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KEEP AMERICA SAFE

US ELECTION 2020

We have created for the readers of The Indian Panorama, a new column-US Election 2020 -where experts will analyze election scenario, week after weeks, until the election results are out.

Articles and comments are welcome, and may please be emailed to editor@theindianpanorama.com

QUICK TAKES

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- Donald Trump takes full credit for peace deals between the UAE, Bahrain and Israel **P-9**
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Trump does not commit to a peaceful transfer of power



Trump evaded a direct reply on the question of peaceful transition of power.

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald Trump has refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses the November 3 election to his Democratic rival Joe Biden.

"Well, we're going to have to see what happens," Trump said when asked whether he would commit to a peaceful transition, one of the cornerstones of American democracy.

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BOLLYWOOD DRUG NEXUS DRAGNET WIDENS

NCB summons Deepika Padukone, Sara Ali Khan, Shraddha Kapoor and Rakul Preet Singh



MUMBAI (TIP): The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) issued summons on Wednesday to actors Deepika Padukone, Sara Ali Khan, Shraddha Kapoor and Rakul Preet Singh in the Bollywood drug nexus case that has emerged after the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

The agency has also summoned designer Simone Khambatta, and Sushant's manager Shruti Modi for questioning.

"Ms. Modi, Ms. Khambatta and Ms. Singh have been summoned on September 24. Ms. Padukone has been summoned on 25 September and Ms. Kapoor and Ms. Khan have been

contd on page 2

Deepika Padukone - Photo / Courtesy PTI

Prime Minister Trudeau plans to spend big to combat Coronavirus as second wave is feared in four biggest provinces

OTTAWA (TIP): Canada's Liberal government, insisting on Wednesday, September 23, that "this is not the time for austerity," promised major new investments and initiatives to help the country battle back from the coronavirus pandemic even as a new wave of infections looms.

The administration of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, which has already unveiled hundreds of billions of dollars in aid for people and businesses, promised a plan to recover more than a million jobs lost during the crisis.

"This is not the time for austerity," it said. "Canada entered this crisis in the best fiscal position of its peers." The government made the commitments in the so-called Speech from the Throne, in which it outlined its plans and made clear the need to protect Canadians from COVID-19 as new cases spike, reaching 146,663 total cases and 9,234 deaths on Tuesday, September 22.

In a rare national address on



"This is not the time for austerity", said PM Trudeau

Wednesday evening, Trudeau said a second wave was under way in the four biggest provinces.

"We're on the brink of a fall that could be much worse than the spring," he said. The government, he added, "will have your back, whatever it takes."

The range of promises and mentions of significant investments could upset markets showing signs of nervousness about soaring budget deficits and debt.

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'Package solution' needed for UNSC expansion, says China



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin

BEIJING (TIP): China, which has been stonewalling India's entry into the UN Security Council, on Thursday, September 24, said there were "enormous divisions" on reforms to expand the premier body of the United Nations and expressed its willingness to work for a "package solution" that can accommodate interests and concerns of all parties.

The G4 grouping comprising India, Japan, Germany and Brazil on Wednesday, September 23, expressed their concern over lack of any "meaningful" forward movement on long-pending reform of the UN Security

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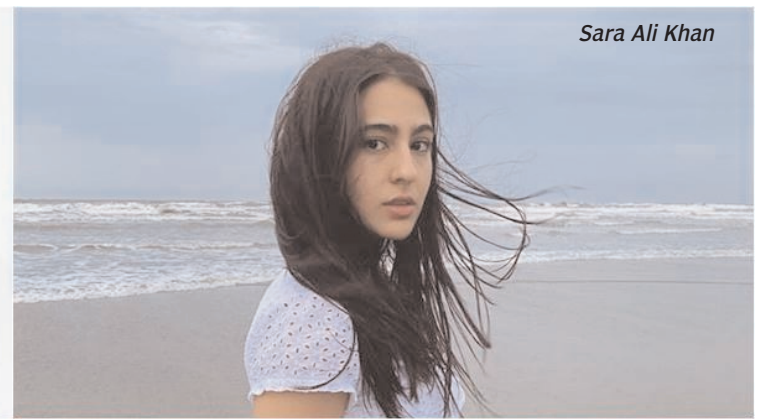
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Deepika Padukone



Sara Ali Khan



Shraddha Kapoor



Rakul Preet Singh

contd from page 1

Bollywood Drug Nexus Dagnet Widens

summoned on 26 September," K.P.S. Malhotra, NCB Deputy Director (Operations), told The Hindu.

Some allegedly incriminating Whatsapp conversations involving Ms. Padukone and her manager and employee of Kwan talent management company Karishma Prakash had come in the public domain recently. On Tuesday, the agency summoned Ms. Prakash and Kwan's CEO Dhruv Chitgopekar for questioning.

Also read: Something rotten: On Sushant Singh Rajput death and the media mob

Actor Rhea Chakraborty's talent manager Jaya Saha was questioned by the NCB earlier on September 21. Ms Saha is also an employee of Kwan.

In a statement to the NCB, a boatman Jagdish Das had said Sushant used to party at his Lonavla farmhouse with Ms. Chakraborty, Ms. Khan and others, where weed and alcohol were common.

NCB has so far arrested 16 accused in this case. (Source: PTI)

'Package solution' needed for UNSC expansion, says China

Council (UNSC) and demanded "urgency" on the issue. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said: "We believe the reform of the Security Council is an important issue which concerns the long-term development and all the immediate interests of its members."

Responding to the G4 ministers call for text-based negotiations, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said: "The reform of the Security Council is an important issue which concerns the long-term development." (Source: PTI)

Prime Minister Trudeau plans to spend big to combat Coronavirus as second wave is feared in four biggest provinces

Canada lost one of its coveted triple-A ratings in June when Fitch downgraded it for the first time, citing the spending.

The Canadian dollar extended its decline after the speech, touching 1.3384 to the US dollar, or 74.72 US cents.

In his address, Trudeau said low interest rates meant Ottawa could afford the promised spending.

"Doing less would mean a slower recovery and bigger deficits in the long run," he said, adding that long-term spending would be fiscally sustainable. Spending measures already announced mean Canada's budget deficit this fiscal year is forecast to hit C\$343.2 billion (\$256.5 billion), the largest since World War Two. Ian Lee, associate professor of management at Ottawa's Carleton University, said the speech represented a "very high-risk bet" by Trudeau.

"He's gambling this massive increase in expenditures is

going to generate very substantial growth," he said by phone.

COVID-19 CASES RISING RAPIDLY

There has been an average of 1,123 cases reported daily over the past week, compared with a daily average of 380 cases in mid-August. Canadians are now more worried about COVID-19 than they have been since April, an Abacus Data poll showed.

The throne speech is a parliamentary measure of confidence and given that the Liberals only have a minority in the House of Commons, they will need the support of opposition legislators to avoid being toppled and plunging the country into an election.

The left-leaning New Democrats - who had indicated they might vote in favor - said the proposals did not offer enough support to Canadians.

Party leader Jagmeet Singh said he did not want to force an election, adding his team would take "a lot of time" to decide what to do. A formal vote is likely next month.

The Conservatives, the largest opposition group, confirmed expectations they would not back the government. They don't want to see more words. We need action," said deputy leader Candice Bergen.

The Trudeau government said it was sticking to the goal of fighting climate change and promised money to retrofit buildings and make zero-emissions vehicles more widely available.

The Liberals also vowed to make significant investments in childcare and said they would extend an existing wage subsidy measure until next summer. The speech made no specific spending commitments or fiscal projections, some of which will be disclosed in a fiscal update later this year. (Source: Reuters)

Trump does not commit to a peaceful transfer of power

"I have been complaining very strongly about the ballots, and the ballots are a disaster..." Trump told reporters when asked about a peaceful transition of power after the presidential poll in November, irrespective of the outcome.

"We want to get rid of the ballots. There will not be a transfer. Frankly, there will be a continuation. The ballots are out of control, you know it, and you know who knows it better than anybody else? The Democrats know it better than anybody else," the president said, according to a PTI report.

Trump, a Republican, also said he believed the election result could end up in the US Supreme Court, as he again cast doubt on postal voting.

Many American states are encouraging mail-in voting, citing the need to keep Americans safe from the Covid pandemic.

In 2016, US President Donald Trump refused to commit to accepting the election results in his contest against Hillary Clinton. Senator Mitt Romney, a Utah Republican who has stood at odds with the President in the past, slammed Trump's remarks.

New York will Review Virus Vaccine, says NY Gov Cuomo

Vaccine will be administered only after it is found to be safe

ALBANY, NY (TIP): Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced on Thursday, September 24, that New York would review coronavirus vaccines that are approved by the federal government, giving the state a potentially contentious new role in the process a day after President Trump raised doubts about tougher F.D.A. guidelines, says a New York Times report.

"Frankly, I'm not going to trust the federal government's opinion, and I wouldn't recommend to New Yorkers, based on the federal government's opinion," Mr. Cuomo said at a news briefing.

Mr. Cuomo's remarks, which echoed earlier calls for state oversight of any vaccine, threatened to further complicate a vaccine process that has become mired in political debate and for months has faced mistrust from the American public.

Polls have shown a remarkable decrease in the number of Americans who would be willing to take a vaccine once it is approved. A survey conducted this month by the Pew Research Center found that 51 percent of Americans would either probably or definitely take a vaccine, a significant drop from 72 percent in May.

The chief concern among those surveyed was that the vaccine approval process would move too quickly without taking time to properly establish safety and effectiveness.

The development and quick production of a vaccine is seen as crucial to ending the pandemic, which has claimed more than 202,000 lives in the United States, 32,000 of them in New York State.

Mr. Cuomo said that he was alarmed when, on Wednesday, Sept 23, Mr. Trump suggested that the White House might reject new F.D.A. guidelines that would toughen the process for approving a coronavirus vaccine.

Mr. Trump said the F.D.A. plan sounded "like a political move," a comment that yet again threatened to undermine government officials who have been working to boost public faith in a promised vaccine.

Mr. Cuomo's stated concerns echoed comments made by Joseph R. Biden Jr., the Democratic nominee for president, who last week pushed the issue of a potential vaccine into the center of the 2020 race. Mr. Biden accused Mr. Trump of exerting political pressure on the vaccine process and trying to speed up the approval of a vaccine to help him win re-election.

To vet a vaccine, Mr. Cuomo said that he would assemble a panel of scientists, doctors and public health experts who would review its safety and effectiveness, after the federal government approves it. He did not provide specific details about the panel's actions.

The governor wants the group, led by the state Department of Health, to advise

him, "so I can look at the camera and I can say to New Yorkers that it's safe to take."

Mr. Cuomo also said that he would create a second panel to determine how to implement and distribute the vaccine, including who to prioritize in the vaccination process. The governor seemed wary of the logistics involved in administering a two-shot vaccine, saying such a treatment would require 40 million doses to fully inoculate the state's population, which is nearly 20 million.

"It's going to be a monumental undertaking," he said.

Mr. Cuomo said that he believed in the good-faith actions of the F.D.A. and its commissioner, Dr. Stephen M. Hahn, framing Mr. Trump's push for a vaccine as an election-year ploy to win votes. "I don't think Dr. Hahn is running for anything," Mr. Cuomo said, adding, "President Trump is engaged in the political process and has an Election Day."

The action by the governor, a third-term Democrat, is just his latest clash with Mr. Trump and his administration, including recent threats by the Department of Justice to withhold federal funding from New York City. The president suggested that the governor and Mayor Bill de Blasio had allowed "anarchy" to take hold in the nation's largest city.

Mr. Cuomo's announcement on Thursday morning came less than an



New York Governor said he was "not going to trust the federal government's opinion" on the vaccine

hour after he and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan - another frequent target of Mr. Trump - released a joint statement calling for a congressional investigation of the Trump administration's "politicization of the pandemic response."

The governors cited several recent examples, including the decision by the C.D.C. to rescind guidance related to the airborne transmission of the virus, something Mr. Cuomo and Ms. Whitmer said was part of a plan "to undermine the credibility of experts whose facts run counter to the administration's political agenda."

They added: "The unprecedented and unacceptable scale of this tragedy is the direct result of President Trump and the federal government's deceit, political self-dealing, and incompetence."

Mr. Cuomo's skepticism about Mr. Trump's motives and the vaccine have been percolating for several weeks. The governor first floated the idea of a state review on Sept. 3, suggesting that Mr. Trump was trying to unveil "an Election Day miracle drug."

(With inputs from New York Times)

Disruption in Google services in parts of U.S.

Outages of services like Gmail, Google Drive, Google Classroom, YouTube

NEW YORK (TIP):

Google users experienced a widespread service disruption for just over

an hour on Thursday, September 24 evening that affected the company's email, YouTube and Google documents services.

The outages seemed to be focused around the eastern coast of the United States, according to DOWNDETECTOR, a website that tracks internet disruptions. The DOWNDETECTOR that maps for Gmail, YouTube, Google Drive, Google's search engine and other Google services showed a significant number of people having trouble accessing those websites starting at around 8:50 p.m. Eastern time.

The services appeared to be working normally by around 10 p.m. Google did not provide a reason for the disruption.

On its online dashboard, Google said at 9:30 p.m. Eastern that it was "aware of a problem with Gmail affecting a significant subset of its users." It posted a similar message for Google Calendar and its videoconferencing service. An update at 10:07 p.m. Eastern said the issues had been resolved. The company apologized for the



inconvenience.

But the disruptions raised anxiety among people already tense about technology's

role ahead of the Nov. 3 election and the heavy dependence on online services for education, work and entertainment during the coronavirus pandemic. The outages also seemed to affect corporate customers of Google's cloud computing service, who rely on the technology giant for its computing infrastructure.

Occasional outages are common for many web-based services, including some that last many hours. In June 2019, more than a dozen Google services - including YouTube, Gmail and others - were disrupted for several hours by what the Silicon Valley company said were "high levels of network congestion."

On social media, people across the world expressed frustration - and some amusement - at the brief loss on Thursday of such seemingly indispensable services.

The loss of the online educational service Google Classroom - used by many people forced to study remotely - was a particular source of consternation.

Wedding time in the family of H.S. Panaser



The preparation for the wedding of Ms. Ajooni Kaur, daughter of Mr. H.S. Panaser and Dr. Manjeet Kaur of New Jersey with Mr. Harvind Singh Jassal, son of Mr. Gurdeep Singh and Mrs. Hardeep Kaur of Canada, kicked off with the

bridal shower of Ajooni Kaur. The wedding is scheduled for October 17, 2020. Seen in the picture, from L to R: Mr. H.S. Panaser, Dr. Manjeet Kaur, Ms. Alicia Kaur, Ms. Ajooni Kaur, and Mr. Harvind Singh Jassal

Indian-Origin Oxford University Academic Leads Criticism of UK's COVID Lockdown Approach



Professor Sunetra Gupta leads a group of over 30 academics who have expressed their doubts over the UK government's localized and national lockdown approach to tackling a second wave of the coronavirus pandemic.

LONDON (TIP): A prominent Indian-origin Oxford University academic leads a group of over 30 academics who have expressed their doubts over the UK government's localized and national lockdown approach to tackling a second wave of the coronavirus pandemic.

Professor Sunetra Gupta, Professor of Theoretical Epidemiology at the University of Oxford, co-authored a letter addressed to Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Chancellor Rishi Sunak and the Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland this week as a "constructive input" into the government's policy response to the rising number of

coronavirus infections.

The Gupta-led group recommends more targeted measures that protect the groups most vulnerable to the deadly virus.

"In summary, our view is that the existing policy path is inconsistent with the known risk-profile of COVID-19 and should be reconsidered," notes the open letter.

"Instead, more targeted measures that protect the most vulnerable from COVID, whilst not adversely impacting those not at risk, are more supportable... Such targeted measures should be explored as a matter of urgency, as the logical cornerstone of our future strategy," the group says. They argue that because 89 per cent of COVID-19 deaths are in the over 65 group and are also concentrated in people with pre-existing medical conditions, these are the groups at which interventions should be targeted.

"This large variation in risk by age and health status suggests that the harm caused by uniform policies (that apply to all persons) will outweigh the benefits," the letter reads, warning that the effect on cancer treatment is especially acute, with people delaying or missing screenings, tests, or treatments.

However, Ms Gupta's team goes head to head with a contrary scientific point of view put forward in an open letter by Trisha Greenhalgh, Chair of Primary Care Health Sciences at Oxford University, signed by Edinburgh-based Indian-origin academic Devi Sridhar,

Chair of Global Public Health, Edinburgh Medical School, among 23 other academics.

"We strongly support your continuing efforts to suppress the virus across the entire population, rather than adopt a policy of segmentation or shielding the vulnerable until "herd immunity" has developed," reads the letter addressed to the CMOs.

"Society is an open system. To cut a cohort of "vulnerable" people off from "non-vulnerable" or "less vulnerable" is likely to prove practically impossible, especially for disadvantaged groups... The goal of "herd immunity" rests on the unproven assumption that re-infection will not occur. We simply do not know whether immunity will wane over months or years in those who have had COVID-19," they write.

Their letter, published in the 'British Medical Journal', says that the UK may have to move flexibly between levels of restriction rather than either full lockdown or release, depending on how well the virus is controlled.

They also flag that measures that would help control the virus while also promoting economic recovery include making face coverings mandatory in crowded indoor spaces, improving ventilation in schools and workplaces, continuing to require social distancing, and discouraging large indoor gatherings.

The face-off within the scientific community comes as Johnson laid out a

new set of restrictions to come in force from Thursday, which once again requires people to work from home where possible and for hospitality businesses to bring down their shutters hours earlier in the evening.

Plans for a further easing up for sporting and exhibition venues, scheduled for next month, have also been halted as part of the tougher measures to be enforced via fines between 100 pounds and 10,000 pounds. Johnson has told Parliament that the country should expect the restrictions to remain in place for around six months.

"The unstated objective currently appears to be one of suppression of the virus, until such a time that a vaccine can be deployed. This objective is increasingly unfeasible," warns Prof. Gupta's group in their letter.

On the other hand, the group backed by Prof. Sridhar, notes: "Despite claims to the contrary from some quarters, there are no examples of a segmentation-and-shielding policy having worked in any country."

The two sets of open letters indicate a growing split across the UK over tackling the second wave of the pandemic, with rival camps divided between strict lockdowns and greater freedom on people's movements and businesses.

It comes as the R number, or the rate at which the infection is transmitted, remains above the preferred mark of one and the UK's death count from the deadly virus edges towards 42,000.

Indian-Americans Help over 15,000 Families in US amid COVID

WASHINGTON (TIP): Amid the coronavirus pandemic, an initiative by the Indian American community in the Washington DC metro area, United States, to provide groceries and food has helped over 15,000 families since May.

For more than six months now, almost 250 cars lined up the parking lots of designated churches and schools for a drive-thru food giveaway as part of an initiative to help those who are still struggling because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"We have supplied groceries to at least 15,000 families in the area. And that last for about three to four days for people, a family of four ...This was an effort on the part of the Indian-American community to tell people that our community is a giving community. We are here to help them in these tough times," Dr Suresh Gupta, a leading member of the Indian American community told ANI.

Being able to do their part to help those in need "fills the volunteers with a great sense of accomplishment", Dr Gupta said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Sonia Raman Hired by Memphis Grizzlies as Assistant Coach

NEW YORK (TIP): National Basketball Association (NBA) team Memphis Grizzlies has hired Indian American Sonia Raman as assistant coach following 12 seasons (2008-20) as the head women's basketball coach at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Raman joins Vin Bhavnani (Oklahoma City Thunder) and Roy Rana (Sacramento Kings) as the only Indian American coaches in the NBA.

The Engineers enjoyed unprecedented success under Raman, winning the program's first two New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) championships (2018, 2019) and reaching the championship game in 2020.

Raman's tenure also produced two NCAA Tournament berths for the program, while the Engineers compiled a 91-45 record (.669) in her final five seasons, according to NBA.

Following her first season in 2008-09, MIT's record improved in each of the next five seasons. Eighteen of Raman's student-athletes earned NEWMAC All-Conference accolades, including four Rookie of the Year awards.

She also had four seniors selected to participate in the New England Women's



Raman joins Vin Bhavnani (Oklahoma City Thunder) and Roy Rana (Sacramento Kings) as the only Indian American coaches in the NBA Basketball Association Senior Classic.

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to be part of the Memphis Grizzlies coaching staff. I can't wait to get to Memphis and get started with Taylor, his staff and the team's emerging young core," Raman said.

"I must also give a truly special thank you to MIT and the women I've had the honor of coaching for the past 12 years. I wish the program continued success."

In September 2017, Raman was selected to serve a two-year term on the Coaches Council for the Alliance of Women Coaches, dedicated to leading the field of women coaches, at all levels.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian - Origin Sikh Taxi Driver Assaulted by Passengers in UK

LONDON (TIP): An India-Origin Sikh taxi driver was subjected to verbal and physical abuse by passengers he drove from a casino in the city of Reading in south-east England, prompting a UK police force to launch an investigation.

Vaneet Singh, 41, said that a group of four men slapped and shoved him, and asked "are you Taliban" after he received them from the Grosvenor Casino in Reading, Berkshire, in the early hours of Sunday.

One of the four also tried to remove his turban.

"It was horrible, really frightening, I will never work the nightshift again. I'm still very scared," he told the BBC.

Thames Valley Police are appealing for witnesses as they investigate the report of an assault.

Vaneet Singh, who worked as a music teacher at a school in Slough, Berkshire, turned to taxi driving after his teaching job was stalled during the coronavirus pandemic.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Diane Gujarati to serve as NY District Judge

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American Diane Gujarati, has been confirmed as the first South Asian Article III Judge in New York and will serve as a US District Judge in the Eastern District of New York.

Announcing her elevation, The Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY) noted South Asians are significantly under-represented in the Federal judiciary, including in New York.

The White House sent the nomination for Senate confirmation in May 2019. U.S. Senate voted to confirm her on September 10 by 99-0.

Daughter of an immigrant father from India, Gujarati, a former AABANY Board Director, was born in New York City and, apart from law school, has lived in New York State her entire life.

After receiving her BA in Economics from Barnard College of Columbia University, she received her JD in 1995 from Yale Law School, where she served as an editor of both the Yale Law Journal and the Yale Journal on Regulation.

She began her legal career by serving as a law clerk to John M. Walker, Jr. of the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Gujarati then entered private practice, spending approximately three years at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, where she was an associate in the Litigation Department and worked on two trials before an Administrative Law Judge at the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

In 1999, Gujarati left Davis Polk to start a career dedicated to public service.



Diane Gujarati has been confirmed as the first South Asian Article III Judge in New York

That year, she became an Assistant US Attorney in the Criminal Division of the Southern District of New York, US Attorney's Office, where she tried thirteen cases that went to verdict in a broad range of areas.

She then became a Deputy Chief of the Appeals Unit in the Criminal Division in 2006. In December 2008, she became the Deputy Chief of the White Plains Division and then became Chief of that division in April 2010.

Additionally, she has taught as an Adjunct Professor of Clinical Law at New York University School of Law.

In 2012, Judge Gujarati became the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division of the US Attorney's Office, Southern District of New York, where she served until her confirmation.

Throughout her tenure at the US Attorney's Office, she received several awards and recognitions and has worked on a range of criminal prosecutions and appellate matters including economic, violent, narcotics, trafficking, and exploitation crimes.

"AABANY congratulates Judge Gujarati on her confirmation to serve as a United States District Judge in the Eastern District of New York," stated AABANY President Sapna Palla.

"As the first South Asian Article III federal judge in New York, Judge Gujarati is a true trailblazer and role model in our community."

Indian American named finalist for Blavatnik scientists award



Shruti Puri has been named one of the finalists in this year's Blavatnik Regional Awards for Young Scientists in the "Life Sciences and Engineering" category.

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American Shruti Puri, a postdoctoral researcher at Yale University, has been named one of the finalists in this year's Blavatnik Regional Awards for Young Scientists in the "Life Sciences and Engineering" category.

The Blavatnik Family Foundation announced three winners and six finalists on Wednesday, during National Postdoc Appreciation Week.

The Blavatnik Awards honor postdoctoral scientists from academic research institutions in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut in the life sciences, physical sciences & engineering, and chemistry categories. The three winners are Antonio Fernández-Ruiz in life sciences; Adrian Price-Whelan in physical sciences & engineering; and Ning Jia in chemistry. Each will receive \$30,000. Nominated by New York University, Fernández-Ruiz "has expanded our understanding of how neurons in the brain coordinate their activity to support our ability to form and recall memories," the foundation said in a press release.

Price-Whelan, nominated by Flatiron Institute, "has unlocked one of the biggest mysteries of the universe—dark matter," by "innovative use of advanced statistical analysis and computational techniques," it said.

Chemistry winner Jia, nominated by Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, "has unlocked key biological mechanisms that govern the function of enzymes and CRISPR-Cas systems, such as those used in gene editing," the release said. Puri, who will receive \$10,000, "was recognized for her extraordinary theoretical discoveries in quantum information storage and quantum computing. In quantum computing systems, error (noise) is an obstacle to accuracy and computational advantage," the foundation said.

"Puri's rigorous theoretical and mathematical treatment of error led to the discovery of a completely new way of storing information in microwave photons (quanta of light), known as the Kerr-cat quantum bit," it said. "Puri's discovery makes the path towards scalable quantum computing technologies truly possible, by tailoring the errors affecting the quantum bit in such a way that they become relatively easy to correct."

*Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news*

Indian American Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal to be Honored



US House of Representatives has unanimously passed a bipartisan bill to rename a post office in Houston, Texas in honor of Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal, an Indian American police officer killed in the line of duty last year.

HOUSTON (TIP): US House of Representatives has unanimously passed a bipartisan bill to rename a post office in Houston, Texas in honor of Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal, an Indian American police officer killed in the line of duty last year.

Passed last week, the bill moved by Congresswoman

Lizzie Fletcher provides that the post office located at 315 Addicks Howell Road be named the "Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal Post Office."

The bill was co-sponsored by the entire Texas delegation.

In 2015, Lt. Dhaliwal became the first Sikh American in Texas to receive a policy accommodation to serve while wearing his articles of faith, including his turban and beard.

He was the first Sikh police officer to serve in the Harris County Sheriff's Office and was a role model and a trailblazer for Sikh Americans and religious minorities that sought to serve in law enforcement.

On Sept. 27, 2019, Deputy Dhaliwal was killed in the line of duty.

"Deputy Dhaliwal represented the very best of our community: he worked for equality, connection, and community through his life of service to others," said Fletcher.

"The Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal Post Office will serve as a permanent reminder of his service, his sacrifice, and his example for us all."

"I am very grateful to Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher and her commitment to honoring my husband's memory. He loved being a part of and serving his community," said Harwinder Kaur Dhaliwal, Deputy Dhaliwal's wife. *(Read full story at*

www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-Origin US based Director Andrij Parekh wins an Emmy

MINNEAPOLIS (US) TIP: Indian American Director Andrij Parekh, was named best director of a dramatic series for his work on HBO's "Succession" in 2020 Emmy Awards. Parekh, best known as a cinematographer on films like "Blue Valentine" and "The Zookeeper's Wife," accepted from a hotel room in Prague where he was shooting a commercial, according to Media reports.

"I am deeply honored and humbled by this award. This distinction has been bestowed upon me on my birthday. So, thank you for the gift," he said. "The show has been such a professional dream starting as a cinematographer," Parekh said dedicating the award to "all the kids whose names like mine are difficult to pronounce". "To those who don't look like their classmates and are defined as outsiders, as hyphenated Americans and not simply just Americans. This is proof that you belong and this Emmy is ours," he added.

His parents weren't expecting to hear their son's name called as they watched from their home in Medina, Reports said. "Succession," also won an Emmy for best drama, and one for "Watchmen," which was named best limited series. Parekh beat out some heavy hitters, including Mimi Leder whose credits include the feature film "The Basis of Sex" and some of the most memorable episodes of "ER."

"We were kind of shocked," mother Lesya Parekh was quoted as saying, sharing that she and her husband celebrated by popping open a bottle of Champagne. "Since it was one of his first directing jobs, we thought he wasn't going to get it." Born in Boston and raised in Minneapolis, Parekh, who graduated from the Blake School and Carleton College, followed up his virtual acceptance speech with a phone call home. "He was thrilled," she said. "He said, 'I hope I made you proud.' We said, 'Absolutely.'" Parekh's various assignment in the past include "Half Nelson", "Sugar", "13 Reasons Why", "Madame Bovary" and "Show Me A Hero", "Dead Roosters."



Andrij Parekh, was named best director of a dramatic series for his work on HBO's "Succession" in 2020 Emmy Awards

India government Issues Guidelines for International Arrivals, effective 8th August 2020

NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP): Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued fresh guidelines for international arrivals. The new guidelines, effective 8th August 2020 are in supersession of the guidelines issued 24th May 2020.

Before Planning for Travel:

1. All travelers should submit self-declaration form on the online portal (www.newdelhiairport.in) at least 72 hours before the scheduled travel.
2. They should also give an undertaking on the portal that they would undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 days i.e. 7 days paid institutional quarantine at their own cost, followed by 7 days isolation at home with self-monitoring of health.
3. Only for compelling reasons/ cases of human distress such as pregnancy, death in family, serious illness and parent(s) with children of the age of 10 years or below, home quarantine may be permitted for 14 days.
4. If they wish to seek such exemption under para (iii) above, they shall apply to the online portal (www.newdelhiairport.in) at least 72 hours before boarding. The decision taken by the government as communicated on the online portal will be final.
5. Travelers may also seek exemption from institutional quarantine by submitting a negative RT-PCR test report on arrival. This test should have been conducted within 96 hrs. prior to undertaking the journey. The test report should be uploaded on the portal for consideration. Each passenger shall also submit a declaration with respect to authenticity of the report and will be liable for criminal prosecution, if found otherwise. The test report could also be produced upon arrival at the point of entry airport in India.

Before Boarding

1. Do's and Don'ts shall be provided along with ticket to the travelers by the agencies concerned.
2. All passengers shall be advised to download Arogya Setu app on their mobile devices.
3. At the time of boarding the flight/ ship, only asymptomatic travelers will be allowed to board after thermal screening.



4. Passengers arriving through the land borders will also have to undergo the same protocol as above, and only those who are asymptomatic will be enabled to cross the border into India.
5. Suitable precautionary measures such as environmental sanitation and disinfection shall be ensured at the airports.
6. During boarding and at the airports, all possible measures to ensure social distancing to be ensured

During Travel

1. Travelers who had not filled in self-declaration form on the portal shall fill the same in duplicate in the flight/ship and a copy of the same will be given to Health and Immigration officials present at the airport/ seaport/ landport. Alternatively, such travelers may submit self-declaration form on the online portal at arriving airport/ seaport/ landport as per the directions of the concerned authorities, if such facility is available.
2. Suitable announcement about COVID-19 including precautionary measures to be followed shall be made at airports/port and in flights/ships and during transit.
3. While on board the flight/ ship, required precautions such as wearing of masks, environmental hygiene, respiratory hygiene, hand hygiene etc. are to be observed by airline/ ship staff, crew and all passengers.

On arrival

1. Deboarding should be done ensuring social distancing.
2. Thermal screening would be carried out in respect of all the passengers by the Health officials present at the airport/ seaport/ landport. The self-declaration form filled online shall be shown (or a copy of physical self-declaration form to be submitted) to the airport health staff.
3. The passengers found to be symptomatic during screening shall be immediately isolated and taken to medical facility as per health protocol.
4. Post thermal screening, the passengers who have been exempted from institutional quarantine (decision as indicated on the online portal in advance) will show the same to the respective State Counters on their cell phones/other mode before being allowed home quarantine for 14 days.
5. The remaining passengers shall be taken to suitable institutional quarantine facilities, to be arranged by the respective State/ UT Governments.
6. These passengers shall be kept under institutional quarantine for a minimum period of 7 days. They shall be tested as per ICMR protocol available at https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/Revisedtestingguide_lines.pdf

If they test positive, they shall be assessed clinically.

- A. If they are assessed as asymptomatic / pre-symptomatic/ very mild cases, they will be allowed home isolation or isolated in the Covid Care Centre (both public & private facilities) as appropriate
- B. Those having mild/ moderate/ severe symptoms will be admitted to dedicated Covid Health facilities and managed accordingly.

If found negative, they shall be advised to further isolate themselves at home and self-monitor their health for 7 days. In case, any symptoms develop they shall inform the district surveillance officer or the state/national call center (1075).

NOTE: States can develop their own protocol with regards to quarantine and isolation as per their assessment post arrival of passengers in the state concerned.

ReclaimingIndia@73 Virtual Conference, Oct 3rd and 4th, 2020 on Defending Democratic Values and Countering Hindu Nationalism and Casteism in both India and the United States

RECLAIMING INDIA
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Reclaiming India@73
Bringing together front-line activists and intellectuals in India and their allies in the US for a two-day forward-thinking, global dialogue

featuring musical interludes by
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OCTOBER 3-4, 2020
6:00-8:30 am PDT 9:00-11:30 am EST 6:30-9:00 pm IST
Register at tinyurl.com/reclaimingindia73

Hindus for Human Rights | ICWI | IAMC

Grandson of Mohandas Gandhi) and Rev Dr. William Barber (Co-Chair of the Poor People's Campaign) to Address ReclaimingIndia@73 Virtual Conference, Oct 3rd and 4th, 2020 on Defending Democratic Values and Countering Hindu Nationalism and Casteism in both India and the United States.

RECLAIMING INDIA is a joint initiative of the global Indian diaspora, representing diverse voices, issues, identities, and their intersections. The core founding members of Reclaiming India Alliance are Hindus for Human Rights (HfHR), Global Indian Progressive Alliance (GIPA), Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC), Students Against Hindutva Ideology (SAHI) and India Civil Watch International (ICWI). Supporting orgs include:

Plenary sessions include conversations between Indian historian and grandson of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Dr. Rajmohan Gandhi, and Rev. Dr. William

Barber, Co-Chair Poor People's Campaign.

Other speakers include Dr. Ramachandra Guha, Prashant Bhushan, Indira Jaising, Dr. Roja Singh, Martin Macwan, Arfa Khanum Sherwani, Aatish Taseer and other leading activists, political leaders and thinkers.

This two-day global dialogue on Reclaiming India will cover pressing immediate issues like curtailing free speech and civil liberties, casteism, racism and other pertinent topics to the US and India.

Several other aspects of the Indian (and American) democracy, including the implications of the upcoming American election results on India, threats to minority rights and equality under the law, freedom of religion, the right to dissent, independence of the judiciary and press freedom will also be discussed.

A panel of Indian, Indian American students and youth will talk about their important role in shaping the future of

our two democracies.

A concluding panel on the future course of Indian electoral politics is also planned. Participants will be updated on the event schedule.

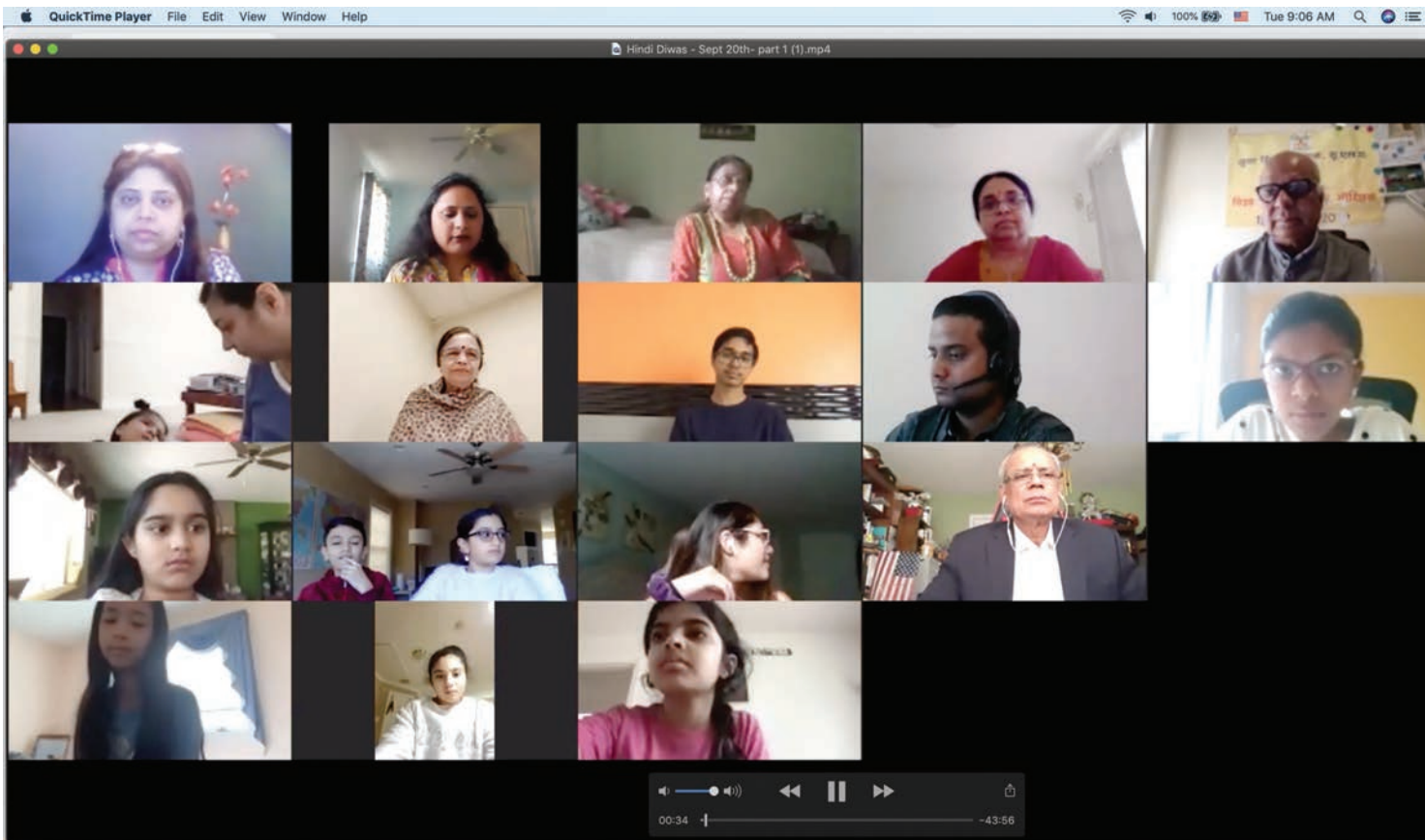
Draft Conference Schedule: <https://reclaimingindia.org/conference-schedule/>

For further information:

- o Sunita Viswanath, Hindus for Human Rights, 9175182441, sunita@hindusforhumanrights.org
- o Dr. Manish Madan, Global Indian Progressive Alliance, 6098780508
- o Students Against Hindutva Ideology, holiagainsthindutva@gmail.com
- o Biju Mathew, India Civil Watch International, 9172328437
- o Rasheed Ahmed, Indian American Muslim Council, 6302901024
- o Reclaiming India, reclaiming.indiaa@gmail.com

NEW YORK (TIP): Mohammad Hamid Ansari (Former Vice President of India), Prof. Rajmohan Gandhi (Historian and a

NY/NJ/CT page 7 Hindi Day Celebrated with Excitement and Enthusiasm



Participants



Ashok Ojha, president and program director of YHS Hindi Language and Culture Program



Purnima Desai, member of the board of trustees, Hindi Sangam Foundation



Prof. Indrajit Saluja, Chief Editor of The Indian Panorama was the keynote speaker

EDISON, NJ (TIP): A large number of Elementary, Middle and High School students assembled at a virtual event to celebrate Hindi as the official language of India and a critical language in USA. A number of Indian-American parents and community leaders also participated the event organized by Yuva Hindi Sansthan, a New Jersey based non-profit organization, its sister organization Hindi Sangam Foundation and Shikshayatan Cultural Center of New York on Sunday, September 20, 2020. The event was supported by Mauritius based World Hindi Secretariat, a joint venture of India and Mauritius, established to monitor progress of Hindi learning worldwide.

The event began by recitation of a poem by Purnima Desai, a member of the board of trustees, Hindi Sangam Foundation. She recited a poem, 'Saraswati Vandana' to pay respect to the goddess of learning, 'Saraswati'. Desai, who also manages 'Shikshayatan', emphasized upon the importance of learning Hindi. "It is like respecting our mother. Every person of Indian origin should learn and communicate in Hindi with other", she said.

Rohan Sharma, a NJ based student of class 10, surprised everyone by reciting parts of 'Rashmirathi' (the chariot of light) authored by eminent Hindi poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar. Rohan also provided the summary of the poem in English.

"Hindi, a major language in the world today, is increasing gaining popularity in USA", said Upendra Chivukula, Chairman of Yuva Hindi Sansthan and a former NJ Assemblyman, who is currently serving as the commissioner of public utilities in New Jersey. He reminded the participants that the US government formally recognized Hindi

as a critical language for the US national security. "It is the duty of all Indian-Americans to learn Hindi which is also the official language of India", he pointed out.

Highlighting his connection with Hindi, Professor Indrajit Saluja, editor of 'The Indian Panorama', an online weekly magazine, underscored the importance of learning Hindi for all Indian-Americans. He said, "Hindi must be taught at a very early age in life. It is a good cause that would stay lifelong in learners' heart and mind."

The event coincided with the launch of Fall Semester 2020 program conducted by Yuva Hindi Sansthan and Hindi Sangam Foundation, its partner organization. "I want to learn Hindi because I wish to understand it when I visit India and hear people converse in Hindi", said Maya, one of the students. A few students, like Rhea and Ria, belong to families of mixed heritage. They enthusiastically spoke in Hindi and expressed their desire to improve their Hindi proficiency.

"We will conduct our Fall Semester Hindi learning program in 12 sessions", informed Sanjyot Tatke, lead instructor of the program. "We will focus on conversation but reading and writing will be integral parts of our teaching", she informed. Sanjyot will be supported by three more teachers, Sandhya, Anju and Seema, for conducting the program.

"We will conduct year-round programs to teach Hindi in USA", said Ashok Ojha, president and program director of YHS Hindi Language and Culture Program. "We want our learners to be proficient in speaking, reading and writing Hindi so they could join future programs conducted by various government agencies, such as, the State Department", he concluded.

Hindi Day is celebrated on 14th September every year to promote and propagate the official language. Hindi Day commemorates the adaptation of Hindi as the Official Language of the Union of India on 14th September 1949. In 1950, the Constitution of India declared Hindi in the Devanagari script

as the Official language of India.



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AS I SEE IT

Ruth Bader Ginsburg: A 'precise female'

BY EDITH ROBERTS

The most gratifying words of praise I've ever received were also the tersest: "Just right," penciled in the margin of a draft opinion I had written as a clerk at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

The author of those words, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, died on Friday at the age of 87. She will be remembered as a woman who always knew exactly what she wanted to say and who worked tirelessly to get everything she did just right.

In conversation, she often paused for long spaces of time as she considered her next words, making you think she had finished with her train of thought. To fill what you assumed was an awkward silence, you blurted out some ill-considered words - then listened as she proceeded gracefully to her logical conclusion, unfazed by your clumsy interruption. That happened (more than once) at my interview for a clerkship with her on a federal court of appeals in Washington, before she became a Supreme Court justice, and she hired me anyway. Her husband, Marty, said it happened at the dinner table, too, so I suppose she had gotten used to it.

Her editing style was, well, just as focused. We clerks would send our draft opinions, freshly printed on crisp white paper, into the judge's office. What we got back looked like a collage: cut-out snippets of white letter paper glued to yellow legal pads, interspersed with blocks of penciled text in the judge's perfect cursive. But after every scissoring and glue-sticking session came a sit-down with the judge, when she went through what she had changed and why, explaining each decision and showing us how to write more clearly. Over the course of the clerkship, our marked-up drafts became more white than yellow.

You might think that such a "precise



Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in 2013 - Photo / Nikki Kahn-The Washington Post

female," as Justice Harry A. Blackmun called her after her first oral argument before the Supreme Court, might be all intellect and no heart. But Ginsburg was one of the purest romantics I have ever known. Maybe it was because she found her soul mate, Marty Ginsburg, so early on, and because they had such a long and fulfilling marriage. Maybe it sprang from the same source as her love of music, and the delight she took in dressing up as a 17th-century aristocrat - in a brocade gown and powdered wig - to be an extra in an opera.

Whatever the reason, Ginsburg deployed her eagle eye for details to spot love affairs blossoming around her. My now-husband, Matt, and I were law-school classmates who both ended up as Ginsburg clerks on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. We had begun dating, and living together in an apartment he had rented, after Ginsburg hired us but before starting our jobs. Nervous about whether Ginsburg would want personal relationships intruding into the

workplace, we kept quiet about our new status and didn't update my home address or phone number with her secretary. Yet one Saturday morning, early in the clerkship year, a call came to Matt's apartment from the judge - for me, about one of my cases.

Far from disapproving of our involvement, the judge was delighted. The more clerk couples, she felt, the merrier. In fact, she once invited us and the two other sets of married Ginsburg clerks (there are probably many more now, if she had anything to say about it) out for a Valentine's Day dinner at a pan-Asian restaurant. Dessert included specially ordered fortune cookies containing some fairly schmaltzy lines from an Eskimo love song that Matt and I had recited to one another at our wedding - at which a beaming Ginsburg officiated.

A natural-born judge, she was not at all judgmental. Though she spent most of her career as a women's rights pioneer, working to ensure that other women would not, as she did, have to

This slow talker, ruthless editor and die-hard romantic wanted to make sure that every woman could find her best place, whether in a military-academy classroom, on the floor of a factory or behind the wheel of a minivan. She wanted the women who came after her to have the chance to get things - for themselves, as she did so often for herself - just right.

hide their pregnancies under baggy clothing to keep their jobs, she never made me feel she disapproved of my decision to exit the full-time legal market for 23 years while raising my children. Instead, she went out of her way to maintain my professional currency, asking me to speak at awards events and to write a biographical entry for her, and recommending me wholeheartedly for the job I eventually returned to.

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(Edith Roberts, the former editor at SCOTUSblog, clerked for Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit)

(Source: Washington Post)

Letter to the Editor

On Ravi Batra's article 'Can the United States Renege on the Payment Due to the WHO?'

Dear Indrajit,

I found it very interesting to read Ravi Batra's legitimate complaint against the Government of China in his article 'Can the United States Renege on the Payment Due to the WHO?', published in the September 18 edition of The Indian Panorama.

Ravi Batra is a highly experienced and professional attorney. He has presented a very convincing argument. It appears that there is no doubt that the corona virus emanated at the lab in Wuhan. It did not spring from the market. Everyone keeps wondering why China took all the

measures to make sure the virus did not spread across China but was totally negligent on its spread abroad. It is true that China knowingly kept its international airports open for normal international traffic. What is sauce for goose should be sauce for the ganders also.

It is also true that China confided with the Director General of the W.H.O. to treat the matter of origin of the virus confidential and top secret.

President Trump has withdrawn the USA as a member of the WHO in protest. He has already levelled diplomatic protests. This week, he also brought it to

the attention of the members of the General Assembly of the U.N. I hope the U.N. General Assembly will pass a resolution requesting China to pay damages to all the victims of the world. Perhaps, Ravi Batra could work with the U.S. Secretary of State and U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. in drafting the most appropriate resolution. China must pay for the war reparations.

200,000 Americans have died on account of coronavirus stemmed from Wuhan, China. As Ravi Batra had indicated previously, not only American victims but also all victims of the world

have legitimate grievance and complaint against the Government of China.

I strongly recommend to Ravi Batra that he should file a class action lawsuit on behalf of the American victims. I would even recommend that Ravi Batra join the forces of the U.S. Government in coordinating action against China.

What China has done is worse than a world war, and tantamounts to a war against humanity.

Warmest regards,
Very truly yours,
Ven Parameswaran
Email: vpwaren@gmail.com

Donald Trump takes full credit for peace deals between the UAE, Bahrain and Israel



By Prabhu Dayal

On 15th September 2020, a highly publicized event was held on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington DC. Donald Trump beamed proudly as the Foreign Ministers of UAE and Bahrain signed peace deals with the Prime Minister of Israel. Expectedly, Trump took full credit for these two historic peace deals which he had brokered, and which are being called the 'Abraham Accords'.

The Abraham accords made me step back in time and see how things have changed in the Middle East. As a young Indian diplomat, I was sent to Egypt for my first overseas posting. Soon after my arrival in Cairo, Egypt and Israel had signed the historic Camp David Accords in September 1978. These had been brokered by US President Carter and paved the way for the Peace Treaty which was signed in March 1979.

The Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty ended the state of war that had existed between them since 1948. It made Egypt the first Arab country to recognize Israel, but for the same reason, it became unpopular in most of the other Arab countries. In their view, Sadat had betrayed the concept of Arab unity, and Egypt was suspended from the Arab League in 1979. Most Arab countries severed diplomatic ties with Egypt. It took several years to restore these ties, and as regards the re-admission of Egypt in the Arab League, this did not take place until 1989.

In sharp contrast with the Egypt-Israel peace treaty of 1979, no such outcry from other Arab countries has followed Israel's peace agreements with UAE and Bahrain. Saudi Arabia is not officially a party to the agreements, but the kingdom's close ties with the UAE and Bahrain and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's direct contacts with Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner do seem to indicate Saudi approval.

In fact, Trump has proudly announced that five other Arab countries have also lined up to sign similar peace deals, and though he did not name them, some are guessing that they might include Oman, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia and perhaps even Saudi Arabia.

Naming the accords after Abraham has more than symbolic significance, for Abraham is regarded as their patriarch both by the Israelis as well as by the Arabs; both believe that they are descended from him. Thus, the Abraham Accords are an exhortation to Arabs and Israelis--the descendants of Abraham-- to live in peace with one another.

The deals are undoubtedly a diplomatic success for Trump. The White House has emphasized that the historic breakthrough was made possible by Trump's "leadership and expertise as a deal-maker." Soon after the UAE-Israel deal was announced, National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien told reporters that he wouldn't be surprised

- Trump has proudly announced that five other Arab countries have also lined up to sign similar peace deals
- The White House has emphasized that the historic breakthrough was made possible by Trump's 'leadership and expertise as a deal-maker'
- There is an old saying: 'There are no permanent enemies, and no permanent friends, only permanent interests'. Nothing illustrates this better than the evolution of Israel's relations with Arab countries.



United States President Donald Trump on Tuesday, September 15, hosted a White House ceremony for signing of peace deal between Israel and UAE and Bahrain. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (second from left) signed agreements with Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdullatif Al Zayani, in the presence of President Trump (third from left) - Photo / Courtesy Saul Loeb - AFP

if the President is nominated for the 2021 Nobel Prize. That has come true, with a right-wing Norwegian politician Tybring-Gjedde nominating Trump. Earlier, Tybring-Gjedde had nominated Trump for the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to bring about reconciliation between North and South Korea, but Trump did not win the Peace Prize. Whether he wins it or not this time remains to be seen.

No doubt, the two peace deals are a further consolidation of an America-led alliance in countering Iran's influence in the region. In fact, one factor that has drawn both UAE and Bahrain closer to Israel is the fear of Iran's growing role in the region. In recent years, Israel-UAE informal relations have warmed considerably and they have engaged in informal cooperation based on their joint opposition to Iran's nuclear program and regional influence.

The two peace deals are also a diplomatic success for Israel, especially Prime Minister Netanyahu. For several years UAE and Israel have had many under-the-table contacts. There had been reports that Yossi Cohen, Director of the Israeli Secret Service Mossad secretly visited UAE several times for over a year to broker the accord. With the signing of the deal, all such contacts can now be conducted openly. The deal will lead to stronger economic, political and cultural ties between Israel and UAE. In a significant development, immediately after the deal was signed, the UAE Apex National Investment company signed a "strategic commercial agreement" with Israel's Tera Group to conduct research into COVID-19 and develop a virus testing device. More such business deals would follow soon.

Bahrain's relations with Israel have also strengthened slowly but steadily, partly due to Iran's aggressive posturing. Although the royal family and many high-ups in the establishment in Bahrain are Sunnis, the majority of Bahraini Muslims are Shiites;

No doubt, the two peace deals are a further consolidation of an America-led alliance in countering Iran's influence in the region. In fact, one factor that has drawn both UAE and Bahrain closer to Israel is the fear of Iran's growing role in the region. In recent years, Israel-UAE informal relations have warmed considerably and they have engaged in informal cooperation based on their joint opposition to Iran's nuclear program and regional influence.

it is one of three countries in the Middle East in which Shiites are the majority, the other two being Iraq and Iran. Shias have often complained of being politically repressed and economically marginalized; as a result, most of the protestors in the Bahraini uprising of 2011 were Shiites. Bahrain's ruling family is believed to be wary of Iran's propensity to foment sectarian trouble. Notably, Bahrain had hosted the Trump administration's 2019 "Peace to Prosperity" economic summit to promote its Middle East peace plan. In this background, it was widely expected to follow the UAE in formalizing a peace treaty with Israel.

On its part, India has welcomed the US-brokered historic accord between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain to normalize relations and establish full diplomatic links while also stressing on its traditional support for the Palestinian cause and an acceptable two-state solution.

The prelude to the Israel-UAE peace deal was a joint statement by these two countries and the US which referred to the suspension of the annexation of the West Bank by Israel, but this aspect was vague and lacked clarity. How long will this suspension be?

Significantly, Trump administration officials have refused to clarify how long Israel will suspend annexation of Palestinian land in the West Bank as a result of this deal, and under what circumstances the U.S. would support Netanyahu returning to annexation plans. U.S.

Ambassador to Israel David Melech Friedman confirmed that the issue could be revisited, which means that the suspension could be revoked.

Not surprisingly, Iran has condemned these two agreements, as has Turkey. When the Israel-UAE deal was announced, Iran's Foreign Ministry called the deal a "dagger that was unjustly struck by the UAE in the backs of the Palestinian people and all Muslims," while Turkey said the peoples of the region "will never forget and will never forgive this hypocritical behavior" by the UAE. Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has said that the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain will be responsible for any 'consequences' resulting from their normalization of relations with Israel. Iran's relations with UAE and Bahrain had been on a down slide for the past several years. In 2016, Bahrain cut diplomatic ties with Iran and the UAE downgraded relations amid rising tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran; predictably, these relationships have worsened even further.

The Palestinians, too have reacted with anger and have rejected the deals. When the UAE-Israel deal was announced, a spokesperson of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called it "treason". However, their options are quite limited. For example, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh has said that Palestine would boycott the Dubai Expo scheduled for October 2020, but apart from any political points which might be scored, this boycott will not make much difference to the event.

Frankly, the Palestinian question is no longer central to the foreign policy objectives of many Arab countries, particularly those in the Gulf region. They are grappling with security issues where Iran and Turkey are perceived as playing the role of adversaries. They are also trying to keep pace with technological advances and preparing for the situation after their oil reserves run out. In this regard, they find it advantageous to deepen ties with the US and forge a relationship with Israel.

No doubt, many in the Arab world still care quite deeply about the Palestinians. However, in the policy formulations of many Arab Governments, the Palestinian issue has shrunk from representing a broader Arab cause to a tragedy that affects mainly the Palestinians. Simply put, it may seem unbelievable how the Arab world has changed, but in the regional and global scenario, the changes were perhaps inevitable.

(The author is a retired career diplomat, now based in Gurugram, India. He can be reached at prabhu_dayal70@hotmail.com)

US Election 2020



- 6 WEEKS TO PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
- TRAFALGAR GROUP POLL WAS THE ONLY POLL THAT PREDICTED TRUMP WOULD WIN IN 2016.
- IT IS THE ONLY MOST RELIABLE POLL PREDICTING 2020 ELECTION

“Arizona and Minnesota are in the sights of both parties. Florida probably is the most important state this year, and both candidates have hit it in recent days. But in a close race, flipping just one state from Democratic blue to Republican red, or vice versa, could be decisive. Travel by the presidential and vice-presidential candidates to Arizona and Minnesota shows those are the states that fall most directly into that category. The Biden campaign thinks it could turn Arizona blue for the first time since 1996, and the Trump campaign is aiming to flip Minnesota red for the first time since 1972.”

It has been impossible to predict Donald J. Trump. The major TV networks - CBS, ABC, NBC, CNN, FOX and print media - NYTimes, WSJ, and Washington Post failed to predict 2016 election. Because Trump has shocked the political scientists and the elites by keep on winning against all the odds. Trump, who had never run for any elective office announced in 2015 that he was going to run for the President of the USA. From that time on, the Democrats supported by the mainstream media and the polls sponsored by them have been attacking Trump ignoring the voters. Trump is running on his performance. Biden has made Trump the issue.

TRUMP BURIES CLINTON AND BUSH DYNASTIES

Trump defeated nine two term veteran Republican governors of New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Florida, Texas, Wisconsin, Ohio, Arkansas and Louisiana in the primaries. He also defeated five Republican senators from Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Texas. After that, he had to fight to win the nomination. Finally, he defeated the most educated and popular Hillary Clinton heavily supported by the mainstream media. This was a long political process but he buried Clinton and Bush dynasties.

Michael Moore said before 2016 election: "And if you believe Hillary Clinton is going to beat Trump with facts and smarts and logic, then you obviously missed the past year of 56 primaries and caucuses where 16 Republican candidates tried that and every kitchen sink they could throw at Trump and nothing could stop his juggernaut."

TRAFALGAR GROUP POLL - MOST RELIABLE POLL

Robert Cahaly, senior strategist for the Trafalgar Group, made a name for himself in 2016 by being the only pollster to correctly show Donald Trump with a lead in Michigan and Pennsylvania - two key states he carried - heading into Election Day. (He did not poll Wisconsin, another surprising win for Trump.) Cahaly also showed Trump ahead in North Carolina and Florida, both of which he won, securing his improbable

304-227 Electoral College victory over Hillary Clinton. Cahaly managed to pick up support for Trump that all other pollsters missed in employing a unique method that sought to measure support from voters who had been "inactive" in recent election cycles, as well as adding a question to his surveys designed to isolate the effect of social desirability bias among Trump voters - the concept that people won't tell pollsters their true intentions for fear of being stigmatized or being politically incorrect.

After asking voters who they were supporting in 2016, the pollster followed up by asking them who they thought their neighbors were supporting, Trump or Clinton. Cahaly consistently found a high degree of variance between who respondents said they were voting for and who they thought their neighbors were voting for, suggesting there was in fact a "shy Trump effect" at play.

Two years later, Cahaly's method once again proved solid. In one of the most polled races of the cycle, Trafalgar stood alone as the only polling firm to correctly show a Ron DeSantis gubernatorial victory in Florida - as well as Rick Scott winning the Senate race there. (Both narrow outcomes will likely result in recounts.)

Trafalgar also correctly predicted Senate outcomes in Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Texas and West Virginia, making it the most accurate pollster of the cycle among those firms that polled multiple Senate and governor races.

In the Georgia governor race, Cahaly's results showed a big win for Republican Brian Kemp over Democrat Stacy Abrams. The final result, however, was a much closer Kemp victory. Cahaly gave credit to the Abrams campaign. They did a great job of registering voters late and bringing lots of new people in the process.

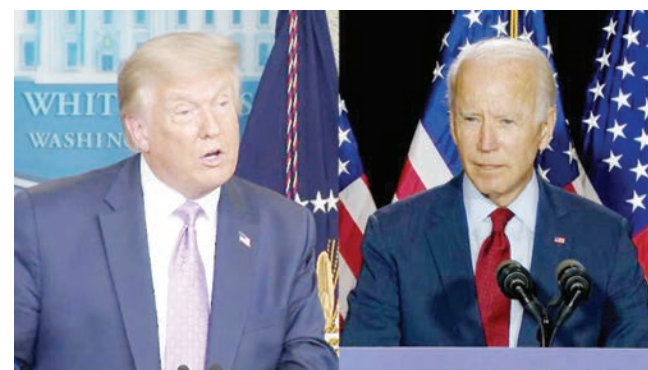
The same was true in Texas, Cahaly said, where Beto O'Rourke finished just 2.6 per centage points behind Ted Cruz. Still, the pollster believes his method and methodology will be more valuable than ever as low voter response rates and social desirability bias continue to present challenges to all pollsters in the future.

According to the latest Trafalgar polls, Trump is already slightly ahead or tied Biden in all battleground States. It is important to note that the polls have started tightening. Between now and the election, the Undecideds approximately 10% will influence. I have noticed the mainstream media and Realclear Politics Average have been ignoring Trafalgar Group polls because they seem to tell the truth favoring Trump.

In this era of a deeply and evenly divided electorate, presidential campaigns tend to be won in the margins, not in landslides. And in recent days, each presidential campaign has shown where it hopes to get a bit of a marginal advantage.

In the last seven presidential elections, the winner's share of the popular vote nationally has been 46%, 51%, 53%, 51%, 48%, 49% and 43%. Although Biden appears to hold a comfortable lead over Trump in national polls at the moment, recent history says there is ample reason to think the race will tighten in the remaining six weeks, and ultimately be decided by the outcome in a few closely divided swing states.

The Trump campaign senses an opening with Hispanics. Biden will almost certainly win the Hispanic vote overall, but Republicans think Trump can cut into that advantage. Last week Trump was in Arizona for a roundtable with Hispanic voters. Biden is playing for some of the blue-collar vote



This race is effectively tied today, Trump has momentum and enthusiasm, and Biden is going to have to campaign hard, energize his voters, and earn it if he hopes to unseat the incumbent.

Hillary Clinton lost four years ago. So Biden held a town hall with voters in Scranton, PA, and declared there that this is "a campaign between Scranton and Park Avenue."

The Biden campaign is worried about the level of Black enthusiasm. Biden will win the Black vote by a wide margin, but lackluster turnout in some places cost Clinton the election. Now, the Trump campaign is making a play specifically for more votes among Black men. In response, Kamala Harris has campaigned in recent days in minority communities in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Florida.

ARIZONA and MINNESOTA

Arizona and Minnesota are in the sights of both parties. Florida probably is the most important state this year, and both candidates have hit it in recent days. But in a close race, flipping just one state from Democratic blue to Republican red, or vice versa, could be decisive. Travel by the presidential and vice-presidential candidates to Arizona and Minnesota shows those are the states that fall most directly into that category. The Biden campaign thinks it could turn Arizona blue for the first time since 1996, and the Trump campaign is aiming to flip Minnesota red for the first time since 1972.

FOLLOWING STATISTICS SHOW HOW RAZOR THIN WAS TRUMP'S WIN IN 2016

	CLINTON	TRUMP	
Arizona	45.13	46.67	
Florida	47.82	49.02	
Maine 2	40.98	51.26	
Maine 1	47.27	47.50	
Minnesota	46.44	44.92	
N.Carolina	46.17	49.83	
Ohio	43.56	51.69	
Pennsylvania	47.46	48.18	
Wisconsin	46.45	47.22	
New Hampshire	46.98	46.61	
Nevada	47.50	45.98	
COLOR			
White	39	54	Total 74%
Black	91	6	10%
Latinos	66	28	10%
FINAL 2016 VOTE:		48.2	46.1
Clinton led by 2.01 points nationally			

After having botched the entire news coverage of the 2016 election, where all the 'experts' repeatedly told the American public that Trump had little to no chance of being the Republican nominee and even less a chance of being elected President, corporate media is back at it again, insisting all is well with the Biden campaign and the Democrats are safely on cruise control to take the White House and the Senate.

This race is effectively tied today, Trump has momentum and enthusiasm, and Biden is going to have to campaign hard, energize his voters, and earn it if he hopes to unseat the incumbent.

(Ven Parameswaran, Chairman, Asian American Republican Committee (founded 1988) lives in Scarsdale, NY. He can be reached at vpwaren@gmail.com)

Oil tanker that caught fire off Sri Lankan coast to pay USD 1.8 mn

COLOMBO (TIP): The owners of the Greek-owned oil tanker that caught fire off Sri Lanka's eastern coast have agreed to settle the claim of USD 1.8 million, officials said on Sept 24.

They agreed to pay the amount a week after Sri Lanka's Attorney General Dappula de Livera staked a claim of USD 1.8 million for the costs incurred on dousing the fire on board the Panama-registered tanker MT New Diamond on September 3.

New Diamond, a vessel under charter by the Indian Oil Corporation, was carrying 270,000 metric tonnes of crude oil from Mina Al Ahmadi port in Kuwait to the Indian port of Paradip when a boiler explosion in its engine room caused a fire off the coast of Sangamankanda in Ampara district.

A Filipino crew member died and another was injured in the incident.

The Sri Lanka Navy with the help of Indian counterparts and coast guard doused the fire after great effort.

The New Diamond's owners have told the Attorney General of their willingness to meet the interim claim.

The Attorney General had ordered the police to record a statement from the



captain of the ship.

The Colombo chief magistrate court later ordered the captain of the oil tanker to appear before the court on September 28.

He was to be charged for committing offences under the Marine Pollution Environmental Protection Act.

The ship is currently in the seas 70 nautical miles east of Batticaloa in the east and 129 kilometers away from the Batticaloa coast.

Two Sri Lankan Naval ships, one Indian Naval ship and three Indian coast guard vessels are currently deployed in the operations near the oil tanker.

Some five ships of Indian coast guard and one Indian Navy ship engaged in fire-fighting, the Sri Lanka Navy said early this month.

The tanker had 23 crew members - 18 Filipinos and five Greeks. Twenty-two of the 23-member crew had been safely rescued off the tanker. PTI

India gives Rs 96-cr post-quake aid to Nepal

KATHMANDU (TIP): India has provided Rs 96 crore to Nepal as part of its commitment towards assistance and rehabilitation after the 2015 earthquake which saw the death of over 9,000 persons in the country, the Indian Embassy said here on Sept 24.

The financial support was provided as housing and school sector assistance and would further help in the renovation of educational institutions and houses for the people affected in the natural disaster.

"The Government of India has provided 1.54 billion Nepali Rupees to Nepal, fulfilling its commitment towards post-earthquake reconstruction assistance," the Indian Embassy said in a statement.

Namgyal Khampa, the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indian Embassy, handed over the cheque amounting to Nepali Rupees 1.54 billion to Sishir Kumar Dhungana, Secretary, Nepal's Ministry of Finance. India has expressed commitment to help rebuild 50,000 private houses in Gorkha and Nuwakot districts, which were destroyed due to the 2015 great earthquake. Of the 92 per cent construction works have already been completed, the statement said. "India remains committed to continuing supporting the people and Government of Nepal in their post-earthquake recovery efforts," it said. PTI

Pakistan Sufi organisation transfers Sikh manuscripts to gurdwara

ISLAMABAD (TIP): After 90 years of safekeeping, a Pakistani Sufi organisation has transferred 110-year old copies of rare manuscripts of the Guru Granth Sahib to a gurdwara in Sialkot, the media reported on Thursday.

According to the Mitr Sanjh Punjab organisation's head Iftikhar Warraich Kalravi, the two manuscripts had long been in the safekeeping of Pir Syed Munir Naqshbandi, a revered Sufi elder from Kalra Dewan Singhwala in Gujrat district, reports The Express Tribune.

Known to be an advocate for interfaith harmony, Naqshbandi had offered asylum at his residence to a few Sikh families trying to escape ethnic violence before partition.

"Apart from sheltering the family, he had also salvaged some of their religious scriptures and kept them from being desecrated. Among them were the two manuscripts of Guru Granth Sahib. When the Sufi elder passed away in 1950, he had left the scriptures in the



safekeeping of his children and since then they have remained with the family," Kakravi told The Express Tribune.

Kalravi said that Naqshbandi had always campaigned for Muslim-Sikh brotherhood and also for interfaith harmony in general.

"He was known for his kindness and this what led to the revered Sikh

manuscripts coming into his possession. After over 90 years of safekeeping within the Pir's family, we have now decided that the manuscripts should now be rightfully transferred to the Gurdwara Baba Di Beri.

"This is a great example of Muslim-Sikh friendship and will help further strengthen our relationships," he told the newspaper.

Honour killing: 9-year-old boy shoots dead aunt in Pakistan's Punjab province

LAHORE (TIP): In a suspected case of honour killing, a nine-year-old boy shot dead his aunt after being told by his family to commit the crime in a village in Pakistan's Punjab province, police said on Sept 23.

The incident took place on Tuesday in Chak 104-SB village in Sargodha, some 200 km from Lahore. According to police, the boy was trained by his family to operate the weapon to kill his paternal aunt. The 30-year-old victim had married a man of her choice some 10 years ago against the will of her family. However, the family had later reconciled with the woman, they said. On Tuesday, the woman—a mother of three—visited the

house of her maternal uncle to attend a family function. During the function, her nine-year-old nephew opened fired on her, killing her on the spot, police said.

"After the incident, the boy and his family fled the spot," a police official said. "The boy's father had trained him to operate the weapon. It seems that the boy have been told by his family members to open fire on her aunt," he said. PTI

In conservative Kandahar, new gym creates safe space for Afghan women

KANDAHAR (AFGHANISTAN) (TIP): In Afghanistan's southern province of Kandahar, rights activist Maryam Durani has found a fresh outlet for her decades of advocacy—a new fitness centre for women. Durani, 36, is a fierce campaigner for women's rights in the conservative stronghold where the Islamist Taliban militant group have major sway and take a conservative stance on the position of women, who mostly wear the burqa in public. She runs a radio station for women, has served on the provincial council and was presented with the International Women of Courage Award by Michelle Obama for in 2012. Last year, Durani switched tack to open a female-only gym, which draws about 50 women attend each day. "The reaction of the ladies was very positive because they needed it," she said, shortly after working out with a group of clients. "What bothered me was the reaction of the men...who reacted negatively to our club and even insulted me because they thought our club was in opposition to Sharia." Reuters

California Gov. signs order banning sale of gasoline-powered cars by 2035

The order aims to phase out cars with internal combustion engines within 15 years by requiring that all new cars be zero-emission vehicles.

PARMINDER AUJLA IN SACRAMENTO

SACRAMENTO (TIP): California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order Wednesday, September 23, to end the sale of gasoline-powered cars in the state by 2035.

The order aims to phase out cars with internal combustion engines within 15 years by requiring that all new passenger cars and trucks sold in the Golden State in 2035 be zero-emission vehicles.

Newsom said the move, which comes as California is battling some of the worst wildfires in the state's recent history, will help California reduce carbon pollution in the transportation sector, which contributes to more than half of the state's total greenhouse gas

emissions.

"For too many decades, we have allowed cars to pollute the air that our children and families breathe," Newsom said in a statement. "Californians shouldn't have to worry if our cars are giving our kids asthma. Our cars shouldn't make wildfires worse - and create more days filled with smoky air. Cars shouldn't melt glaciers or raise sea levels threatening our cherished beaches and coastlines."

The Democratic governor has been vocal about the need to address climate change, particularly in response to the ongoing wildfires, which have scorched more than 3.6 million acres in the state and contributed to at least 26 deaths.

The order instructs the California Air Resources Board to develop regulations to mandate that all new passenger cars

and trucks sold in the state be zero-emission vehicles by 2035. Newsom said this shift could reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions from cars by more than 35 percent.

Where feasible, the order further directs the California Air Resources Board to adopt regulations for medium- and heavy-duty vehicle operations to be zero-emission by 2045.

The governor's office released a statement about the announcement saying that zero-emission vehicles will "almost certainly" be cheaper than gasoline-powered cars by the time the newly announced regulations go into effect.

"We will use our market power to push zero-emission vehicle innovation and drive down costs for everyone," Newsom tweeted Wednesday.



California Gov. Gavin Newsom said, "For too many decades, we have allowed cars to pollute the air that our children and families breathe"

Though the executive order represents a clear push to phase out gasoline-powered vehicles, it does not prevent California residents from owning cars with internal combustion engines or bar their purchase on the used car market.

(Agencies)

IRS highlights employer credits for businesses during Small Business Week

WASHINGTON (TIP): During Small Business Week, the Internal Revenue Service reminds business owners and self-employed individuals of the employer credits available to them during COVID-19.

These credits were specially created to help small business owners during this unprecedented time. During Small Business Week, the IRS wants to ensure all eligible people know about the relief these credits provide.

Employee Retention Credit

The Employee Retention Credit is designed to encourage businesses to keep employees on their payroll. The refundable tax credit is 50% of up to \$10,000 in wages paid by an eligible employer whose business has been financially impacted by COVID-19.

The credit is available to all employers regardless of size, including tax-exempt organizations. There are only two exceptions: State and local governments and their instrumentalities and small businesses who take small business loans.

Qualifying employers must fall into one of two categories



The employer's business is fully or partially suspended by government order due to COVID-19 during the calendar quarter.

The employer's gross receipts are below 50% of the comparable quarter in 2019. Once the employer's gross receipts go above 80% of a comparable quarter in 2019, they no longer qualify after the end of that quarter.

Employers will calculate these measures each calendar quarter.

Paid Sick Leave Credit and Family Leave Credit

The Paid Sick Leave Credit is designed to allow business to get a credit for an employee who is unable to work (including telework) because of Coronavirus quarantine, self-quarantine or has Coronavirus symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis. Those employees are entitled to paid sick leave for up to 10 days (up to 80 hours) at the employee's regular rate of pay up to \$511 per day and \$5,110 in total.

The employer can also receive the credit for employees who are unable to work due to caring for someone with Coronavirus or caring for a child because the child's school or place of care is closed, or the paid childcare provider is unavailable due to the

IRS provides final regulations on deductions for estates and non-grantor trusts, including excess deductions on termination

WASHINGTON(TIP): The Internal Revenue Service today issued final regulations that provide guidance for decedents' estates and non-grantor trusts clarifying that certain deductions of such estates and non-grantor trusts are not miscellaneous itemized deductions.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Acts (TCJA) prohibits individuals, estates, and non-grantor trusts from claiming miscellaneous itemized deductions for any taxable year beginning after Dec. 31, 2017, and before Jan. 1, 2026.

Specifically, the final regulations clarify that the following deductions are allowable in figuring adjusted gross income and are not miscellaneous itemized deductions:

Deductions for costs paid or incurred in connection with the administration of the estate or trust which would not have been incurred if the property were not held in such estate or non-grantor trust.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Hindu movement in U.S. reminisces its impact during golden jubilee year

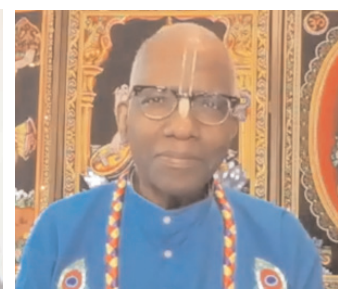
Reflection @ 50 "Walk in Dharma" a 2 Day Virtual Conference held over September 19th - 20th

MANU SHAH IN HOUSTON

HOUSTON (TIP): The Hindu way of life and thinking, far from being a mystical eastern religion, has had a profound influence on the west, leading to successes on American soil, not in terms of material wealth, but in individual satisfaction with immense self-content.

Four outstanding personalities from different walks of life bore testimony to realizing this principle in their lives and showcased their stories during the 50th anniversary celebrations of the World Hindu Council of America (VHPA).

The keynote speakers set the "virtual" stage for "Reflections@50: Walking in Dharma" on Sept. 19 and 20



L to R: Vyomesh Joshi, CEO, 3D Systems; Vandana Tilak, CEO & Director, Akshaya Patra USA; Dr. Raj Vedam, Scholar, Indian History; Benny Tillman, President, Vedic Friends Association

for an upcoming real life congregation and grand celebration next year to commemorate World Hindu Council of America's 50 years of fostering the Hindu

socio-cultural-spiritual movement.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Jeanne Ives, Candidate for US Congress, visits Aimtron Corporation, Commends its 'Made-in-America' initiatives and commitment

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): The COVID-19 pandemic is tightening its grip and as per the Federal Reserve estimate, the worst of the damage is yet to come. As America grapples with lay-offs in millions, the Aimtron Group is one exceptional American Tech conglomerate that is defying all odds and is on an expansion spree to fuel its Made-in-America dream. Jeanne Ives, candidate for US Congress, in her recent visit corroborated Aimtron's new initiatives and commitment towards a stronger and brighter America.

Ives, on her recent visit to Aimtron, reiterated the fact that it will be a joint responsibility of government and capable companies like Aimtron Systems, LLC to uplift the national economy.

"Understanding that our national security is always at the forefront of keeping Americans safe and keeping our Economy going, I certainly, appreciate the work that you do on behalf of the Defense industry. What you are doing is incredibly detailed, technical, and important work." Ives further commended the Vasani Family for Aimtron's journey so far: "Mr. & Mrs. Vasani - look at what you've built and look at the opportunity you've given everybody here, and the services you're providing to our nation are incredible...That's what being American is about. That's why you showed up at the age of 31 and built this incredible business. I appreciate the risk-taking that you've done in your life. I appreciate the education that you've given your children".

Aimtron Corporation was started by a young promising entrepreneur Mr. Mukesh Vasani. Vasani is the owner and CEO of Aimtron Corporation. He founded the company in 2009 with a vision of setting up a technology



L to R: Dhaval Vasani, JD, Jeanne Ives, Bhanu Vasani, Dhruti Vasani, Mukesh Vasani, Vinay Gundotra

company dedicated to design and manufacturing of PCB assemblies. Today, Aimtron Corporation has diversified into 6 different group companies. Upon the visit from Ives, Vasani said, "Aimtron is committed towards supporting local manufacturing and increasing American employment. Aimtron's journey is nothing but a fable of serving community and nation. Today, we have deployed world-class manufacturing processes and infrastructure. We are a strong family of experienced engineers who are geared-up to fulfill of our customers located across the globe. With support from government in form of favorable business policies and a conducive business environment, we are confident of achieving our objective."

Aimtron Corporation is one of those few organizations who have gender neutral workplaces. The institution is purely based on merit. The ideology of hard work and equality forms the very genesis of Aimtron. No wonder, Aimtron

Systems, the company's military/defense division is headed by an inspiring young woman - Ms. Dhruti Vasani. Ms. Vasani, the managing director of Aimtron Systems is a perfect example of America's youth full of confidence and drive to achieve the impossible. On the occasion of Ms. Ives visit, Ms. Vasani stressed upon cohesive working of government and corporations for promising futures. She further added, "We at Aimtron Systems are passionate towards supporting military/defense sector of our country. The uncertain times of COVID-19 are temporarily here to stay, but we are extremely enthusiastic and have deep faith in the bright future of Aimtron and America as whole."

Aimtron Corporation today is catering to customers spread across the globe. Aimtron's sales and marketing department is spearheaded by Mr. Abel Castillo and Mr. Joel Petersen. As a recently onboarded director of Sales & Marketing, Mr. Petersen serves as an example of Aimtron's rapid growth. "At

Aimtron we are driven by delivering quality in any pursuit that we venture into. May it be from understanding our customer's requirements, to manufacturing, to delivering support, etc. Quality sets us apart. It is due to our obsession of delivering quality services, we have one of the industry's lowest customer attrition ratios." Mr. Petersen further corroborated, "Aimtron has the brilliant combination of positive energy, excellent leadership and knowledgeable workforce. Based out of Illinois, we are all geared up to cater to the global marketplace."

The Aimtron group of companies has a wide spectrum of offering through its subsidiaries. Aimtron Systems is dedicated to making Mission Critical devices for American military & Aerospace assemblies. Aimtron's sister company, American Pinball, produces highly sophisticated and entertaining pinball machines. Aimtron Corporation and Aimtron Electronics manufacture printed circuit board assemblies - the heart of any electronic product. Aimtron's R&D division is dedicated to design and engineer a wide range of advanced products. Lastly, Aimtron Foundation is the not-for-profit arm of the company dedicated towards giving back to society.

Today, Aimtron is well on its way towards becoming a world-renown American conglomerate in the field of design, engineering, and manufacturing of high-quality electronics products. Backed by a strong workforce and favorable government, we are on the mission to take Made-in-America brand globally.

(Aimtron Group does not subscribe to or endorse any political ideology or candidates. Aimtron is not liable for any contradictory views expressed by any individual other than that of an Aimtron authorized representative.)

(Photographs and Press release by Asian Media USA)

Indian American US Congressman Deeply Concerned About India-China Border Issue



"I am deeply concerned about this issue, which is why I authored a bipartisan resolution overwhelmingly approved by the House urging China to end its military provocations of India and to pursue a diplomatic resolution," Rep Krishnamoorthi said.

WASHINGTON (TIP): An Indian-American Congressman has urged China to end its military provocations of India and pursue a diplomatic resolution to the tense border standoff in Ladakh.

Raja Krishnamoorthi said this following a classified briefing on the issue by the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, of which he is the first and only Indian-American member. The committee's meeting was the first ever on the issue.

"I am deeply concerned about this issue, which is why I authored a bipartisan resolution overwhelmingly approved by the House urging China to end its military provocations of India and to pursue a diplomatic resolution," Mr Krishnamoorthi said.

"I will continue to closely monitor this dispute until it is fully resolved," he said.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

AAPI Plans Mini Convention in Chicago From September 26th - 27th

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): "It's very great joy that I want to invite you all to come and be part of the MINI Convention and the Fall Governing Body Meeting of American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) to be held from September 26th to 27th, 2020 at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel, Chicago, IL," Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda, President, AAPI, announced here on September 18. With Coronavirus impacting every aspect of life around the world, posing several challenges in carrying out with numerous plans and programs for AAPI in 2020, Dr. Suresh Reddy, the 36th President of AAPI, has been right on task and has devoted the past one year leading AAPI to stability and greater heights. The deadly pandemic, COVID-19 that has been instrumental in the lockdown of almost all major programs and activities around the world, could not lockdown the creative minds of AAPI leaders.



AAPI Executive Committee 2019-2020

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

CAG: Centre broke the law, used funds for GST compensation elsewhere

Citing the opinion of the Attorney General of India, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told Parliament last week that there was no provision in the law to compensate states for loss of GST revenue out of the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI).

However, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has found that the government itself violated the law by retaining Rs 47,272 crore of GST compensation cess in the CFI during 2017-18 and 2018-19, and used the money for other purposes, which "led to overstatement of revenue receipts and understatement of fiscal deficit for the year".

"Audit examination of information in Statements 8, 9 and 13 with regard to collection of the cess and its transfer to the GST

Compensation Cess Fund, shows that there was short crediting to the Fund of the GST Compensation Cess collections totalling to Rs 47,272 crore during 2017-18 and 2018-19," the CAG has said. "The short-crediting was a violation of the GST Compensation Cess Act, 2017," the national auditor said in its report on the accounts of the Union government, which were tabled in Parliament on Wednesday, the last day of the Monsoon session.

India's Covid-19 tally nears 5.9 mn, recoveries cross 4.75 mn

NEW DELHI (TIP): India registered 86,052 fresh Covid-19 cases on September 24 and 25, taking the total tally near 5.9 million. The active cases have climbed to 9,70,116 whereas over 4.75 million have recovered so far.

For the past six days, the numbers of recoveries logged per day in the country have been exceeding the number of fresh cases. But in the last 24 hours, the number of recoveries stood at 81,177.

The health ministry on Friday, September 25, said that 75 per cent of new cases of coronavirus in the country are concentrated in 10 states and Union Territories (UTs) so as 74 per cent of new recoveries.

The ministry also pointed out that a minimum of 14 states demonstrated better Covid-19 response on the basis of higher tests per million population and corresponding lower positivity rate than the national average.

A total of 68,928,440 samples have been tested for Covid-19 so far out of which nearly 1.5 million samples were tested on Thursday, as per data released by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Meanwhile, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Kerala, Delhi are some of the states that continue to be worst-hit from the pandemic. Delhi is at the peak of the second Covid-19 wave with chief minister Arvind Kejriwal saying that its intensity will be less in the coming days.



States can use 50% of SDRF to fight Covid

The Centre on September 24 issued a formal order allowing the states to spend up to 50 per cent money from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to boost infrastructure such as quarantine facilities, testing labs, oxygen generation plants and purchase of ventilators and PPE kits in their bid to effectively tackle Covid-19.

The Ministry of Home Affairs issued the order after PM Narendra Modi told

the CMs of the seven worst-affected states on Wednesday that his government had increased the states' limit to spend the SDRF to boost infrastructure to fight the pandemic.

Communicating the order to the chief secretaries of all states and UTs, the MHA said it had partially modified the list of items and norms of assistance for containment measures of Covid-19, eligible from SDRF by way of special one-time dispensation with the overall capping of 50 per cent for financial year 2020-21.

Modi's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' important initiative: IMF

WASHINGTON (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for an "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India) is an important initiative, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Thursday, September 24.

"The economic package under this self-reliant India initiative, which was announced in the aftermath of the coronavirus shock, has supported the Indian economy and mitigated significant downside risks, so we do see that initiative as having been important," Gerry Rice, Director, Communications Department, IMF, told reporters at his fortnightly news conference here.

Looking ahead, as the prime minister has said, for India to play a more important part in the global economy, pursuing policies that stimulate by improving the efficiency and competitiveness of the economy is critical, he said, responding to a question on Modi's call for an "Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

"To achieve the stated 'Make For The World' goal in India, the priority is to remain focussed on policies that can help further integrate India in the global value chain, including through trade, investment and technology," Rice said.

Responding to another question, he



said the IMF's joint study with the NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Finance shows that to achieve a high performance in health-related sustainable development goals, India would need to gradually increase its total spending in the healthcare sector from the current 3.7 per cent of the GDP.

"More generally, beyond the health sector, comprehensive structural reforms are needed to achieve more inclusive and sustainable medium-term growth.

"We have talked about those reforms before -- infrastructure, land reforms, product market and labour market reforms, increasing female labour force participation, access to finance and better jobs," Rice said.

Massive Farmer Protests In Punjab, Haryana, Parts Of UP Over 3 Bills



Farmers' unions across several states, including, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, took part in a "Bharat Bandh" today to protest the farm bills cleared by Parliament last week amid pandemonium inside and fierce agitations outside.

The protesting farmers have warned the government that their agitations will intensify unless the bills are repealed. Amid increased security in several states, the farmers have been supported

by several opposition parties, including the Congress, the DMK, the AAP, the RJD and the Trinamool Congress, and at least 10 central trade unions. The government says the bills - passed amid what the opposition called "murder of democracy" - will help farmers get better prices for their produce by allowing them to sell at markets and prices of their choosing. Farmers, however, fear the loss of the price support system (MSP) and the entry of private players.

Pak playing SAARC spoiler with terror, trade hurdles: India

With Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi listening, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Thursday, September 24, listed cross-border terrorism, blocking of connectivity and obstruction of trade as the key challenges confronting SAARC. Jaishankar's remarks at an informal meeting of SAARC foreign ministers targeted Pakistan for being a spoiler in regional cooperation.

Qureshi, who did not mention Kashmir, later said he highlighted the need to "condemn & oppose unilateral/illegal measures to change status of disputed territories in violation" of UNSC resolutions. "Such unilateral measures run counter to shared objective of #SAARC to create regional amity and cooperation & must be opposed resolutely," he tweeted.

Sources said one of the agenda items in the SAARC ministerial meeting was the 19th SAARC Summit, which was to be hosted by Pakistan.

Most countries felt it was not an "opportune time" for the event considering that member states are preoccupied in dealing with the Covid-19 situation. So the proposal fell through due to lack of consensus, sources said.

Through the day, Pakistan raised the issue of Kashmir at three different fora, and New Delhi objected to it. Jaishankar, in his comments on the virtual meeting, said, "Cross-border terrorism, blocking connectivity and obstructing trade are three key challenges that SAARC must overcome. Only then will we see enduring peace, prosperity and security in our South Asia region."

MCI goes, National Medical Commission takes charge

India's new medical education regulator, the National Medical Commission (NMC), came into force from Friday, September 25, with the Centre abolishing the 87-year-old Medical Council of India, which was marred by corruption in its later years.

The Centre on Thursday, Sept 24, night notified the 33-member NMC saying it would come into force from September 25. With the notification, the board of governors of MCI stands automatically dissolved. The BoG was appointed four years ago to run MCI affairs while the MCI remained dissolved. On Thursday, the MCI was abolished.

The notification names Suresh Chandra Sharma, HoD, ENT, AIIMS, New Delhi, as the chairperson of the NMC which will have four autonomous boards to regulate undergraduate medical education, postgraduate medical education, medical assessment and ratings and ethics and medical registration.

Parliament Monsoon Session: Shortest but most productive in 20 years; 25 bills passed

NEW DELHI (TIP): Parliament's monsoon session ended ahead of schedule on Wednesday, September 23, setting a new mark for productivity even as several parties sat out large parts of the legislation process, revealing heightened acrimony between the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government and the Congress-led Opposition.

The session — which was held with unprecedented social distancing norms — also opened a new political front in the form of farmers' protests, and reinforced the danger posed by Covid-19 as 32 members (including two ministers) tested positive, eventually cutting down the already truncated session by eight more days.

Both Houses approved a total of 25 bills, including three contentious bills for farm liberalisation and three for labour reforms, in the face of protests, walkouts and boycotts by opposition parties that accused the ruling side of denying them their parliamentary rights by pushing legislations without review.

The Lower House clocked 167% productivity in the session — the highest in the history of Parliament (and broke the 1967 record of 163% productivity in the fourth Lok Sabha), according to Speaker Om Birla, who also announced that on September 21, when the House ran till 12.35am, the productivity stood at 234%, another record.

To be sure, both Houses were allotted four hours daily instead of the normal seven-hour schedule as they had to convene on two different shifts in morning and afternoon due to social distancing norms in view of the coronavirus pandemic.

Birla said that 370 MPs could participate in the Zero Hour and Under Rule 377, and that this level of participation was almost double of that in the 15th and 16th Lok Sabha.

While Question Hour was suspended, the Lok Sabha saw 2,300 written answers while the Upper House 1,567 replies.

"The situation was extraordinary. We are also a big Parliament, in numbers. But the way the Houses were run both by the Rajya Sabha Chairperson and the Lok Sabha Speaker was outstanding. The political situation was also very tense," parliamentary affairs minister Pralhad Joshi said.

Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, leader of the Opposition



in the Rajya Sabha, said: "We are shocked to see how bills are passed since this government came to power in 2014. No bill is sent either to a standing committee or a select committee for further scrutiny. This is not good for democracy."

The acrimony was evident even on the last day of the session with leaders of 18 opposition parties visiting President Ram Nath Kovind and requesting him to withdraw the farm bills, even as the Rajya Sabha pushed through the labour reforms with no opposition to any legislative activity.

Amid a boycott by opposition parties, Parliament approved the three key labour reform bills on industrial relations, social security and occupational safety with the Rajya Sabha passing them by voice vote.

Fierce protests led to nearly two days of the Rajya Sabha being washed out, yet the Upper House utilised 100.5% of its allotted time in what was its second-shortest monsoon session since 1952. Instead of the scheduled 18 sittings, only 10 sittings were held between September 14 and 23.

The Rajya Sabha has consistently recorded its highest productivity in the last four sessions and spent a record 58% of the business hours on passing bills during the session, against an average of 28% over the years.

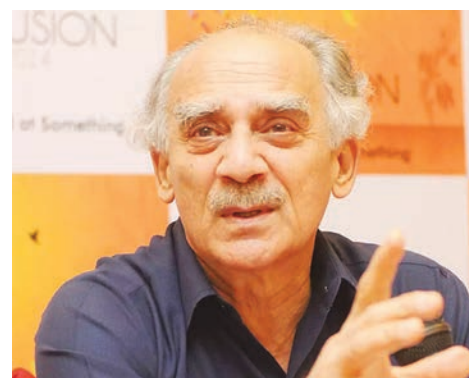
HC stays arrest warrant against Shourie, others in ITDC-Owned Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel's disinvestment

Dr. Yash Goyal in Jaipur

JAIPUR (TIP): A single bench of Rajasthan High Court (Jodhpur bench) on Wednesday, September 23, stayed the arrest warrants of former Union Minister for Disinvestment Arun Shourie and valuer Kantilal Vikamse in the case related to ITDC-owned Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel's disinvestment in Udaipur.

In a video hearing, Justice Dinesh Mehta also ordered that the petitioner may appear before the Court below on any date by 15.10.2020 and furnish a personal bond of Rs.2 lacs and two sureties of Rs.1 lac each. The petitioner shall be permitted to appear before the Court below along with his counsel; and the petitioner shall not leave India without prior permission of the Court, the judge said.

Mr. S V Raju, learned Addl. Solicitor General, appearing for the CBI submits that the petitioner's prayer of exemption be acceded to, while practically conceding that the order of the Special Judge, CBI is not in conformity with law. He emphasizes that the CBI is reiterating its stand that no irregularity had been committed and the very order of taking cognizance is not proper.



The present criminal revision petition has been filed by the petitioner, who was Minister for Disinvestment in the year 2001 - when disinvestment of Laxmi Vilas Hotel, Udaipur took place.

It is argued by Mr. Prashant Bhushan, learned Senior counsel and Mr. Pradeep Shah, appearing for the petitioner that learned trial Court has committed an error in holding that the prosecution sanction under Section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act is not required.

While pointing that in case of Pradip Bajjal Vs. Union of India (SB Criminal Misc. Petition No.2993/2020), this Court has already considered this argument

and has granted interim order/protection to the petitioner therein, they submit that though petitioner's case is identical, but requires a different order inasmuch as petitioner was not even named in the FIR. Informing that the petitioner is a senior citizen (79 years); Writer and Editor; Ex-minister and is suffering from various age-related issues, it is prayed that he be granted complete exemption from appearance before the Trial Court.

Mr. Arun Shourie - the petitioner himself appears online and highlights his predicament(s) that because of his age, his wife's ailments and a child, who require his care, he would find it difficult to appear before the Court, particularly in the present scenario. He requests the Court to grant complete exemption from appearance.

A day ago on September 22, the same court had stayed the arrest warrants of the three accused- then disinvestment secretary, MD of Lazard India Limited, MD of Bharat Hotels Ltd. The court has also ordered to free the property in question from attachment directing the same to be handed over from the district administration to an authorized representative of the company.

REMEMBERING MAHATMA GANDHI: THE FATHER OF THE INDIAN NATION

THE NATION IS CELEBRATING BAPU'S 151ST BIRTH ANNIVERSARY ON OCTOBER 2

Every year on 2nd October, the birth anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi or Mahatma Gandhi is observed with prayers, services and tributes across the world. Gandhi considered nonviolence to be a philosophy, a principle and an experience based on which it is possible to build a better society.

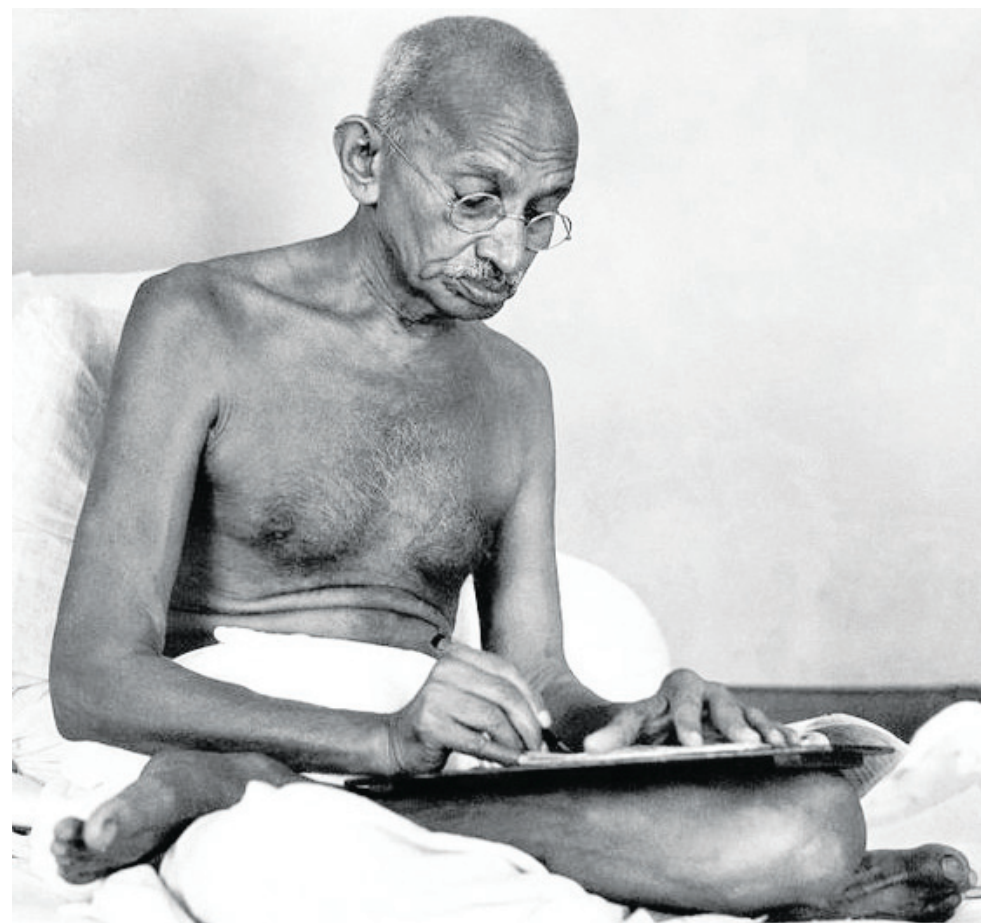
Incorporating non-violence as a resistance tool, Gandhi took the forefront of India's freedom struggle movement against the colonial British rule. Raised in a Hindu family in coastal Gujarat's Porbandar, Gandhi's (popularly known as Bapu) relentless work to ensure India's Independence from British colonialism fueled the UN General Assembly's decision on 15 June, 2007, to adopt a resolution to celebrate 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence.

Revered the world over for his nonviolent philosophy of passive resistance, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was known to his many followers as Mahatma, or "the great-souled one." He began his activism as an Indian immigrant in South Africa in the early 1900s, and in the years following World War I became the leading figure in India's struggle to gain independence from Great Britain. Known for his ascetic lifestyle—he often dressed only in a loincloth and shawl—and devout Hindu faith, Gandhi was imprisoned several times during his pursuit of non-cooperation, and undertook a number of hunger strikes to protest the oppression of India's poorest classes, among other injustices. After Partition in 1947, he continued to work toward peace between Hindus and Muslims. Gandhi was shot to death in Delhi in January 1948 by a Hindu fundamentalist.

Early Life

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869, at Porbandar, in the present-day Indian state of Gujarat. His father was the dewan (chief minister) of Porbandar; his deeply religious mother was a devoted practitioner of Vaishnavism (worship of the Hindu god Vishnu), influenced by Jainism, an ascetic religion governed by tenets of self-discipline and nonviolence. At the age of 19, Mohandas left home to study law in London at the Inner Temple, one of the city's four law colleges. Upon returning to India in mid-1891, he set up a law practice in Bombay, but met with little success. He soon accepted a position with an Indian firm that sent him to its office in South Africa. Along with his wife, Kasturbai, and their children, Gandhi remained in South Africa for nearly 20 years.

Gandhi was appalled by the discrimination he experienced as an Indian immigrant in South Africa. When a European magistrate in Durban asked him to take off his turban, he refused and left the courtroom. On a train voyage to Pretoria, he was thrown out of a first-class railway compartment and beaten up by a white stagecoach driver after refusing to give up his seat for a European passenger. That train journey served as a turning point for Gandhi, and he soon began developing



and teaching the concept of satyagraha ("truth and firmness"), or passive resistance, as a way of non-cooperation with authorities.

In 1906, after the Transvaal government passed an ordinance regarding the registration of its Indian population, Gandhi led a campaign of civil disobedience that would last for the next eight years. During its final phase in 1913, hundreds of Indians living in South Africa, including women, went to jail, and thousands of striking Indian miners were imprisoned, flogged and even shot. Finally, under pressure from the British and Indian governments, the government of South Africa accepted a compromise negotiated by Gandhi and General Jan Christian Smuts, which included important concessions such as the recognition of Indian marriages and the abolition of the existing poll tax for Indians.

In July 1914, Gandhi left South Africa

to return to India. He supported the British war effort in World War I but remained critical of colonial authorities for measures he felt were unjust. In 1919, Gandhi launched an organized campaign of passive resistance in response to Parliament's passage of the Rowlatt Acts, which gave colonial authorities emergency powers to suppress subversive activities. He backed off after violence broke out—including the massacre by British-led soldiers of some 400 Indians attending a meeting at Amritsar—but only temporarily, and by 1920 he was the most visible figure in the movement for Indian independence.

Leader of a Movement

As part of his nonviolent non-cooperation campaign for home rule, Gandhi stressed the importance of economic independence for India. He particularly advocated the manufacture

MAHATMA GANDHI QUOTES

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

"If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him. We need not wait to see what others do."

"A man is but a product of his thoughts. What he thinks he becomes."

"I will not let anyone walk through my mind with their dirty feet."

"Nobody can hurt me without my permission."

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony."

"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is an attribute of the strong."

"An ounce of practice is worth a thousand words."

"A coward is incapable of exhibiting love; it is the prerogative of the brave."

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

"Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes."

of khaddar, or homespun cloth, in order to replace imported textiles from Britain. Gandhi's eloquence and embrace of an ascetic lifestyle based on prayer, fasting and meditation earned him the reverence of his followers, who called him Mahatma (Sanskrit for "the great-souled one"). Invested with all the authority of the Indian National Congress (INC or Congress Party), Gandhi turned the independence movement into a massive organization, leading boycotts of British manufacturers and institutions representing British influence in India, including legislatures and schools.

After sporadic violence broke out, Gandhi announced the end of the resistance movement, to the dismay of his followers. British authorities arrested Gandhi in March 1922 and tried him for sedition; he was sentenced to six years in prison but was released in 1924 after undergoing an operation for appendicitis. He refrained from active

Continued on Page 17

Continued from Page 16

participation in politics for the next several years, but in 1930 launched a new civil disobedience campaign against the colonial government's tax on salt, which greatly affected Indian's poorest citizens.

In 1931, after British authorities made some concessions, Gandhi again called off the resistance movement and agreed to represent the Congress Party at the Round Table Conference in London. Meanwhile, some of his party colleagues—particularly Mohammed Ali Jinnah, a leading voice for India's Muslim minority—grew frustrated with Gandhi's methods, and what they saw as a lack of concrete gains. Arrested upon his return by a newly aggressive colonial government, Gandhi began a series of hunger strikes in protest of the treatment of India's so-called "untouchables" (the poorer classes), whom he renamed Harijans, or "children of God." The fasting caused an uproar among his followers and resulted in swift reforms by the Hindu community and the government.

In 1934, Gandhi announced his retirement from politics in, as well as his resignation from the Congress Party, in order to concentrate his efforts on working within rural communities. Drawn back into the political fray by the outbreak of World War II, Gandhi again took control of the INC, demanding a British withdrawal from India in return for Indian cooperation with the war effort. Instead, British forces imprisoned the entire Congress leadership, bringing Anglo-Indian relations to a new low point.

Partition and Death of Gandhi

After the Labor Party took power in Britain in 1947, negotiations over Indian home rule began between the British, the Congress Party and the Muslim League (now led by Jinnah). Later that year, Britain granted India its independence but split the country into two dominions: India and Pakistan. Gandhi strongly opposed Partition, but he agreed to it in hopes that after independence Hindus and Muslims could achieve peace internally. Amid the massive riots that followed Partition, Gandhi urged Hindus and Muslims to live peacefully together, and undertook a hunger strike until riots in Calcutta ceased.

In January 1948, Gandhi carried out yet another fast, this time to bring about peace in the city of Delhi. On January 30, 12 days after that fast ended, Gandhi was on his way to an evening prayer meeting in Delhi when he was shot to death by Nathuram Godse, a Hindu fanatic enraged by Mahatma's efforts to negotiate with Jinnah and other Muslims. The next day, roughly 1 million people followed the procession as Gandhi's body was carried in state through the streets of the city and cremated on the banks of the holy Jumna River.

Mahatma's contribution to humanity

Gandhi's contribution to humanity cannot be measured in words. It was his ideologies, policies and agendas that were non-violent and his words stood out to be the source of inspiration for millions. One such contribution of Mahatma Gandhi to humanity was violence and gender equality. As in the

patriarchal societies, it is always believed that women should remain confined to their families and be submission towards their husbands, Gandhi was not in favor of this practice and so to resolve the issues that the women were facing he gave a totally new perspective regarding gender equality. He was not only opposed to the harmful practices and encouraged regeneration of women but gave the idea that women are not just equal and different but superior to men. So coming forth, Gandhi (one of the popular social activists) worked on the prevailing customs and practices like:

- Female Infanticide, where he believed and discovered that the birth of a girl was generally unwelcome as she was to be married off and had to live and work in her marital home. Gandhi was clear on the views that whether its a boy or a girl, one should rejoice as the world needs both of them.
- Female Illiteracy, where Gandhi believed that lack of education and information was the roots cause of all the evils against women. He believed and came up with the solution that education is imperative for women as it is for men.
- Child Marriage, where he looked the practice as an immoral and evil act. He believed and conveyed that both the boy and the girl should be developed physically and mentally at the time of marriage and that they should have a voice in choosing their life partner.
- Purdah System, where Gandhi regarded it as inhuman and immoral, for it impeded the march towards Swaraj (self-rule) by restricting women. Not just the women freedom but it also denied the free gift of God. He appealed to the public in general and women, in particular, to tear down purdah.
- Sati System, where Gandhi found the practice to be the blind egoism of men. It was so unfair for a woman whose husband is dead to go and get burnt alive on the funeral pyre of her dead husband. He believed that Sati hood is the acne of purity which could be attained only through constant striving and immolation of spirit by each passing day.
- Miserable Widowhood, as already discussed above regarding child marriage, the other concern for Gandhi was the poor condition of the child as well as the adult widows who were denied the rights to re-marry suffered social and legal disabilities. Along with several other superstitious beliefs, he protested against the prevalent belief that a widow crossing one's path is a bad omen. He then advised every family to treat widow with the utmost respect and to give her facilities to grow in knowledge.

Other than this, contribution to bringing changes in the above practices, he voiced for repeated pregnancies, polygamy, beating wife and verbal abuse, molestation and many other things. All his revolutions and movements were contributions to society and were related directly to the lives of people in the society which could be clearly seen in the lives that we are living today.



Need for Gandhi's preaching in the modern era

By Richa Goel

In today's scenario, everyone is so engrossed in their digital world, that 2nd October is just mere another holiday for them. Does even the young generation know what Mahatma Gandhi meant for India and the world? The one whose picture we see on our currency, because of whom we are living in an independent India has struggled a lot to safeguard our country from the eyes of evil. Being a simple man, with his dhoti and lathi, he always preached for non-violence practice, self-sufficiency and encouraged us to follow the path of truth. Now, if we wonder being so thin and without any weapons how did he manage to make our nation free from Britisher's? Well, that's so unique about him which made him different from all other freedom fighters. He made us learn that strong determination, belief and faith can make us reach our goal, though it may take time, but his philosophy of simple living can help us go a long way!

Today's youth is so violent, aggressive and intolerable. To some extent, I am glad he is no longer among us, as it would break his heart to see the condition of beloved Bharat is in! But Bapu, our young generation is so much influenced by western culture, that they have forgotten the traditions of our own country, and therefore we need someone like you who can teach us your preaching.

- Gandhi's first principle was to speak the truth, no matter how hard it seems. Covering 1 mistake with piles of lie won't help you to move forward because the guilt of getting caught red-handed will always be there.
- I would request Gandhi to please change the mentality of boys. You made our country independent but still, women are being criticized and do not feel safe!
- You appealed to our citizens to remove the disparities between the upper class and the lower class. But still, the citizens are facing discrimination on the basis of gender, class, region, religion etc. We should love and respect everyone and not form biases. We all are growing with the help of each other.
- You have made it possible to make our country free from Great Britain by non-violence. But today's generation is full of rage

and violence. The simple way of coming out from the problem by talking politely or listening patiently is no more there and violence is the only weapon we all are preferring for hurting our own near one's.

- He taught us to forgive others. If someone is doing wrong, instead of retaliation and revenge, handle the situation with peace and happiness. Why it is hard for us to forgive others and move on to bring peace in our life? Anything that costs your peace of living should let go of it.
- Making our country free was not an easy task and if our citizens would have become mean at that time thinking about their personal benefits, maybe we would have not got the independence. Therefore, instead of chasing personal dreams, we should focus on the Welfare of all. Something beneficial to everyone is far better for the progress of our country.
- Instead of complaining about our government and its implication, Change yourself first. It's important to fix our faults. We should stand up for the right and should not care for the results if we are doing nothing wrong. We cannot please everyone.
- Gandhi Ji always appealed to our citizens to boycott foreign products and use Indian products. And during this pandemic period when the unemployment rate is tremendously increasing, Narendra Modi too promoted swadeshi products so that we can move towards self-reliance.

On this Gandhi Jayanti, let's pay tribute to him by implying his valuable life lessons about honesty, non-violence and peace. We still have a long struggle to get rid of the COVID-19, but our unity is our strength. With his blessings and our consistent hard work, let's come together again and rescue our nation. We should not forget the sacrifices of our brave freedom fighters and come together to uplift our Incredible India once more! The nation for which Gandhi Ji gave his life for! There is a lot to learn from him and I wish to impart his values to future generations and may his sacrifices not go in vain. Happy Gandhi Jayanti to the Father of our Nation.

(Richa Goel is a resident of Rohini, Delhi)

AYUSHMANN ONLY INDIAN ACTOR ON TIME'S 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL LIST



Payal Ghosh files FIR against Anurag Kashyap for rape

Actor Payal Ghosh who had a few days ago levelled allegations of sexual harassment against Bollywood director Anurag Kashyap, has now filed an FIR at Versova police station.

Her lawyer Nitin Satpute shared the news on Twitter. He wrote, "Finally FIR has been lodged against Accused for the offence Rape, Wrongful Restrain, Wrongful Confinement and outraging modesty of woman U/S 376(1), 354, 341, 342 of IPC."

Meanwhile, the filmmaker has refuted all the allegations Ghosh has levelled against his. Kashyap too took to Twitter to inform that his counsel has advised him to remain silent. His lawyer released an official statement on his behalf.

On September 19, Ghosh had alleged that Kashyap was sexually inappropriate towards her. She had tagged Prime Minister Narendra Modi in her tweet, requesting him to take action against Kashyap.

Ayushmann Khurrana has been named among world's 100 most influential people by the Time Magazine. The actor took to Instagram to share how "honoured" he was to be a part of the group. He shares the honour with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who, too, has been named in the list.

He wrote on Instagram, "TIME's list of the 100 Most Influential People in the world is out, I'm honored to be a part of this group: time.com/time100 @TIME #TIME100." The post was showered with thousands of 'likes' within a few minutes and congratulations began pouring in for the Article 15 actor.

Tiger Shroff and Ayushmann's *Badhaai Ho* co-star Neena Gupta liked the post. Neena also reacted, "Oh amazing!" Rapper Badshah wrote, "More power." Mrunal Thakur commented, "Wow, There you go." South actor Aishwarya Lekshmi commented, "Woah!!! Thats huge! So happy for you!" Lifestyle coach Luke Coutinho also wrote, "Congrats bro so well deserved." Manav Vij dropped several clap emojis in the comments section.

Deepika Padukone wrote in praise of Ayushmann in the magazine, "I remember Ayushmann Khurrana vividly from his debut film, *Vicky Donor*. He had, of course, been a part of the entertainment industry in various other ways for several years before that, but the reason you and I talk about him today is because of the impact he has been able to create through memorable films and iconic characters. Where male protagonist roles often fall into the trap of stereotypical masculinity, Ayushmann has successfully and convincingly transformed into characters who challenge those very stereotypes."



Poonam Pandey gets husband arrested for assault, threats

Actor Poonam Pandey's husband Sam Bombay was arrested on September 22 in Goa after she filed a complaint claiming he had molested, threatened and assaulted her, police said. The couple tied the knot on September 1.

The incident happened in Canacona village in south Goa where Poonam is currently shooting for a film, said an official. "Pandey filed a complaint late Monday night claiming her husband Sam Bombay had molested her, and threatened her with dire consequences after assaulting her. He was arrested," Inspector Tukaram Chavan of Canacona police station said, according to PTI. She was subjected to mandatory medical tests, he added.

Poonam and Sam, who were in a live-in relationship for around two years, got married at their home in Bandra, with only their close friends and family members in attendance. Sharing a picture from their wedding, she wrote on Instagram, "Here's looking forward to seven lifetimes with you."



Alia to resume shoot for *Gangubai Kathiawadi* from October?

The shoot of Alia Bhatt's *Gangubai Kathiawadi* was to be wrapped up by the summer, but the pandemic-induced lockdown thwarted filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali's best laid plans. As a part of the grand set had to be pulled down before the monsoons, only relevant portions of the set remain standing at Film City today. Now, Bhansali is eager to return to the universe of the Kamathipura brothels of the '60s, and has had several meetings with his leading lady. Sources suggest that the duo is hoping to resume work in early October, even though the director is aware that shooting a period film amid the government-imposed restrictions will be a tough task.

A source reveals, "In the first post-pandemic schedule, they will film solo scenes of Alia Bhatt, and other sequences that require fewer people. Some cheat shots will have to be employed, which



will be corrected later at the VFX stage. Being a perfectionist who doesn't want to compromise on the scale of the product, the filmmaker has decided to shoot the more

elaborate scenes later. The set is currently being fixed and sanitised for an October shoot. However, Bhansali has yet to determine the final dates."



Zendaya becomes youngest lead drama actress to win Emmy

Zendaya said her "heart was filled" when she saw her fellow nominees, including Jennifer Aniston, cheering on the Euphoria actress for becoming the youngest drama lead actress to win an Emmy.

The 24-year-old Zendaya became emotional after she took home the trophy for her role in the HBO series, scoring one of the few long shot victories Sunday night. She is only the second Black actress to claim the lead drama actress award, following Viola Davis' groundbreaking 2015 win for How To Get Away With Murder.

Zendaya's family and friends screamed, cheered, hugged and cried behind her as the stunned actress accepted the award in what appeared to be a hotel suite.

"I usually don't cry," she said in a virtual backstage interview. "I got through it without letting it take over me. It was a very emotional moment. I still can't believe it myself. It's pretty crazy."

EMMA STONE PROMPTS MORE WEDDING SPECULATION WITH DAVE MCCARY

Emma Stone sparked more speculation that she'd secretly tied the knot with fiancé Dave McCary when the couple stepped out wearing matching gold bands earlier this month.

The La La Land actress, 31, wore overalls, a white cap and a face mask as she walked with the Saturday Night Live director in L.A. McCary, who wore a T-shirt and black pants, and they both had rings on their left hands.

Stone and her longtime boyfriend announced their engagement in December 2019, with McCary sharing a picture of himself and his smiling bride-to-be showing off her engagement ring on Instagram.

The Arizona Native and the comedian were first linked in June 2017 after being seen together numerous times. In January 2019, they were spotted sharing a table with Taylor Swift and boyfriend Joe Alwyn at a Golden Globes afterparty.

"Emma and Dave were super touchy-feely and affectionate, which seemed to make Taylor more comfortable doing the same with Joe," an eyewitness told Us Weekly at the time. "It seemed like a very fun and light-hearted date night."

The New York Post's Page Six reported earlier this year that pair planned to tie the knot in Los Angeles in March but the coronavirus pandemic put their plans on hold.

There was speculation in May this



year that the pair had secretly wed after the Aloha actress sparked marriage speculation during her virtual appearance on Reese Witherspoon's Hello Sunshine series. Eagle-eyed fans noticed that Stone had swapped her engagement ring for a simple gold band.

The Easy A star added to the speculation when fellow guest Dr. Harold Koplewicz talked about how anxiety can impact a marriage.

"If you marry an anxious man,

you're going to have to know me the rest of my life," the psychiatrist joked, while Stone responded, "Thankfully, I didn't do that."

While the Oscar winner's rep has previously not commented on the speculation, the Zombieland star could be focused on taking an even bigger step in her relationship with McCary. Stone said in an interview with her pal Jennifer Lawrence for Elle in 2018 that her view of marriage and babies has evolved.

Priyanka joins Hollywood A-listers as narrator of new series

Priyanka Chopra Jonas has joined a host of Hollywood stars including Kate Winslet and Keanu Reeves as a narrator of the upcoming series, A World Of Calm.

Winslet and Priyanka have joined previously announced Mahershala Ali, Idris Elba, Oscar Isaac, Nicole Kidman, Zoe Kravitz, Lucy Liu, Cillian Murphy, and Reeves. The 10-episode unscripted series premieres on October 1, reports deadline.com.

"Excited to join such an amazing group of "calming" voices for series, "A World Of Calm." Coming Oct 1st," Priyanka tweeted while sharing her happiness over her new project.

The series combines mesmerizing imagery with narration by the A-list stars.

The logline reads: "A timely antidote for our modern lives, each half-hour episode takes audiences on an immersive visual journey into another world."

The HBO Max series aims to promote stress relief and show the actors narrating a story while calming imagery plays on the screen.



KIM KARDASHIAN MIGHT DIVORCE KANYE WEST

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian is reportedly considering divorcing husband Kanye West due to his bipolar disorder and his anti-abortion stance.

"Kim has the whole divorce planned out but she's waiting for him to get through his latest episode," a source told Page Six.

Over the past few months, West has been vocal about being pro-life, telling a rally crowd that he and Kardashian nearly aborted their oldest child, daughter North West.

"I almost killed my daughter," he said during a July event. "No more Plan B, Plan A."

Later, Kardashian defended the rapper and opened up about his mental health struggles.

Another source said that she wouldn't divorce West because it wasn't "a good look" at the time.



FILMS / FILM FEST OF NOTE

BY MABEL PAIS

PUBLIC TRUST: The Fight For America's Public Lands



Protestors in Salt Lake City after Pres. Trump announced drastic reduction to boundaries of Bears Ears, etc. National Monuments - Photo / Andrew Burr

DIR: DAVID GARRETT BYARS | DOC | 2020 | USA | English | 1h 38m

"The best movie I've seen in 2020. A must-see for all Americans." - VailDaily
WORLDWIDE RELEASE OF 'PUBLIC TRUST' DOCUMENTARY

RELEASE SEPTEMBER 25, 2020 ON YOUTUBE, EVE OF PUBLIC LANDS DAY

"I imagine that the majority of Americans don't feel intrinsic ownership of those 640 million acres. But when I contemplate the unfathomable scale of this shared estate, I feel intense pride. And, in a time of accelerating wealth inequality and an era in which me and many of my generation will probably never own any land, I feel fury at those who would rob me and my fellow Americans of what belongs to all of us." - David Garrett Byars, Director

In a time of growing polarization, Americans still share something in common: 640 million acres of public land. Held in trust by the federal government for all citizens of the United States, these places are a stronghold against climate change, sacred to native people, home to wildlife and intrinsic to our national identity. But today, despite support from voters across the political spectrum, they face unprecedented threats from extractive industries and the politicians in their pockets.

Part love letter, part political exposé, "Public Trust" investigates how we arrived at this precarious moment through three heated conflicts—a national monument in the Utah desert, a proposed mine in the Boundary Waters and oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—and makes a case for their continued protection.

KEY CREDITS

Director: David Garrett Byars
Producer: Jeremy Hunter Rubingh
Executive Producers: Yvon Chouinard, Robert Redford, etc. and Patagonia Films
Website: patagonia.com/films/public-trust/

PUSH



Empty dark skyscraper buildings in a big city
Photo / Courtesy, WG Film AB

DIR: FREDRIK GERTTEN | DOC | 2020 | USA | English | 1h 32m

"I believe there's a huge difference between housing as a commodity and gold as a commodity. Gold is not a human right, housing is." - Leilani Farha, UN Special Rapporteur - Adequate Housing

"There's a global pattern, a business model repeated over and over again. A new kind of landlord, a hedge fund whose customers are not the tenants but the investors. "PUSH" is now out on a global journey, at cinemas and festivals. Everywhere, I meet people who through the film now feel less lonely. Just more angry." - FREDRIK GERTTEN, Director

LANDLORDS WITHOUT FACES. APARTMENTS WITHOUT RENTERS.

EXPLORING THE NEW UNLIVABLE CITY
WHY CAN'T WE AFFORD TO LIVE IN OUR CITIES?
RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

"The housing crisis is now affecting middle class families across the world. without a doubt, it is going to be the biggest political challenge in the next coming years," says Fredrik Gertten, Director. Housing prices are skyrocketing in cities around the world. Incomes are not. "PUSH" sheds light on a new kind of faceless landlord, our increasingly unlivable cities and an escalating crisis that has an effect on us all. This is not gentrification, it's a different kind of monster.

The film follows Leilani Farha, the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, as she's traveling the globe, trying to understand who's being pushed out of the city and why. To learn more, visit pushthefilm.com

URSULA VON RYDINGSVARD: INTO HER OWN

DIR: DANIEL TRAUB | Doc | 2019 | USA | 57 minutes

AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 29

URSULA VON RYDINGSVARD: INTO HER OWN is an artistic biography of one of the few women in the world working in monumental sculpture. The film also delves into the artist's personal life, and how it has shaped her work. Born in Poland during the Second World War, she was partly raised in a displaced persons camp and came to the US as a refugee with her nine-person family. Brought up in a blue-collar environment, she became a teacher and then, as a single mother, moved to New York in the 1970s to take up her artistic practice full-time.

TRAILER: <https://vimeo.com/379793991>

<https://youtu.be/zOUsRnwSkXw>

Available September 29th in the US and Canada on DVD and VOD (Including: iTunes, Amazon, and Vimeo).

Website: intoherownfilm.com

THE TOBACCONIST (DER TRAFIKANT)

DIR: Nikolaus Leytner | 2020 | German, Czech w/English subtitles | 1h 48m

Based on International Bestseller by Robert Seethaler
Currently Running

The Tobacconist" Nikolaus Leytner's film, based on the international bestseller by Robert Seethaler, is a tender, heart-breaking story about one young man and his friendship with Sigmund Freud during the Nazi occupation of Vienna. When Franz falls desperately in love with the music-hall dancer Anezka (Drogunova), he seeks advice from the renowned psychoanalyst, who admits that the female sex is as big a mystery to him as it is to Franz. As political and social

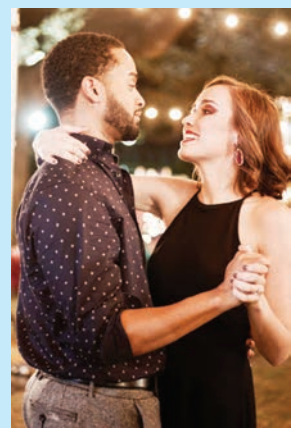
conditions in Austria dramatically worsen with the impending Nazi invasion, Franz, Freud, and Anezka are swept into the maelstrom of events. Each has a big decision to make: to stay or to flee?

Trailer: https://youtu.be/r_eqtpuEAJE

For more information and a listing of individual cities and virtual theaters, visit <https://kinomarquee.com> or <https://www.menemshafilms.com/tobacconist>
Watch on AmazonPrime, Starz and Fubo

"DEEP IN THE HEART": TX FILM FEST

"...this year is not just about maintaining the sense of fun and love of cinema that our fest is already known for here in Waco, but doubling down on that inspiration and looking beyond to try things we hadn't even envisioned prior to this year." - Samuel Thomas & Louis Hunter, Co-founders & Directors.



A scene from Opening Night, "Seven Short Films."
Photo / Courtesy DithFF

4th "Deep In The Heart" Film Fest Virtual Fest Held on

Consecutive Weekends

September 25-27, October 2-4

In Living Rooms All Around Texas

Highlights: Virtual Red Carpet, Panels, Script Readings & More
Christopher Hansen's SEVEN SHORT FILMS ABOUT (OUR) MARRIAGE

Opens Fest with Special Screening

"Making of..." Cast & Crew Talk

Michael Erger's PESCADOR Makes World Premiere

The "Deep in the Heart" Film Fest will be held on consecutive weekends September 25-27 and October 2-4. The popular Waco-based film festival will be screening 123 films (7 features, 116 shorts and music videos).

The Fest will open with local filmmaker Chris Hansen's festival favorite SEVEN SHORT FILMS ABOUT (OUR) MARRIAGE, and screen an ambitious lineup of themed short film programs, featuring multiple first-time team ups with local arts organizations, and more innovations within the virtual space and filmmaker hospitality from afar.

The Shorts and Music Videos categories are 2020 in a Nutshell; Five Star; Lone Star; Friday Night Frights; Hearts and Minds; Home; Make or Break; Saturday Family Matinee; Someone I Used to Know; What Are We Fighting For?; What Must Be Done; Who I Am; and wtf???

For Passes, Tickets and more information on the "Deep in the Heart" Film festival, visit deepintheheartff.com
About Deep in the Heart Film Festival

Consistently ranking in FilmFreeway's Top 100 Best Reviewed Festivals in the World, "Deep in the Heart" Film Festival (DitHFF) brings the Central Texas community together through independent film. Established in 2017, the Festival engages audiences with films from major festivals and Texas talent. DithFF builds networks and careers through its industry education and promotion. Add in some chips & salsa with DithFF magic, and it creates one of the most unique experiences on the festival circuit. For more information, visit deepintheheartff.com and Follow DithFF on Facebook.com and Instagram.com

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

IDG IN COVID TIMES

BY MABEL PAIS

HALTING LIVES: IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON GIRLS

"Girls are at a higher risk of domestic violence and mental health issues as social norms place the majority of unpaid domestic work and emotional labor in their hands. This is causing a real concern that girls will not return to school following the pandemic."- Tessie SanMartin, President-CEO, PLAN International USA

Nine Out Of Ten Girls Experience Anxiety Due to COVID-19 Pandemic- Global Survey By PLAN International

GIRLS IN INDIA: Major Change in Daily Lives due to Strictest International Lockdowns

HALTING LIVES: IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON GIRLS" a study of PLAN International is the most extensive one of its kind focusing on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on girls from 14 countries including the United States, Spain, India, Ghana and Brazil.

Girls in India reported the highest levels of major change in their daily lives due to one of the strictest lockdowns in the world. Even with the lockdown, India has the third highest number of cases, which is thought to be a result of poverty and overcrowding.

Nine out of ten girls (88%) say they are feeling high or medium levels of anxiety as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a landmark survey - involving over 7,000 girls in 14 countries - conducted by child rights and humanitarian organization Plan International.

For the girls surveyed, aged 15-19, the most prevalent fears concerned their own health (33%) and the wellbeing of their families (40%). Nearly a third (26%) were worried about the loss of household income due to the pandemic.

"The survey highlights that health emergencies affect groups differently," said Tessie San Martin,



PLAN's COVID-19 Poster - Photo / Courtesy PLAN USA



PLAN's GIRL UNLOCKED Poster

Photo / Courtesy PLAN USA

President and CEO of Plan International USA.

The research shines a light on the complex challenges girls are facing, ranging from the impact on their education to their ability to leave home.

62% of girls surveyed said they were struggling as a result of not being able to go to school or university.

More than half (58%) of girls are feeling the negative effects of not being able to leave the house regularly.

For 19-year old Deolinda from Mozambique, lockdown, not the virus, has had the greatest impact on her and her family. "We were told that to prevent getting infected from this coronavirus, we must stay at home and not go to school or work. This makes it very difficult for me because I rely on small on the spot jobs, this is how I have been providing for my family."

The report is being launched via a virtual inter-generational dialogue between girls and world leaders at the United Nations General Assembly. This dialogue will present an opportunity for girls to outline their key recommendations in response to COVID-19, and for world leaders to listen and respond.

Plan International is calling for global, regional and national authorities to ensure COVID-19 response plans consider the unique challenges faced by girls because of their age and gender. The organization is raising \$100 million to protect some of the world's most vulnerable children and their communities from the impacts of COVID-19. To learn more, visit www.plan-international.org/publications/halting-lives-impact-covid-19-girls www.plan-international.org/publications/better-normal-girls-call-for-revolutionary-reset

IDG: 'PLAN' HONORS GIRLS, OCTOBER 1, 2020

Event: Give for Girls: Girl Unlocked

Where: Online - Join from Anywhere with an Internet Connection!

When: Thursday, October 1, 2020, 4:30-5:30 p.m. EDT

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution 66/170 to declare October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child (IDG), to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world. Join Plan International USA's next virtual event, Give for Girls: Girl Unlocked on October 1, 2020. Some of the challenges they're up against: No access to online learning. No running water to wash her hands and prevent COVID-19. No voice to object to becoming a child bride.

Join PLAN's next event in honor of International Day of the Girl (IDG) to bring light at the end of the tunnel. Hosted by Plan USA's President & CEO Dr. Tessie San Martin, this virtual event will feature:

- Behind-the-scenes videos showing how patrons' life-saving support is making a difference for girls and communities around the world.
- Live interviews with bright and passionate members of PLAN USA's Youth Advisory Board.
- Details on the unique ways you can celebrate International Day of the Girl with us in 2020.
- Firsthand accounts of how COVID-19 is affecting girls' lives - and where we go from here.

Tickets

Tickets are nominally priced. Register today for the October 1 event, at planusa.org/event/give-for-girls-girl-unlocked/e296173

About Plan International USA

To learn more, visit PlanUSA.org

THEATER IN COVID TIMES

LIVE PERFORMANCES IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

BY MABEL PAIS

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Comedy Themed Trio Celebrates 20th Anniversary Third Production of Monthly Series in Social Distancing Era A Comedy Themed Trio Tony Nominee Tony Roberts Reads Excerpts From Autobiography "Do You Know Me?" Followed By "Commercial Break" by Peter Stone, & "Come On" by Susan Charlotte Featuring Jodie Markell Stephen Schnetzer and Rex Reed September 29th at 2:00pm at Theatre 80 St. Marks And Via Live Streaming

On September 29th at 2:00pm US Eastern time, the award-winning theatre company, Food For Thought Productions (FFTP) will present the third show in its current season with a common thread - comedy (something we can all use a bit of in our present world) via ZOOM!

Tony Nominee, Tony Roberts will kick off the show by reading from his very personal, very funny autobiography, "Do You Know Me"? This piece will be followed by two one-acts, "Commercial Break" by Oscar, Tony and Emmy Award winner Peter Stone (a frequent FFTP contributor and attendee). And bringing the comedic afternoon to a close will be "Come On" by award-winning playwright, and Food For Thought founder, Susan Charlotte.

The show stars the incomparable Rex Reed, Jodie Markel and Emmy Nominee Stephen Schnetzer and is directed by Antony Marsellis. Q & A will include a discussion with the cast on the many facets of comedy, led by Susan Charlotte.

Tickets

Tickets are FREE, for first-come patrons!

For additional information and tickets, contact FFTP at: 646-366-9340 or email:

info@foodforthoughtproductions.com

Additional dates for the rest of the season, all performed at Theatre 80 St. Marks, which will include plays by Tennessee Williams, Mel Brooks, Dorothy Parker, Neil LaBute to name a few are Oct. 19th, Nov. 16th and December 14th. All shows are from 2-4pm which includes a Q & A with the cast. All shows will be live streamed, and all cast & plays subject to change.

About Food For Thought Productions

'Food For Thought Productions' (FFTP) was created by award-winning playwright Susan Charlotte in 2000 to provide a home for the oft-neglected one-act play. FFTP has presented over a thousand shows with Oscar, Tony and Emmy award winning writers, actors and directors. To learn more, visit www.foodforthoughtproductions.com

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

United Kingdom to subsidise wages of workers

LONDON (TIP): Britain's top treasury official plans to announce sept 24 a new programme to help workers hurt by the pandemic, responding to pressure from businesses and labour unions to step in with more direct support for people in precarious work situations.

Chancellor Rishi Sunak is expected to unveil a package of economic measures, including an income support programme that would subsidise the wages of workers whose hours are cut due to the pandemic, during a speech to lawmakers.

The programme comes as Covid-19 cases continue to rise across the UK, blunting the country's economic recovery from a nationwide lockdown imposed in March.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock said now is the right time for Sunak to deliver his plan to the House of Commons to bolster the economy. — AP

Hong Kong activist Wong held over unauthorised assembly

HONG KONG (TIP): Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong said he was arrested again sept 24 for allegedly participating in an unauthorised assembly last October.

Wong tweeted that he was arrested when he reported to the semi-autonomous Chinese territory's Central Police Station as part of a bail requirement. He said he was also accused of violating a pre-Covid law banning the wearing of masks in public places on the pretext they obscure identity. Wong told reporters after leaving the police station that it is the third case against him. He vowed to continue to resist.— AP

Japan PM Suga tells South Korea's Moon both nations need to repair damaged relations

TOKYO (TIP): Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said on Thursday he told his South Korean counterpart Moon Jae-in that the two countries needed to repair their damaged relations, calling South Korea an important neighbour to counter the threat from North Korea.

Speaking to reporters after his phone meeting with Moon, Suga said: "I told President Moon that we cannot leave our relations, which have been hurt by issues including war-time labourers, where they are now." AP

Belarus opposition appeal to EU fails to unblock sanctions

BRUSSELS (TIP): European Union foreign ministers failed to agree sanctions against Belarusian officials on Sept 22, despite an appeal by the country's main opposition leader.

After a sixth straight weekend of huge protests against President Alexander Lukashenko, opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya travelled to Brussels to try to convince the EU to follow through on a sanctions threat it announced last month.

So far the bloc has yet to approve a list of some 40 Belarusian officials to be hit with travel bans and asset freezes. Cyprus has been seen as blocking approval by tying the Belarus measures to unrelated sanctions it wants on Turkey in a gas exploration dispute.

"Although there is a clear will to adopt the sanctions, the required unanimity was not reached," the EU's top diplomat Josep Borrell, who chaired the meeting of foreign ministers, told reporters, referring to EU rules that all 27 states must agree.

Approval is still possible by EU leaders at a summit on Thursday and Borrell said that by the next time foreign ministers meet on October 12, the sanctions would be agreed. But he also acknowledged the paralysis was damaging for the EU's image.

"If we are not able to (approve Belarus sanctions), then our credibility is at stake," Borrell told a news conference.

Back in Minsk, a city court rejected a legal appeal from the defence team of Tsikhanouskaya's political ally, Maria Kolesnikova, against her detention.

Kolesnikova was jailed after ripping up her passport to prevent the Belarusian authorities from forcibly expelling her to Ukraine. She was charged last week with calling for "actions aimed at undermining Belarusian national security".

About a hundred supporters gathered in and around the courthouse. Kolesnikova was not in court in person but when she appeared on a video screen people inside began to applaud.

'Be brave'



Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya holds a picture as she speaks to the members of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs committee, at the EU Parliament in Brussels, Belgium, on Monday. Reuters photo

"Although there is a clear will to adopt the sanctions, the required unanimity was not reached," the EU's top diplomat Josep Borrell, who chaired the meeting of foreign ministers, told reporters, referring to EU rules that all 27 states must agree.

Though the EU announce plans for the sanctions last month, enacting them requires support from all 27 member states. Cyprus wants a deal first on measures in its dispute against Turkey.

"Our reaction to any kind of violation of our core, basic values and principles cannot be a la carte. It needs to be consistent," Foreign Minister Nikos Christodoulides said.

The presidents of Lithuania, Poland and Romania said on Monday they will ask EU leaders at this week's summit to offer an economic support package for Belarus if it holds a democratic election. That would include a favourable trade regime with the EU, visa-free travel and support as a candidate for the World Trade Organization.

"EU leaders have reasons not to push sanctions but I asked them to be more brave," Tsikhanouskaya, who fled to Lithuania after the election, told reporters after meeting foreign ministers.

"Sanctions are important in our fight because it's part of pressure that could force the so-called authorities to start dialogue with us in the opposition council." — Reuters

Stolen plane in Mexico flies to Venezuela before crashing in Guatemala

MEXICO CITY (TIP): A business jet that was reported stolen in Mexico crashed in a Guatemalan jungle on Wednesday near a hidden airstrip after making a mysterious trip to Venezuela, leaving two men dead near an onboard stash of drugs and weapons.

In a statement, the Guatemalan military confirmed the crash of the Hawker 800 twin-engine jet in a mountainous area in the Central American country's Alta Verapaz region but said the men had not yet been identified. Next to their bodies, three kilograms of cocaine were found in

three packages along with unspecified guns.

The jet took off from the Cuernavaca airport, located about 45 miles (72 km) south of Mexico City, around midday on Tuesday without authorisation or a flight plan, then landed at Zulia airport in northwestern Venezuela near the border with Colombia several hours later, the Guatemalan military said.

Shortly afterwards, it took off for Guatemala, where it crashed shortly after 8 pm local time on Wednesday.

The theft of the jet, which can seat eight passengers, was reported by both

local and federal authorities on Tuesday in Mexico. According to Pablo Ojeda, a senior state government official, three men entered the Cuernavaca airport, two of whom claim to be mechanics there to take the plane for a test flight.

After filling up the aircraft's fuel tank, those two took off without permission, said Ojeda, adding that the jet's owners had not yet filed a formal robbery report.

Mexico's transport ministry and attorney general's office confirmed that the jet stolen in Cuernavaca matched the one reported crashed in Guatemala. Reuters

North Korea shoots South Korean official, burns body

SEOUL (TIP): South Korea said on Sept 24 that the North Korean troops fatally shot a South Korean government official, who may have attempted to defect, and set his body on fire after they found him on a floating object in waters near the rivals' disputed sea boundary.

According to Seoul's announcement, the man disappeared from a government ship that was checking on potential unauthorised fishing in an area south of the boundary on Monday, a day before he was found in North Korean waters.

North Korea sent officials wearing gas masks aboard a boat near the man to learn why he was there on Tuesday afternoon. Later in the day, a North Korean navy boat came and opened fire at him, South Korea's Defence Ministry said.

Sailors from the boat, putting on gas masks and protective suits, poured gasoline on his body and set it aflame, the Defence Ministry said, citing intelligence gathered by surveillance equipment and other assets.

It was also unclear how he ended up in the North. But a defence official said the man might have tried to defect to North Korea. The official, requesting anonymity citing department rules, said the official was wearing a life jacket on a small floating object and that the military had obtained information that he wanted to go to North Korea.

The official said North Korea may have determined to kill him in line with its stringent anti-coronavirus rules that involves shooting anyone illegally crossing the border.

North Korea has steadfastly said there hadn't been a single virus case on its territory, a claim widely disputed by many foreign experts. Observers say a pandemic could cause devastating consequences in North Korea because of its broken public health care system and a chronic shortage of medical supplies.

South Korea sent a message to North Korea via a communication channel at the US-led UN Command in South Korea



on Wednesday to ask about the missing official. But North Korea hasn't responded, according to the South Korean Defence Ministry.

Senior military officer Ahn Young Ho told reporters Friday that South Korea strongly condemned North Korea's "atrocious act" and urged it to punish those responsible. He said South Korea used various intelligence to hold North Korea responsible for the man's death.

Little is known about the 47-year-old, except that he was among 18 officials aboard the government boat belonging to the Oceans and Fisheries Ministry. When his colleagues searched for him after his disappearance, they only found his shoes left on the ship. Days of a search involving aircraft and vessels came up empty-handed, according to the defence and oceans ministries.

The poorly marked western sea boundary is where several bloody naval skirmishes and two deadly attacks blamed on North Korea happened in recent years. The government ship was near South Korea's Yeonpyeong Island, which was hit by North Korean artillery in 2010, killing four people.

The incident is expected to deepen already-strained ties between the rivals, whose exchange and cooperation programs have virtually all been suspended amid a deadlock in broader nuclear diplomacy between Pyongyang and Washington. In June, North Korea blew up an inter-Korean liaison office on its territory to protest South Korean civilians sending

leaflets against the North across the border.

Conservative experts and politicians in South Korea argued that the government explanation the official might have attempted to defect lacked evidence. They say the government may want to prevent strong anti-North sentiments in South Korea to keep alive chances for talks with North Korea.

"A public servant defecting to North Korea? I think it sounds a bit strange as he has stable job security," said Choi Kang, vice president of Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies, adding: "Why did North Korea shoot a man defecting to the North voluntarily? I can also say the burning of his body was an attempt to conceal evidence."

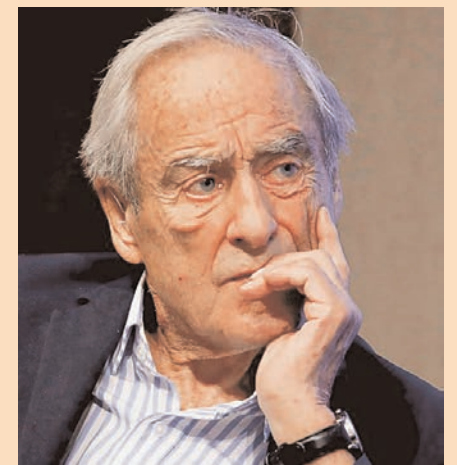
South Korea's liberal government led by President Moon Jae-in has faced criticism by conservatives that it's sympathizing with North Korea too much and fails to respond strongly enough to the North's provocation, such as the liaison office destruction and crude insults.

In 2008, North Korean soldiers fatally shot a visiting South Korean tourist who wandered into a restricted area. South Korea's then conservative government responded by suspending tours to the North's scenic Diamond Mountain resort.

The main conservative People Power Party urged Moon's government to take stern action. "The reason for the government's existence is protecting its people and their property," a party statement said.

Defections of South Korea to North Korea are highly unusual. More than 30,000 North Koreans have fled to South Korea in the past 20 years for political and economic reasons.

In July, however, a North Korean defector slipped back to North Korea, prompting North Korea to impose a lockdown of a border city and declare a state of emergency over virus concerns. AP



Trailblazing journalist Evans dies at 92

LONDON (TIP): Sir Harold Evans, a British-American editor whose 70-year career as a hard-driving investigative journalist, magazine founder, book publisher and author made him one of the most influential media figures of his generation, died on Sept 23 at the age of 92. Evans died of congestive heart failure in New York, according to his wife Tina Brown.

Behind Thalidomide exposé

A former editor of Britain's Sunday Times and, at his death, Reuters editor-at-large, Evans put a unique stamp on investigative journalism. One of his famous investigations exposed the plight of hundreds of British thalidomide children, who had never received any compensation for birth defects

A former editor of Britain's Sunday Times and, at his death, Reuters editor-at-large, Evans put a unique stamp on investigative journalism. Championing causes either overlooked or denied, he and his team uncovered human rights abuses and political scandals and advocated for clean air policies.

One of his most famous investigations exposed the plight of hundreds of British thalidomide children, who had never received any compensation for their birth defects. Evans organised a campaign to take on the drug companies responsible for manufacturing the drug, an effort that eventually won compensation for the families after more than a decade.

"All I tried to do — all I hoped to do — was to shed a little light," Evans said in an interview with the Independent in 2014. "And if that light grew weeds, we'd have to try and pull them up."

After 14 years at the Sunday Times, Evans became Editor of the Times of London shortly after media mogul Rupert Murdoch purchased the paper in 1981. Evans left a year later in a dispute with Murdoch over editorial independence.

A few years later, Evans moved to the US with Brown, the journalist and editor to whom he was married for nearly 40 years. He continued his career as an author, publisher and university lecturer. He penned several books, including "The American Century" and its sequel "They Made America". — Reuters

70 whales rescued from Australia's worst mass beaching

CANBERRA (TIP): Authorities revised up the number of pilot whales rescued from Australia's worst mass stranding from 50 to 70 on Thursday, as the focus shifted to removing 380 carcasses from Tasmania state shallows.

The number of rescues had been estimated at 50 late Wednesday, but 20 more came to light following later discussions with rescue crews, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service Manager Nic Deka said. Another 20 surviving whales could potentially still be saved on Thursday and vets were considering euthanising another four, Marine Conservation Program wildlife biologist Kris Carlyon said. An estimated 470

whales were discovered on Monday and Wednesday beached on the shore and sand bars along the remote west coast of the island state near the town of Strahan.

"We're continuing with the rescue operation. We still have live animals that are viable for rescue," Deka said. "But at the same time, we're starting initial efforts with collection for disposal of carcasses." Deka said disposal at sea of the decomposing carcasses was the preferred option, but he was taking expertise advice. Carlyon said some of the first whales rescued on Tuesday had beached again, but those guided back to sea on Wednesday appeared to have not returned. The rescued whales are

marked to indicate which have returned.

"The 70 animals that have been refloated and released, we're confident that most of the animals have got away," Carlyon said. "Once they get into deeper water, they're very hard to keep track of." Why the whales ran aground is a mystery. Theories include that the pod followed sick whales or made a navigational error. Tasmania is the only part of Australia prone to mass stranding, although they occasionally occur on the Australian mainland. Australia's largest mass stranding had previously been 320 pilot whales near the Western Australia state town of Dunsborough in 1996. AP

HOW TO GET OVER A BREAKUP AND MOVE ON

Going through a breakup is the most terrible feeling, we know that already, don't we? But it's also the best time to re-brand yourself. These tips will get you the way on how to get over a breakup fast and move on soon.

Accept the end of the relationship

Avoid second-guessing yourself once you end the relationship. Even if you did not end it, don't start wondering what you did wrong. Relationships end for good reasons. One of you wasn't happy or getting what you wanted. Accept that the relationship is over, and now, you have a fresh start to do it right next time.

Give yourself some time to get over it

You're not in the relationship anymore, but you don't have to get over it right away. If you push yourself too hard to get over your ex, you might do more harm than good. Everything takes time to heal, and bad relationships are no different. Take time to go to bed early and sleep in late, or stay in on a Saturday night eating ice cream.

Replace hatred and anger with gratitude

Regardless of what happened to end your relationship, don't hold a grudge. Everyone makes mistakes, and when emotions are high, people will get hurt. Don't hate your ex forever and tell everyone that he or she is a bad person. Don't let your ex have that kind of hold over you anymore. Let those negative feelings go and be thankful for the lessons you have learned instead. Embrace the possibilities of future love and happiness.

Realize who you want to be

It's not uncommon to lose yourself in a relationship, where you can become a "we" instead of a "me." A breakup means you have time to find yourself again. Spoil yourself: spend an hour in a bubble bath, watch a



marathon of your favorite TV show, cook the favorite meal that your ex hated. This is the perfect time to analyze who you were before, who you were with your ex, and who you want to be in the future. You're single and you're healing from a breakup – it's all about you!

Find your support circle

Just like you lose touch with yourself in a relationship, it's easy to lose touch with your friends. Being part of a couple means you spend a lot of time with each other, and you might spend less time with your friends as you enjoy your partner more and more. Being single again means you can have quality time with your friends. Don't spend that time bad-mouthing your ex, or even talking about the relationship or the breakup. Spend time catching up and having fun together.



By Tript Arora

CONNOISSEUR'S CHOICE



VEGETABLE PULAO

Vegetable pulao is convenience food of Indians. Whenever you don't want to cook or in a hurry, this one pot meal fits perfectly. It is a part of the complete elaborate meal too. Formal lunch or dinners are incomplete without it. Fragrant rice cooked with aromatic spices and vegetables makes it tasty as well as healthy. Vegetable pulao is made all over India with different versions. Today we are making a basic North Indian version of it. I have used peas, carrot, cauliflower and beans. You can use vegetables of your choice. Soak rice for half an hour before making the pulao. This way the rice grain will be separated from each other. I like the soft texture of cooked rice, unlike the al dente version served in restaurants. Basmati rice usually takes 1:2 ratio of water. In pre soaked rice you can reduce it by ¼ cup i.e. in one cup of presoaked rice you add ¾ cup water. There is another grandma formula for water measurement and i.e. when you finally add rice and water after cooking vegetables, just dip your middle finger in rice and the water should touch the first line of your finger. I always follow this rule because this way even you can cook rice without measuring. So do try it friends, you will find it very convenient.



We Need

1 Cup Basmati rice, 1 cup Peas, ½ Cup cauliflower florets, ½ Cup Chopped Carrot, ½ Beans cut in small pieces, 2 Onions Sliced, 2 Tomatoes Sliced, 8 to 10 Garlic pods, 2" Piece Ginger, 2 green Chillies, 6 Cloves, 1 Tejpatta, 1 Tbsp Cumin Seeds, 2" Piece Cinnamon (Dalchini), 7 to 8 whole Black pepper, 1 Black Cardamom, 2 to 3 Green Cardamom, 2 Tsp Salt or to taste, 1 Tsp Red chilli powder, 2 Tbsp Yellow Butter, 2 Tbsp Cooking Oil, 2 Tbsp of Fresh Coriander.

Here We go

- Wash Rice thoroughly till the water runs clear. Soak them in water for half an hour.
- In a mortar and pestle add garlic, ginger and green chillies. Make a paste of it. Alternatively you can grind them also.
- Cut onion into thin slices. Wash and cut tomatoes finely.
- Heat oil and butter in a pan.
- When oil is heated, add cumin, tejpatta, black and green cardamom, cinnamon and whole black pepper. Roast them for a min.
- When whole spices are roasted add finely sliced onions to them.
- When onions turn pink, add ginger garlic and green chilli paste to them. Saute them till fragrant.
- Time to add finely chopped tomatoes now. Saute till they become mushy. Give the masala a good mix.
- To this masala add all the vegetables and saute them for two minutes. Don't cook the vegetables, they will be cooked later along with rice.
- Drain water from soaked rice. Now add drained rice to the vegetable mixture in pan. Mix them thoroughly with vegetables and the rice are coated well with the butter and ghee in the pan.
- When everything is mixed together add water to the pan. Again give a good mix and then cover the pan with a lid. Keep the flame on low and leave it for 20 minutes. Don't stir them in between. Take a grain of rice in between your finger and thumb and press. If the rice feel soft and is mashed by pressure, they are cooked. If you feel any hard particle leave it for a minute on flame. Now switch off the gas and leave them for 5 minutes. After 5 minutes open the pan and serve hot with any raita of your choice.

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Hacks to remove nail paint when you don't have a remover

Toothpaste

For the first hack, all you need is a toothpaste and an old toothbrush. Just apply drops of toothpaste on your nails, wet your brush, and gently scrub your nails. Make sure you scrub just the nails, as the bristles of the brush might harm the skin. The presence of ethyl acetate in the paste will remove your nail paint in no time. This chemical is also present in nail paint removers.

Vinegar And Lemon

Vinegar can also help in removing the nail paint if you are running out of remover. To begin with, soak your hands in warm water for 5-10 minutes. Now take two tablespoons of vinegar and two tablespoons of lemon juice. Stir it and soak a cotton ball in it. Now use this cotton ball to remove the paint. You might need to press the cotton ball on your nails, as it might take a little longer for the vinegar to remove the paint. You can also try rubbing a lemon slice on your nails if you have bits of chipped nail paint.

Hand Sanitiser

One thing which must be available in abundance in every household nowadays must be hand sanitiser. We have all been using it to keep our hands clean, so why not use it to remove nail paint? Hand sanitiser contains rubbing alcohol, which will help in removing the paint off your nails. Just drop some sanitiser on your nails and quickly use a cotton ball to rub it. You might need to repeat this process 3-4 times. Make sure you wash your hands and apply a



hand cream after you are done, in order to prevent your hands from drying.

Hairspray

Hairspray too contains rubbing alcohol, which can help in getting rid of chipped nail paint. Just spray some of it on your nails and use a cotton swab to wipe it off. You need to be quick with it, as the cotton might stick to your nails and create a mess. Hairspray should be your last resort, in case nothing else works or you don't have any other alternative.

Perfume

Another beauty product that can replace your remover is perfume. All you need to do is spray some of it on your nails and use a cotton pad to rub it off. If you do not wish to waste your favourite perfume, then it is recommended that you use a perfume which you don't like much. You might need repeated sprays for the nail paint to come off completely.

SOURCES OF PROTEIN FOR THOSE ON A VEGAN DIET

If exercise helps build strength and flexibility, it is one's diet and nutrition intake that builds health and energy. While there are different types of diets that may help one achieve the desired results, many people tend to believe that there are not many adequate sources of protein for vegans.

Pistachios

Pistachios make for an excellent high-protein snack on the go. You can also use them in your favourite recipe. They've got 25 grams of protein per cup.

Almond butter

Almond butter contains more fibre, calcium, potassium, and iron than peanut butter. Add a scoop of almond butter to your oatmeal, smoothie, or slather it on top of a banana or piece of sourdough toast. Contains seven grams of protein per two-tablespoon of serving.

Pea protein powder

Pea protein is a popular vegan protein option. It's easy to digest, and a good source of arginine (an amino acid the body needs to build muscle), and branch chain amino acids (protein compounds that can delay fatigue during exercise). Add some to your post-workout smoothie. Contains 14 grams of protein per two teaspoons of serving or one scoop.



Spirulina

Another rich source of protein, spirulina is a worthy addition to your morning smoothie or juice. Contains a hefty 57g per 100g, but the average serving is between 1-3 grams.

Chia seeds

Chia seeds pack a surprising amount of protein, and are also high in fibre. Contain five grams of

protein per two teaspoons of serving.

Sesame seeds

Sesame seeds are rich in lignans that may help burn fat as they cause the body to release more fat-burning liver enzymes. They are also an excellent source of vegan protein. Contain five grams of protein per three teaspoons of serving.



Influenza vaccine does not increase COVID-19 risk: Study

Receiving the influenza vaccine does not increase a person's risk for contracting COVID-19 or worsen associated conditions or mortality, according to a study.

The research, published in the Journal of Clinical and Translational Science, shows the flu vaccine is the single most important intervention to help stay healthy.

Seasonal flu activity is unpredictable, and otherwise healthy people are hospitalised due to serious respiratory infection each year, the researchers said.

It was even more important to receive the flu vaccination this year to help prevent a 'twindemic' of flu and COVID-19, they said.

Researchers led by Joe Zein, a pulmonologist at Cleveland Clinic in the US, analysed over 13,000 patients tested for COVID-19 between early March and mid-April.

They compared those who had received unadjuvanted influenza vaccines in the fall or winter of 2019 (4,138 patients) with those who did not receive the vaccine (9,082 patients).

The study found that influenza vaccination was not associated with increased COVID-19 incidence or disease severity, including risk for hospitalisation, admission to the intensive care unit or mortality.

"Our findings suggest that we should proceed as usual with our vaccination strategy for global influenza this flu season," said Zein, adding: "Getting the annual flu vaccine remains the best safeguard against the influenza virus, both for yourself and the people around you."

The researchers noted that much was still unknown about the possible outcomes of concurrent SARS-CoV-2 — the virus that causes COVID-19 — and influenza infection, including disease pathology and burden to the healthcare system.

They believe that the population's adherence to widespread and early flu vaccination while researchers continue to collect data will help to mitigate the risk of simultaneous viral infections and pandemics.

"We have already seen the stress that COVID-19 can put on our hospitals and resources," said Zein.

Spider venom may work as painkiller for irritable bowel syndrome

The venom from one of the largest spiders in the world may bring the hope to ease the gut pain suffered by millions of people with the irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), Australian researchers have revealed.

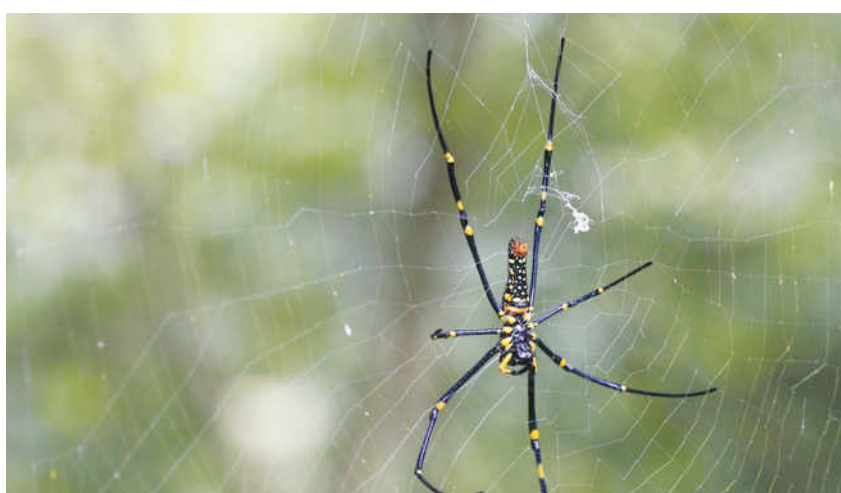
IBS is an intestinal disorder causing pain in the stomach which affects the internal organs. The causes of IBS remain unknown.

The lead researcher, Professor Richard Lewis from the University of Queensland's Institute for Molecular Bioscience said current treatment targeting gut pain had some drawbacks.

"All pains are complex but gut pain is particularly challenging to treat and affects around 20 percent of the world's population," said Lewis.

"Current drugs are failing to produce effective pain relief in many patients before side effects limit the dose that can be administered."

There were hundreds of mini proteins known as peptides contained in spider's venom which has the capability of blocking the



pain. However, not all of them were able to specifically block the chronic visceral pain caused by IBS, according to Lewis.

"Our goal was to find more specialised pain blockers that are potent and target sodium channels for chronic visceral pain, but not those that are active in the heart and other channels," he said.

Researchers screened venom from 28 spiders and identified two peptides from the venom of the

Venezuelan Pinkfoot Goliath tarantula — which has a leg-span of up to 30 centimeters — were most promising, with one nearly stopping chronic visceral pain in a model of IBS.

"The highly selective ones have potential as treatments for pain, while others are useful as new research tools to allow us to understand the underlying drivers of pain in different diseases," said Lewis.

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Scientists discover an Earth-like planet called 'Pi-Planet'

Astronomers at MIT have claimed to find a new look-alike planet similar to the Earth. In a riveting combination of inferences that these astronomers have drawn from their telescopic observation, the planet has been called as 'Pi-Planet' pertaining to the fact that it takes exactly 3.14 days to revolve around its star.

The planet moves on the path of its orbit at the speed of 81kms per second while it has been named as K2-315b. According to the researchers, this planet is apparently inhospitable due to its orbit's proximity to the star around which it revolves. As a consequence of this phenomenon, the temperatures on the surface of the planet go as high as 350-degree Fahrenheit.

As per the group of astronomers the signal of the planet orbiting around the star were first found in 2017 through NASA's Kelper space telescope K2 mission by syncing data from ground-based telescopes. Prajwal Niraula a graduate student and a lead author of the paper published in 'Astronomical Journal' said that the planet moves in a clockwork-like fashion.



Twitter is going to start testing voice DMs soon

Twitter had rolled out audio tweets for iOS earlier in June this year and is now looking to take voice usage to another feature on the platform - direct messages or DMs as they are popularly known. Twitter is experimenting the use of voice messages for DMs. Twitter's product manager for direct messages, Alex Ackerman-Greenberg told the Verge that the platform will be testing this feature soon and Brazil will be the first country to be included in the test.

Ackerman-Greenberg's message mentions that Twitter knows people want more options for how they express themselves in conversations on Twitter both privately and publicly.

Just like voice tweets, voice messages will have a simple, basic interface that includes just a play and pause button. The sender's avatar, or profile picture, will pulsate as the message plays out.

The Verge reports that the product team designed an in-line recording experience to make it easier to send these messages as a part of the natural conversation flow so that it feels different from the current audio tweets interface.

Manual for world's oldest surviving computer found

Researchers will be able to gain a deeper understanding of what's considered the world's oldest surviving (digital) computer after its long-lost user manual was unearthed. The Z4, which was built in 1945, runs on tape, takes up most of a room and needs several people to operate it. The machine now takes residence at the Deutsches Museum in Munich, but it hasn't been used in quite some time.

An archivist at ETH Zurich, Evelyn Boesch, discovered the manual among her father's documents in March, according to retired lecturer Herbert Bruderer (via Motherboard). René Boesch worked with the Swiss Aeronautical Engineering Association, which was based at the university's Institute for Aircraft Statics and Aircraft Construction. The Z4 was housed there in the early 1950s.

Among Boesch's documents were notes on math problems the Z4 solved that were linked to the development of the P-16 jet fighter. "These included calculations on the trajectory of rockets, on aircraft wings, on flutter vibrations [and] on nosedive," Bruderer wrote in a Association of Computing Machinery blog post.

The computer itself has quite the backstory. German civil engineer Konrad Zuse invented the Z4 under



the Nazi regime and is the likely author of the manual, according to Bruderer. At one point, the Nazis wanted Zuse to move the computer to a concentration camp, where the regime used forced labor to build rockets and flying bombs. He refused, and instead moved the Z4 to a barn in

a remote town to wait out World War II. Mathematician Eduard Stiefel later acquired the Z4 for ETH Zurich's Institute for Applied Mathematics. It spent a few years at the French-German Research Institute of Saint-Louis before the Z4 was transferred to the Deutsches Museum in 1960.

Airbus aims for hydrogen-powered plane by 2035



Airbus is aiming to put the world's first hydrogen-powered commercial plane into service by 2035, the European aircraft maker's boss said.

Hydrogen is a clean fuel, emitting only steam, but whether it is green depends on the carbon footprint of the fuels used to produce it.

France and other European countries are investing billions of euros in the development of green hydrogen, with the highly polluting transport industry a prime area for its intended use.

"It is our ambition to become the first aircraft maker to enter such a plane into service in 2035," Airbus CEO Guillaume Faury told Le Parisien newspaper.

The development of decarbonised hydrogen fuel is a "priority axis of development" for Airbus, he said. The manufacturer

has already been using hydrogen technology to power its satellites and the Ariane rocket.

Developing an aircraft that uses carbon-free fuel would not require "any major technological breakthrough", Faury said.

The production technology would, however, still need around five years to reach maturity, and suppliers and industrial sites would need another two to be ready, he said. "We could therefore implement the programme around 2028," he said.

Aviation generates up to three percent of the world's emissions of carbon dioxide, the main driver of climate change.

Hydrogen use would require some major design changes for aircraft, as the fuel requires about four times the storage space of kerosene for the same energy content.

Google making a major change to one of the best Chrome features

Google's Chrome internet browser may be a resource hog that kills laptop batteries, but it's still the most popular browser in the world. One of the things that make it so popular is the support for extensions that can significantly improve one's browsing experience. That's an area where Apple's Safari lags behind, and one reason I've stayed with Chrome on the MacBook for years.

But Google plans a significant change for Chrome shortly — well, another major change — that will impact Chrome extension developers directly. Google is now shutting down paid Chrome extensions, telling developers that they will have to find a new way to charge their customers.

Google put up a support page that addresses the change and the timeline for the update. The Chrome Web Store Payments deprecation will not happen instantly, so developers have time to make the appropriate changes. But all payments will be disabled by February 1st, 2021. Here's what will happen once we reach that deadline:

Your existing items and in-app purchases can no longer charge money with Chrome Web Store payments. You can still query license information for previously paid purchases and subscriptions. (The licensing API will accurately reflect the status of active subscriptions, but these subscriptions won't auto-renew.)

Developers who want to charge money for new extensions will not be able to do so and will have to find other ways of monetizing their Chrome apps.

Google isn't shutting the door to monetization completely, it's just the Chrome Web Store Payments system that's shutting down, and Google. Developers will have to migrate to a different payment processor, and they'll have to migrate license tracking as well. This may sound like a task for developers only, but Google does not that users might need to "help."

There is no way to bulk export your existing user licenses, so you need to have your users help with this part of the migration.

Indian economy to shrink by 5.9%: UN

Impacted by disruptions caused by the Covid pandemic, India's economy is forecast to contract by 5.9% in 2020, the UN has said in a report, warning that while growth will rebound next year, the contraction is likely to translate into a permanent income loss.

The Trade and Development Report 2020 by UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said on Tuesday the world economy is experiencing a deep recession amid a still-unchecked pandemic.

It said the global economy will contract by an estimated 4.3% this year, leaving global output by year's end over \$6 trillion short (in current US dollars) of what economists had expected it to be before the coronavirus began to spread.

Geopolitics a big risk to global companies: Oyo

After the government's strong arm tactics against Tik-Tok, two Indian global startups with substantial Chinese funding — Ola and Oyo — are cautiously watching the geopolitical trends besides battling to overcome the challenges created by Covid.

"Geopolitics is a big risk to global companies. Various countries are enacting policies that project companies as diplomatic enablers," said Ritesh Agarwal of Oyo while speaking at the 47th National Management Convention of the All India Management Association (AIMA).

His strategy is to be local in branding, staffing and culture while keeping the tech global. Though confident that Indians see Oyo as a product developed in India, he said the company is nevertheless watching the situation closely. Oyo is funded by Chinese investors and has business in China.

Apple opens its first online store in India

Apple Inc. opened its India online store on Wednesday, allowing the world's most valuable company to control the experience of shoppers and introduce visitors to a wider portfolio of products.

With its first company-owned physical store in India still some time away, the online store offers options that customers may not get on third-party online stores, serving as a vital cog in Apple's long-term plans. But opinion remains divided on whether the move alone will boost the company's market share in the short term. Though Apple's overall smartphone market share in India is less than 2%, in the premium segments, its relatively affordable products such as iPhone SE (2020), iPhone XR and iPhone 11 have made gains.

Mistrys eye huge windfall, set Rs 1.8-trillion price tag for exit

MUMBAI (TIP): The Shapoorji Pallonji (SP) group has valued its stake in Tata Sons at close to Rs 1.78 trillion.

The valuation is based on the current value of Tata Sons' shares in group listed companies such as Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Titan Company, Tata Motors, and unlisted subsidiaries including Tata Capital and Tata AIA Life Insurance.

SP group has also assigned a brand value of Rs 1.46 trillion to Tata Sons and wants a proportionate share of the same.

Shapoorji Pallonji & Co (SP & Co) is the single largest non-promoter shareholder, with 18.37 per cent stake. This puts the valuation of Tata Sons at \$ 9.7 trillion or Rs 2.4 crore per share.

Tata Sons' stake in TCS alone accounts for 70 per cent of its entire group valuation. A further 15 per cent is accounted for by the Tata brand value, which itself comes from the superior financial performance of group firms such as TCS, Titan, and Tata Consumer Products.

Tata Sons' big-ticket investments in key group entities such as Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Tata Power, Indian Hotels, and the group's retail and aviation ventures contribute little to its valuation, according to SP Group.

If the Tatas agree to the offer, it would be a huge windfall for the SP group, which is currently struggling with high leverage, poor profitability, and negative cash flows at its flagship company SP & Co.

The group had total long-term and short-term borrowings of close to Rs 31,000 crore at the end of March 2019. The group's total outside liabilities stood at Rs 63,700 crore at the end of March 2019, on consolidated basis.

Therefore, in one shot, the proceeds will make SP & Co debt-free on a net basis and provide the firm with surplus capital to make further inroads into the infrastructure segment, or enter new industries.

For Tata Sons, however, the stake buy-out would be an additional



Tata Sons chairman emeritus Ratan Tata and former chairman Cyrus Mistry.

financial burden and could potentially divert resources from its cash-hungry ventures in automotive, retail, financial services, aviation, and infrastructure.

Only last year, Tata Sons cleared nearly Rs 60,000 crore in liabilities of its ailing telecom business that the group sold for a token sum of Re 1 to Bharti Airtel. Tata Sons had total cash and cash equivalent worth Rs 4,000 crore at the end of March 2020, and as such will have to raise fresh capital to buy out the SP group stake. Analysts expect the Tatas to lean on their evergreen cash cow TCS to come to their rescue. Tata Sons' 72 per cent stake in TCS is valued at close to Rs 6.82 trillion. The group is expected to raise the funds required by either diluting its stake in TCS, or by pledging its holding and servicing the resulting debt through future dividend income from the company.

KKR picks up 1.28% stake in Reliance Retail for Rs 5,550 cr

US private equity firm KKR & Co will invest Rs 5,550 crore to buy a 1.28% stake in Reliance Industries Ltd's retail arm as the Mukesh Ambani-run conglomerate extends fundraising spree that has already netted more than \$20 billion.

"KKR will invest Rs 5,550 crore into Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd," the Indian firm said.

The investment values Reliance Retail, which runs grocery stores and fashion chains, at a pre-money equity value of Rs 4.21 lakh crore.

"KKR's investment will translate into a 1.28% equity stake in RRVL on a fully diluted basis," it said.

This is the second investment by KKR in Reliance Industries (RIL) units. It had previously picked up a 2.32% stake in the digital arm, Jio Platforms for Rs 11,367 crore.

For Reliance Retail, KKR is the second investor. US private equity firm Silver Lake Partners had earlier this month agreed to buy 1.75% stake in the venture for Rs 7,500 crore.

Reliance Retail Limited, a subsidiary of RRVL, operates India's largest, fastest-growing and most profitable retail business spanning supermarkets, consumer electronics chain stores, cash and carry wholesale business, fast-fashion outlets, and online grocery store JioMart. It operates almost 12,000 stores in nearly 7,000 towns.

Global Fintech Infrastructure Platform Nium partners with Aspiret

Aspire is going plastic-less with its first virtual Visa Corporate Card in collaboration with Nium

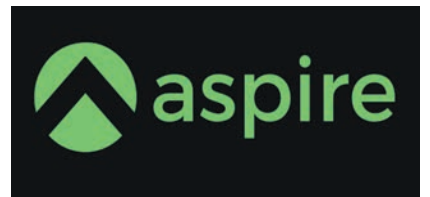
SINGAPORE (TIP): Singapore-based fintech startup Aspire, the first business neobank in Southeast Asia, in collaboration with Nium, a global financial technology platform, announces plans to go plastic-less through the issuance of virtual Visa corporate cards. The collaboration will also enable all cards under Aspire to be made available on Google Pay.

Nium's end-to-end issuing, processing and onboarding services allows Aspire's customers to have an additional option of completing their payments via Google Pay on Visa-accepted terminals. With its virtual corporate cards being made available on Google Pay, business owners can now go green and pay on point of sale (POS) devices, and online, without the need for a physical card.

Targeted at modern entrepreneurs, Aspire brings the fastest and simplest business banking experience to SMEs. The Aspire virtual corporate card is complimentary with Aspire Business Account. The account, that provides low and transparent FX fees, is fully integrated with accounting systems and custom spending limits so businesses can keep track of spending and stay on top of their accounts with real-time notifications.

Visa's and Google Pay's NFC feature provides Aspire customers with a seamless and convenient payment process with maximum security. Businesses can confirm Nium is a global financial technology platform redefining the way consumers and businesses send, spend and receive funds across borders.

The company is continuously innovating to provide the most relevant and agile solutions to meet the needs of consumers and businesses, having evolved from solely focusing on consumer remittance via InstaReM, to also providing fintech solutions for businesses. Nium is regulated in Australia, Canada, European Union, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, United Kingdom and the United States of America, and processes billions of dollars a year for banks and payments institutions, the next generation of e-commerce players, OTAs and retail users across the world. Nium's investors include Visa, BRI Ventures, Vertex Ventures, Vertex Growth, Fullerton Financial Holdings, GSR Ventures, Rocket Internet, Global Founders Capital, SBI Japan, FMO (Netherlands Development Finance Company), MDI Ventures, Beacon Venture Capital and Atinum Investment.



Shree Ganeshaya Namah



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Chirag Bejan Daruwalla with his father late Bejan Daruwalla

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

Weekly Horoscope September 28 - October 4, 2020

ARIES: Ganesha is pleased with your toils and labors but also reminds that life is not only about money. Relationships are at the forefront of the now trend that begins with the current phase of the moon. Romantic liaisons, intimate relations with your beloved / spouse, love affairs, engagements, weddings, strengthening bonds with your loved ones, be it your lover, your children, or even your extended family.

TAURUS: The deeper the well, the sweeter the water, says Ganesha as He advises you to go deep within yourself to find the answers that you are looking for. There is a great demand for your services / products and you make huge profits. You feel good about yourself and it also makes you more loving in your relationships. But, relationships with extended family, in-laws, even colleagues and peers could blow hot and cold.

GEMINI: The esoteric energies of last period dissipate (though not completely) as you enter the beginning of a hectic work phase. But Ganesha reassures you that though you will be quite busy, it will not be with just work. Expect to put on your party shoes even before you are out of your office. Work hard but play harder - this seems to be your motto this period as socializing, meeting friends, partying, entertaining at home, fun and frolic take up much of your time.

CANCER: You have built up a system of work that is both self-driven and self-sustaining. The hectic period of work in the recent past could have taken their toll and you now look for a much-needed change in your routine. Hobbies or spending quality time with children could be the breath of fresh air in your humdrum life. Nature walks, visits to art exhibitions and artistic places, music concerts help rejuvenate your spirit.

LEO: Ganesha is pleased with your dedication to work and personal relationships and rewards pour in. There are monetary gains and stronger bonds of love with those who matter to you. You could find yourself delving deeper into the issues of the higher self / dharma / karma / tantra and mantra in search of spiritual power and strength. Exploration of all kinds will be beneficial and it could give you mental peace and happiness.

VIRGO: Your journey within will see you divert your attention towards spending pleasurable moments and fun times with friends and close family members. There is little material progress now but it is a good time to set action plans for the attainment of goals which are close to your heart. Your energy levels may be low which could make you irritable and easily offended.

LIBRA: You begin this new phase with a load of responsibilities and duties. The fun-filled days of last period now morph into days and even nights of labor and hard, unrelenting work as you catch up with unfinished project and other official paperwork. There is no respite. A strained cash flow and interpersonal tensions could be the result of the overwhelming energies at play in this phase. Communications could go haywire leading to hurt feelings and even resentment.

SCORPIO: The full bag of responsibilities of the previous period continues to weigh you down but Ganesha now gives you the gift of accepting your situation gracefully and partaking of life to the fullest by being in the moment. Some could even explore a new way of life - a life of austerity and going back to the basics. You could be a person of extremes here - lead a life of utmost decadence or live like a saint.

SAGITTARIUS: Water seeks its own level. Thanks to all your experiments you have learnt many new things about yourself which may have surprised (even shocked) you. You are a whiz at money matters as you plan out strategies to help tide over this slack period. You comb your financial outgoings to see if you can make any savings through bargains and discounts. Sudden changes in your workplace could make you jittery.

CAPRICORN: The new period begins with the events of last period still fresh in your mind. Everything has turned out much better than you expected and you have a sigh of relief as you ponder over your financial matters. Contracts, commissions, collaborations are some of the Cs that you will deal with this period but it will have to be done with the big C - yes, I am referring to 'Commitment'.

AQUARIUS: Matters of the heart and hearth occupy you this period as your domestic responsibilities finally catch up with you. You now have to schedule in all neglected home matters and so are busy with repairs, renovations, constructions, additions to property, buying of assets, debts, rentals, leases, property loans, house / office / godown / warehouse / shops and such. Spouse, children, elders and even dependents and pets could require your soothing and calm presence.

PISCES: The Sun reminds you of the importance of strong and solid relationships in your life. Small and big victories at work give you satisfaction and the home environment is also harmonious. You are innovative and ingenious at work and win applause. You will gain professionally and personally. Some of you may have to deal with legal matters which could require you to travel. Ganesha counsels you.

Birthday Horoscope September 28 - October 4, 2020

SEPT 28: Ganesha says feeling warm, cozy, and maybe sensual, you may find it hard to leave the nest this morning, preferring to stay at home. Later when problems arise, that initial impulse might prove to have been wise.

SEPT 29: Mercury instigates you to be on the move, mobile, or diversifying. Whether that concerns children, your love life, friends, travel, self-expression, or pleasures, you'll need to multiply your options.

SEPT 30: This is not a year for confrontations in

connections with loved ones. Sensitivities - your and theirs - are prone to be high. Later, stability is gained by organizing your thinking along practical lines.

OCT 1: When it comes to work, health and other areas of your life, it will pay to keep your eyes and ears open for subtle developments that you can turn to your advantage in practical ways.

OCT 2: Allowing for differences of opinion can go far in helping to keep a friendship or relationship with a co-worker intact, as can maintaining good boundaries. A

friend's input can actually be very helpful.

OCT 3: You'll enjoy the safety, security, and reliability of primary relationships, whether with a friend, life partner, or child. There's pleasure to be gained from enjoying amusements that have a nostalgic feel.

OCT 4: Early prospects for doing something novel, fun or original can give way to feelings of being hemmed in or burdened, possibly by responsibilities. Leave yourself options or a way out.

MAHAMAYA – THE ILLUSORY POWER OF BRAHMAN

Ma means not and 'Ya' means that, "Not That" is Maya, the illusory power of Brahman, the cause of the creation. It is sat-Asat Vilakshana Anadi Bhavarupa Anirvachineeya Maya. It is neither Sat as Brahman not Asat as the horns of a rabbit because you sense the objects 'not Asat'. But, if Maya is "Not That", who is Mahamaya? Why do we worship her as a Devi or Goddess?

The Purusa Sukta (hymn 10.90 of the Rigveda) says that whatever that there was, is and will be, is Purusha alone. Various upani?adic texts declare that everything is Brahman. In Bhagavata Gita, Lord Krishna says, "Nothing is there other than Me."

Brahman has been described in the "Taittiriya Upanishad" II.1 as "satyam jnanam anantam brahma". This translates to:

Brahman is of the nature of truth, knowledge, and infinity.

Thus, Brahman's very reality secures the infinite positive qualities and states to have their existence. Brahman is everywhere, present everywhere, in the realm of materiality, penetrating the whole of reality as the essence that provides the structure, meaning and existence to everything, and yet, Brahman is the transcendent origin of all these things.

Vedic scriptures describe Brahman as nameless, formless, changeless, devoid of any action, eternal, all-pervasive, free from all contamination, pure consciousness, full of bliss, one, without a second.

But, when we actually look around, we get confused to hear all these things about Brahman. Humans have been experiencing so much diversity, forms, actions, etc around the world for ages. If Everything is Brahman, or if Brahman is only the truth, or if Brahman is absolute, why so many relative things around us?

Lord Krishna said in Bhagavat Gita, everyone is part of Him, (Krishna as a Brahman). If everyone is part of him why so much misery and sadness around the world? Why hatred and war? Krishna also spoke that he is the cause for all those, not just happiness but also for the sadness. Who causes all this if not him?

If nonduality is the only truth, why do all these differences exist? If I and you are but one, where does this sense of individuality come from?

Why there seem to exist everything but Brahman?

Those Jñanins and enlightened humans who are supposed to be self-realized and devoid of any sense of duality, won't they react if you smile? or won't they move when they know something is coming towards their direction to harm the physical body?

Mahamaya

Mahamaya is the one by whose virtue that eternal, changeless, uncontaminated by any thought or action, nameless, formless, ever-liberated Brahman appears as this phenomenal world. She is the reason



Like the heat of a fire, Maya is the Shakti of Brahman. Just as through its heat, the fire burns things, in a similar manner, through Maya does Brahman express and experience itself, in the form of this world. Mahamaya is the Primordial Cause of Creation

why that Brahman, desire-less, one without a second, desires to be many. She is the reason for the existence of all names and forms.

Millions of stars and galaxies are being created and destroyed every minute because of Maya. She is the reason why you are living on this tiny blue mass of dust revolving around a glowing sphere which itself is revolving around the center of a galaxy.

She is the reason for love and hate. She is the reason for pleasure and pain. She is the reason for fear and courage. She is the reason for 'me' and 'mine'. She is the reason why there seems to exist everything but Brahman.

Like the heat of a fire, Maya is the Shakti of Brahman. Just as through its heat, the fire burns things, in a similar manner, through Maya does Brahman express and experience itself, in the form of this world. Mahamaya is the Primordial Cause of Creation.

Maya and Brahman aren't separate

Maya and Brahman aren't separate. Can there be any heat without fire? And

what is fire without heat? Does that even make sense? As fire is characterized by heat, Brahman is characterized by Maya. Without Maya, there is no Brahman. Brahman is known through Maya alone. Without Maya, there would be no individuality. Who would know Brahman, then?

Who would be the knower, and what

would be to known?

Mahamaya puts Brahman into delusion. Through Her, Brahman manifests as this world. Through Her, It becomes an individual self and experiences Itself. Through Her, It realizes Its own true nature as Brahman and through Her, Brahman attains Moksha!

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Johnson & Johnson begins vaccine trial

Johnson & Johnson has begun dosing as many as 60,000 volunteers in a giant study of its vaccine. If enrollment goes as expected, the testing could yield results as soon as year-end, allowing the company to seek emergency authorization in early 2021, should it prove effective, Johnson & Johnson Chief Scientific Officer Paul Stoffels said Tuesday. J&J is the fourth vaccine maker to move its candidate into late-stage human studies in the US.

Vaccine pleas fill UN summit

If the United Nations was created from the ashes of World War II, what will be born from the global crisis of Covid-19.

Many world leaders at this week's virtual UN summit hope it will be a vaccine made available and affordable to all countries, rich and poor. But with the US, China and Russia opting out of a collaborative effort to develop and distribute a vaccine, and some rich nations striking deals with pharmaceutical companies to secure millions of potential doses, the UN pleas are plentiful but likely in vain.

"Are people to be left to die?" Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández, a Covid-19 survivor, said of the uncertain way forward.

Global Covid-19 cases cross 32.4 million; 987,813 deaths

The overall number of global coronavirus cases has crossed the 32.4 million mark, while the deaths have increased to more than 987,000.

As of Friday morning September 25, the total number of cases stood at 32,420,102 and the fatalities rose to 987,813.

The US is the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 6,976,215 and 202,762, respectively, according to the CSSE.

India comes in the second place in terms of cases. The other top 15 countries with the maximum amount of cases are Brazil (4,657,702), Russia (1,123,976), Colombia (790,823), Peru (782,695), Mexico (715,457), Spain (704,209), Argentina (678,266), South Africa (667,049), France (536,289), Chile (451,634), Iran (436,319), the UK (418,889), Bangladesh (355,384), Iraq (337,106) and Saudi Arabia (331,857), the CSSE figures showed.

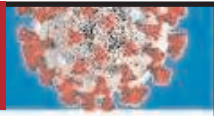
Brazil currently accounts for the second highest number of fatalities at 139,808.

The countries with a death toll above 10,000 are Mexico (75,439), the UK (41,991), Italy (35,781), Peru (31,870), France (31,524), Spain (31,118), Iran (25,015), Colombia (24,746), Russia (19,876), South Africa (16,283), Argentina (14,766), Chile (12,469), Ecuador (11,213) and Indonesia (10,105).

France limits public gatherings

France introduced new steps to fight

TRACKING THE VIRUS



GLOBAL

Cases	Deaths
32,420,102	987,813

INDIA

Cases	Deaths
5,816,103	92,317

the rapid resurgence of the coronavirus, including closing bars earlier in the evening and limiting public gatherings in Paris and several other cities. But the government isn't considering a new nationwide lockdown. The latest steps will force bars in Paris and other cities to close at 10 p.m. at latest, starting Monday, while gyms will be shut for at least two weeks. The government also reduced crowd-size limits for public events and added new restrictions on private gatherings beginning on Saturday, September 26.

Israel cabinet tightens coronavirus lockdown

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet decided on Thursday to tighten Israel's coronavirus lockdown after he voiced alarm that a surge in infections was pushing the nation to "the edge of the abyss", the YNet news site said. Israel went back into lockdown, its second during the pandemic, on Sept. 18. But

over the past week, the number of daily new cases has reached nearly 7,000 among a population of 9 million, severely straining the resources of some hospitals. Revised edicts that take effect on Friday allow fewer businesses to operate and impose further curbs on travel, YNet said, after cabinet discussions.

UK weighs exposing healthy people for vaccine

The U.K. government is considering carrying out the first studies that would deliberately expose healthy people to the coronavirus in a bid to accelerate the development of a vaccine. Such tests also raise ethical questions about exposing people to a potentially fatal virus, and whether some test subjects would receive a placebo for control purposes. A growing number of volunteers have signed up to take part in such studies should researchers decide to proceed, Bloomberg reported.

Chinese company says coronavirus vaccine will be ready by early 2021

BEIJING (TIP): A Chinese pharmaceutical company on Thursday, September 24, said the coronavirus vaccine it is developing should be ready by early 2021 for distribution worldwide, including the United States.

Yin Weidong, the CEO of SinoVac, vowed to apply to the US Food and Drug Administration to sell CoronaVac in the United States if it passes its third and final round of testing in humans. Yin said he personally has been given the experimental vaccine.

"At the very beginning, our strategy was designed for China and for Wuhan. Soon after that in June and July we adjusted our strategy, that is to face the world," Yin said, referring to the Chinese city where the virus first emerged.

"Our goal is to provide the vaccine to the world, including the US, EU and others," Yin said.

Stringent regulations in the US, European Union, Japan and Australia have historically blocked the sale of Chinese vaccines. But Yin said that could change.

SinoVac is developing one of China's top four vaccine candidates along with state-owned SinoPharm, which has two in development, and military-affiliated private firm CanSino.

More than 24,000 people are currently participating in clinical trials of CoronaVac in Brazil, Turkey, and Indonesia, with additional trials scheduled for Bangladesh and possibly Chile, Yin said.

SinoVac CEO says he personally has been given the experimental vaccine



A display shows packages of vaccine candidate for SARS-CoV-2 by Sinovac Biotech during a government-organized media tour showcasing the company's development of a coronavirus disease vaccine candidate in Beijing, on September 24, 2020.

SinoVac chose those countries because they all had serious outbreaks, large populations and limited research and development capacity, he said.

He spoke to reporters during a tour of a SinoVac plant south of Beijing. Built in a few months from scratch, the plant is designed to enable SinoVac to produce half a million vaccine doses a year. The bio-secure facility was already busy on Thursday filling tiny bottles with the vaccine and boxing them.

The company projects it will be able to produce a few hundred million doses of the vaccine by February or March of next year.

SinoVac is also starting to test small doses of CoronaVac on children in the three countries because of the high rate of infection among young people there.

Yin said the company would prioritize distribution of the vaccine to countries hosting human trials of CoronaVac.

While the vaccine has not yet passed the phase 3 clinical trials, a globally accepted

standard, SinoVac has already injected thousands of people in China under an emergency use provision.

Yin said he was one of the first to receive the experimental vaccine months ago along with researchers after phase one and two of human trials showed no serious adverse effects. He said that self-injecting showed his support for CoronaVac.

"This is kind of a tradition of our company," Yin said, adding that he had done the same with a hepatitis vaccine under development.

Earlier this year, China permitted "emergency use" of vaccine candidates for at-risk populations like border personnel and medical workers if companies could show "good safety and good antibodies" from tests of about 1,000 people, Yin said.

SinoVac received that approval in June along with SinoPharm and CanSino, and was able to provide tens of thousands of doses of CoronaVac to Beijing's municipal government, Yin said.

SinoVac employees qualified for emergency use of the vaccine because an outbreak inside the company would cripple its ability to develop a vaccine, he said.

About 90% of the company's staff have received it.

"We are confident that our research of the COVID-19 vaccines can meet the standards of the US and EU countries," Yin said. (Source: AP)

PACHMARHI: HEAR THE CASCADING WATERFALLS

Panchmarhi has a number of waterfalls and lakes. Known as the Queen of Satpuras, Panchmarhi is an enchanting place. It is always full of life and has a great cultural heritage. It is a place that dates back to the time of the Mahabharatas because legend has it that the Pandavas stayed in these hills. The waterfalls in Panchmarhi are among the prime tourist destinations of the place. These cascading falls falling in torrents from a height are a spectacle to watch.

The silver cascades of water falling down from sandstone rocks amidst the surrounding greenery make the waterfalls in Panchmarhi gracious. Geographically Panchmarhi is a collection of waterfalls. There are a number of Waterfalls in Panchmarhi in India, and the most well known among them is the "Bee Fall" or the Jamuna Prapat. Rajat Prapat or the big fall is ideal for those who want to have adventure. It is just 10 mins walk from the Apsara Vihar. The Duchess Falls or the Jalwataran has a steep fall and it takes 4kms to reach the base of the first cascade of the fall.

"Bee Fall" provides drinking water to Panchmarhi. The Bathing pools above the fall are frequented regularly and are popular. The fall gently cascades about 50 meters down the face of the rock and is shaded beautifully. In the nearby trees giant squirrels play on the branches and different types of birds provide soothing music. There are many Waterfalls in Panchmarhi but Bee Fall is the most accessible one. It is just 10 mins walk from Apsara Bihar.

There are many waterfalls in Panchmarhi that are lesser known. Clinging to the rounded sandstone structures these falls have an aura of their own. The Sunlight falling on Panchmarhi Waterfalls make for good visuals and you have a chance to trek as none of these are accessible by cars.

Rajat Waterfall

Rajat waterfall is one of the essential waterfalls in Pachmarhi and the 30th highest fall in India. With a height of 350 feet, the waterfall will surely amaze you with its natural beauty. As the waterfall is located quite close to Apsara Vihar, you will have to make an uphill journey to reach there. Most tourists love to trek to enter Rajat Prapat because the view offered in the passage is quite beautiful, and adventure seekers do not want to miss that. Apart from being a beautiful waterfall, the area surrounding the waterfall is perfect for having a nice picnic with your family. Do not forget to bring your camera to click gorgeous pictures of the waterfall.

Bee Waterfall

Bee waterfall is one of the most famous waterfalls located in Pachmarhi because of its intensity and the view of the area surrounding it. As the waterfall originates from perennial rivers, a pool is formed below the waterfall that is perfect for taking part in different water activities including swimming. The reason so many people love this fall is that the water available in the pool is quite clean. To reach the waterfall, you will have to climb down more than 400 steps though the route where the stairs are located is covered in the lush greenery of thick forests. You will fall in love with the ambiance of the area.

Duchess Waterfall

Duchess waterfall is located in the Bhrant Neer area of Pachmarhi that can be reached after undergoing a 4 km



uphill trek. The reason this waterfall is immensely popular among nature lovers is that the waterfall originates as one stream by getting bifurcated into three different streams. When you reach there, you will be stunned by the gorgeousness of the streams of the cascading water.

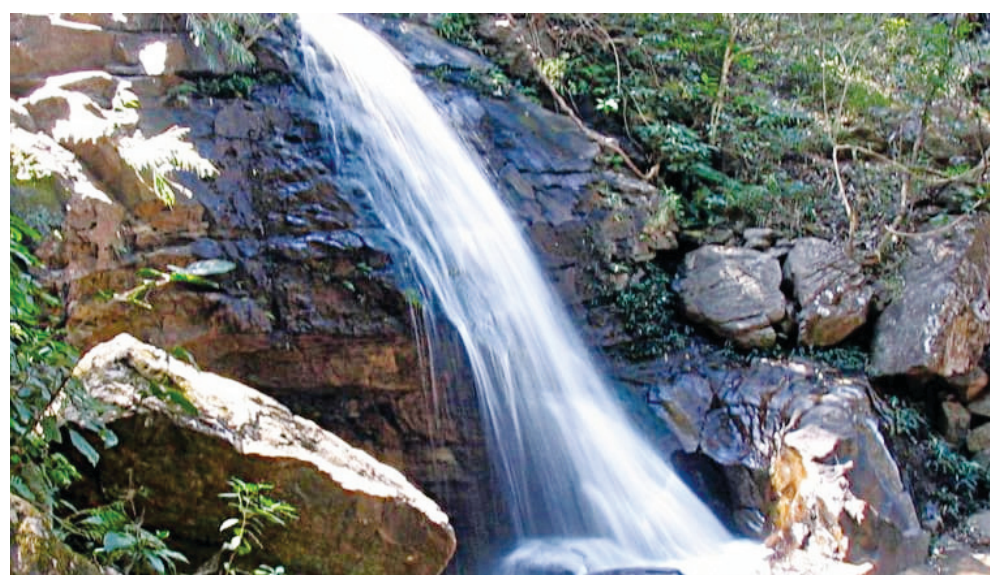
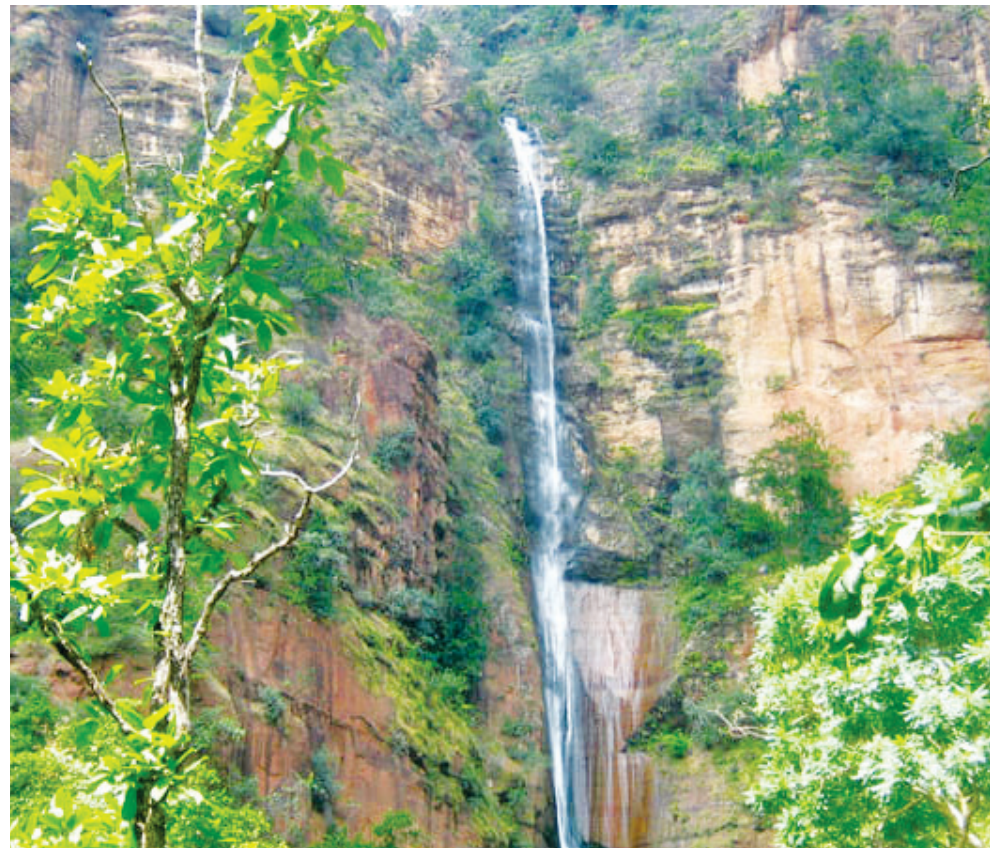
A considerable number of people do not visit the fall, so the surrounding area of the falls is quite clean and well-maintained. If you are a bird-lover, you will love this area as there are several different categories of birds living there in the forest. You must bring your binocular as well as your camera when you visit the falls.

Apsara Waterfall

Apsara waterfall is a hidden gem located in Pachmarhi. To reach there, you will have to hike approximately 3 km, and among the trail, you will have to do a steep climb of 1.5 km. The journey to reach the waterfall is not quite easy. Many tourists cannot go there due to the arduous journey to reach the falls. When you ultimately reach there, you will find all your tiredness to be washing out because the area where the fall is located is breathtakingly beautiful. The water of the fall is entirely fresh, and most tourists drink the water to replenish themselves. You will get to enjoy a break from the hustle and bustle of the city.

Pavas Prapat Waterfall

Pavas Prapat is commonly known as little falls in Pachmarhi because it is located quite close to the Rajat waterfalls. This tiny fall may not be immensely popular among tourists, but it serves a great picnic spot for all the tourists and the local people living out there. On the weekends, the area surrounding the falls stays quite crowded. Like other waterfalls in Pachmarhi, this one is also best enjoyed in the monsoon. Even though the waterfall is not that massive, it is quite beautiful.





Milos Raonic, Belinda Bencic pull out of French Open

Canada's Milos Raonic and Switzerland's Belinda Bencic have pulled out of the French Open, organizers said on Thursday, September 24, as they made the draw for the final Grand Slam of the year. Raonic, ranked 20th in the world, played the Italian Open last week and was eliminated in the second round.

Meanwhile, women's world No. 10 Bencic was knocked out in straight sets in her first match in Rome after getting a bye into the second round.

Bencic's withdrawal means only six of the top-10 ranked women's players will compete at Roland Garros, with defending champion Ash Barty, US Open champion Naomi Osaka and Bianca Andreescu skipping the tournament.

Spain's Fernando Verdasco was also a late withdrawal. The French Open, usually held in May-June but postponed this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, begins on Sunday.

Rahul smashes second IPL ton as KXIP beat RCB by 97 runs

DUBAI (TIP): K L Rahul smashed his second IPL hundred to lead Kings XI Punjab to a comprehensive 97-run win over Royal Challengers Bangalore on Thursday, September 24.

Rahul, who was dropped by RCB skipper Virat Kohli twice, slammed an unbeaten 132 off 69 balls, highest score by an Indian in IPL history, to fire KXIP to 206/3.

In response, RCB were never in the chase and were bundled out for 109 in 17 overs.

Brief Scores: KXIP 206/3 in 20 overs (KL Rahul 132 not out; Yuzvendra Chahal 1/25, Shivam Dube 2/33). RCB 109/10 in 17 overs (Sundar 30; Bishnoi 3/32, Ashwin 3/21).

Kohli fined Rs 12 lakh for slow over-rate

Royal Challengers Bangalore captain Virat Kohli has been fined Rs 12 lakh after his team maintained a slow over-rate during their Indian Premier League match against Kings XI Punjab.

"As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Virat Kohli was fined Rs 12 lakh," the IPL said in a release. The Indian batting mainstay had a forgettable outing at the Dubai International Stadium. While he dropped two catches of centurion KL Rahul, which proved to be costly, Kohli also could not contribute anything substantial with the willow.

Rohit stars in Mumbai Indians' 49-run win over KKR

ABU DHABI: Skipper Rohit Sharma's



effortless batting formed the cornerstone of Mumbai Indians' resounding 49-run win over Kolkata Knight Riders in an Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday, September 23. On a big Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Rohit pummelled the KKR bowlers into submission for a 54-ball 80 and powered Mumbai to an imposing 195/5.

The night belonged to Rohit, the great white-ball exponent, whose knock was laced with six sixes.

Then the Jasprit Bumrah-led Mumbai attack did most things right to restrict KKR to 146 for nine and end their winless streak in the UAE.

KKR were never on course for a comfortable chase as they lost openers Shubhman Gill (7) and Sunil Narine (9) cheaply to be in a spot of bother at 25 for two.

One-down skipper Dinesh Karthik (30 off 23) and Nitish Rana (24 off 18) tried to up the ante but they were still playing the catch-up game with 125 runs needed from the last 10 overs.

Kolkata were dealt a double blow in quick succession – first Karthik was trapped by Rahul Chahal (2/26) in front of the wicket and then Hardik Pandya grabbed a running catch on the fence to send back Rana.

Bumrah (2/32) in the 16th over sealed the game for Mumbai as he removed Andre Russell (11), who was bowled, and then forced Eoin Morgan (20) to edge to the wicket-keeper.

Pat Cummins (33 off 12) launched into Bumrah with four sixes in a very expensive 18th over, but it was too late for Kolkata, who failed to put up a contest. Bumrah went for 27 runs.

Dean Jones, ODI batting pioneer, dies at 59

Former Australia batting stalwart Dean Jones died in Mumbai on Thursday after suffering a cardiac arrest in his hotel room while on IPL commentary duty, leaving the cricket world in shock. Former Australia fast bowler Brett Lee, part of the commentary team, reportedly tried to resuscitate him but in vain.

Jones, 59, survived by wife and two daughters, is best remembered for his exploits, especially in India, as Australia's batting lynchpin to help revive the team under Allan Border in the 1980s after Dennis Lillee, Greg Chappell and Rodney Marsh retired together.

His aggressive approach against all kinds of bowling, sharp running between the wickets, and brilliance in the outfield, all influenced Australia's approach to playing ODI cricket. He set a bold template that was followed not just by Australia but also later South Africa and others.

But the ODI pioneer's most memorable exploit on the cricket field was a stupendous Test innings in Chennai embedded in the minds of every cricket fan of the era. The No.3 bat was only in his third Test when he scored the courageous 210 in the first Test in Chennai in 1986. He braved searing heat and Chennai's September humidity to produce an eight-and-a-half hour effort that left him vomiting pitchside due to dehydration, and later in hospital for a night with a saline drip.

The game ended in only the second tie in 109 years of Test history.

Steve Waugh, who played in the Test, wrote in his autobiography: "I'll never forget how, after more than eight hours at the crease, his physical appearance had changed. He was gaunt and pale in the face and had a vacant expression that suggested he was in serious trouble, his body bordering on completely shutting down."

Former Australia great Bob Simpson called it the greatest innings by an Australia batsman.

Jones's knock was pivotal in Australia going on to draw



the series and then return to claim its first World Cup in 1987.

Jones was also a crucial contributor as Australia won the 1989 Ashes series in England 4-0, their first away win for a decade there. Jones played 164 ODIs, scoring 6,068 runs at an average of 44.61 with seven centuries. Making his Test debut in 1984, he played 52 games, scoring 3,631 runs averaging 46.55. He hit 11 centuries with a highest of 216. His Test career lasted only eight years—he played his last in 1992 when only 31—while his ODI showing helped Australia

set a standard they held till around 2010.

Just like he did in ODIs, Jones brought his uniquely energetic style to TV commentary, especially in the subcontinent, and came to be known as "Professor Deano" after a show he hosted in which he broke down the game in teaching robes and a scholar hat, with a pointer stick in his hand. The show—perhaps low brow for purists but cherished by new-age fans of a fast changing sport—commanded its own following and sparked its own spin-offs.

It also marked a comeback of sorts for Jones, whose image as commentator took a hit in 2006 when he called South Africa batsman Hashim Amla, who sports a beard, a "terrorist" on air for Ten Sports during the Proteas' tour of Sri Lanka. Amla took a catch and Jones said the "terrorist has taken another wicket". Although it was a commercial break in Sri Lanka, viewers in South Africa heard the comment. He apologised, but was dropped from the TV panel for some time.

Dean Jones's coaching credentials were less widely known. He applied for the Indian coach's position and guided Islamabad United to the Pakistan Super League title in 2016 and 2018. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2006 for services to cricket and charity and was inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame in 2019.

Jones, who was introduced to the game by his father Barney, a legend in club cricket, was a stalwart for Victoria in the 1980s and 1990s, ending as the state's leading first-class run scorer.

A thumb fracture suffered facing Wasim Akram hastened the exit of Jones from Tests while his comments twice got him into trouble. In the 1993 Benson & Hedges Series final against West Indies, he demanded Curtly Ambrose remove the white wristband on his bowling hand saying it made spotting the white ball tough. An infuriated Ambrose captured five wickets to seal victory.

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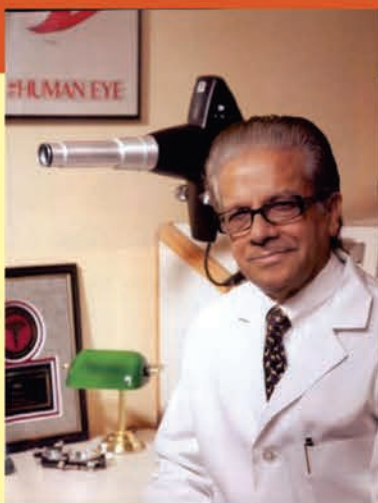
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