, when reduced, can delay or prevent this mental illness in 40 per cent of cases.

Published in the *Lancet* medical journal, the study finds three additional risk factors for dementia, along with the nine already listed in a 2017 paper. These include excessive consumption of alcohol, a head injury in mid-life, and exposure to air pollution in later life which, together, have been found to be associated with six per cent of all dementia cases.

While an estimated three per cent of cases were connected to head injuries, one per cent of cases was linked to high alcohol consumption, and two per cent to air pollution. The remaining factors made up 34 per cent of all dementia cases.

The factors that make up the bigger proportion of dementia cases include less early education, hearing loss in middle age and smoking later in life.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), there are around 50 million people around the world who have dementia, and nearly 10 million new cases come up every year. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia, which is one of the major causes of disability and dependency among older people worldwide.

Published by 28 leading dementia academics, the new study lays out a set of policies and lifestyle changes to help prevent the condition. According to The National, lead author Professor Gill Livingston of University College London has said: "Our report shows that it is within the power of policymakers and individuals to prevent and delay a significant proportion of dementia, with opportunities to make an impact at each stage of a person's life. Interventions are likely to have the biggest impact on those who are disproportionately affected by dementia risk factors, like those in low and middle-income countries and vulnerable populations, including black, Asian and minority ethnic communities."

CONVALESCENT PLASMA LOWERS COVID-19 DEATH RISK

Infusions of antibody-rich blood plasma from people who have recovered from the new coronavirus, known as convalescent plasma, can lower the risk of death for hospitalized COVID-19 patients, according to a pooled analysis of data from eight earlier studies of more than 700 hospitalized patients around the world. Researchers found that mortality rates were roughly 13 percent in patients who received convalescent plasma versus about 25 percent for those who did not get the treatment.

Convalescent plasma was shown to be safe in an earlier study of 5,000 hospitalized adults with severe or life-threatening COVID-19. In that study, fewer than 1 percent of patients had any serious adverse effects in the first four hours after transfusion. The current study could not account for differences in factors such as how sick patients were, how much plasma they received, how long they were sick before the received it, and how long



doctors followed them afterward. "Given the safety of plasma administration in COVID-19 patients, the results ... provide encouragement for its continued use as a therapy," the researchers write in a report published ahead of peer. In patients with COVID-19, the immune system's T cells learn to recognize and target the new coronavirus. But some people who

were never infected with the virus nonetheless have T cells that also recognize it. Researchers had suspected that in these individuals, past exposure to other coronaviruses, such as those that cause the common cold, had somehow primed their T cells to recognize and attack this new coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), and new research appears to confirm that.

PAGE SPONSORED BY

DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



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

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



MYSTERIOUS TAIL-LIKE CLOUD FORMS OVER VOLCANO ON MARS

A weird-looking, extremely elongated white cloud is back as it has been spotted after almost two years over an extinct Martian volcano, Arsia Mons which is located just a bit south of the Martian equator. The scientists were waiting for this rather periodical event with European Space Agency's (ESA) Mars Express orbiter.

The scientists have named it the cloud as Arsia Mons Elongated Cloud (AMEC). As per ESA, the tail-like cloud made of water ice can be as long as 1,800 km. It is formed when local winds interact with the topography in a certain way and not because of the volcano it forms over.

"We have been investigating this intriguing phenomenon and were expecting to see such a cloud form around now," Jorge Hernandez-Bernal, a PhD candidate at the University of the Basque Country in Spain and the lead author of the ongoing study, said in a statement released by the ESA, which runs the spacecraft.

"This elongated cloud forms every Martian year during this season around the southern solstice, and repeats for 80 days or even more," Hernandez-Bernal said. "However, we don't know yet if the clouds are always quite this impressive."

GOOGLE MAY LAUNCH ITS NEXT ASSISTANT SMART SPEAKER LATER THIS MONTH

Google's new Assistant smart speaker was teased recently so we know that the launch is just around the corner. According to new reports, this launch could happen as early as this month itself.

Tipster Roland Quandt posted on Twitter that a new Google Home will be hitting stores by the end of August.

This upcoming smart speaker comes with the codename 'J2' and should have a price tag of 100 euros (\$120 or ₹8,979 approx). The speaker has also been pegged to be launched in two colours - Chalk and Charcoal.

So what exactly could this Google smart speaker be? Reports suggest that most people are expecting it to be the new Nest Speaker from Google that was in the news earlier this year. However, there is nothing in Quandt's tweet that indicates that it is the Nest Speaker. The Nest Speaker, when it was first reported about, came with the codename "prince", and there was no mention of a "J2" even in the most recent regulatory leaks.



FILES BY GOOGLE GETS NEW ENCRYPTED SAFE FOLDER, HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

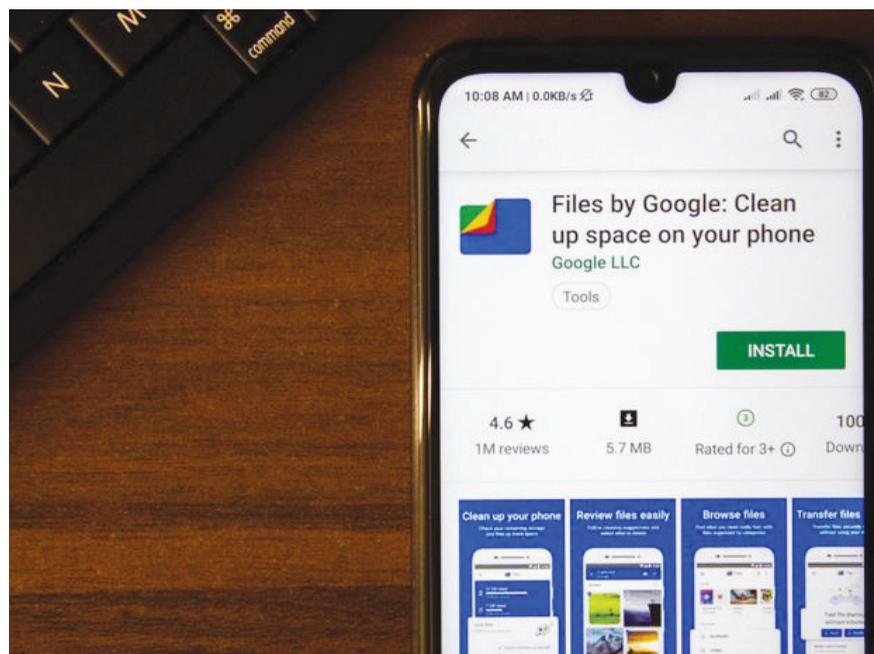
Google has rolled out a new update for its popular 'Files by Google' application. The latest update brings a new Safe folder within the app. The folder can be further secured by setting up for four-digit PIN, akin to your smartphone passcode.

Google says that the folder is encrypted and automatically locks in the background when you switch to another application. When you re-open the folder, it will ask you the PIN for verification.

Google hopes the new feature will help women and children from accidentally giving away private data to someone else.

Google further revealed that Files by Google is currently used by 150 million monthly users around the world. The application had launched in 2017 with an objective to help users with low-end phones which do not have enough storage.

Since the release, Files by Google has deleted over 1 trillion files, which would have taken a user more than 30,000 years to manually delete. The company claims the application has helped save over 400



petabytes of space on users, an equivalent of 1,400 years of non-stop HD video recording. It also said that the application has helped remove 12GB of space every space which is about 5,000 photos per

second.

Google's Safe Folder feature is available to beta for Files by Google users. The company will gradually expand its availability to more users over the following weeks.

Chinese apps Baidu, Weibo blocked in India, to be taken off app stores

Weibo and Baidu Search, two of China's biggest apps that were called the alternatives to Twitter and Google Search, have been blocked in India and according to reports, will be taken off the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store.

According to a Times of India report, Internet service providers have also been told to block these two apps. An official source told TOI that Weibo and Baidu Search are among 47 new apps that the Indian government banned on July 27 and added that the government is considering a decision to ban more apps.

PM Narendra Modi had an account on Weibo but he shut it down in the face of escalating tensions between India and China.

Blocking of these 47 apps follows the government's first decision to ban 59 apps including the very popular TikTok and other apps like the UC Browser, Helo, Likee, Shareit, WeChat, CamScanner and Mi Community.

These 59 apps were banned on June 29 and then the government added 47 more apps to the ban list, however, this time around the list was not made public.

Most apps in this second list of 47 include clones, or lite versions, of some of the apps that were a part of the 59 banned like TikTok Lite, Shareit Lite, CamScanner HD, BioLive Lite, Likee Lite etc.



These apps have been banned for engaging in activities that are "prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order".

Reports have it that the government is also looking into 275 more Chinese apps that include the likes of PUBG Mobile and ByteDance's Resso.

Scientists develop artificial skin capable of recreating sense of touch

Singapore researchers have developed "electronic skin" capable of recreating a sense of touch, an innovation they hope will allow people with prosthetic limbs to detect objects, as well as feel texture, or even temperature and pain.

The device, dubbed ACES, or Asynchronous Coded Electronic Skin, is made up of 100 small sensors and is about 1 sq cm (0.16 square inch) in size.

The researchers at the National University of Singapore say it can process information faster than the human nervous system, is able to recognise 20 to 30 different textures and can read Braille letters with more than 90 percent accuracy.

"So humans need to slide to feel texture, but in this case the skin, with just a single touch, is able to detect textures of different roughness," said research team leader Benjamin Tee, adding that AI algorithms let the device learn quickly.

Reliance Industries second biggest brand globally after Apple

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries has been ranked second biggest brand after Apple on the FutureBrand Index 2020.

"This year's highest entrant at number two, Reliance Industries excels on every attribute," FutureBrand said, releasing its 2020 Index.

One of the most profitable companies in India, Reliance is, "very well respected" and "seen as behaving ethically" as well as being associated with "growth", "innovative products" and "great customer service", it said. "In particular, people have a strong emotional connection with the organisation." FutureBrand, which is a global brand transformation company, said part of Reliance's success could be attributed to Mukesh Ambani's recasting of the firm as a one-stop-shop for Indians.

"The chairman built on the existing petrochemicals business, transforming it into a digital behemoth designed to meet every customer need.

"Today, this company is engaged in a number of sectors including energy, petrochemicals, textiles, natural resources, retail, and telecommunications. Now that Google and Facebook are taking equity stakes in the firm, we may see Reliance jostling for the top spot in the next Index," it said.

FutureBrand said six years on from the first FutureBrand Index,



the world has changed dramatically, priorities have shifted and the globe's top 100 companies are dealing with challenges unthinkable even 12 months ago.

"The FutureBrand Index is a global perception study that reorders PwC's Global Top 100 Companies by Market Cap on perception strength rather than financial strength," it said. "While the FutureBrand Index 2020 has uncovered a number of seismic shifts in the way companies work and how they present themselves to the outside world, one key theme has stood out: individuality." The 2020 list is topped by Apple, while Samsung is ranked third, followed

by Nvidia, Moutai, Nike, Microsoft, ASML, PayPal and Netflix.

Reliance ranks 91st on PwC 2020 list, it said.

"A slew of new entrants to our Index include ASML Holdings, PayPal, Danaher, Saudi Aramco, and American Tower Corporation. In total, there are 15 new entrants this year, seven of which make it into the top 20, including Reliance Industries slotting in at number two," it said.

The FutureBrand Index is not based on consumer research. Unlike most other rankings, the Index offers a rigorous assessment of how prominent companies are doing and are likely to do over the next few years.



VIRGIN ATLANTIC AIRLINE FILES FOR US BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION

NEW YORK (TIP): Virgin Atlantic, the airline founded by British businessman Richard Branson, filed Tuesday for protection in US bankruptcy court as it tries to survive the virus pandemic that is hammering the airline industry.

The airline made the Chapter 15 filing in US federal bankruptcy court in New York after a proceeding in the United Kingdom.

A spokeswoman for Virgin Atlantic said the bankruptcy filing is part of a court process in the United Kingdom to carry out a restructuring plan that the airline announced last month.

The process is supported by a majority of the airline's creditors, and the company hopes to emerge from the process in September, she said.

A Virgin Atlantic lawyer said in a court filing that the company needs an order from a US court to make terms of the restructuring apply in the US.

The airline is primarily a long-haul operator, including flights between the UK and the US. It stopped flying in April due to the pandemic and only resumed flights in July. It closed a base at London's Gatwick Airport and cut about 3,500 jobs.

US job market recovery appears to be slowing, services sector powering ahead

WASHINGTON (TIP): U.S. private employers hired far fewer workers than expected in July as companies exhausted loans to help with wages and new COVID-19 infections flared up across the country, supporting the view that the nascent economic recovery was faltering.

While other data on Wednesday showed activity in the vast services sector gained momentum in July as new orders raced to a record high, hiring declined. The reports, together with a recent rise in applications for unemployment benefits, suggest job growth pulled back sharply in July. The Labor Department will publish July's employment report on Friday.

"The economy will remain at risk of a renewed downturn so long as a vaccine or therapeutic for the virus remains out of reach," said Oren Klachkin, lead U.S. economist at Oxford Economics in New York.

The ADP National Employment Report showed private payrolls increased by 167,000 jobs last month after jumping by 4.314 million in June. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast private payrolls would increase by 1.5 million in July.

Hiring weakened across the board last month. Payrolls for medium-sized businesses with 50 to 499 employees fell 25,000. The sharp step-down in hiring was attributed to the expiration of the U.S. government's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the resurgence in coronavirus cases.

The PPP was part of a historic fiscal package worth nearly \$3 trillion that gave businesses loans that can be partially forgiven if used for employee pay. New cases of the respiratory illness have exploded, especially in the densely-populated South and West regions where authorities in hard-hit areas are closing businesses again and pausing reopenings.

India's Bharti Airtel partners with Amazon to grow cloud business

NEW DELHI (TIP): Bharti Airtel Ltd and Amazon Web Services (AWS) will join forces to develop the Indian telecoms firm's cloud business, allowing it to offer a wider range of products to its enterprise clients, the two companies said on Wednesday.

Airtel Cloud currently provides data centre and cloud services to companies and governments via different partnerships.

"AWS with the depth and breadth of our platform, and Airtel with its deep reach and expertise and focus, I think together we can build a set of really differentiated cloud products and go serve customers at scale in India," Puneet Chandok, President, India and South Asia at Amazon Internet Services told a virtual news conference.

New products could include data analytics, artificial intelligence and machine learning, and security services among others, the two companies said.

The public cloud services market in India is expected to be worth \$7.1 billion in 2024, up from \$3.4 billion this year, according to tech researcher International Data Corp.

The tie up with Bharti will offer Amazon's web services business direct access to the Indian firm's more than 2,500 large enterprise customers and over a million emerging businesses.

Airtel customers will get sales and support from both companies.



Jeff Bezos sells \$3.1 billion of Amazon shares after wealth jumps

The numbers are eye-popping: 1 million Amazon.com Inc. shares offloaded for more than \$3.1 billion. And yet for the seller, Jeff Bezos, it barely puts a dent in his stake in the e-commerce giant.

The disposal, disclosed Wednesday in Securities and Exchange Commission filings, adds to a \$4.1 billion sale earlier this year. The proceeds are a fraction of the amount that Bezos's holdings have increased this year as the Covid-19 pandemic forced people to stay at home and created a surge in demand for Amazon's e-commerce services.

For Bezos, 56, this year has been a reversal from years of relative restraint in reducing his stake in Amazon. He still holds more than 54 million shares and is worth \$189.8 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. His net worth has surged by \$74.9 billion this year with Amazon stock rising 73%.



Shree Ganeshaya Namah



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA

By Vedic Astrologer
Nastur Bejan Daruwalla
is available for astrological
consultations.

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

+91 8141234275
for astrological
queries

www.bejandaruwala.com



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

Weekly Horoscope August 10 - August 16, 2020

ARIES: Peace and calm now descend on you and yours. It had to come. There was nothing left for Ganesha to give you, and He had a mind to be generous. Work, strife, confrontations are all handled with this new mind - set and nothing can upset you. Success comes to you no matter what you turn to. A truly enviable state of being, and richly deserved. Once again, what more can I add?

TAURUS: "All people matter to you now," as Kipling said - and highly. Family, children, loved ones, spouse / partner, parents, in - laws, extended family, neighbours, colleagues - receive help, love, support in your new, caring avatar. New ventures, projects, proposals, partnerships (fine P's, all of them) take off smoothly and existing ones are revamped or speeded up. In turn, you yourself feel cherished, loved, cared for, as never before.

GEMINI: Power and glory, not only from your inner strengths, but in this material world we live in - from money! And this trend will last through the year and spill over into this period as well. Joint - funds, loans, capital, trusts, family income, even domestic expenses - you attend to all and seek to improve and enhance them. Likewise, leases, legal matters and issues. If you are to reckon the profits, accruals, benefits, they are emotional as well as financial. Greater contentment, great spirituality, too.

CANCER: Contacts, communications, reaching out by all possible means and media - that's the theme now. Opportunities for travel, too, in this theme, naturally. If you work in the arts, the media, in publicity related fields, you now excel at what you're doing, and gain well - deserved plaudits, glory recognition. Ganesha's generosity knows no bounds, does it?

LEO: It's back to money matters once again. You really need to swing back and forth, coping with the cornucopia of plenty that Ganesha sends you! And that means hard work, but you're not shy of that. Stocks, shares, mutual and marital funds, profits, capital formation - the possibilities are endless. So also, almost the rewards that come your way thick and fast. Esteem, respect, social standing and status, above all, your own greatly enhanced self - image. But some caution will be necessary, too.

VIRGO: Once again, hard work and matching rewards. So, says Ganesha, you really have no cause to complain. Exciting possibilities, equally exciting success in your ventures. Once again, though, Ganesha advises caution, restraint, care in negotiations. Don't make rash or hasty commitments or investments. Read the fine print, study the hidden clauses. You may be riding the crest of a wave, but you have to ensure you don't come crashing down.

LIBRA: Accomplishments, targets, achievements, success by whatever name you choose to call it. And lots of possessions, acquisitions, luxuries, assets that are objects of beauty as well as wise investments. The rewards come in all shapes, sizes, hues and textures. The details I can only leave to your imagination, and your individual horoscope. All I can say is, you've worked hard for them.

SCORPIO: Glory, growth, and of course, Ganesha. Nothing could be more awesome in splendour than these great G's. Your cup of happiness, fulfilment, joy, truly, runneth over, as it says in the Bible. Truly, the Good Book has it all in terms of expression. At least for you, Scorpios, as you stand on the threshold of this period.

SAGITTARIUS: The vital role that relationships and good communication play will be very obvious to you now. Interactions in the family circle with friends, and also with colleagues and superiors may see a few clashes/stand-offs, though they are cordial and pleasant for the most part. Also, a desire to enhance your skills/expertise/knowledge, acquire greater learning both as an asset and for the sheer joy and satisfaction of it!

CAPRICORN: -Targets and goals are what you will be focussed on, in a very big way, as you go into over-drive in the work scenario. Some really hard work is foretold - it may be linked to a new or changed job, a promotion, or even a more profitable line of work. Property and home issues, too, along with loans, funds, enhancement of these two, and your other assets, on the financial scene, all come together to keep you busy indeed. I can foresee your determination and dedication!

AQUARIUS:- In your own birth sign, you surge ahead in the 2 D's I've mentioned last week, along with the 3 D's of demands - that you make on yourself, and those that others make on you, so that you are more than ever aware of the need to earn more, to provide more, to invest more. The material plane is the all-important one now, and you gear up to face the challenges head-on, in true your sign bull-like fashion, says Ganesha.

PISCES: - The kind of flat-out slogging you've embarked on since the new moon phase is difficult to sustain indefinitely, so you decide to relax, have a bit of fun. Love and romance, parties, the social circuit, all these and leisure pursuits/hobbies/recreation, too, acquire a touch of glamour and glitz. To round it all off, Ganesha's luck at wins, windfalls, legacies, clever investments, too, comes your way.

Birthday Horoscope August 10 - August 16, 2020

August 10: The Sun Ganesha says is the prelude to an active if not hectic period concerning your love and social life, children, self-expression, recreation, and travel. But the stepped-up pace can be agreeable and fun.

August 11: Mercury generates not only talk, but also plenty of activity in regard to friends, goals, children, creativity, love, travel, and recreation. But be careful not to be too "pie in the sky" in your thinking.

August 12: Though something feels right to you,

it may not be evident to others. Try not to resent the tendency of others to resist change in favor of defending the status quo.

August 13: The outlook is clouded for the advancement of work and service matters and health. You may have to contend with distractions and will wonder at times where the truth lies.

August 14: A partner's optimism and inventiveness come in handy when conflicts (young vs. old?) arise, so don't feel you have to

face them alone. Try not to let minor annoyances stand in the way.

August 15: Even if someone you know is adept at pulling your strings, that doesn't mean you have to give up control. Still, consider the possibility that someone may know what's best for you.

August 16: Lucky encounters or exchanges can have a positive effect on your life. At any rate, be open to bright new ideas about what to do next.

JANMASHTAMI

THE BIRTH OF LORD KRISHNA

THIS YEAR, THE FESTIVAL FALLS ON AUGUST 12. WE WISH OUR READERS A HAPPY JANMASHTAMI

Also known as Krishna Janmashtami and Gokulashtami, this day is celebrated to commemorate the birth of Lord Krishna. According to the legends, the eighth son of Devki, Lord Krishna was born on the 8th day of the dark fortnight of the month of Bhadrapada (August-September).

In 2020, Janmashtami will be celebrated on 12th August (Wednesday).

According to the Hindu texts, Lord Krishna came into this world as the eighth avatar of Lord Vishnu and destroyer of the evil on this day.

Ancient Hindu literature, including Bhagawad Gita and Bhagwata Purana, clearly state the story of Lord Krishna's birth and how his maternal uncle, King Kansa, wanted to kill him. And ever since his birth, every 8th day called Krishnapaksha of the month of Bhadrapada is celebrated as Krishna Janmashtami.

Also, many people treat this day as an occasion to honour the victory of good over evil.

The festival is important for hindus because Lord Vishnu came in the form of Krishna to eradicate evil and restore 'Dharma' at a time when the tyrant and evil ruler of the Vrishni Kingdom Kansa, Devaki's brother, was making people's lives miserable. He had overthrown his father to become King. But he was cursed to die at the hands of the "eighth son of his sister". To try and escape this curse, Kansa killed all of Devaki's babies when they were born. But when Krishna was born at midnight, a divine force helped Vasudev save Krishna from the evil Kansa. Vasudev carried Krishna across the River Yamuna, to Gokul, to his brother-in-law, Nand Raj's house, where Krishna spent his childhood happily.

Celebrations

Krishna is one God in Hindu Mythology, whose life has been written about from birth to 'demise', and since the lord appeared in a human form and intermingled with one and all at different levels, he is worshipped as a god-child, a loveable prankster, a beautiful lover, a divine guide and the supreme power.

Thus, Krishna's birth is celebrated with great excitement, devotion and passion by one and all - by the dynamic youth playing pranks (Breaking the 'Dahi' handi hanging high above), by women whose maternal instincts are roused on this day (they bathe and dress up 'Baby Krishna' and place him in a cot and rock him while singing devotional songs) and by all age groups as they participate in plays and dances based on Krishna's life, particularly his youth (Raas-Leela).

Many devotees keep fast on this day.



They clean the temple before placing an idol of the crawling "Divine Child Krishna". The idol is bathed lovingly and is adorned with new clothes. The whole temple is decorated with flowers. White butter and sugar is distributed among people as 'prasad' since baby Krishna loved eating this.

Since Krishna was born at the stroke of midnight, devotees start singing 'bhajans' in beautifully decorated and illuminated temples in the evening. The celebrations go on till midnight. At midnight, conchs are blown in the temples to announce the baby's arrival amidst much fanfare.

The devotees who kept the fast, break it now and eat the 'Prasad'.

Janmashtami is celebrated with much

pomp and show in Mathura and Brindavan. The temples come alive with 'jagarans' (Night Vigil) and dance and drama events, specially based on Krishna's childhood pranks and love affairs (With Radha, his consort).

In Maharashtra, specially Mumbai and Pune, and Dwarka in Gujarat, the festival is celebrated on a large social scale, by the traditional breaking of the 'Dahi/Makhan Handi' (pot with freshly churned butter). With time, the butter has been replaced with money that would be won by the team which manages to reach and break the pot.

In the South, devotees make large Kolams (decorative pattern drawn on the floor with rice flour) and make small foot prints of Baby Krishna outside the main

door, depicting the entry of the Lord inside the house.

Not only is this festival celebrated in India, it is also celebrated in many other countries, specially, the US, where ISKON promotes and teaches devotion to Lord Krishna.

Importance of Being Krishna

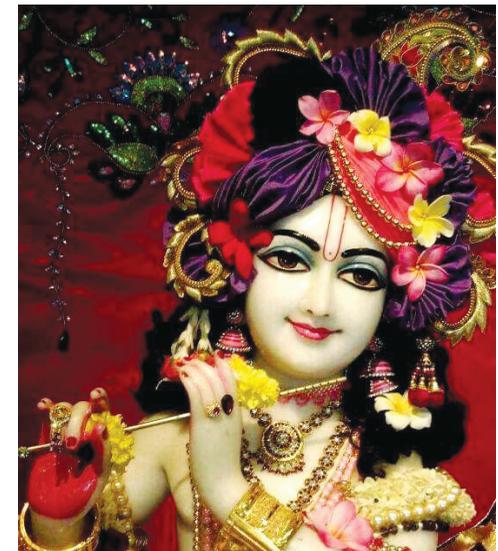
For generations, Krishna has been an enigma to some, but God to millions, who go ecstatic even as they hear his name.

People consider Krishna their leader, hero, protector, philosopher, teacher and friend all rolled into one. Krishna has influenced the Indian thought, life and culture in myriad ways. He has influenced not only its religion and philosophy, but also into its mysticism and literature, painting and sculpture, dance and music, and all aspects of Indian folklore.

Significance

In one of the paragraphs of the Bhagavad Gita, Krishna says that whenever there is a predominance of evil and decline of religion, he will reincarnate to destroy the evil and let the good take over.

The main significance of Janmashtami is to promote goodwill as it is to knock down evil intentions. Krishna Jayanti also celebrates togetherness. The festive occasion brings people together when families and friends join in to celebrate it.



PAGE SPONSORED BY

ARISH K. SAHANI

Serving Since 1972

Please Call or Write for Your Insurance Needs

Arish K Sahani (Father)

Shiv Sahani (Son)

Priya Sahani Sood (Daughter)

718 - 271 - 1906

arish.sahani@gmail.com



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

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

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

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

INDO US EXPRESS, INC.
HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK

WORLDWIDE COURIER FREIGHT-FORWARDER
DOMESTIC & LOCAL DELIVERY

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

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

Indian Visa Center

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

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

M&H Studio
ਮੁਲਤਾਨੀ ਸਟੂਡੀਓ ਬੇਗੋਵਾਲ ਵਾਲੇ

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

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

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

Do you want to succeed in a very rewarding career?

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

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

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

Rohan Handa
Executive Partner
New York Life

LADOO MATRIMONIAL
ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇ ਹੀ ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇ RISTHE HI RISTHE

We Provide Worldwide Services

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

Get to the Point

#1
Indian American Weekly Since 2006

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

Widest Coverage
Your Trusted Partner in Business
The Indian Panorama

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

R & R Dental Lab

86-24 Whitney Ave. Elmhurst, NY 11373

Tel. (718) 533-1611; (347) 808-7258

Email: rbarua1953@gmail.com



- We make all kinds of Acrylic, Metal and Flexite Dentures, applying high quality technology by experienced technicians.
- We repair, reline night guards etc.
- We do delivery and pick up. Quick delivery on the same day.
- EMERGENCY new dentures SAME DAY service

We are in Dentures Work for the last 40 years.
We GUARANTEE full satisfaction



SONU INSURANCE AGENCY INC.

Insurance, Money Transfer, Tax Preparation

Specializing in:

- Auto ● Home ● Business
- Construction
- Workers Compensation

TAX PREPARES- PERSONAL RETURNS (1040)
MONEY TRANSFER: Send money to India, Pakistan, Bangladesh



MASTER MOHINDER SINGH
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
Licensed Mortgage Loan Originator
Cell: 646-523-5092

CALL TODAY
OPEN 9 AM to 6 PM

**113-09 101st Avenue (Opposite Gurdwara),
Richmond Hill, NY 11419**
Phone: 718-847-1878/ 1885 Fax: 718-847-1879
Email: sonuinsurance@yahoo.com



77 North Broadway Hicksville, NY 11801
127-24 101 Ave. Richmond Hill, NY 11419
(516) 932-3400
www.hprealty1.com

- Residential & Commercial Real Estate
 - Single Family, Multi-family, Investment properties
 - Hotels/Motels, Gas Stations, Restaurants
 - Relocation Assistance - brokers licensed in New York and Indiana
- Insurance Services
 - Home Life and Health
- Mortgages (provided by affiliate lenders)
 - New Purchase Refinance
 - Hard Money Loans Business/SBA Loan

**ARE YOU BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS?
IS THE BANK GIVING YOU A HARD TIME FOR MORTGAGE DEFERRAL OR FORBEARANCE?**

STOP FORECLOSURE!

CALL THE EXPERTS AT HP REALTY FOR MORTGAGE RELIEF ASSISTANCE



Pal Singh Dhillon
Licensed Real Estate Broker
QA Software Engineer, E-Pro Certified
Notary Public
(516) 304-2630

Jeet Dhillon
Licensed Real Estate Broker
New York and Indiana

(516) 830-0352

hprealty1@gmail.com



PUSH FOR INDEPENDENCE - QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT

On 8 August 1942 at the All-India Congress Committee session in Bombay, Now Mumbai, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi launched the 'Quit India' movement which finally led to India's Independence in 1947.

Perhaps the simplest, and the most powerful, slogan of the Indian National Movement was “Quit India”, or “Bharat Chhoro” — the call and command that Mahatma Gandhi gave to the British rulers of India 78 years ago. For the masses of this country, his exhortation was: “Karo ya maro”, “Do or die”.

Their response to the Mahatma's call scripted a glorious chapter in India's Freedom Struggle, unparalleled in its heroism, sacrifice, and commitment in the face of the most savage and ruthless repression ever unleashed by the British colonial state on the Indian people. The Quit India Movement started on August 9, 1942, and set in motion a chain of events over the following five years, which finally ended with the British leaving India.

The build-up to the movement

Various factors came together to create the perfect storm in which Gandhiji gave his call of Quit India.

In December 1941, Japan had attacked Britain's colonies in Asia, and advanced rapidly through Burma, the Malay peninsula, the Dutch East Indies (modern Indonesia), Singapore, and parts of Papua New Guinea, causing heavy losses, and taking huge numbers of prisoners of war. With the Japanese virtually on India's doorstep in the Northeast, and with Hitler's armies still holding the upper hand in the European and African theatres of the War, President Franklin D Roosevelt of the United States, President Chiang Kai-Shek of China, and leaders of the Labour Party in Britain built pressure on Prime Minister Winston Churchill to reach out to Indian leaders for help in the war effort.

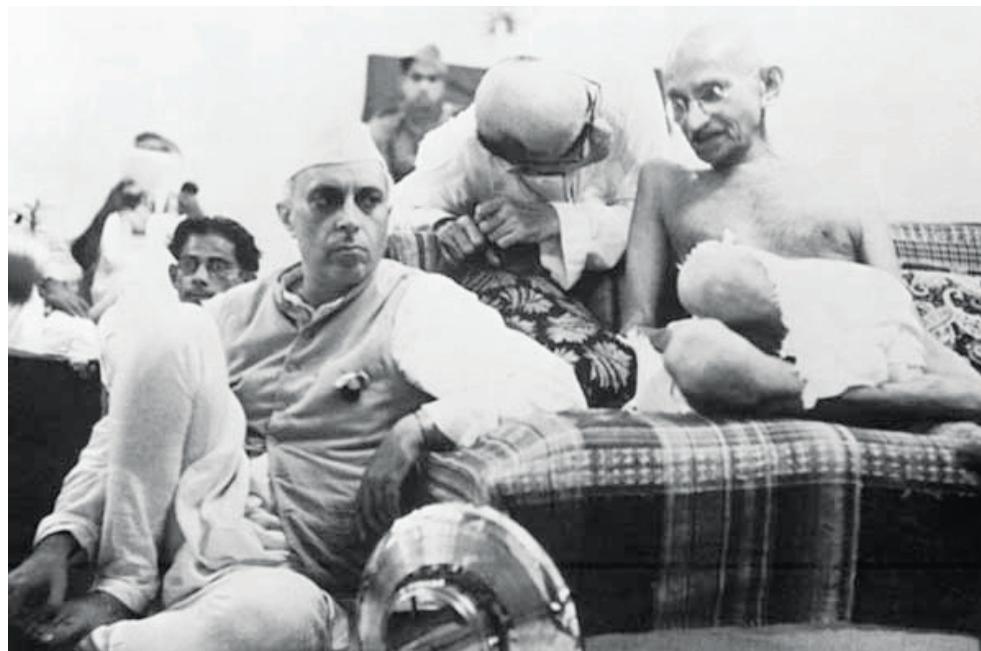
So, in March 1942, a mission led by Sir Stafford Cripps arrived in India to meet with leaders of the Congress and the Muslim League. Despite the promise of “the earliest possible realisation of self-government in India”, the offer that Cripps placed on the table was of Dominion Status — an autonomous community within the British Empire — rather than full independence. This was not acceptable to Gandhi and Nehru; more importantly, the Congress was opposed to a provision that allowed for the Partition of India.

The failure of the Cripps Mission signalled to the Congress that the British were not interested in honest negotiations with Indians, or to accept any genuine constitutional progress or the right of Indians to determine their future. The Congress was in principle reluctant to hamper the war effort against the fascist forces, but by the beginning of the summer of 1942, Gandhi was convinced that a struggle against the British for the rights of Indians would have to be waged.

Rising anger and frustration

High prices and shortage of goods during the War had led to frustration building up among the people. In the east, the government had requisitioned resources, including boats, in preparation for the Japanese invasion, depriving many communities of their means of livelihood. Reports of selective British evacuations in areas overrun by the Japanese — taking out the Whites while leaving the local people to the bayonets and brutality of the invaders — triggered anger, outrage, and fear that the same would be done in the Indian mainland once the war reached home.

The Congress was alive to the need for a political response to this public



sentiment. Gandhi was also concerned that in the absence of effective intervention, demoralisation and fatalism might set in, leading the people to simply collapse in the face of the Japanese invasion, when it came. In his mind, this was a reason to launch a struggle, to raise spirits, and mobilise the masses.

The launch of the movement

At the Working Committee meeting in Wardha in July 1942, the Congress accepted that the movement must move into an active phase. The following month, the All-India Congress Committee met in Gowalia Tank Maidan (August Kranti Maidan) in Bombay to ratify the Working Committee's decision.

After the meeting on August 8, 1942, Gandhi addressed thousands to spell out the way forward. He told the people that he would take his demands to the

Viceroy, but he would not strike bargains for ministries etc. “I am not going to be satisfied with anything short of complete freedom. Maybe he will propose the abolition of salt tax, etc. But I will say, ‘Nothing less than freedom,’” he said to the crowd listening to him in pin-drop silence.

He then told the people what they must do: “Here is a mantra, a short one, that I give you. Imprint it on your hearts, so that in every breath you give expression to it. The mantra is: ‘Do or Die’. We shall either free India or die trying; we shall not live to see the perpetuation of our slavery.”

He told government servants to openly declare allegiance to the Congress, soldiers to refuse to fire on their own people, and Princes to accept the sovereignty of their own people rather than that of a foreign power. He asked the subjects of the Princely States to

declare that they were part of the Indian nation, and would accept their rulers if only they agreed to be on the side of the people of India.

Early on August 9, 1942, the government cracked down. The entire leadership of the Congress was arrested and taken to unknown destinations. It was the trigger for a volcano of public anger to erupt. The Quit India Movement began spontaneously, without directions or instructions from the leaders of the National Movement.

Mass upsurge

In Bombay, Poona, and Ahmedabad, lakhs of people clashed violently with police on August 9. On August 10, protests erupted in Delhi, and across UP and Bihar. There were hartals, demonstrations and people's marches in defiance of prohibitory orders in Kanpur, Patna, Varanasi, and Allahabad. The government hit back with brute force, swinging lathis recklessly, and gagging the press.

The protests spread rapidly into the district towns and villages across India. Through the entire time upto the middle of September, police stations, courts, post offices and other symbols of government authority were attacked. Railway tracks were blocked, and groups of villagers offered satyagraha at various places. Students went on strike in schools and colleges across India, took out marches, and distributed illegal nationalist literature. Mill and factory workers in Bombay, Ahmedabad, Poona, Ahmednagar, and Jamshedpur stayed away for weeks.

Some organised protesters took to more violent methods, blowing up bridges, cutting telegraph wires, and taking apart railway lines. In Bihar and UP, a full fledged rebellion began, with slogans of “Thana jalao”, “Station phoonk do”, and “Angrez bhaag gaya hai”. Trains were stopped, taken over, and national flags were put on them. Large crowds of peasants showed up at the nearest tehsil town and attacked government buildings.

For about two weeks, the government disappeared in Bihar's Tirhut division. In Patna, police fired at and killed seven students marching to the secretariat with the national flag. In the violence and streetfighting that followed, Patna was virtually liberated for two days. Across North and Central Bihar, policemen fled from eight out of 10 police stations. European officers were attacked at several places in Bihar. The towns of Gaya, Bhagalpur, Saran, Purnea, Shahabad and Muzaffarpur in Bihar, and Azamgarh, Ballia, and Gorakhpur in UP turned into flaming centres of defiance and protest. Official estimates quoted in historical scholarship on the Quit India Movement recorded 250 damaged or destroyed railway stations, and attacks on 500 post offices and 150 police stations in the first week of the protests alone. In Karnataka, there were 1,600 incidents of telegraph lines being cut.

WESTERN GHATS: A BIO-DIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Hosting a huge number of tourists every year, hill stations like Ooty, Mahabaleshwar, Lonavala, Khandala, Munnar, Ponmudi, Coonoor and Vythiri are all situated in the Western Ghats. Other places of tourist interest like Kodaikanal, Lovedale, Mattupetty, Meghamalai and Valparai are also located in this region.

The Western Ghats mountain range is itself a major attraction in India along with its high hills, deep valleys, mountain grasslands, dense and rain forest. The 1,600 km long majestic Mountains of Western Ghats is one of the eight hottest biological diversity hotspots in the world. Western Ghats is one of the UNESCO World Heritage Site in India and paradise of various species of Flora and Fauna. Most of them are endemic to the region.

Hill Ranges

The Western Ghats contains major hill ranges starting from Sahyadri mountain ranges in Maharashtra Nilgiris hill ranges in Tamil Nadu. These hill ranges are home to most popular hill stations such as Ooty, Mahabaleshwar, Madikeri and the most famous Munnar. Famous hills of Western Ghats are Sahyandhris, Nilgiris, Palani Hills, Anaimalai Hills and Cardamom Hills.

Mountain Peaks

The hill ranges of Western Ghats are home to some of the highest mountain peaks of India. Anamudi or the Elephant Head is the highest peak of the Western Ghats with an elevation of 2,695 m (8,842 ft) located in the Indian state Kerala. The Anamudi mountain peak is also the highest point in India outside the great Himalaya-Karakoram mountain ranges. Other highest peaks of the Western Ghats are Meesapulimala, Doddabetta in Nilgiris hills, Kalsubai in Maharashtra and Mullayanagiri in Karnataka.

Forest

Western Ghats offers four type of tropical and subtropical forest ecoregions -North and South Western moist deciduous forests, North and South Western montane rain forests. The north part of the hill ranges is drier than the southern part of ranges and dominantly by teak. South Western Ghats montane rain forests offers very rich ecologic region for the wide variety of flora and fauna species. The wild forest of Western Ghats are distributed as National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuary, Tiger reserve, biosphere reserves and many protected areas.

Grasslands

The mountain valley of Western Ghats covered with shola-grassland, evergreen and semi-evergreen vegetation, and montane grasslands. Shola grassland are mainly found in the valleys and different from montane grassland. The shola forest and grassland complex are distributed in the higher altitude hills of Nilgiris, Biligiriranga Hills and Agasthyamalai Hills.



Flora

The dense forests and evergreen valleys of rolling Sholas grassland of Western Ghats mountain ranges offers rich ecologic area for number of flowering plants. The major species of Flora in Western Ghats are present in the sholas of the Nilgiri Hills. Main

species of flowering plants found here are *Michelia niligatica*, *Eugenia ciliata*, *Schefflera* and *Michelia*. Kas Plateau in Maharashtra is best place to know about the numerous species of flowering plants also known as the valley of flowers of Western Ghats.

Lakes

The Western Ghats region has many natural and man made lakes. The famous lakes are beautiful Vembanad lake, Ooty avalanche lake, Pookode lake, Letchmi Elephant and Berijam Lake. The major reservoirs includes famous Krishna Raja Sagara, Mettur Dam, Koyna Dam, Parambikulam Dam and Linganamakki Dam. Arabian Sea also offers beautiful lakes in Kerala known as backwaters of Kerala, one of the major tourist attraction.

Waterfalls

The majestic mountain ranges of Western Ghats form one of the four watersheds and feed the perennial rivers of India. Major rivers of Western Ghats are the Godavari, Krishna, Thamiraparani and Kaveri others tributaries to these long rivers, flow to the east and fall into the Bay of Bengal. During the monsoon season these rivers offers some of the spectacular waterfalls in India such as the most stunning Jog Falls by Sharavathi River, Astonishing Athirappilly Falls by Chalakudy river, Kunchikal Falls, Sivasamudram Falls, Unchalli Falls and famous Meenmutty Falls.

Fauna

The Fauna of Western Ghats is very unique and many of them are endemic to the mountains of monsoon only. Wildlife includes 139 species of mammal, Reptiles, Amphibians and at least 508 species of birds. The endemic animals of Western Ghats are Malabar large-spotted civet, endangered Lion-tailed macaque and the beautiful black panther. Couple of new species are also found here in the last few year one of the them is pogeyan cat, A wild cat which is larger than a leopard but smaller than a Tiger, More information about the pogeyan cat is yet to collect.

National Parks

There are 13 National parks situated in the Western Ghats along with two biosphere reserves, several wildlife sanctuaries and many Reserve Forests. These protected areas are home to thousands of animal species including globally threatened and critically endangered species. Famous National parks are deciduous forests of Bandipur National Park, Silent Valley National Park, Periyar National Park and Eravikulam National Park. The rainforest of majestic mountain is full of natural beauty and one of the must see place in India.

Avifauna

The Avifauna of western ghats are endemic to the forest and great hills, birds such as beautiful Rufous-breasted Laughingthrush, Nilgiri Flycatcher, Malabar Parakeet and Malabar Grey Hornbill are some of the most beautiful birds of Western Ghats. The evergreen forests of Kerala and deciduous forest Karnataka provided wild foods and natural habitats to these wild birds. The mountain ranges have many bird sanctuaries as well and offers one of the best place for bird watching in India.

England vs Pakistan

SHAN MASOOD EMULATES
SAEED ANWAR'S FEAT TO
END 24-YEAR LONG WAIT

England is considered one of the toughest places to bat for an opener in Test cricket. The swinging and seaming red cherry under helpful conditions makes it difficult for opening batsmen from touring teams to last long. The fact that England have had a lethal new ball attack in Test cricket for good two decades now has also contributed to this.

This becomes even more evident when teams from the sub-continent tour England. Indian, Pakistani and Sri Lankan openers find it tough to last in front of the vagaries of the red ball. So, when left-handed opening batsman Shan Masood brought up his fourth Test century on the second day of the first Test at Manchester, it brought an end to a 24-year wait for Pakistani cricket.

Yes, it had been that long for a Pakistani opener to get a century on English soil. The great Saeed Anwar, who charmed cricket fans and pundits world over with his elegant strokeplay in the 1990s, was the last Pakistani opener to reach the three-figure mark in England.

Anwar had scored a majestic 176 at the top of the order to help Pakistan take a big lead in the third Test at The Oval in London in a



match played in August 1996. His efforts helping a strong Pakistan team register a 9-wicket win.

Since then Pakistan has toured England 5 times but the openers on those tours had failed to register a ton. The young Masood on Thursday was a paragon of discipline and class as he batted through a tough period to take Pakistan out of a difficult situation.

With the English bowlers

picking up early wickets, Masood struck a 105-run partnership with spinner Shadab Khan to help Pakistan get to a score in excess of 300. With wickets falling towards the end of the innings, Masood changed gears with ease to bring up his maiden Test 150 as well. He was finally dismissed for 156 immediately after the tea break.

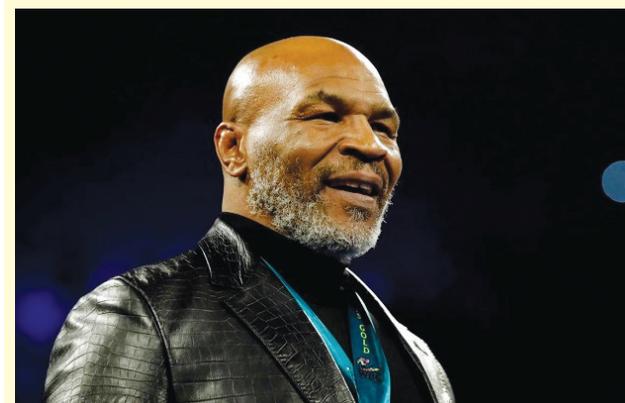
The 319-ball knock was studded with 18 boundaries and two massive sixes.

F1 CHAMPIONS MERCEDES
CONFIRM BOTTAS FOR 2021

SILVERSTONE (TIP): Valtteri Bottas will continue to race for Mercedes until at least the end of next season, the Formula One champions said on Thursday ahead of the 70th Anniversary Grand Prix.

The news was expected, with Mercedes having made clear they intended to retain the 30-year-old Finn for a fifth successive season.

Mercedes are also expected to continue with six times world champion Lewis Hamilton, who is out of contract at the end of the year.

Tyson using electric muscle
stimulation to treat pain in
training camp

NEW YORK (TIP): Boxing legend Mike Tyson is returning to the ring to fight Roy Jones Jr in an exhibition bout on September 12. The 54-year-old has said that he is using a therapy that simulates his muscles using electric shock to treat the pain that develops during training.

In a clip that was shared on the video sharing app triller that is part of Tyson's series in buildup to the fight, he showed fans a sneak into his training camp and that involved a special machine operated by his strength trainer Brad Rowe.

"I'm getting ready to get rejuvenated. This is the electrician. I couldn't do this (training) without that, my joints would be all f***ed, no way," said Tyson as he got hooked up to the device.

"I'd be retired. Listen, before he got on the scene and it was good, but then there was pain. Those pains came back and I said, 'Wow, this is why I retired, this is why I stopped boxing.' And then I got this (machine). I mean, you can't believe this s***, man."

Nadal out of US Open race

NEW YORK (TIP): Rafa Nadal's decision to skip the US Open because of health concerns has added another twist to the intriguing three-way battle for the most career men's Grand Slam titles and, in many eyes, the title of Greatest Of All Time (GOAT).

Had the 34-year-old Spaniard managed to retain the title he won in a five-set thriller against Daniil Medvedev last year, he would have joined Roger Federer at the top of the list with 20 titles. Instead, his decision has cleared the path for 33-year-old Novak Djokovic to edge to within one of Nadal's Grand Slam tally with a fourth title at Flushing Meadows and 18 in total.

If it might seem unfair to gloss over the chances of the other 127 men in the US Open main draw, it must be remembered that Federer, Nadal and Djokovic have shared the last 13 Grand Slam titles between them.

BCCI, Vivo suspend IPL
partnership for 1 year

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Indian cricket board (BCCI) and IPL title sponsor Vivo have suspended their partnership for this year's edition of the tournament due to the standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh.

The development follows public outcry in India over IPL's association with Vivo, a Chinese company, after a deadly clash between Indian and Chinese troops in mid-June.

BCCI sent out a one-line statement today, without providing any details, merely saying: "The BCCI and Vivo Mobile India Pvt Ltd have decided to suspend their partnership for Indian Premier League in 2020." Vivo, meanwhile, said that the association is being 'paused'.

IPL-13 is to be held in the UAE from September 19 to November 10 and BCCI is likely to float a tender for new IPL title sponsors. Vivo won the title sponsorship rights for five years from 2018 to 2022 for a reported sum of Rs 2190 crore, approximately Rs 440 crore per annum.

Interestingly, only four days ago, the IPL's Governing Council had decided that Vivo, and all other sponsors, would remain on board. Following



this, BCCI came in for a lot of criticism for not ending the deal with Vivo.

It is reported that BCCI and IPL are now working out a plan according to which Vivo might come back for a three-year period from 2021 on revised terms.

Sevilla and
Wolves win to
reach
quarterfinals

GERMANY (TIP): Sevilla beat Roma 2-0 in the round of 16 on Thursday to stay in the hunt for a record sixth Europa League title, as Wolverhampton, Bayer Leverkusen and Basel also qualified for the quarterfinals.

Full-back Sergio Reguilon gave Sevilla the lead with a surging run through the Roma defense and a shot past keeper Pau Lopez in the 22nd minute. Youssef En-Nesyri added the second just before halftime, tapping in a low cross from Lucas Ocampos.

Sevilla could easily have scored more, with two shots hitting the crossbar and a goal overturned for offside on video review. Playing after a packed run of Serie A games, Roma didn't muster a single shot on target in the first half and just one in the second. "It was a great performance in all senses. We will enjoy it tonight, recharge our batteries and be ready for our next final in a few days' time," Reguilon said.

Dr. Frederick M. Ruffen Audiologist

Restoring your ear power

CELEBRATE THE SOUNDS OF YOUR LIFE

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

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

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

LOCATIONS

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

OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT / WALK INS WELCOME

EAST WEST OPTICIANS

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

*Eye Exam
*Contact Lens
*Eye Glass
*Sunglass

MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED

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

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

Basic Computer Training

Office

W P O X

Phone : 347-510-9393

Learn

PC and Mac
Repair

CELL PHONE REPAIR

QuickBooks Training! **ENROLL NOW!**

Learn English

EXPERT Tutoring Center

MATH * SCIENCE

IELTS

LEARN IPHONE / IPAD / MAC / PC REPAIR

109-20 101 Ave, Richmond Hill, NY

ATLAS ROLL OFF CORP.

DISPOSAL SITE

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

For construction Debris,
Demolition & Cleanouts

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

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

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

Reasonable low rates ** All major credit cards accepted

718-345-6451

FILL OUT THE CENSUS WITH CONFIDENCE.

By law, all
responses are
private.



NYC CENSUS **US**
2020

[My2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov)
844-330-2020