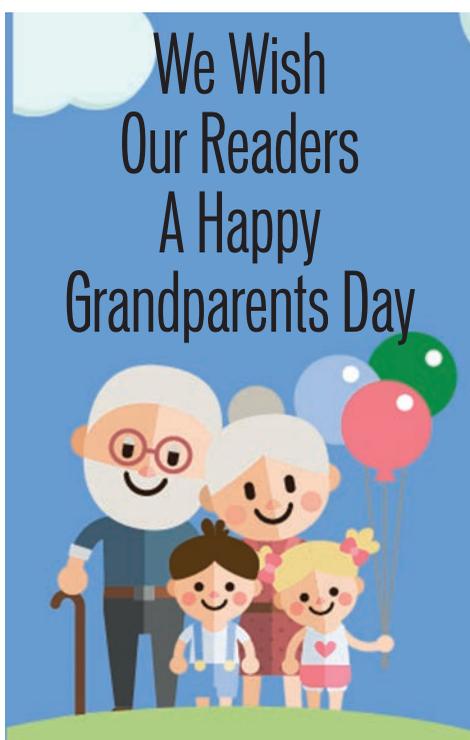




### KEEP SAFE

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

### KEEP AMERICA SAFE



### QUICK TAKES

- World Coronavirus update Page 06
- 75 Years of UN Page 10-11
- Remembering 9/11 Page 16-17

## Citigroup Puts a Woman in Line to be the C.E.O.



**@Citi**  
Jane Fraser has been named President of Citigroup. She is the first woman to head Citigroup.

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Citigroup became the first giant United States bank to definitively tee up a takeover of its leadership by a woman on Thursday, September 10, when it named Jane Fraser, a 15-year veteran of the firm, as its president.

The elevation of Ms. Fraser puts her in line to eventually succeed Michael Corbat as chief executive. "In many ways, Jane helped shape the company we are today," Mr. Corbat said in an email to employees announcing the change. *contd on page 2*

# Indian Army further strengthens dominance at strategic heights of Pangong lake area

## China has been holding on to Finger 4 to 8 on the north bank of lake

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Indian Army has further bolstered its dominance over a number of strategic heights overlooking key Chinese-held positions around Pangong lake area in eastern Ladakh even as brigade commanders and commanding officers of the two militaries held separate talks to cool tensions in the region, government sources have said.

They said additional reinforcements have been made in hilltops and strategic locations around Pangong lake to keep a hawk-eye vigil on Chinese-held position of Finger 4.

The mountainous spurs in the area are referred to as Finger. China has been holding onto Finger 4 to 8 on the north bank of Pangong lake, the sources said.

Also read: Jaishankar, Chinese counterpart Wang meet amid rising border tensions. *contd on Page 2*



Indian Army convoy moving towards Leh in Ladakh - Photo / Courtesy PTI

## Trump downplayed COVID risk to reduce panic, says Bob Woodward's new book 'Rage'

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** President Donald Trump has acknowledged downplaying the dangers of the deadly novel coronavirus as he did not want to create panic, according to a new book by a renowned U.S. investigative journalist.

The book, "Rage", by Bob Woodward is being described by the publisher as an "unprecedented" and "intimate tour de force" of new reporting on the Trump presidency that is facing a pandemic, economic disaster and racial unrest. It is scheduled to hit the stores on September 15, less than two months before the November 3 presidential elections.

Excerpts of the book and clippings of the interviews with Mr. Trump were released by Mr. Woodward to some media outlets on Wednesday, September 9.

"I wanted to, I wanted to always play it down," Mr. Trump told Mr. Woodward in



"I wanted to, I wanted to always play it down," Mr. Trump told Mr. Woodward in March, a recording of which was released by the veteran journalist to The Washington Post. "I still like playing it down, because I don't want to create a panic." - File photo

March, a recording of which was released by the veteran journalist to The Washington Post. "I still like playing it down, because I don't want to create a panic."

*contd on page 2*

## COVID-19 vaccine still possible this year: AstraZeneca

**LONDON (TIP):** Drugs giant AstraZeneca on Thursday, September 10 said a COVID-19 vaccine could still be



For representational purpose only

available by as early as the end of the year, despite a randomized clinical trial being paused.

"We could still have a vaccine by the end of this year, early next year," the U.K.-based company's chief executive Pascal Soriot said in comments at a media event.

AstraZeneca announced on Wednesday, Sept 9 it had "voluntarily paused" its trial of a drug developed alongside Oxford University after a U.K. volunteer developed an unexplained illness. *contd on Page 2*

## BJP unit registers under U.S. Foreign Agents Registration Act

### I.S. SALUJA

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The FARA requires "agents representing the interests of foreign powers in a political or quasi political capacity [to]disclose their relationship with the foreign government and information about related finances".

The BJP has become the first mainstream political party from India to have named itself as a

foreign principal of an organization in the United States, after the Overseas Friends of the BJP (OFBJP) registered under the 1938 Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) under the U.S. Department of Justice. The registration was done on August 27, 2020, according to the registration statement filed by the OFBJP.



Photo / Courtesyofbjp.org

*contd on Page 2*

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contd from page 1

## Indian Army further strengthens...

The Indian Army has occupied several key heights in the strategically located Rezang-La and Requin-La areas on the southern bank of the lake since the end of August.

The sources said the two armies held separate talks at brigade commander-level as well as between commanding officers in the general area of Chushul.

"The focus was to bring down the temperatures," said a source.

Tension escalated manifold in eastern Ladakh following fresh face-offs between Indian and Chinese troops in Mukhpari area of Rezang-La ridgeline on Monday evening.

The Indian Army on Tuesday said Chinese troops attempted to close in on an Indian position near the southern bank of Pangong lake in eastern Ladakh the previous evening and fired shots in the air, a first such instance of bullets being used along the LAC after a gap of 45 years.

The Army said this in a statement after the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) late on Monday night alleged that Indian troops crossed the LAC and "outrageously fired" warning shots near the Pangong lake.

The incident of Monday evening was considered serious as the previous instance of shots being fired at the de-facto border was in 1975. Provisions of an agreement of 1996 and another signed in 2005 mandate the two sides not to use firearms during any confrontation.

MEA Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava at a media briefing on Thursday reiterated India's position that it was committed to resolve the current situation through peaceful negotiation.

"Both India and China are in regular touch through diplomatic and military channels to resolve the situation. This was the consensus when the two Defense Ministers met," he said.

The border situation deteriorated again after China unsuccessfully attempted to occupy Indian territory in the southern bank of Pangong Lake on the intervening night of August 29 and 30.

India occupied a number of strategic heights on the southern bank of Pangong lake and strengthened its presence in Finger 2 and Finger 3 areas in the region to thwart any Chinese actions.

China has strongly objected to India's move. However, India has maintained that the heights are on its side of the LAC.

India has also rushed in additional troops and weapons to the sensitive region following China's transgression attempts.

Following China's fresh attempts to change the status quo in the southern bank of Pangong lake, India has further bolstered its military presence in the region. (Source: PTI)

## COVID-19 vaccine still possible...

An independent committee was drafted in to review safety but the company said it was a "routine action" designed to maintain the integrity of the trials.

"We will be guided by this committee as to when the trials could restart, so that we can continue our work at the earliest opportunity," Mr. Soriot said in a statement.

AstraZeneca's vaccine candidate is one of nine around the world currently in late-stage Phase 3 trials.

In the U.S., the company began enrolling 30,000 volunteers across dozens of sites on August 31, and smaller groups are being tested in Brazil and elsewhere in South America.

The vaccine, called AZD1222, uses a weakened version of a common cold-causing adenovirus engineered to code for the spike protein that the novel coronavirus uses to invade cells.

After vaccination, this protein is produced inside the human body, which primes the immune system to attack the coronavirus if the person is later infected.

The director of U.K. scientific research charity the Wellcome Trust, Jeremy Farrar, said there were often pauses in vaccine trials.

## Trump downplayed COVID risk to...

In another interview on February 7, the audio clip of which was posted by The Washington Post, Mr. Trump told the journalist that the coronavirus was deadlier than the flu and could be transmitted through the air.

"That's always tougher than the touch. You don't have to touch things. Right? But the air, you just breath the air and

that's how it's passed," he said. "It's also more deadly than even your strenuous flus."

As per the book, Mr. Trump insists to Mr. Woodward he would triumph over the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic calamity.

"Don't worry about it, Bob. OK?" Mr. Trump told the author in July. "Don't worry about it. We'll get to do another book. You'll find I was right."

The President on Wednesday defended his decision to downplay the dangers posed by the pathogen, refuting allegations that he lied to the people of the country.

"The fact is, I'm a cheerleader for this country, I love our country and I don't want people to be frightened," he said. "I don't want to create panic, as you say. And certainly, I'm not going to drive this country or the world into a frenzy."

**'TO SHOW CONFIDENCE'** : Mr. Trump underlined that the administration wanted to show confidence and strength as a nation amid the pandemic. "And that's what I've done. And we've done very well," Mr. Trump said. "We don't want to jump up and down and start shouting that we have a problem that is a tremendous problem - scare everybody."

Trump pointed out that the administration immediately started buying masks and other health equipment during the early stages of the outbreak. "And we don't want to cause pricing to go up to a level that becomes almost unaffordable," he said. (Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## Citigroup Puts a Woman in Line...

Ms. Fraser will also become chief executive of Citi's global consumer banking business, serving alongside Paco Ybarra, the head of Citi's institutional business. Granting her the title of president, however, was a clear sign that she was in line to take over for Mr. Corbat.

While Mr. Corbat, 59, is widely expected to remain in place for some time, Citi's announcement offered the latest hope that women are close to cracking the glass ceilings at the country's largest banks.

In April, when the heads of the seven largest banks testified before the House Financial Services Committee, not one raised his hand in response to a question about whose bank might have a woman as its next chief executive.

A week after the hearing, JPMorgan Chase's chief executive, Jamie Dimon, reshuffled the upper ranks of the bank's management to put two women in the running for the top job. But that announcement did not change the bank's immediate succession plan, which has the bank's two co-presidents, Daniel Pinto and Gordon Smith, as first in line to take over if Mr. Dimon suddenly departed. Very few women have made it to top roles at the world's largest companies. Only 27 of the 500 companies that make up the S&P 500 stock index have female chief executives, according to the advocacy group Catalyst.

Ms. Fraser led Citi's Latin America operations most recently. Before that, she ran its global private bank and its United States consumer, commercial and mortgage business. She is replacing Stephen Bird as head of Citi's global consumer business. Mr. Bird is leaving the firm.

## BJP unit registers under U.S...

The FARA requires "agents representing the interests of foreign powers in a political or quasi political capacity [to]disclose their relationship with the foreign government and information about related finances". BJP's foreign affairs cell chief Vijay Chauthaiwale confirmed that the registration had taken place. "The OFBJP registered itself under FARA voluntarily," he said. Mr. Chauthaiwale said while the BJP and OFBJP had no financial transactions, and "all of the meetings and activities arranged by the OFBJP have been on a volunteer basis", it was felt that it would be better to register under FARA and that the OFBJP had also consulted lawyers.

Under activities and services, the OFBJP says that it "primarily engages in support of the Principal (BJP) on its own initiative and receives no compensation for its efforts. Registrant does engage in regular communication with officials of the BJP and from time to time acts under the direction or at the request of BJP officials when planning events or distributing materials with the U.S.." Following the registration, the OFBJP will have to declare any meetings with U.S. legislators, organization of events and funding from U.S. groups. It will also not be possible for OFBJP members to use organizational help during the U.S. elections as it would then be seen as foreign interference.

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

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# 150 Big Businesses warn Mayor of 'Widespread Anxiety' Over N.Y.C.'s Future

**Leaders of companies like Goldman Sachs and JetBlue implored Mayor Bill de Blasio to take more decisive action to halt the city's decline**

**NEW YORK (TIP):** More than 150 powerful business leaders in New York City joined together on Thursday, September 10, to warn Mayor Bill de Blasio that he needed to take more decisive action to address crime and other quality-of-life issues that they said were jeopardizing the city's economic recovery.

Chief executives of companies like Goldman Sachs, Vornado Realty Trust and JetBlue sent a letter to the mayor portraying a bleak assessment of life in New York City during the pandemic and suggesting a vote of no confidence in the mayor's ability to correct it.

The letter asserted that there was "widespread anxiety over public safety, cleanliness and other quality of life issues that are contributing to deteriorating conditions in commercial districts and neighborhoods across the five boroughs."

And if the mayor did not address those issues, the business leaders warned that people who have left the city would be slow to return because of legitimate concerns over "security and the livability of our communities."

The letter, which was sent nearly six months after the outbreak forced New York City into a lockdown, represented something of a watershed moment in the fraught relationship between the business community and Mr. de Blasio, a progressive Democrat elected in 2013 who has long portrayed himself as a champion of the city's poor and working class.

Business leaders had largely refrained from criticizing the mayor and his administration as they fought the coronavirus outbreak. But schools are about to reopen, and companies are following suit: JPMorgan Chase wants some of its senior officials to return to the office starting Sept. 21.

And as that transition continued, the executives grew anxious about what they saw as the city's deterioration.

They acknowledged the city's success in containing the coronavirus but highlighted that "unprecedented numbers of New Yorkers are unemployed, facing homelessness, or otherwise at risk." They offered to help and advise the mayor on restoring essential services.

The letter might roil the debate over

President Trump's repeated claims that Democratic-run cities have been allowed to "deteriorate into lawless zones" following the George Floyd protests, and is likely to be cited in Republican messaging leading up to the November election.

The letter's political repercussions may also stretch to the 2021 mayoral race in New York; business leaders have yet to coalesce behind any of the current candidates.

Mr. de Blasio responded in a conciliatory tone, urging business leaders to work with him and arguing that the city needed federal funding and new borrowing capacity.

"We need these leaders to join the fight to move the city forward," the mayor said on Twitter. We're grateful for our business community and are partnering to rebuild a fairer, better city. Let's be clear: To restore city services and save jobs, we need long term borrowing and a federal stimulus - we need these leaders to join the fight to move the City forward.

- Mayor Bill de Blasio (@NYCMayor) September 10, 2020

The letter reflected a divide in how people perceive the effects of the outbreak, which has killed more than 20,000 city residents and left hundreds of thousands unemployed. While some New Yorkers have departed for the suburbs or to vacation homes, many who have remained have taken issue with the portrayals of a city abandoned and overrun by disorder.

Indeed, signs of normalcy have returned, from outdoor dining to socially distanced gatherings at parks. By the end of the month, in-person education at public schools and indoor dining will return. The main reason the city has been able to start reopening is that the infection rate has remained low, with only about 1 percent of virus tests coming back positive.

"We're grateful for the business community's input, and we'll continue partnering with them to rebuild a fairer, better city," Bill Neidhardt, a spokesman for Mr. de Blasio, said in a statement. "Let's be clear: We want to restore these services and save jobs, and the most direct way to do that is with long-term borrowing and a federal stimulus. We ask these leaders to join in this fight because the stakes couldn't be higher."

The de Blasio administration has had to make cuts to city services in an effort to close a two-year, \$9 billion budget gap. In the letter, the business leaders offered no specific solutions for how he might balance the budget.

Kathryn Wylde, the president of the Partnership for New York City, said in an interview that the letter had been in the works for about a month, as many of the executives' companies were preparing to have some workers return to the office.

"All these employers are committed to the city, they want to see economic recovery, but they're getting pushback from their employees about, will the city be safe, will the city be clean," Ms. Wylde said.

One leader who signed the letter, Scott Rechler, chief executive of RXR Realty, placed the blame squarely on Mr. de Blasio, who is in his second and final term.

"The problem right now is leadership," Mr. Rechler said in an interview. "We need a strong leader to address these problems, to encourage people to feel comfortable coming back to the city."

Another signatory to the letter, Douglas Durst, chairman of the Durst Organization, a major city landlord, said the city must close its budget deficit while maintaining city services.

"It's hard to bridge that gap, but I think that's why it would be helpful to bring in the private sector to figure out what's the best way to do it," Mr. Durst said in an interview.

Michael Gianaris, a Democratic state senator from Queens, said it was hypocritical for business leaders to call for better city services without helping to pay for them through higher taxes on the wealthy. "Where do they think this money comes from?" he said. "If these business leaders are calling for better sanitation, they must know that comes from money we don't have." Mr. de Blasio has often had a strained relationship with the business community and has repeatedly called for higher taxes on millionaires. Asked over the summer why he did not work more closely with business leaders, Mr. de Blasio quoted Karl Marx and disparaged the annual Davos gathering of global elites.

"We will work with the business community, but the city government



Mayor Bill de Blasio urged the city's business leaders to help in the effort to get more relief funds from Washington and new borrowing capacity from the state. - File photo

represents the people - represents working people - and mayors should not be too cozy with the business community," Mr. de Blasio said in a radio interview on WNYC.

Another leader who signed the letter, Barry M. Gosin, the chief executive of Newmark Knight Frank, a commercial real estate firm, said Mr. de Blasio needed to work with business leaders.

"The business community is not an enemy of the people," he said. "We are people. We are part of it."

The letter came two days after Mr. de Blasio, heeding concerns from Upper West Side residents, announced he would move hundreds of homeless people from a hotel in the upscale neighborhood.

That same day, his own sanitation commissioner, Kathryn Garcia, called his cuts to the department's budget "unconscionable" as she resigned. According to Ms. Garcia, the department has lost some 400 positions through attrition. In recent weeks, real estate executives and corporate leaders have expressed frustration at what they view as rising levels of dirt and disorder in city streets, particularly in Midtown Manhattan, where the absence of both tourists and office workers has left the streets eerily empty.

While state and city guidelines permit offices to be filled to half-capacity, most buildings are below 10 percent occupancy. Companies have for the most part not required workers to return, and few have.

But City Hall has not been receptive to the concerns, according to a person with direct knowledge of the discussions, because the de Blasio administration has been focused on reopening schools. (Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))



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## SEVEN INDIAN AMERICANS AMONG 2020 FORBES 400 BILLIONAIRES

The seven have a combined wealth of \$22.4 billion

**NEWYORK (TIP):** Seven Indian Americans with a combined wealth of \$22.4 billion have made it to the 2020 Forbes 400 list of the wealthiest Americans headed for the third year in a row by Jeff Bezos, CEO and founder of Amazon.

"Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, America's super-rich are doing better than ever," Forbes said noting that their aggregate wealth at \$3.2 trillion is up 8% from a year ago and a record in four decades.

A record 233 US billionaires did not make the cut this year, falling short of the \$2.1 billion minimum needed to make the list.

Bezos' fortune of \$179 billion, as of July 24, 2020, is up 57% from last year. He is followed by Microsoft's Bill Gates with a net worth of \$111 billion

President Donald Trump's ranking dropped to No. 352 from 275 in 2019, and his net worth dropped to \$2.5 billion from last year's \$3.1 billion, as the value of office buildings, hotels and resorts have taken a hit amid the pandemic.

Among Indian Americans, Jay Chaudhry, 61, CEO of cybersecurity firm ZScaler with a net worth of \$6.9 billion tops the list ranked 85.

Romesh Wadhvani, 73, chairman and CEO of Symphony Technology Group with a net worth of \$3.4 billion comes next ranked 238. He is the oldest Indian American on the list.

In the third place is Niraj Shah, the youngest of the lot at 46, with a net worth of \$2.8 billion. The cofounder and CEO of online home goods retailer Wayfair is ranked 299 overall.

Shah also made it to Forbes Impact 50 list of "Investors seeking profit - and pushing for change."

Vinod Khosla, 65, founder of Silicon Valley venture capital firm Khosla Ventures, comes next with a net worth of \$2.8 billion ranked 353.

The fifth spot among Indian Americans is shared by Aneel Bhusri, 54, CEO of business software firm Workday, Rakesh Gangwal, 67, of InterGlobe Aviation and Kavitar Ram Shriram, 63, an early Google backer, each with a net worth of \$2.3 billion. All three are ranked 359 overall

Jay Chaudhry founded ZScaler in 2008. He and his family own 45% of the Nasdaq-listed firm which went public in March 2018. Before ZScaler, Chaudhry founded four other tech companies that were all acquired: SecureIT, CoreHarbor, CipherTrust and AirDefense.

In 1996, Chaudhry and his wife, Jyoti, both quit their



The Forbes 400: The Definitive Ranking Of The Wealthiest Americans

jobs and put their life savings to start cybersecurity firm SecureIT, his first startup.

His hometown, a village in the Himalayas in India, did not have electricity or running water until he was in the 8th and 10th grade, respectively.

Chaudhry moved to the US in 1980 to attend graduate school and now lives in the Bay Area.

Romesh Wadhvani, whose Symphony Technology Group brings in \$2.5 billion in annual revenues, combined nine of his companies that were AI-focused into a new group called SymphonyAI in 2017, Forbes said.

After graduating from the Indian Institute of Technology, he went to Carnegie Mellon and received a Ph.D. in 1972 in electrical engineering.

The serial entrepreneur later founded Aspect Development, which i2 Technologies acquired for \$9.3 billion in stock in 1999.

He sits on the boards of the Kennedy Center and the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

He and his brother, Sunil, founded the Wadhvani Institute of Artificial Intelligence at the University of Mumbai in 2018, committing over \$30 million.

Niraj Shah started Wayfair in 2002 with Steve Conine, who is also a billionaire. The two met as high school students at a program at Cornell University.

Shah and Conine ended up living in the same dorm their freshman year at Cornell and became good friends. Wayfair, which now offers more than 18 million products, generated \$9.1 billion in net revenue in 2019, up 35% from the previous year. Shah joined the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston in 2017.

Vinod Khosla's venture capital firm, Khosla Ventures, invests in experimental technologies such as biomedicine and robotics.

Khosla cofounded computer hardware firm Sun Microsystems in 1982 with Andy Bechtolsheim, Bill Joy and Scott McNealy.

Khosla spent 18 years at venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers (now called Kleiner Perkins) before launching his own fund.

In June 2019, Khosla said he believes artificial intelligence could replace traditional industries such as radiology and music.

Aneel Bhusri is CEO of business software firm Workday, which he cofounded with Dave Duffield, the founder of PeopleSoft.

Bhusri started his career in the early 1990s at business software firm PeopleSoft, where he rose to become vice chairman.

He also works as an advisory partner at venture capital firm Greylock Partners; he's been on the Forbes Midas List six times since 2008.

He studied electrical engineering at Brown University and has an MBA from Stanford.

In May 2018, Bhusri joined the Giving Pledge, a commitment by the world's wealthiest people to dedicate the majority of their wealth to philanthropy.

Airline veteran Rakesh Gangwal made his fortune from InterGlobe Aviation, the parent outfit of budget airline IndiGo, India's largest by market share.

Gangwal started his airline career with United Airlines in 1984 and went on to run US Airways Group as its chief executive and chairman.

Gangwal cofounded IndiGo, headquartered outside Delhi, with pal Rahul Bhatia (also a billionaire) in 2006 with one aircraft.

The Miami resident owns close to 37% of the company and serves as a board member.

Gangwal and Bhatia had a bitter falling out in 2019 over corporate governance issues. Their dispute reached courts in London, Florida and Maryland, Forbes said.

An early Google backer, Kavitar Ram Shriram has sold of most of his stock but remains on the board of its parent company, Alphabet.

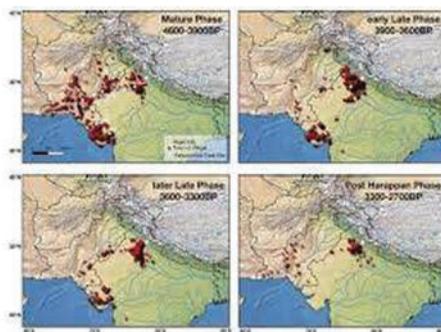
Born in India, Shriram studied math at the University of Madras. After moving to the US he joined Netscape in 1994 as an executive.

Later he became president of Jungle, an online comparison-shopping firm acquired by Amazon in 1998. Ram took on a vice president position at Amazon.

He left Amazon and since 2000 has been investing in technology startups through his firm, Sherpalo Ventures. His portfolio includes online invitation service Paperless Post, online HR service provider Gusto and mobile advertising company InMobi.

## Indian-Origin Scientist Analyzes Cause for Fall of Indus Valley Civilization

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Shifting monsoon patterns linked to climate change likely caused the rise and fall of the ancient Indus Valley civilization, according to a study by an Indian-origin scientist which analyzed data from North India covering the past 5,700 years. The analysis by Nishant Malik from Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in the United State used a new mathematical method to study ancient climate patterns in North India over time, providing insights about past climates using indirect observations.



Nishant Malik from Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in the United State used a new mathematical method to study ancient climate patterns in North India over time

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

## Indian-Origin Man in UAE Wins Over Rs 19 Crore in Jackpot

**DUBAI (TIP):** A 35-year-old Indian man in the UAE has won a whopping jackpot of 10 million dirhams (Rs 19.90 crore) in a raffle in Abu Dhabi, the latest addition to the long list of lucky winners from India, a media report said on Friday.

Gurpreet Singh, who is originally from Punjab and works in Sharjah as an IT manager, purchased the lucky ticket number 067757 on August 12, the Khaleej Times reported.

On September 3 when Mr. Singh received a call from the organizers of the raffle draw informing him that he was among the winners, he felt it was a prank call.



Gurpreet Singh who hails from Punjab in India has won a whopping jackpot of 10 million dirhams (Rs 19.90 crore) in a raffle in Abu Dhabi

"I was busy at work. I was surprised. You can imagine if someone calls in the afternoon and says You have won 10 million dirhams. (Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## Late Indian-American Astronaut Kalpana Chawla Honored

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** An American commercial cargo spacecraft bound for the International Space Station has been named after fallen NASA astronaut Kalpana Chawla, the first India-born woman to enter space, for her key contributions to human spaceflight.

Northrop Grumman, an American global aerospace and defense technology company, announced that its next Cygnus capsule will be named the "S.S. Kalpana Chawla", in memory of the mission specialist who died with her six crewmates aboard the space shuttle Columbia in 2003.

"Today we honor Kalpana Chawla, who made history at @NASA as the first female astronaut of Indian descent. Her contributions to human spaceflight have had a lasting impact," the company tweeted on Wednesday.

"Northrop Grumman is proud to name the NG-14 Cygnus spacecraft after former astronaut Kalpana Chawla. It is the company's tradition to name each Cygnus after an individual who has played a pivotal role in human spaceflight," the company said on its website.

"Kalpana Chawla was selected in honor of her prominent place in history as the first woman of Indian descent to go to space," it said.

"While Kalpana Chawla made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the space program, her legacy lives on through her fellow astronauts and those she has inspired to follow in her footsteps," it said.

"Her final research conducted onboard



*Northrop Grumman, an American global aerospace and defense technology company, announced that its next Cygnus capsule will be named the "S.S. Kalpana Chawla", in memory of the mission specialist who died with her six crewmates aboard the space shuttle Columbia in 2003*

Columbia helped us understand astronaut health and safety during spaceflight. Northrop Grumman is proud to celebrate the life of Kalpana Chawla and her dream of flying through the air and in space," it said.

The SS Kalpana Chawla capsule is scheduled to launch on the NG-14 mission atop a Northrop Grumman Antares rocket from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS) at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia on September 29. The spacecraft will arrive at and be attached to the space station two days later.

For the NG-14 mission, the Cygnus spacecraft will deliver approximately 3,629 kg of cargo to the space station.

Kalpana Chawla was born in Karnal, Haryana on March 17, 1962. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering from Punjab Engineering College in India in 1982.

She then moved to the United States to pursue her graduate education; in 1984

she received a Master's degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas, and a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from the University of Colorado in 1988.

She held commercial pilot's licenses for single and multi-engine airplanes, seaplanes and gliders, and was also a certified flight instructor.

Chawla began her career at NASA in 1988 as a powered-lift computational fluid dynamics researcher at the Ames Research Center in California. Her work concentrated on the simulation of complex air flows encountered by aircraft flying in "ground-effect."

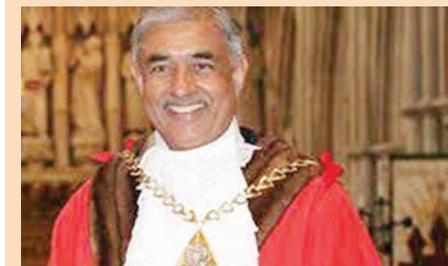
In 1993, Kalpana Chawla joined Overset Methods Inc. as vice president and a researcher in aerodynamics.

After becoming a naturalized US citizen in April 1991, Chawla applied for the NASA astronauts corps. She was selected in December 1994 and reported to the Johnson Space Center in Houston in 1995 as an astronaut candidate in Group 15. In November 1996, Chawla was assigned as a mission specialist on STS-87 aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia, becoming the first woman of Indian descent to fly in space.

Kalpana Chawla's second spaceflight experience came in 2001 when she was selected for the crew of STS-107. The flight was dedicated to science and research, with approximately 80 experiments completed.

Kalpana Chawla lost her life during the STS-107 mission when the Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrated upon reentering the Earth's atmosphere.

## Indian Origin Delhi-Born Sunil Chopra Elected as Deputy Mayor in UK



*Delhi born Sunil Chopra has been elected as the deputy mayor of London Borough of Southwark for the second time*

**LONDON (TIP):** An Indian-origin businessman in the UK has been elected as the deputy mayor of London Borough of Southwark for the second time.

Sunil Chopra was the mayor of the London Borough of Southwark in 2014-2015, and deputy mayor in 2013-2014, the first Indian-origin person to hold the prestigious office in the Borough.

New Delhi-born Chopra who was the general secretary of the Indian Overseas Congress, London, is the first and only Indian-origin elected councilor in London Borough of Southwark Council, which has only 2 per cent Indian-origin people.

He is living in London for the last 40 years and actively involved in local community works.

Commenting on his election, Chopra said on Wednesday "I feel really proud to be an Indian. It is not only a great honor for me and my family but for the whole Indian community. I will keep working with the community locally and internationally."

## Indian-Origin Professor's UK Firm Strikes Covid-19 Vaccine Pact with India

**LONDON (TIP):** An Indian-origin professor's Oxford-based company on Tuesday, September 8 announced that its Indian partner, the Serum Institute of India (SIIPL), has begun trials of a novel virus-like particle (VLP) vaccine targeting Covid-19 which has the potential to offer a ground breaking new approach to fighting the pandemic.



*Prof Sumi Biswas, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of SpyBiotech announced that its Indian partner, the Serum Institute of India (SIIPL), has begun trials of a novel virus-like particle (VLP) vaccine targeting Covid-19 which has the potential to offer a groundbreaking new approach to fighting the pandemic.*

Prof Sumi Biswas, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of SpyBiotech - an Oxford University spinoff company with a novel vaccine platform to target infectious diseases, cancer and chronic diseases, said the first subjects have been dosed in a Phase I/II trial. (Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## Indian American Bela Bajaria Promoted as VP Global TV

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Netflix has elevated Bela Bajaria, the Indian American media leader behind the widely popular shows like "Indian Matchmaking", "Sacred Games," and "Never Have I," as vice president for Global Television.

Making the announcement on Tuesday, Netflix co-CEO Ted Sarandos said, "Since joining Netflix in 2016, Bela has demonstrated her versatility and creativity - building out our unscripted team and helping to take our local language slate, which is increasingly important for our members, to the next level."

In her new position, Bajaria, 48, who had joined Netflix in 2016 as Vice President, Content Acquisition, will be taking over all the Netflix TV programming, including in English.

Before her promotion, Bajaria a former Miss India Universe, oversaw Netflix's original content for India and elsewhere in Asia and across Europe, the Middle East, Turkey, Africa, and Latin America, according to Netflix.

"Bajaria has been a rising star in the four years she has been with Netflix, spending the last year expanding the company's footprint outside of the US," wrote Variety

commenting on her elevation.

Bajaria, according to the entertainment magazine had explained just two months ago that "Netflix tends to swiftly shuffle its own organizational deck when it sees possible efficiencies."

"Her own trajectory, shifting from unscripted to international to head of all TV in the span of four years, is a record of that," it said.

"Positioning Bajaria as the leader of Netflix's TV operations both domestically and abroad makes sense," it said.

"She is a veteran of the traditional television industry, having spent a decade and a half at major broadcast network CBS, ultimately overseeing movies and miniseries, and leading cable programming for CBS' studio," media noted.

During her brief tenure at Universal TV studio, she brought shows like "Chicago Fire" and Mindy Kaling's "The Mindy Project," the first major show from a South Asian female creator and exec producer, it said.

"But the London-born South Asian American is also a citizen of the world," Variety said noting "her time as head of



*Netflix has elevated Bela Bajaria as vice president for Global Television.*

local-language originals has been a rigorous year of beefing up Netflix's global executive team and the platform's position in the streaming market."

The restructuring of the Netflix had "leapfrogged" Bajaria over Cindy Holland, said the Wall Street Journal describing the latter as "an architect of the streaming giant's original-content strategy."

Holland was instrumental in developing and greenlighting much of Netflix's original content, including shows such as "House of Cards," "Orange is the New Black" and "Stranger Things," it noted.

"The departure of Holland is a stark reminder of the culture at Netflix, where even the most senior and acclaimed executives are often let go if management decides there is someone better suited for their job waiting in the wings," the media said.

## Canada seeing more COVID-19 cases among younger people

There have been 1,31,495 cases of COVID-19 in Canada, including 9,143 deaths, with the trend of increased cases among younger people, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) said.

In terms of age, the trend of increased disease activity among younger individuals has continued for many weeks, with people under 40 years of age accounting for over 62 per cent of cases, said PHAC in a statement on Sunday, Xinhua news agency reported.

Among these, males and females aged 20 to 29 years continue to have the highest incidence rates, with 10.7 and 11.4 cases reported per 100,000 people, respectively. Incidence rates for males and females aged 30 to 39 years of age are next highest with 8.4 and 8.0 cases reported per 100,000 people.

The coronavirus outbreak settings included food, drink and retail venues that tend to draw in this younger age demographic.

PHAC also said labs across Canada tested an average of almost 46,000 people daily over the past week, with 0.9 per cent testing positive.

Early Sunday, Ontario province confirmed 158 new cases of COVID-19, with the majority of infections reported within the Greater Toronto Area, according to CTV.

Out of the 158 new cases, 79 are within the age group between 20 and 39, with 29 under the age of 20; 30 between 40 and 59 years old; and 12 between 60 and 79 years old. There are only eight over the age of 80.



## British company launches 20-second COVID-19 test

British start-up company iAbra said it had developed a 20-second saliva COVID-19 test which had 99.8% sensitivity and 96.7% specificity.

Trials of the "Virolens" test have taken place at Heathrow Airport, the company, which was founded in 2010, said.

"Our system allows simple, high speed, reliable and low-cost testing in dynamic environments," Greg Compton, CEO of iAbra, added in a statement.

# Global Covid-19 cases top 28 million, 908,017 deaths

The overall number of global coronavirus cases has topped the 28 million mark, while the deaths have increased to over 908,000, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

As of Friday (Sept 11) morning, the total number of cases stood at 28,054,396 and the fatalities rose to 908,017, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed in its latest update.

The US accounted for the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 6,395,904 and 191,753 respectively, according to the CSSE.

India is currently in the second place in terms of cases at 4,465,863, while the country's death toll stood at 76,271.

In terms of cases, Brazil ranks third (4,238,446), and is followed by Russia (1,042,836), Peru (702,776), Colombia (686,851), Mexico (652,364), South Africa (644,438), Spain (554,143), Argentina (524,198), Chile (428,669), Iran (395,488),

France (392,243), the UK (360,534), Bangladesh (332,970), Saudi Arabia (323,720), Pakistan (299,949), Turkey (286,455), Italy (283,180), Iraq (278,418), Germany (258,149), Philippines (248,947), Indonesia (207,203), Ukraine (149,146), Israel (145,526), Canada (136,956), Bolivia (124,205), Qatar (121,052), Ecuador (113,206), Kazakhstan (106,661), Dominican Republic (101,716) and Egypt (100,557), the CSSE figures showed.

The other countries with over 10,000 deaths are the Brazil (129,522), Mexico (69,649), the UK (41,697), Italy (35,587), France (30,819), Peru (30,236), Spain (29,699), Iran (22,798), Colombia (22,053), Russia (18,207), South Africa (15,265), Chile (11,781), Argentina (10,907) and Ecuador (10,749).

### China approves first nasal spray Covid-19 vaccine for trials: Report

China has approved for trials its first nasal spray vaccine to combat the novel coronavirus that has claimed over 904,000 lives and infected more than 27 million people globally, official media here reported on Thursday.

China's only nasal spray vaccine against the coronavirus is expected to start phase I clinical trials in November, and it is recruiting 100 volunteers.

It is the only vaccine of its type approved by China's National Medical Products Administration, the state-run Global Times reported.

The vaccine is a collaborative mission between Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland that involves researchers from the University of Hong Kong, Xiamen University, and Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy.

Microbiologist from the University of Hong Kong, Yuen Kwok-yung, said the vaccine stimulates the natural infection pathway of respiratory viruses to activate the immune response.

The nasal spray vaccination could generate double protection for vaccine recipients - influenza and the novel coronavirus - if it also contains influenza viruses including H1N1, H3N2 and B, Yuen said, adding that it would take at least another year to finish the three clinical trials.

A Beijing-based immunologist told the

## TRACKING THE VIRUS



### GLOBAL

Cases	Deaths
<b>28,054,396</b>	<b>908,017</b>

### INDIA

Cases	Deaths
<b>45,62,414</b>	<b>76,271</b>



daily that compared with injections, a nasal spray vaccination is easier to administer and would also be easy to mass-produce and distribute as it adopts the mature influenza vaccine production technology.

The nasal spray vaccine uses live attenuated influenza vaccine; the other four technical routes China is using to develop the coronavirus vaccines are inactivated vaccines, adenoviral vector-based vaccines, and DNA and mRNA vaccines. The inactivated vaccine is estimated to be the earliest to be in the market, the report said.

The immunologist said the new vaccine may not cause systemic side effects, but side effects may occur in the respiratory system such as asthma and shortness of breath.

Ideally, scientists do not expect side effects except for minor nasal obstruction or rhinorrhea, Yuen said.

### Brazil still mulling whether to join COVAX vaccine allocation plan

Brazil, with the third worst outbreak of novel coronavirus, is still studying whether to join the COVAX Facility, a global Covid-19 vaccine allocation plan co-led by the World Health Organization (WHO), the acting health minister said on Thursday.

Eduardo Pazuello said the decision was still under consideration, speaking by videoconference at a meeting of ACT, the global alliance to accelerate development, production and equitable access to Covid-19 tests, treatments and vaccines.

"If we opt for membership, Brazil could be the biggest contributor," Pazuello, an active duty Army general, said.

Brazil's was making available its "robust vaccine production capacity" and its experience with universal access

to health services and vaccination of the entire population, he said.

The decision on joining COVAX is up to President Jair Bolsonaro. The deadline is Sept. 18.

One part of ACT, short for Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A), is the COVAX Facility that aims to help buy and fairly distribute vaccine shots when they become available.

More than 70 nations have so far committed to joining, agreeing to procure Covid-19 vaccines through COVAX for their populations. The United States said last week that it would not join because the Trump administration objects to WHO involvement.

COVAX's aim is to procure and deliver 2 billion doses of approved vaccines by the end of 2021. It has nine Covid-19 vaccine candidates in its portfolio that employ a range of different technologies and scientific approaches.

Brazil has registered more than 4.2 million novel coronavirus cases, the worst outbreak after the United States and India. The death toll stands at 129,522.

### US will end current health screening of some travelers

The United States plans to end enhanced health screening of travelers from certain countries next week, and those visitors will no longer be funneled through 15 large U.S. airports.

Those requirements were imposed in February to prevent the spread of Covid-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the government will remove those edicts beginning Monday.

The CDC said the current screening, which includes temperature checks and travelers vouching for their health, "has limited effectiveness" because some infected people show no symptoms.

# Indian Overseas Congress, USA writes to US lawmakers to investigate Facebook's meddling in Indian elections



The photograph shows Facebook India Policy Chief Ankhi Das in a meeting with CEO Mark Zuckerberg. (Photo | Facebook - Ankhi Das)

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The Indian Overseas Congress, USA has written to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the members of the members of the India Caucus to investigate Facebook's meddling in the Indian electoral politics in favor of BJP, a Hindu nationalist party currently in power. The letter expresses serious concern over Facebook's election-year interference, content bias, and the selective suppression of Indian citizens' free expression.

The letter was triggered by a report in the Wallstreet Journal that detailed how Ankhi Das, a top executive in charge of the content, instructed her colleagues and said, "punishing violations by politicians from @narendramodi party would damage the company's business prospects in the country".

"India is the largest market for FACEBOOK and FACEBOOK owned

WhatsApp in terms of the number of users, and therefore these companies have a huge responsibility in managing the content without religious bias and bigotry. However, FACEBOOK and WhatsApp have chosen the side of those that incite violence and encourage instability that has led to the destruction of lives and property" the letter further added.

The letter went on to say that "We recognize that India is an important partner in the region for the United States strategically and economically. But the actions of FACEBOOK and WhatsApp are undermining the democratic institutions and threatening the religious minorities. Under the Modi Administration, freedom of expression is being suppressed, media is being muzzled, judicial independence is being destroyed, and religious freedom is under attack, and the behavior of FACEBOOK is a prime example of

influential businesses becoming enablers of such actions. This is a matter of great concern to the Indian Diaspora in the United States".

The organization is actively seeking a congressional investigation into the abuses by Facebook and has formally requested that " we respectfully request you to hold Congressional hearings on FACEBOOK's efforts which undermine the values of liberal democracies in countries like India, drastically altering its political discourse like it has in the US and elsewhere."

**Ref:**

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## South Asians for Biden Condemns President Trump for Concealing the Severity of the COVID-19 Pandemic



**NEW YORK (TIP):** South Asians for Biden condemned President Trump for concealing the gravity of the COVID-19 pandemic in recently revealed conversations published by the Washington Post.

"South Asians for Biden is devastated by the recent news that President Trump was fully aware of the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in the earliest stages of the crisis, but failed to warn the public of the threat," said Neha Dewan, National Director of South Asians for Biden. "The pandemic has had an especially catastrophic impact on communities of color, including South Asians, who are serving as essential and frontline workers through this crisis. With the current death toll from the pandemic nearing the grim milestone of 200,000 people, knowing that President Trump could have acted to save lives makes his actions unforgivable," added Dewan.

On tapes produced by venerated journalist Bob Woodward, President Trump privately acknowledged the severity of COVID-19 as early as February 7, 2020. On that day, Trump told Woodward that COVID-19 was "more deadly than even your strenuous flus" and that the virus "is deadly stuff."

The first shelter-in-place orders in the country were implemented on March 16, 2020 in California, while the federal government was supposedly determining its strategy to handle the virus. It is evident that the federal government had several weeks' time to prepare for the pandemic and take actions such as increasing testing, producing PPE, and implementing a contact tracing program. However, the government declined to take an active role in managing the virus, instead downplaying its severity as acknowledged by President Trump.

On March 19, 2020, Trump admitted to tamping down on concerns regarding the pandemic. "I wanted to always play it down," Trump told Woodward. "I still like playing it down, because I don't want to create a panic," Trump added.

In addition to the South Asian community in America, the pandemic has caused devastation in India, which now has the second highest case count behind America, and is struggling to cope with the economic effects of the virus. Economic indicators show that India's economy shrank by 24 percent.

"The fact that the highest levels of the United States government saw the coronavirus crisis coming and did nothing to stop it, even though an untold number of lives were on the line, should be on every voters' mind this November," said Deepa Sharma, National Communications Co-Chair of South Asians for Biden. "Vice President Joe Biden is the right person to lead America during this pandemic. He has not only successfully managed a response to the Ebola epidemic, but has also guided America out of an inherited economic recession," added Sharma.

## COVID-19 could fuel more conflict, poverty, starvation, says UN

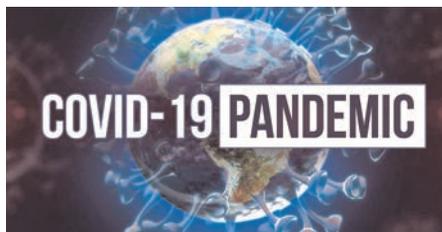
**26 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 and more than 860,000 deaths.**

**Roughly a third of the cases and fatalities are in countries affected by humanitarian or refugee crises, or those facing high levels of vulnerability.**

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Top UN officials have warned that the COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated discrimination and other human rights violations that can fuel conflict, and its indirect consequences are dwarfing the impact of the virus itself in the world's most fragile countries.

UN political chief Rosemary DiCarlo and UN humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock on Wednesday, September 9, painted a grim picture to the UN Security Council of the global impact of the pandemic that has blanketed the world, with over 26 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 and more than 860,000 deaths.

Mr. Lowcock warned the council that the indirect economic and health



effects from the crisis in fragile countries "will be higher poverty, lower life expectancy, more starvation, less education and more child death".

He said roughly a third of the cases and fatalities are in countries affected by humanitarian or refugee crises, or those facing high levels of vulnerability.

But the full extent isn't known because testing in these fragile

countries is very low and in some places many people are reluctant to seek help, perhaps fearing being quarantined or fearing they won't get useful medical treatment, he said.

"The better news is that it seems possible that the fatality rate from COVID-19 may be lower in these fragile countries than initially feared," he said, but the indirect impact is greater.

Ms. DiCarlo said Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' March 23 call for a global ceasefire to deliver life-saving aid during the pandemic had an encouraging initial response, with temporary truces announced from Colombia and Ukraine to the Philippines and Cameroon. (Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

AS I SEE IT

# Trump's Deliberate Coronavirus Deception



By Michelle Goldberg

There was the "Access Hollywood" tape, in which Donald Trump confessed to his proclivity for serial sexual assault. The fabled "pee tape," the existence of which would have been pornographic proof of Russiagate, haunted the first few years of the Trump presidency.

James Comey hoped there were recordings of what he described as Trump's mafia-like efforts to suborn him. ("Lordy, I hope there are tapes.") Michael Cohen released a tape in which the president assented to a scheme to buy the silence of a former Playboy model he allegedly slept with. Omarosa Manigault Newman had a tape in which she and two other Black Trump staffers worried about the existence of another tape, which she claimed had caught Trump using the vilest of racial slurs. The actor Tom Arnold had a whole cable series about his search, ultimately fruitless, for incriminating Trump tapes.

Trump recordings loom so large because they offer the prospect of breaking through his alternative reality, of nailing down this most slippery and mendacious of presidents, of showing everyone who he really is. But even those that materialize are often quickly forgotten, as Trump's approval rating stays low but stubbornly stable and one scandal is eclipsed by another. Our politics suffers no shortage of incontrovertible proof of Trump's venality. What it lacks is accountability.

It's possible, maybe even likely, that the famed journalist Bob Woodward's utterly damning tapes of Trump discussing the coronavirus will fall into this same nothing-matters cycle. But decent people with public platforms should try to make sure that doesn't happen.

It's not just that these tapes reveal the president lying about the pandemic that has ravaged America on his watch. What's shocking - even after more than three and a half numbing years - is the deliberate, willful nature of the lies. Unlike most Trump tapes, Woodward's actually tell us something new about the president, rather than just confirming what we think we already know.

## Bob Woodward's tapes tell us something new about how the president lies

**Trump supporters may not care that their president has knowingly endangered them, withholding potentially lifesaving information that he readily confided to an elite Washington journalist. But that doesn't change the importance of what Woodward has captured on tape. It's now clear that just because Trump is lying to us, that doesn't mean he's lying to himself.**

Because Trump is a prodigious consumer of propaganda, as well as a creator of it, it's not always clear how aware he is of spreading disinformation. People who've spent time with him often conclude that truth has no meaning for him. Woodward quoted Dan Coats, Trump's former director of national intelligence, saying: "To him, a lie is not a lie. It's just what he thinks. He doesn't know the difference between the truth and a lie." Trump creates for his supporters a carapace of malignant fantasy, but he often seems to live inside it with them.

Yet in recordings Woodward has released of Trump talking about the coronavirus - excerpts from interviews conducted for Woodward's new book, "Rage" - the president doesn't sound ignorant or deluded. Rather, he sounds uncommonly lucid. On Feb. 7, Trump described the virus as airborne and "more deadly than even your strenuous flus," adding, "this is 5 percent versus 1 percent, or less than 1 percent." It's not clear whether Trump thought that



President Trump at a coronavirus briefing at the White House- File photo

Covid-19 had a 5 percent case fatality rate - a number that seemed plausible in February - but he clearly knew that compared with the flu, it was several times more likely to kill.

And yet he told the country just the opposite. "The percentage for the flu is under 1 percent," Trump said on March 7. "But this could also be under 1 percent because many of the people that aren't that sick don't report." Despite knowing that the virus was airborne, he mocked mask-wearing and held several large indoor rallies. He told Woodward in March that "plenty of young people" were getting sick, but over the summer would insist that 99 percent of cases were "totally harmless" and that children are "almost immune."

We know now that this wasn't just Trump being buffoonish and engaging in magical thinking. It was conscious deception. Publicly, Trump kept insisting that the virus would disappear. Privately, he told Woodward: "I wanted to always play it down. I still like playing it down, because I don't want to create a panic."

Of course, Trump usually loves creating panic - about immigrants, about antifa, about low-income people invading the suburbs. But there is one place he wants to maintain tranquility - in the financial markets. "Just stay calm, it will go away," he said on March 10. "We want to protect our shipping industry, our cruise industry, cruise ships, we want to protect our airline industry." He added, "A lot of good things are going to happen. The consumer is ready."

And so Trump lied to the country about the calamity that would soon overtake it. His administration didn't

ramp up a national testing or contact-tracing program. He and his supporters pressured states to open up prematurely. A July Pew poll found that only 46 percent of Republicans and those who lean toward the Republican Party considered the coronavirus a major threat to public health, compared with 85 percent of Democrats and Democratic leaners. Trump could have made Republicans take the virus seriously. He chose not to.

Not long after attending the president's June rally in Tulsa, Okla., the former Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain died of Covid-19. In August, whoever is maintaining Cain's Twitter account tweeted, "It looks like the virus is not as deadly as the mainstream media first made it out to be." It was Trump who made such a cultish commitment to denying the lethality of Covid-19 into a sign of loyalty. And all the time, he knew better.

Trump supporters may not care that their president has knowingly endangered them, withholding potentially lifesaving information that he readily confided to an elite Washington journalist. But that doesn't change the importance of what Woodward has captured on tape. It's now clear that just because Trump is lying to us, that doesn't mean he's lying to himself.

Trump's lies sabotaged efforts to contain the coronavirus, almost certainly leading to many more deaths than it would have caused under a minimally competent and non-sociopathic leader. On Sept. 9, there were 1,176 coronavirus deaths in the United States. In Canada, there were two.

When someone's actions lead to the death of another, we evaluate that person's intent and state of mind in order to assign the right measure of blame. When a president's actions lead to the deaths of thousands, we should do the same.

*(Michelle Goldberg has been an Opinion columnist with New York Times since 2017. She is the author of several books about politics, religion and women's rights, and was part of a team that won a Pulitzer Prize for public service in 2018 for reporting on workplace sexual harassment issues. @michelleinbklyn)*

(Source: NY Times)



COMMENT

Prof I.S. Saluja

While there has been a lot of talk about Russian interference in Us elections in 2016, and of its recurrence in 2020 elections, of Chinese interference attempts, but there has not been yet a mention of Indian meddling in US elections 2020.

An obvious evidence of Indian meddling in US elections is Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi's

## Is India Meddling in US Elections 2020 ?

endorsement of Trump in 2020 presidential elections. At the Howdy Modi rally in Houston on September 22, 2019 where President Donald Trump, too, was present, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had in the presence of an estimated 50,000 Indian Americans, spiritedly shouted the slogan "Ab ki bar Trump Sarkar" which means next time, it will be a Trump government (administration).

The overseas arm of the BJP, OFBJP which has recently obtained registration under Foreign Agents Registration Act, and various other Hindu organizations owing allegiance to BJP and its affiliates, mostly the right wing fundamentalist Hindu groups, have been supportive of Trump, keeping in line with Modi's declared support for Trump.

While it is their fundamental right as citizens of Americato subscribe to any

political ideology and to support any candidate or party, but when it is done at the behest of a foreign government, it raises doubts of foreign meddling in US elections.

Well, it is for law enforcement in US to determine what is meddling, and what can be ignored as interference. The truth is, US elections 2020 interest too many countries in the world, for whatever diverse reasons.

# A case for down-to-earth governance



By Arun Maira

**“Around the world, electoral democracies have become infected by the disease of funding political parties and elections. Money is required to win elections legitimately, even when people are not bribed to vote, which is illegitimate. Communications with citizens, essential for democracy, can be very expensive. Advertisements have to be paid for as well as teams of professionals for managing social media. If one party raises a million to spend, and the other raises two million, the first must raise even more or its million would have been wasted were it to lose the election. Thus, the race to raise more money for legitimate electioneering purposes can corrupt the process of funding parties and elections. Solutions are not easy because the right to free speech, and to put one's money where one's mouth is, is a fundamental right that cannot be denied as the Supreme Court of the United States ruled.”**

Nine years ago, Anna Hazare ended his historic fast when the Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, informed him that Parliament had expressed support for proposed changes to anti-corruption legislation; "the 'sense of the House' was behind Anna Hazare's key demands". The historic bending of Parliament to the people's will was the result of a remarkable movement of citizens - rich, middle class, and poor - coming together to take politics back from politicians and to demand Parliament's accountability to citizens. Since then the nation's attention has moved on, from weaknesses in institutions of governance, to threats from China on the nation's borders and to global problems caused by COVID-19.

## Hazare's point

The single point demand of the Anna movement was the institution of the Jan Lokpal to try all government functionaries when accused of corruption; even the Prime Minister. Anna Hazare is a controversial person. However, one should not throw the baby out with the bathwater, and the thought he left while breaking his fast is worth

recalling. He said Lokpals and Lokayuktas would not eliminate the root causes of corruption in politics and government. Electoral reforms and decentralization of power were essential.

Parliamentarians of all parties were affronted by the claims of leaders of the Anna movement that they were the representatives of the people rather than the Parliamentarians. They taunted leaders like Arvind Kejriwal to prove it by winning elections. This spurred the formation of the Aam Aadmi Party. It joined the system which had to be reformed and had to play the game by the system's rules. This dismayed many and the movement for fundamental reforms of governance lost its steam.

## It is about money

Around the world, electoral democracies have become infected by the disease of funding political parties and elections. Money is required to win elections legitimately, even when people are not bribed to vote, which is illegitimate. Communications with citizens, essential for democracy, can be very expensive. Advertisements have to be paid for as well as teams of professionals for managing social media. If one party raises a million to spend, and the other raises two million, the first must raise even more or its million would have been wasted were it to lose the election. Thus, the race to raise more money for legitimate electioneering purposes can corrupt the process of funding parties and elections. Solutions are not easy because the right to free speech, and to put one's money where one's mouth is, is a fundamental right that cannot be denied as the Supreme Court of the United States ruled.

The debate continues about which is a better system. A presidential system, like the U.S. or the French one; or a parliamentary system, like the British one which India has adopted. Though the U.S. has a presidential system it cannot implement reforms to its flawed health-care system nor control the spread of dangerous weapons because party divisions within its democratically elected Congress and Senate seem to make it impossible. Debates within India's Parliament, in which all members have been elected by the world's most impressive election machinery, hardly inspire citizens' confidence in their representatives' ability to govern the country.

## Process and deliberations

The problem in electoral democracies is not only with the process by which representatives are elected, but also in the conduct of their deliberations when they come together. This problem is not due to the quality of the individuals - whether they are 'educated' or not or even whether they have criminal records or not. It is inherent in the design of the process for electing representatives.

The framers of the U.S. Constitution had worried about this problem. Representatives of the people must be chosen by smaller electorates within



*Strong local governance remains the unfinished agenda to make India's democracy strong and deep*

geographical constituencies. However, when they meet together in the national chamber, they are expected to govern the whole country. They must shed their local hats and put on a national hat to consider what will be best for the whole country. However, if the people who elected them find they are not protecting local interests, they will not be elected again. Constituency favoring leads to challenges for equitable solutions for sharing of river waters, and to railway stations where there are very few people, because representatives fight for the largest share of the pie for their constituency rather than the growth of the whole pie.

Electing good representatives to Assemblies is not enough to ensure good decisions will be made. Imagine 500 representatives in a chamber, each clamoring for his constituencies' interests. How will decisions be taken? As James Madison wrote in *The Federalist* paper No.55 (<https://bit.ly/3h7Pn9V>), "had every Athenian citizen been a Socrates, every Athenian assembly would still have been a mob."

## Inner democracy

Political parties in electoral democracies provide a solution to the problem of creating an alignment of views among representatives from hundreds of constituencies around the country. A party's point of view on fundamental matters can unite many. Therefore, all representatives need not be heard from in Parliament. One can speak for many. It is easier to form effective governments in electoral democracies when there are fewer parties. When there are too many parties and too many contradictory points of view to be accommodated within a coalition, governance can break down. Therefore, political parties are not evil. However, when political parties are not internally democratic, they become reviled as the means for self-aggrandizing politicians to amass power and wealth, and democratic nations suffer.

It has become very difficult in representative democracies, for reasons explained here, to arrive at good and fair decisions for the governance of a large state or country. It is tempting to

abandon political parties and parliaments and revert to direct forms of democracy where every decision can be put directly to all citizens to vote on. New Internet technologies make this possible. But, if all voters have not understood what is at stake, they cannot decide well, as Californians have learned over decades with their forms of direct democracy, and the U.K. has too with its hasty Brexit referendum.

Complex issues, where many interests collide, must be resolved by reason, not settled by the numbers. Hence there is no alternative to good local governance, wherein citizens manage their local affairs democratically. Locals know best how to balance the preservation of their water sources while making it easier for local enterprises to do business, and how to make their local schools and health facilities accessible to all citizens. One-size solutions devised by experts at the center cannot fit all: therefore, local systems solutions are essential to solve global systemic problems of environmental sustainability and inclusive growth.

## Citizens must solve issues

No doubt, electoral funding must be cleaned up, and democracy within political parties improved to make representative democracy work better. This will require big changes to entrenched systems, yet will not be sufficient for good, democratic governance. Citizens must appreciate that they have to be the source of solutions, and not become only the source of problems for governments and experts to solve for them.

Citizens must learn to listen to each other's perspectives in their villages and in their urban neighborhoods. Those with the most needs in the community must be enabled to participate, alongside the most endowed, in finding solutions for all. Since India's Independence 73 years ago when the power of government was transferred from a center in London to a center in Delhi, strong local governance remains the unfinished agenda to make India's democracy strong and deep.

*(The author is a former Member, Planning Commission and author of 'Redesigning the Aeroplane While Flying: Reforming Institutions')*

## India's engagement with the United Nations - past, present, future



By Asoke Mukerji

### Special article on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations

UN Member States agreed in June 2019 that the UN will mark its 75th anniversary with a one-day, high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on Monday, 21 September 2020 on the theme, 'The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism'



The United Nations Headquarters in New York - Photo / Courtesy UN

India was among 26 countries that participated in the January 1942 Conference of Allied Nations at the invitation of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt of the United States. The Conference issued a "Declaration by United Nations", which committed its signatories to the objective of creating what we today call the United Nations (UN).

The UN was conceptualized as a post-Second World War global governance structure, which would rest on three pillars: political, economic and human rights. The UN General Assembly (UNGA) would oversee the functioning of

the political pillar of the UN, entrusted under the Charter to the UN Security Council (UNSC), while its socio-economic work, including upholding fundamental human rights and freedoms, would be handled by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The intention of the countries creating the UN was to both "secure" and to "sustain" the peace that would come once the Second World War ended.

The first structures to "sustain" the peace were created in July 1944 when 44 countries participated in the UN Financial and Monetary Conference held at Bretton Woods in the United States.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) were established to coordinate a supportive role for monetary and development policies.

India played an active role in the negotiations at Bretton Woods. Sir C.D. Deshmukh and Sir R.K. Shanmukham Chetty, both of whom were to become Finance Ministers of independent India, were part of the Indian delegation. They are widely credited to have placed "poverty and development" into the mandate of the World Bank and secured for India permanent membership of the Executive Board of the IMF and World Bank because of her economic profile.

1947-1956.

Among the significant initiatives taken under India's Presidency of the ECOSOC for upholding fundamental human rights and freedoms, three stand out. The first was non-discrimination. In 1946, India successfully inscribed the need to abolish the discrimination based on color against Indians in South Africa, a UN member-state. This metamorphosed into the wider Anti-Apartheid Movement, which culminated with the successful multi-racial elections in South Africa in April 1994 and the election of President Nelson Mandela, who led South Africa's delegation to the UNGA in September 1994. The second was the outlawing of mass atrocity



The San Francisco Conference, 25 April - 26 June 1945: India Signs the United Nations Charter  
Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Supply Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council; Leader of the delegation from India, signing the UN Charter at a ceremony held at the Veterans' War Memorial Building on 26 June 1945. Sir V.T. Krishnamachari, standing behind him, also signed the Charter on behalf of India's Princely States. - Photo / Courtesy UN



India raises importance of Economic and Social Cooperation for UN, April 1945

Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Supply Member of the Governor General's Executive Council, Leader of the Delegation from India, addresses the Third Plenary Session. T. V. Soong (China), on stage, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Delegation of the Republic of China presiding the Third Plenary Session, 25 April 1945, San Francisco. - Photo / Courtesy UN

Between April and June 1945, India joined 49 other countries in negotiating the provisions of the San Francisco Treaty, known as the UN Charter. The leader of the Indian delegation Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar played a prominent role in chairing the discussions on economic and social issues to "sustain" the peace.

The San Francisco Treaty (the UN Charter) was signed on 26 June 1945. India became the first country to be elected President of the ECOSOC in 1946. Under India's presidency of the ECOSOC, several major initiatives were taken by the newly formed UN. These included the creation of regional UN bodies for coordinating socio-economic policies, such as the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). India was elected the first Executive Secretary of ESCAP from

crimes.

India joined Cuba and Panama to co-sponsor the 1946 UNGA resolution mandating the negotiation of the UN Genocide Convention in 1948. The third was gender equality. India's delegate Hansa Mehta, who became the first Vice Chancellor of MS University in Baroda, successfully replaced the words "all men" by "all human beings" to expand the scope of the first UN document on human rights (the Universal Declaration on Human Rights) in 1948. Article 1 of the UDHR reads: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights."

The principle of democracy in international relations, contained in the provision of one-country one-vote in Article 18 of the UN Charter, was given substance following the independence of

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Madame Pandit, First Woman President of the U.N. General Assembly, 1953

The eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly elected Madam Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, of India, as its first woman President. Madam Pandit is photographed here with U.N. Secretary - General Dag Hammarskjöld. - Photo / Courtesy UN

India in August 1947. Along with leaders of other newly independent former colonial countries, India spearheaded the unanimous adoption in December 1960 of the historic Decolonization Resolution in the UNGA, opening the doors for scores of newly independent countries to join the UNGA.

This resulted in a prominent Indian role in two platforms within the UNGA. The first was the political grouping of 24 member-states that created the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in September 1961. Today the NAM has 122 member-states in the UNGA. The second was the creation of the Group of 77 (G-77) developing countries in 1964, which turned the focus on accelerated development priorities as the focus of the UN and its ECOSOC. In turn, this led to the convergence of development issues with the growing concerns on environmental protection, which is today encapsulated in the ambitious UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development with its 17 Goals. The G-77 today has 134 out of the 193 member-states in the UNGA.

Eradication of poverty, articulated by India at Bretton Woods in 1944, is the over-arching Goal of Agenda 2030, which counts as a major achievement of the UN after 1945.

At the heart of India's current and future engagement with the UN is the objective of "reformed multilateralism". Essentially this means making the UN, its specialized agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO), and sister institutions like the IMF, World Bank and World Trade Organization (WTO) more responsive to the challenges facing mankind.

An anomaly in the UN Charter has allowed decision-making without democratic participation. This anomaly gives the five militarily dominant powers of June 1945 (the Republic of China, France, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union) permanent non-elected membership (P5) in the UN Security Council, and the privilege of the "veto". The veto provision allows any of the P5 to oppose proposed UNSC decisions without giving any reason at all. This is an anachronism in 2020, and



Decolonization Resolution of UN General Assembly, 4 October 1960

Leading statesmen from all over the world are attending the UN General Assembly. The historic Decolonization Resolution was adopted unanimously by the Assembly.

Seen here, left to right, are: Gamal Abdel Nasser, President of the United Arab Republic; Dr. Sukarno, President of the Republic of Indonesia; Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India; Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, President of the Republic of Ghana; and Mr. Saeb Salaam, President of the Council of Ministers of Lebanon. - Photo / Courtesy UN



Security Council Holds First Summit-Level Meeting, 31 January 1992

At a time of momentous change, the first summit-level meeting of the United Nations Security Council was held on 31 January 1992. The meeting reaffirmed the central role of the Security Council in maintaining world peace and upholding the principle of collective security as envisioned in the United Nations Charter. Attending the meeting were 13 Heads of State and Government, as well as two Foreign Ministers, representing the members of the Security Council. Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of India, addressed members of the Council.

Photo / Courtesy UN



Prime Minister of India Addresses Summit on Sustainable Development, 25 September 2015

Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, addresses the United Nations summit for the adoption of Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development. - Photo / Courtesy UN

primarily responsible for the UNSC's ineffectiveness today in maintaining international peace and security,

Since June 1945, the world has undergone a "surge to democracy", illustrated by the membership of 193 member-states in the UNGA. As a British colony in June 1945, India had not been able to amend the UN Charter provision giving privileged powers to the P5. Those provisions had been agreed to before the San Francisco Conference by the United States, United Kingdom and Soviet Union at Yalta in February 1945. These privileges were extended to the Republic of China and France before the San Francisco Conference.

The key to reforming multilateralism lies in ensuring the equal and effective participation of member-states in decisions and policies that have a global impact. In the political sphere, this means reforming the UN Security Council to make it effective in "securing" the peace, by replacing its anti-democratic "veto" provision with majority voting using the one-country

one-vote principle of the UN Charter. In the socio-economic sphere, this means closer coordination to ensure that monetary, development and human rights policies can sustain development.

To be effective, the scope of reformed multilateralism will have to expand beyond the narrow inter-governmental provisions of the UN Charter. It must also take cognizance of the rapid emergence of a digital world order. By including relevant stakeholders in global issues, including businesses, academia and civil society, reformed multilateralism would be able to provide a coherent and sustainable global response to global challenges. The UN is already moving towards such a "multi-stakeholder" structure through the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. This process needs to be reflected across the board to make the UN "fit for purpose".

(The author is a former Indian diplomat and writer. He was Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations from April 2013 to December 2015)

## Over 750 students, staff in Tennessee test positive for COVID-19

The cases reported include 514 students and 242 staff.

**NASHVILLE (TIP):** Tennessee reported on Wednesday, September 9, that 756 students and staff have tested positive for the coronavirus at schools across the state, with more than half the districts reporting.

The Tennessee Department of Education said data on cases across all districts was supposed to be released Tuesday but was delayed because of technical difficulties.

Officials now hope to have full reporting from all districts by Sept. 22. The cases reported Wednesday include 514 students and 242 staff.

The state had initially waffled on whether it would release any data, with officials saying they were concerned about student privacy.

To address those concerns, schools with fewer than 50 students will not be included. Schools with fewer than five positive students or employees will be listed as having active cases but without specific numbers. (Source: PTI)

## Republicans' Stimulus Plan Fails in Senate



**WASHINGTON (TIP):** After months of struggling to overcome deep internal divisions over the scope of another relief package, Republicans put the pared-down bill forward knowing it was almost certainly going nowhere. It needed 60 votes to advance - and Democrats, who say the measure is far too skinny, were not inclined to oblige. Republicans held the vote largely because it allowed them to foist blame on Democrats for the lack of progress on a compromise stimulus bill. "They can tell American families they care more about politics than helping them," said Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky, the majority leader. "Senators who want to move forward will vote yes. They will vote to advance this process so they can shape it into a bipartisan product and make a law for the American people."

The 52-47 vote was mostly along party lines, with Democrats uniformly in opposition and one Republican, Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky, joining them in seeking to block the measure from advancing. (Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

# Historic announcement of Danny K Davis Multi Ethnic Community Center at Congressman Davis 79th Birthday fete

**CHICAGO, IL (TIP):** American MultiEthnic Coalition Inc. celebrated Congressman Danny K Davis's 79 Th Birthday on Sunday, September 6 at Downers Grove here.

Dr Vijay Prabhakar, (Indian American) President, American MultieEthnic Coalition Inc., (AMEC) announced that AMEC is opening the Danny K Davis Multi Ethnic Community Center in Bellwood, which will be the first Multiethnic Center representing 24 different ethnic communities of America.

U.S. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-6 District) said that this Danny K Davis Multi Ethnic Community Center, first of its kind will be will unifying force to represent all that Congressman Danny Davis stands for: Equality, Liberty & Integrity.

Martino Tangkar, (Indonesian American) Chairman 7 Th Congressional District's Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force (MEATF) said that this Danny K Davis Multiethnic Community Center will be a beacon of hope and lighthouse of service to all.

Congressman Danny Davis was welcomed with a traditional Aarti performed by Ms Dipti Shah, AMEC Seniors Citizen Coordinator and Shree Gurusamy, AMEC Social Services Coordinator.

Congressman Danny Davis was presented a Sandalwood garland jointly by Nagendra Sripada, AMEC Senior Chair along with MEATF Treasurer Jerome Athistham.

AMEC President Dr Vijay Prabhakar and MEATF Youth Chair Rani Yousefzai Crowned Congressman Danny Davis with a Nawab's Turban from Hyderabad.

IACA President Vinita Gulabani draped a specially woven American National Flag on Congressman Danny Davis.

Congressman Danny K Davis presented the MEATF Danny K Davis



Historic announcement of Danny K Davis Multiethnic Community Center at Congressman Davis 79th Birthday fete

Commemorative Birthday Award 2020 to Kishor Mehta, Chairman, Illinois Development Corporation, Naperville in recognition of his ten years of volunteer service to the Multiethnic Advisory Task Force.

MEATF Volunteer Service Award 2020 was presented to Niranjana Nathawani, CEO, Big Suchir Restaurant & Banquets in recognition of his service to the community for the past two decades.

U. S. Congressman Danny K Davis also presented the MEATF Covid19 Relief & Rescue Hero Award 2020 to Ms Santosh Kumar, Founder- Executive Director, Metropolitan Asian Family Services, Chicago in recognition of her outstanding service of providing daily hot meals, health care & home services to several hundred senior citizens of Chicagoland during the past six months.

U. S. Congressman Danny K Davis, speaking on the occasion talked about hunger, poverty and violence which are existing today and the need to fight and eradicate these on a war footing. Davis said that while they in Congress are striving to fight these challenges, there are hundreds

of volunteers like Mehta, Ms Kumar and Nathwani who are leading by example. Volunteerism is a special calling of those who want to make this world a better place to live in. Volunteers are loved in motion, he added.

Dr Rani Yousefzai, (Pakistani- Iranian American), Awards Jury Chair said Congressman Danny K Davis's 79 Th birthday is a historic milestone for all ethnic communities as AMEC kicked off the Danny K Davis Multi Ethnic Community Center which will be a center of Danny Davis' love in motion to all.

Several prominent Community leaders felicitated Congressman Davis and spoke on the occasion, Gerard Moorer, Tumia Rumero, Dr Sreenivas Reddy, Amar Upadyay, Acharya Rohit Joshi, Ravi Govindaraj, Dr Gladys Folorunsho, Fred Davis, Clayton Boyd, Chandrakant Modi MD, Hina Trivedi, Vijender Doma, Pradeep Kandimala, Zainab Tabassi Bibi, Shree Gurusamy, Dr Zenobia Sowell, Johnson Sukka and Jayanta Mukerjee among others.

For More Info contact: Ravi Govindaraj // 732 8817487

## Russian Intelligence Hackers are back, Microsoft warns

**Firms like Microsoft and Google because they sit atop global networks, have a front-seat view of suspicious activity.**

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The Russian military intelligence unit that attacked the Democratic National Committee four years ago is back with a series of new, more stealthy hacks aimed at campaign staff members, consultants and think tanks associated with both Democrats and Republicans.

That warning was issued on Thursday, September 10, by the Microsoft Corporation, in an assessment that is far more detailed than any yet made public by American intelligence agencies.

The findings come one day after a government whistle-blower claimed that officials at the White House and the Department of Homeland Security



suppressed intelligence concerning Russia's continuing interference because it "made the president look bad," and instructed government analysts to instead focus on interference by China and Iran.

Microsoft did find that Chinese and Iranian hackers have been active - but often not in the way President Trump and his aides have suggested.

Federal officials insisted that the Microsoft report was consistent with

their own warnings, which named Russia, China and Iran as three nations seeking to gather information from the campaigns, and perhaps try to influence the outcome. But the most recent assessment by the director of national intelligence, last month, also said China preferred that former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. win the 2020 election.

The Microsoft assessment may have complicated that finding because it found that Chinese hackers focused their attacks on the private email accounts of Mr. Biden's campaign staff members, along with a range of other prominent people in academia and the national security establishment, including groups like the Atlantic Council and the Stimson Center.

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

# Federal Court Rejects Trump's Order to Exclude Undocumented from Census

**A three-judge panel unanimously said President Trump lacked the authority to remove noncitizens from census counts used to allot House seats**

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** A federal court on Thursday, September 10, rejected President Trump's order to exclude unauthorized immigrants from population counts that will be used next year to reallocate seats in the House of Representatives, ruling that it was so obviously illegal that a lawsuit challenging the order need not go to a trial.

The court, a three-judge panel in Federal District Court in Manhattan, said Mr. Trump's proposal exceeded his authority under federal laws governing the census and reapportionment. The specially convened panel said there was no need to consider a second claim in the lawsuit that the president's order violated the Constitution's requirement to base apportionment of the House on "the whole number of persons in each state."

"The merits of the parties' dispute are not particularly close or complicated," the judges wrote in granting summary judgment to the plaintiffs, a view that was broadly shared by legal scholars. Two of the judges, Richard C. Wesley and Peter W. Hall, were named to the bench by President George W. Bush. The third, Jesse M. Furman, was nominated by President Barack Obama.

The case involved lawsuits brought by two sets of plaintiffs, one a group of state and local governments and the United States Conference of Mayors, and the second a coalition of advocacy groups and other nongovernmental organizations. The groups argued that Mr. Trump's order would cause some of them to lose representation in the House and would damage all of them by leading to a less accurate census.

Since the first census was taken in 1790, the number of seats each state holds in the House of Representatives has been based on counts of everyone living in the United States regardless of citizenship or legal status, except for slaves and "Indians not taxed" during the



nation's early years. Former slaves gained citizenship in 1866; all Native Americans did in 1924, although they were counted in regular censuses beginning in 1900.

Mr. Trump tried to scrap that process in July, telling the Commerce Department in a memorandum that the Census Bureau should produce two population counts - one the same as those taken every decade, and the other an estimate of the number of unauthorized immigrants living in each state.

Subtracting the immigrant population from census totals would have excluded millions of people from the population counts used for reapportionment, reducing the number of House seats allotted to states with large immigrant populations like California and Texas. Those seats would have been redistributed to states with few unauthorized immigrants - in particular, Alabama, which is projected to lose a House seat next year.

Excluding noncitizens from reapportionment totals has long been a cause among many Republicans, who traditionally have been seen as the political winners under such a change. Some recent estimates have suggested that Republican gains would be small.

Mr. Trump had cast his order as a blow to "a broader

left-wing effort to erode the rights of American citizens." Given the tiny chance that a court would find his order legal, some analysts concluded that he was making more of an election-year statement to his supporters than a serious effort to upend 230 years of political history.

Under federal law, the Census Bureau forwards preliminary population totals for each state to the secretary of commerce, who must deliver them to the president before the end of each census year. The president then forwards the totals to Congress for use in reapportionment.

The court said the president's order excluding unauthorized immigrants violated the law "in two clear respects." It said federal law required the production of a single set of state population totals, making two separate counts illegal. Beyond that, the judges wrote, Mr. Trump's memorandum "violates the statute governing reapportionment because, so long as they reside in the United States, illegal aliens qualify as 'persons' in a 'state' as Congress used those words."

It was not immediately clear how - or whether - the ruling would affect a second legal battle loosely tied to Mr. Trump's order: a fight over the administration's command last month to shave four weeks off the time reserved for the population count.

The White House had earlier agreed to delay the delivery of census totals to the president, legally required by Dec. 31, to April 2021 because of delays caused by the coronavirus pandemic. But the administration later reversed itself, ordering the count cut short so the original deadline could be met.

That move was widely seen as an attempt to ensure that Mr. Trump would still be able to control the census totals and noncitizen estimates sent to Congress for reapportionment, even if he lost his re-election bid. (Source: NY Times)

## Covid-19 is a life-threatening disease in people of all ages; Can be deadly for young adults, too, New Study finds

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Trump pushed the reopening of schools and universities ahead of a campaign trip to Michigan. "We want to see Big 10 football," he said at an afternoon news conference.

A new study warns the virus is 'a life-threatening disease in people of all ages.'

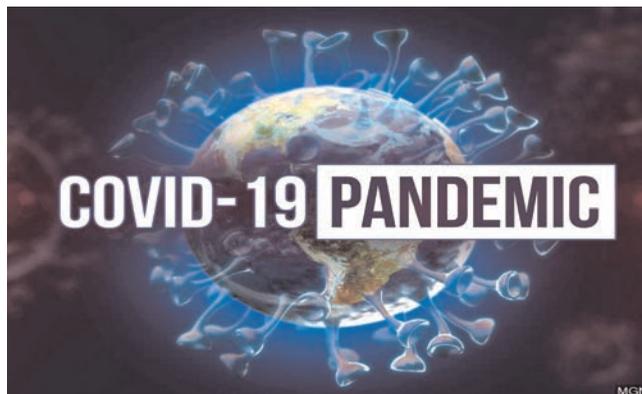
The coronavirus may be best known for the brutal toll it has taken on older adults, but a new study of hospital patients challenges the notion that young people are impervious.

The research letter from Harvard found that among 3,222 young adults hospitalized with Covid-19, 88 died - about 2.7 percent. One in five required intensive care, and one in 10 needed a ventilator to assist with breathing.

Among those who survived, 99 patients, or 3 percent, could not be sent home from the hospital and were transferred to facilities for ongoing care or rehabilitation.

The study "establishes that Covid-19 is a life-threatening disease in people of all ages," wrote Dr. Mitchell Katz, a deputy editor at JAMA Internal Medicine, in an accompanying editorial.

"Social distancing, facial coverings and other approaches to prevent transmission are as important in young adults as in older people," it said.



Nearly 60 percent of younger patients hospitalized with Covid-19 were men, and a similar percentage were Black or Hispanic. Men were more likely to need a ventilator than women, and more likely to die. Extreme obesity and hypertension were also linked to a greater risk of mechanical ventilation or death.

The study, which was peer reviewed and published in JAMA Internal Medicine on Wednesday, looked at young adults discharged from more than 400 hospitals in the United States between April 1 and June 30. Overall, just over one-third were obese, and one quarter extremely so. Roughly one in five had diabetes, and about one in seven had hypертensions.

The senior author of the research letter, Dr. Scott D. Solomon, a professor of medicine at Harvard, emphasized that despite the rise in coronavirus cases among young people, the proportion who become so sick that they require hospitalization remains low.

At the same time, he said, some will become seriously ill, and Black and Hispanic people are overrepresented among them.

"We talk a lot about how young people can transmit the disease to others who are more vulnerable, but we want to make the point that some young people - it's not a huge number compared to those getting infected - but a finite number are going to have serious consequences of this disease," Dr. Solomon said.

Those with chronic health problems are at greater risk, but some with no apparent vulnerabilities also become acutely ill, he said.

"There are factors that we don't understand that put people at risk with this disease," Dr. Solomon said. "They may be genetic, they may be environmental, they may be the other viruses we've been exposed to in our lives. There is a randomness there."

And researchers know very little about the long-term consequences for the young adults who recover "What are the effects they are going to have weeks, months, even years down the line?" Dr. Solomon asked.

## Many MPs may skip first Covid-hit Parliament session

With 200 out of 785 Members of Parliament above 65 years of age, and at least seven Union Ministers and two dozen lawmakers recovering from COVID-19, the coronavirus pandemic has cast a shadow over the much-awaited monsoon session of the Parliament.

As the Parliament reconvenes on September 14 with Covid safety measures, including compulsory face mask and social distancing in place, many senior lawmakers have expressed their concern about the huge gathering at a single place for 17 days. They have said that there could be as many as 2,000 people present in the complex at any given time.

It is officially learnt that as many as 97 out of 240 MPs of the Rajya Sabha are above the age of 65, and 20 above the age of 80 years including Dr Manmohan Singh, 87 and AK Antony, 82. The data uploaded on the official website of the Rajya Sabha on September 8 says the average age of the MPs is 63.3 years. In Lok Sabha, 130 MPs are above 65 years including 30 above 75 years; one MP is 90 years old. Interestingly, the average age of the citizens as per the 2011 census is 27.8 years.



## Rafale induction stern signal to adversaries, says Rajnath Singh

Terming the Rafale fighter a game changer for India's security, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the induction of the aircraft has sent a strong message to the world, especially to those who challenge the country's sovereignty.

Speaking at the formal induction ceremony for the first batch of five Rafales with No.17 Squadron at the Ambala Air Force Station on September 10, Rajnath said the induction was significant in the light of the present situation that has been created on the borders.

Reiterating the resolve to not compromise India's sovereignty under any circumstances, he said: "Strengthening our defence is aimed at achieving international peace and stability and we do not want to take any step that can endanger international peace. We have the same expectation from our neighbours and other countries of the world." Complimenting the IAF for its swift and decisive action during the current standoff in Ladakh, he said the speed with which the IAF deployed its assets at forward bases instilled confidence that it was fully prepared to carry out its operational tasks.

# India's Covid outbreak is now the world's fastest-growing

## CROWDED CITIES, LOCKDOWN FATIGUE AND A LACK OF CONTACT TRACING HAVE SPREAD THE CORONAVIRUS TO EVERY CORNER OF THE VAST COUNTRY

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** India now has the fastest-growing coronavirus caseload of any country in the world.

The coronavirus spread has been accelerating in the world's second-most populous country, with worrying trends emerging, particularly due to the persistently rising number of active cases.

Crowded cities, lockdown fatigue and a lack of contact tracing have spread Covid-19 to every corner of this country of 1.3 billion people.

At 96,551 on Friday (Sept 11) morning, this number inched towards the million mark — a level breached only by the United States that continues to lead in terms of total infections seen to date.

Earlier in the day, the global death toll crossed 900,000. Of this, 76,271 are in India, even though the country has logged a relatively lower case fatality rate (CFR) of 1.7% — the proportion of those who died among confirmed cases — compared to the global average of 3.2%.

"Everything right now is indicating toward a massive surge in the caseload in coming days," said Dr. Anant Bhan, a health researcher at Melaka Manipal Medical College in southern India. "What is more worrying is we are inching toward the No. 1 spot globally."

India's day-to-day increase is now substantially higher than that of either the United States or Brazil, which have reported between 40,000 to 50,000 new infections per day in recent days.

In the seven-day period between September 3 and September 10, India reported 90,195 new Covid-19 cases every day on average. Two months ago (for the week ending July 10), this number was 24,566 cases a day, and it was 58,742 daily



infections a month ago for the week ending August 10.

In contrast, even when the pandemic was at its peak in the United States (end of July), this number never crossed 70,000 cases a day. US is the worst-hit country in the world with over 6.5 million cases.

The national doubling rate — the number of days it takes for a given number of infections to double — has not improved in the last two weeks and has hovered around 32 days.

One of the key reasons for the continuously rising daily cases is that the pandemic has shown no signs of relenting even in the country's worst-hit regions. States such as Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka (at the 1st, 2nd and 4th spot with 990,795; 537,687; and 430,947 cases respectively) continue to drive the number of daily cases. A little under half (45%) of all

infections in India in the last week have come from just these three states. In fact, three out of every four infections in the country in the last week have come from 10 states.

Daily cases have also hit a new peak in the last two weeks in Delhi, which was one of the only major hot spot states to have brought the outbreak under control. The capital reported 4,308 new cases on Wednesday, albeit on the back of a record number of tests: 58,340.

Higher testing has also been one of the key reasons for this rapid rise in cases throughout the country. On average, the country has tested more than a million samples a day through the past two weeks, and this trend is continuously increasing.

Experts said that the larger focus of the governments, despite the rapid increase in cases, has to remain on keeping the mortality as low as possible.

## Kangana Ranaut-Sena row grows; governor summons CM Uddhav's advisor for report

**MUMBAI (TIP):** In a massive development in the Kangana Ranaut vs the Shiv Sena-controlled BMC spat, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari has expressed his displeasure over the handling of the issue by the Uddhav Thackeray government. According to sources, Koshiyari has summoned the Principal Advisor to CM, Ajoy Mehta, citing displeasure over BMC's action in the incident involving Kangana Ranaut. The Governor is expected to make a report and submit it to the Centre, sources added.

The Governor and CM Uddhav Thackeray have had a history of the difference of opinions over multiple issues, the latest one being the conduct of final years exams for students amid the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Shiv Sena-ruled BMC on Wednesday (Sept 9) pulled down "most of" the alleged illegal alterations at the Bandra office of Kangana Ranaut by the time the Bombay High Court ordered a stay on the process. According to a civic official, the demolition at Ranaut's Pali Hill office started around 11 am and continued for the next one-and-a-half hours, till the high court passed the order.

On Tuesday (Sept 8) morning, the BMC had issued a stop-work notice to the "ongoing renovation and finishing work" of Ranaut's office on Nargis Dutt Road. On Wednesday morning, the civic body posted another notice outside her bungalow, informing her about the action it would be taking.



Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut waves as she arrives at her office, where the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation conducted a demolition drive, at Pali Hill in Mumbai.

### Kangana hits back at Uddhav

Kangana tweeted some of the videos and photos of the demolition process. "I am never wrong and my enemies prove again and again this is why my Mumbai is POK now," Kangana tweeted, soon after the demolition work began. The Bombay High Court later stayed the demolition saying the civic body's conduct was "malafide" and "deplorable".



## Contempt plea against Rajdeep Sardesai for his tweets against SC

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking initiation of criminal contempt proceedings against India Today Consulting Editor and former Editors Guild of India chief Rajdeep Sardesai for allegedly scandalising the judiciary by his tweets against the court and its judges.

Petitioner Astha Khurana has also sent an application to Attorney General KK Venugopal seeking his consent for the initiation of contempt proceedings against Sardesai for allegedly disrespecting the Supreme Court.

Venugopal had last month urged the top court not to punish activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan. He had also refused sanction to initiate contempt against actor Swara Bhaskar over her alleged remarks on the Supreme Court's Ayodhya verdict, saying her comments did not amount to attack on the judiciary.

## India, Japan ink pact to bolster defence forces

India and Japan have signed a key agreement for reciprocal provision of supplies and services between their defence forces, which is expected to drive closer military cooperation and contribute to security in the Indo-Pacific.

The Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) between Japan's Self-Defense Forces and India's armed forces was signed by defence secretary Ajay Kumar and Japanese ambassador Satoshi Suzuki in New Delhi on Wednesday (Sept 9).

"The agreement establishes a framework such as the settlement procedures for the reciprocal provision of supplies and services between the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the Indian armed forces," said a statement from Japan's foreign ministry.

The agreement is expected to facilitate "smooth and prompt provision of supplies and services" between the two sides, promote closer cooperation between Japan's Self-Defense Forces and India's armed forces, and enable them to actively contribute to international peace and security, the statement said.

The external affairs ministry stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe, during a phone conversation on Thursday, welcomed the agreement and said it will "enhance the depth of defence cooperation...and contribute to peace and security in the Indo-Pacific".

# 4,442 cases pending against politicians, apex court says 'shocking'

## Of this, the number of cases against sitting MPs and MLAs is 2,556

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** A report submitted in the Supreme Court has said there are a total 4,442 cases pending against legislators across the country.

Of this, the number of cases against sitting Members of Parliament and members of State legislatures was 2,556. The cases were pending in various special courts exclusively set up to try criminal cases registered against politicians, it said.

The report was filed on Tuesday by the apex court's amicus curiae and senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, assisted by advocate Sneha Kalita, after collating information received from High Courts about the cases pending against legislators in courts within their jurisdiction.

### Advocate's petition

The apex court had sought the amicus report on the basis of a petition filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay highlighting the criminalization of politics.

The cases against the legislators include that of corruption, money laundering, damage to public property, defamation and cheating. A large number of cases were for violation of Section 188 IPC for willful disobedience and obstruction of orders promulgated by public servants.



"There are 413 cases in respect of offences, which are punishable with imprisonment for life, out of which in 174 cases sitting MPs/ MLAs are accused", the court said.

The trial of 352 cases had been stayed by High Courts and the apex court. A large number of cases were pending at the appearance stage and even non-bailable warrants (NBWs) issued by courts have not been executed.

"In large number of cases, even charges have not been framed, including those punishable with imprisonment for life", it said.

Cases were pending in special courts in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal.

As per the report, Uttar Pradesh tops

the chart. There are 1,217 pending cases against lawmakers, of which sitting legislators are accused in 446 such matters. In Bihar, there are 531 cases and out of this, in 256 cases, sitting legislators are accused.

The top court had passed the order directing that "in relation to sitting MPs and MLAs who have charges framed against them for the offences which are specified in Sections 8(1), 8(2) and 8(3) of the RP Act, the trial shall be concluded as speedily and expeditiously as may be possible and in no case later than one year from the date of the framing of charge(s)."

In such cases, as far as possible, the trial shall be conducted on a day-to-day basis, it said.

If for some extraordinary circumstances the court concerned is not able to conclude the trial within one year from the date of framing of charge, it would submit the report to the Chief Justice of the respective High Court indicating special reasons for not adhering to the time limit and delay in conclusion of the trial, it ordered.

In such situation, the Chief Justice of the High Court may issue appropriate directions to the court concerned extending the time for conclusion of the trial, the top court had ordered.

## NEP will sow seeds for starting a new era, give new direction to 21st-century India: Modi

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The New Education Policy will sow the seeds for starting a new era and give a new direction to the 21st-century India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said during a conclave on school education on Friday (Sept.11).

"Our work has just begun. The National Education Policy has to be implemented equally effectively," he said.

MyGov portal received more than 15 lakh suggestions from teachers on NEP implementation within a week of seeking their views, he added.

"The NEP focuses a lot on children, stresses on learning based on fun, discovery and activities. Engage, explore, experience, express and excel should be our mantra of new-age learning for children," the Prime Minister said.

A national curriculum framework will be developed and students should have a new curriculum in 2022 when nation marks 75th year of Independence, he said, adding that so far, marks and marksheets had dominated learning-based education in our country.

The Prime Minister said: "Marksheet became 'pressure sheet' for students and 'prestige sheet' for families. Hence, the goal of the NEP is to remove this pressure."

He also urged teachers to emphasise the need to follow coronavirus guidelines such as covering one's face, follow all social-distancing norms and maintain cleanliness.

Narendra Modi also laid emphasis on how there was no bar on learning or teaching any language in the NEP, be it English or any international language and asserted that Indian languages would be promoted as well.



## Rhea Chakraborty to stay in jail, bail denied in drugs case

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Actor Rhea Chakraborty has been denied bail after her arrest over drugs charges linked to the Sushant Singh Rajput case. The bail requests of her brother Showik Chakraborty and other accused have also been rejected by a court in Mumbai.



Rhea Chakraborty's earlier bail request was rejected by a magistrate who sent her to jail till September 22.

In her new request, she had retracted her confession and said she was "coerced into making self-incriminatory confessions". She said her life is at risk in judicial custody, that she had received rape and death threats and that three investigations had "taken a severe toll on her mental health and well-being".

Rhea Chakraborty's petition for bail said she had "not committed any crime whatsoever and has been falsely implicated in the case".

But the Narcotics Control Bureau argued that she had conscious knowledge of drugs use by her boyfriend Sushant Singh Rajput and "made herself part of this offence by procuring drugs."

During a court hearing on the actor's bail plea, the anti-drugs bureau alleged that Rhea Chakraborty used her credit card and payment gateways to facilitate financial transactions related to dealing of illicit drug trafficking. She also made "voluntary confession" about her involvement during questioning and it is admissible in the court of law, said the agency, countering Rhea Chakraborty's assertion that she had been "coerced into confessing".

# REMEMBERING 9/11 ON 19TH ANNIVERSARY

On September 11, 2020, America is observing the 19th anniversary of horrendous attack on the nation which resulted in 3,000 lives and property worth billions lost. More importantly, the attacks left a permanent scar on American psyche.

September 11 attacks, also called 9/11 attacks, series of airline hijackings and suicide attacks committed in 2001 by 19 militants associated with the Islamic extremist group al-Qaeda against targets in the United States, the deadliest terrorist attacks on American soil in U.S. history. The attacks against New York City and Washington, D.C., caused extensive death and destruction and triggered an enormous U.S. effort to combat terrorism. Some 2,750 people were killed in New York, 184 at the Pentagon, and 40 in Pennsylvania (where one of the hijacked planes crashed after the passengers attempted to retake the plane); all 19 terrorists died (see Researcher's Note: September 11 attacks). Police and fire departments in New York were especially hard-hit: hundreds had rushed to the scene of the attacks, and more than 400 police officers and firefighters were killed.

## The Plot

The September 11 attacks were precipitated in large part because Osama bin Laden, the leader of the militant Islamic organization al-Qaeda, held naive beliefs about the United States in the run-up to the attacks. Abu Walid al-Masri, an Egyptian who was a bin Laden associate in Afghanistan in the 1980s and '90s, explained that, in the years prior to the attacks, bin Laden became increasingly convinced that America was weak. "He believed that the United States was much weaker than some of those around him thought," Masri remembered, and "as evidence he referred to what happened to the United States in Beirut when the bombing of the Marines base led them to flee from Lebanon," referring to the destruction of the marine barracks there in 1983 (see 1983 Beirut barracks bombings), which killed 241 American servicemen. Bin Laden believed that the United States was a "paper tiger," a belief shaped not just by America's departure from Lebanon following the marine barracks bombing but also by the withdrawal of American forces from Somalia in 1993, following the deaths of 18 U.S. servicemen in Mogadishu, and the American pullout from Vietnam in the 1970s.

The key operational planner of the September 11 attacks was Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (often referred to simply as "KSM" in the later 9/11 Commission Report and in the media), who had spent his youth in Kuwait. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed became active in the Muslim Brotherhood, which he joined at age 16, and then he went to the United States to attend college, receiving a degree from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in 1986. Afterward he traveled to Pakistan and then Afghanistan to wage jihad against the Soviet Union, which had launched an invasion against Afghanistan in 1979.

According to Yosri Fouda, a journalist at the Arabic-language cable television channel Al Jazeera who interviewed him

## THE ATTACKS

On September 11, 2001, groups of attackers boarded four domestic aircraft at three East Coast airports, and soon after takeoff they disabled the crews, some of whom may have been stabbed with box cutters the hijackers were secreting. The hijackers then took control of the aircraft, all large and bound for the West Coast with full loads of fuel. At 8:46 AM the first plane, American Airlines flight 11, which had originated from Boston, was piloted into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. Most observers construed this initially to be an accident involving a small commuter plane. The second plane, United Airlines flight 175, also from Boston, struck the south tower 17 minutes later. At this point there was no doubt that the United States was under attack. Each structure was badly damaged by the impact and erupted into flames. Office workers who were trapped above the points of impact in some cases leapt to their deaths rather than face the infernos now raging inside the towers. The third plane, American Airlines flight 77, taking off from Dulles Airport near Washington, D.C., struck the southwest side of the Pentagon (just outside the city) at 9:37 AM, touching off a fire in that section of the structure. Minutes later the Federal Aviation Authority ordered a nationwide ground stop, and within the next hour (at 10:03 AM) the fourth aircraft, United Airlines flight 93 from Newark, New Jersey, crashed near Shanksville in the Pennsylvania countryside after its passengers—informed of events via cellular phone—attempted to overpower their assailants.

At 9:59 AM the World Trade Center's heavily damaged south tower collapsed, and the north tower fell 29 minutes later. Clouds of smoke and debris quickly filled the streets of Lower Manhattan. Office workers and residents ran in panic as they tried to outpace the billowing debris clouds. A number of other buildings adjacent to the twin towers suffered serious damage, and several subsequently fell. Fires at the World Trade Center site smoldered for more than three months.

Rescue operations began almost immediately as the country and the world sought to come to grips with the enormity of the losses. Nearly 3,000 people had perished: some 2,750 people in New York, 184 at the Pentagon, and 40 in Pennsylvania; all 19 terrorists also died. Included in the total in New York City were more than 400 police officers and firefighters, who had lost their lives after rushing to the scene and into the towers.

On the morning of September 11, President Bush had been visiting a second-grade classroom in Sarasota, Florida, when he was informed that a plane had flown into the World Trade Center. A little later Andrew Card, his chief of staff, whispered in the president's right ear: "A second plane hit the second tower. America is under attack." To keep the president out of harm's way, Bush subsequently hopped across the country on Air Force One, landing in Washington, D.C., the evening of the attacks. At 8:30 PM Bush addressed the nation from the Oval Office in a speech that laid out a key doctrine of his administration's future foreign policy: "We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them."

On September 14 Bush visited "Ground Zero," the smoking pile of debris of what remained of the World Trade Center and the thousands who had perished there. Standing on top of a wrecked fire truck, Bush grabbed a bullhorn to address the rescue workers working feverishly to find any survivors. When one of the workers said that he could not hear what the president was saying, Bush made one of the most memorable remarks of his presidency:

Bush's robust response to the attacks drove his poll ratings from 55 percent favourable before September 11 to 90 percent in the days after, the highest ever recorded for a president.

in 2002, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed planned to blow up some dozen American planes in Asia during the mid-1990s, a plot (known as "Bojinka") that failed,



“but the dream of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed never faded. And I think by putting his hand in the hands of bin Laden, he realized that now he stood a

chance of bringing about his long awaited dream.”

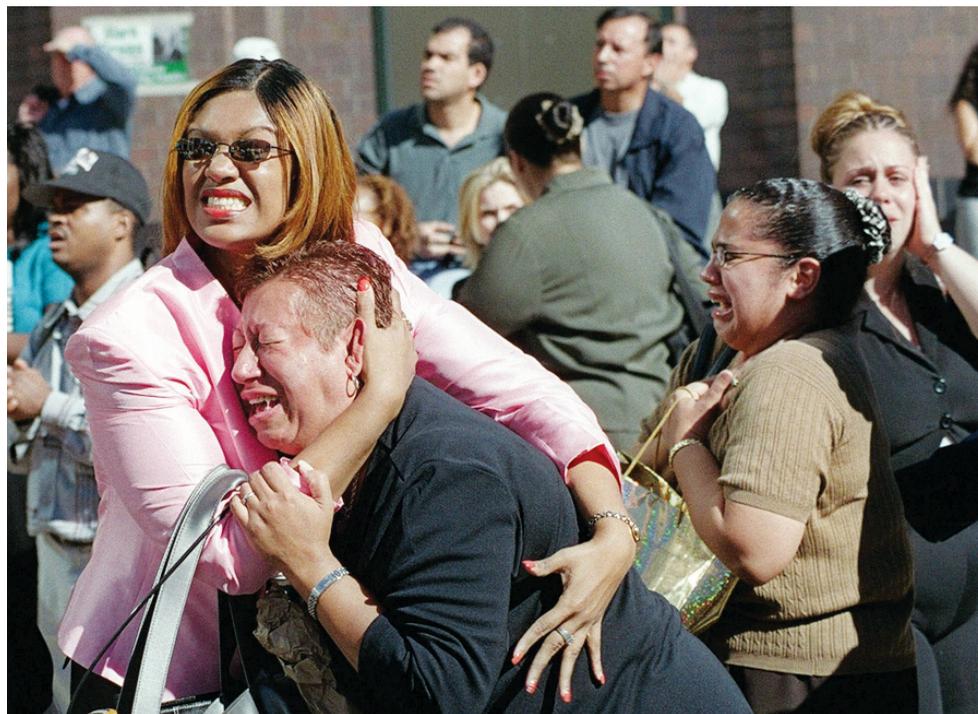
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In 1996 Khalid Sheikh Mohammed met bin Laden in Tora Bora, Afghanistan. The 9-11 Commission (formally the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States), set up in 2002 by Pres. George W. Bush and the U.S. Congress to investigate the attacks of 2001, explained that it was then that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed “presented a proposal for an operation that would involve training pilots who would crash planes into buildings in the United States.” Khalid Sheikh Mohammed dreamed up the tactical innovation of using hijacked planes to attack the United States, al-Qaeda provided the personnel, money, and logistical support to execute the operation, and bin Laden wove the attacks on New York and Washington into a larger strategic framework of attacking the “far enemy”—the United States—in order to bring about regime change across the Middle East.

The September 11 plot demonstrated that al-Qaeda was an organization of global reach. The plot played out across the globe with planning meetings in Malaysia, operatives taking flight lessons in the United States, coordination by plot leaders based in Hamburg, Germany, money transfers from Dubai, and recruitment of suicide operatives from countries around the Middle East—all activities that were ultimately overseen by al-Qaeda’s leaders in Afghanistan.

Key parts of the September 11 plot took shape in Hamburg. Four of the key pilots and planners in the “Hamburg cell” who would take operational control of the September 11 attacks, including the lead hijacker Mohammed Atta, had a chance meeting on a train in Germany in 1999 with an Islamist militant who struck up a conversation with them about fighting jihad in the Russian republic of Chechnya. The militant put the Hamburg cell in touch with an al-Qaeda operative living in Germany who explained that it was difficult to get to Chechnya at that time because many travelers were being detained in Georgia. He recommended they go to Afghanistan instead.

Although Afghanistan was critical to the rise of al-Qaeda, it was the experience that some of the plotters acquired in the West that made them simultaneously more zealous and better equipped to carry out the attacks. Three of the four plotters who would pilot the hijacked planes on September 11 and one of the key planners, Ramzi Binalshibh, became more radical while living in Hamburg. Some combination of perceived or real discrimination, alienation, and



homesickness seems to have turned them all in a more militant direction. Increasingly cutting themselves off from the outside world, they gradually radicalized each other, and eventually the friends decided to wage battle in bin Laden’s global jihad, setting off for Afghanistan in 1999 in search of al-Qaeda.

Atta and the other members of the Hamburg group arrived in Afghanistan in 1999 right at the moment that the September 11 plot was beginning to take shape. Bin Laden and his military commander Muhammad Atef realized that Atta and his fellow Western-educated jihadists were far better suited to lead the attacks on Washington and New York than the men they had already recruited, leading bin Laden to appoint Atta to head the operation.

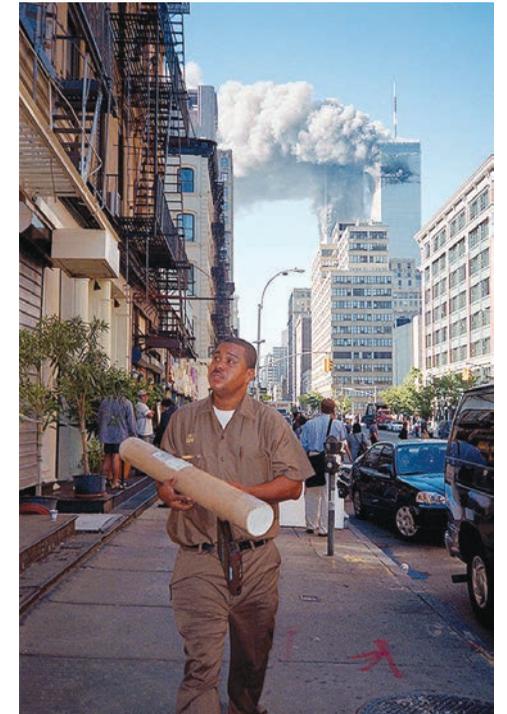
The hijackers, most of whom were from Saudi Arabia, established themselves in the United States, many well in advance of the attacks. They traveled in small groups, and some of them received commercial flight training. Throughout his stay in the United States, Atta kept Binalshibh updated on the plot’s progress via e-mail. To cloak his activities, Atta wrote the messages as if he were writing to his girlfriend “Jenny,” using innocuous code to inform Binalshibh that they were almost complete in their training and readiness for the attacks. Atta wrote in one message, “The first semester commences in three weeks...Nineteen certificates for private education and four exams.” The referenced 19 “certificates” were code that identified

the 19 al-Qaeda hijackers, while the four “exams” identified the targets of the attacks.

In the early morning of August 29, 2001, Atta called Binalshibh and said he had a riddle that he was trying to solve: “Two sticks, a dash and a cake with a stick down—what is it?” After considering the question, Binalshibh realized that Atta was telling him that the attacks would occur in two weeks—the two sticks being the number 11 and the cake with a stick down a 9. Putting it together, it meant that the attacks would occur on 11-9, or 11 September (in most countries the day precedes the month in numeric dates, but in the United States the month precedes the day; hence, it was 9-11 in the United States). On September 5 Binalshibh left Germany for Pakistan. Once there he sent a messenger to Afghanistan to inform bin Laden about both the day of the attack and its scope.

## The Aftermath

The emotional distress caused by the attacks—particularly the collapse of the twin towers, New York City’s most visible landmark—was overwhelming. Unlike the relatively isolated site of the Pearl Harbor attack of 1941, to which the September 11 events were soon compared, the World Trade Center lay at the heart of one of the world’s largest cities. Hundreds of thousands of people witnessed the attacks firsthand (many onlookers photographed events or recorded them with video cameras), and millions watched the tragedy unfold live on television. In the days that followed September 11, the footage of the attacks



was replayed in the media countless times, as were the scenes of throngs of people, stricken with grief, gathering at “Ground Zero”—as the site where the towers once stood came to be commonly known—some with photos of missing loved ones, seeking some hint of their fate. Moreover, world markets were badly shaken. The towers were at the heart of New York’s financial district, and damage to Lower Manhattan’s infrastructure, combined with fears of stock market panic, kept New York markets closed for four trading days. Markets afterward suffered record losses. The attacks also stranded tens of thousands of people throughout the United States, as U.S. airspace remained closed for commercial aviation until September 13, and normal service, with more rigid security measures, did not resume for several days.

The September 11 attacks were an enormous tactical success for al-Qaeda. The strikes were well coordinated and hit multiple targets in the heart of the enemy, and the attacks were magnified by being broadcast around the world to an audience of untold millions. The September 11 “propaganda of the deed” took place in the media capital of the world, which ensured the widest possible coverage of the event. Not since television viewers had watched the abduction and murder of Israeli athletes during the Munich Olympics in 1972 had a massive global audience witnessed a terrorist attack unfold in real time. If al-Qaeda had been a largely unknown organization before September 11, in the days after it became a household name.

## 9/11 Memorial

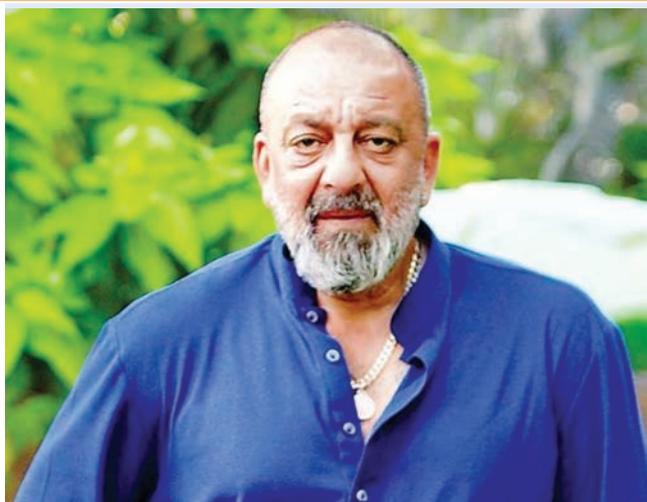
Located on eight acres of the 16-acre World Trade Center complex, the 9/11 Memorial is a place of remembrance and contemplation within the bustle of lower Manhattan.

In April 2003, the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation—established to oversee the revitalization of the downtown area after 9/11—launched an international competition to choose a design for a permanent memorial at the World Trade Center site. The competition was open to adults 18 years or older, without regard for nationality or professional accreditation, and yielded 5,201 submissions from 63 countries. Entries were judged by a 13-person jury that looked for designs that honored the victims, spoke to the needs of families who had lost loved ones, and provided a space for healing and reflection.

In January 2004, the design submitted by architect Michael Arad and landscape architect Peter Walker, Reflecting Absence, was chosen as the winning entry. Their design features twin waterfall pools surrounded by bronze parapets that list the names of the victims of the 9/11 attacks and the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. The pools are set within a plaza where more than 400 swamp white oak trees grow.

The Memorial opened on September 11, 2011, 10 years after the 9/11 attacks.





## Sanjay Dutt back at work, shoots for Shamshera

Last month, Sanjay Dutt announced that he was taking a break from work to address his health concerns. In the weeks following his stage three lung cancer diagnosis, the actor has often been spotted outside Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Andheri, where he is currently seeking treatment. However, on Sunday afternoon, he stepped out of his Bandra residence, ready to head to a different destination — Yash Raj Studios in Andheri. mid-day has learnt that the actor filmed his portions of Karan Malhotra's Shamshera over two days, marking his first shoot since the illness.

"Ranbir Kapoor had finished shooting his scenes last month. Sanjay sir had two days' patchwork shoot left before Karan could call it a wrap on the dacoit drama. Producer Aditya Chopra had requested the actor to take his time before returning to the set," reveals a trade source. Given the actor's frail health, the producer personally ensured that the shoot was conducted with minimal crew and in adherence with the strictest safety measures. "Everyone involved had to undergo a COVID test before s/he joined the senior actor on the floor," adds the source.

# YAMI GAUTAM AND JACQUELINE JOIN THE CAST OF BHOOT POLICE

Actors Jacqueline Fernandez and Yami Gautam have joined the cast of Pavan Kirpalani's horror-comedy Bhoot Police. The movie also stars Saif Ali Khan and Arjun Kapoor.

Excited about introducing the female cast of the film, Kirpalani said in a statement, "I am looking forward to working with Jacqueline and Yami. This will be my first collaboration with the entire cast. We need someone to add the craziness to this fun-filled entertainer and both of them will definitely add this magic to the script."

Pavan Kirpalani also shared his views on the fresh casting of Bhoot Police. He said, "The script has gone through several changes after Rameshji (Taurani) and Akshai (Puri) got on board. Saif, Arjun, Jacqueline and Yami perfectly complement each other in the film."

Bhoot Police will be shot in Dharamsala, Dalhousie and Palampur. The cast is expected to start shooting by the end of this year.

About the shoot of the film, producer Ramesh Taurani said, "We are consulting experts to plan the safety measures for the team. We aim to wrap 80 per cent of the film during the outdoor schedules. The remaining portions will be shot at a set in Mumbai."



## After Arjun Kapoor, Malaika tests positive for Covid-19

Actor Arjun Kapoor announced testing Covid-19 positive earlier on Sunday (September 6), and his good friend Malaika Arora has confirmed later the same day that she too is infected with the virus. Malaika added that she is currently under home quarantine.

"Yes, she has tested positive. She is asymptomatic and has self-quarantined at home," a source confirmed to IANS.

Earlier in the day, Malaika's friend Arjun shared that he had tested positive for Covid-19.

"It is my duty to inform all of you that I have tested positive for coronavirus. I am feeling ok and I am asymptomatic. I have isolated myself at home under the advice of doctors and authorities and will be under home quarantine," Arjun wrote on Instagram.

He thanked everyone in advance for wishes and support.

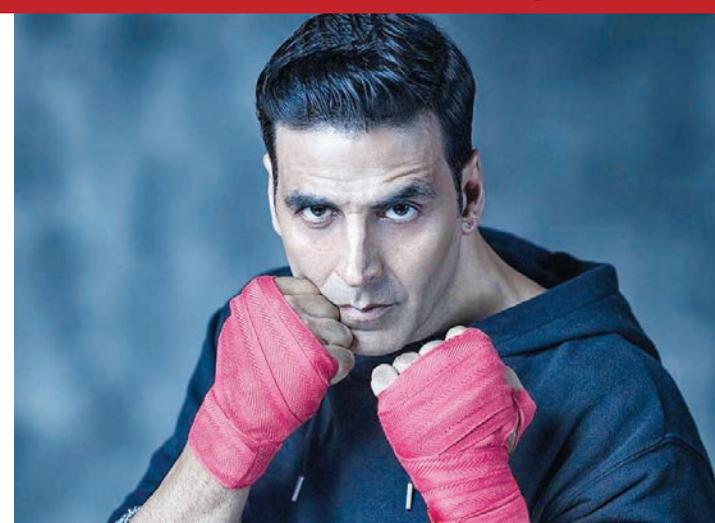
"I thank you all in advance for your support and I will keep you updated about my health in the days to come. These are extraordinary and unprecedented times and I have faith that all of humanity will overcome this virus," Arjun added.



## Wishes pour in on Akshay Kumar's 53rd birthday

Akshay Kumar is considered one of the most bankable celebs of the Bollywood film industry who has been ruling hearts for a very long time. The actor who is often termed 'Khiladi Kumar' has a huge fan base not only because of his acting prowess but for his physical fitness and good health too. He is considered one of the fittest members of the film fraternity, and we bet there is no doubt about it.

He celebrated his 53rd birthday on September 9. And the fans wished him #HappyBirthdayAkshayKumar on Twitter. While some of the followers have wished the actor good luck for his upcoming projects, a few others have created images or videos dedicated to him. On the other hand, some of his fan clubs have organized some campaigns that include blood donation camps and food distribution. They have



given glimpses of the same on Twitter.

On the work front, Akshay Kumar is going to witness a busy year ahead as he has a whole lot of projects lined up. The superstar has recently jetted off to Scotland for completing the shoot for his upcoming movie Bell Bottom. It also features Huma Qureshi and Lara Dutta in the lead roles.

Apart from that, he is awaiting the release of his much-anticipated action-drama Sooryavanshi that also features Katrina Kaif. If you think that the list ends here then you are wrong! Laxmmi Bomb, Atrangi Re, Prithviraj, Bachchan Pandey, and Raksha Bandhan are some of Akshay's upcoming projects.



## Elizabeth Debicki Wants To Join Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol. 3

Actor Elizabeth Debicki says she is ready to return to the role of Ayesha in "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3". The 30-year-old actor, who played the golden queen of the Sovereign race in the second film of the Marvel Cinematic Universe franchise directed by James Gunn, said she enjoyed playing the part and hopes to get an opportunity to star in the next installment. "I love (Ayesha). I actually really loved playing her, and I loved making that movie and working with everybody and James, and it was a really fun job for me."

So I hope so. "Sometimes I just think about her golden throne and her golden dress, just waiting somewhere in the wings. I would love, even if I just sort of scooch on for a second. I would love to come back," Debicki told ComicBook.com. "Guardians of the Galaxy" franchise also features Chris Pratt (Star Lord), Zoe Saldana (Gamora), Dave Bautista (Drax), Vin Diesel (Groot) and Bradley Cooper (Rocket).

# LILY JAMES WANTS TO EDUCATE HERSELF ON SOCIAL ISSUES

Lily James is "trying to stay open and learn" about the Black Lives Matter movement.

The 'Cinderella' star says she's doing her best to educate herself amid the ongoing protests for racial equality, and has said she would like to get on board with "more activism" in the future, after beginning to use her social media platforms as a "tool to spread awareness".

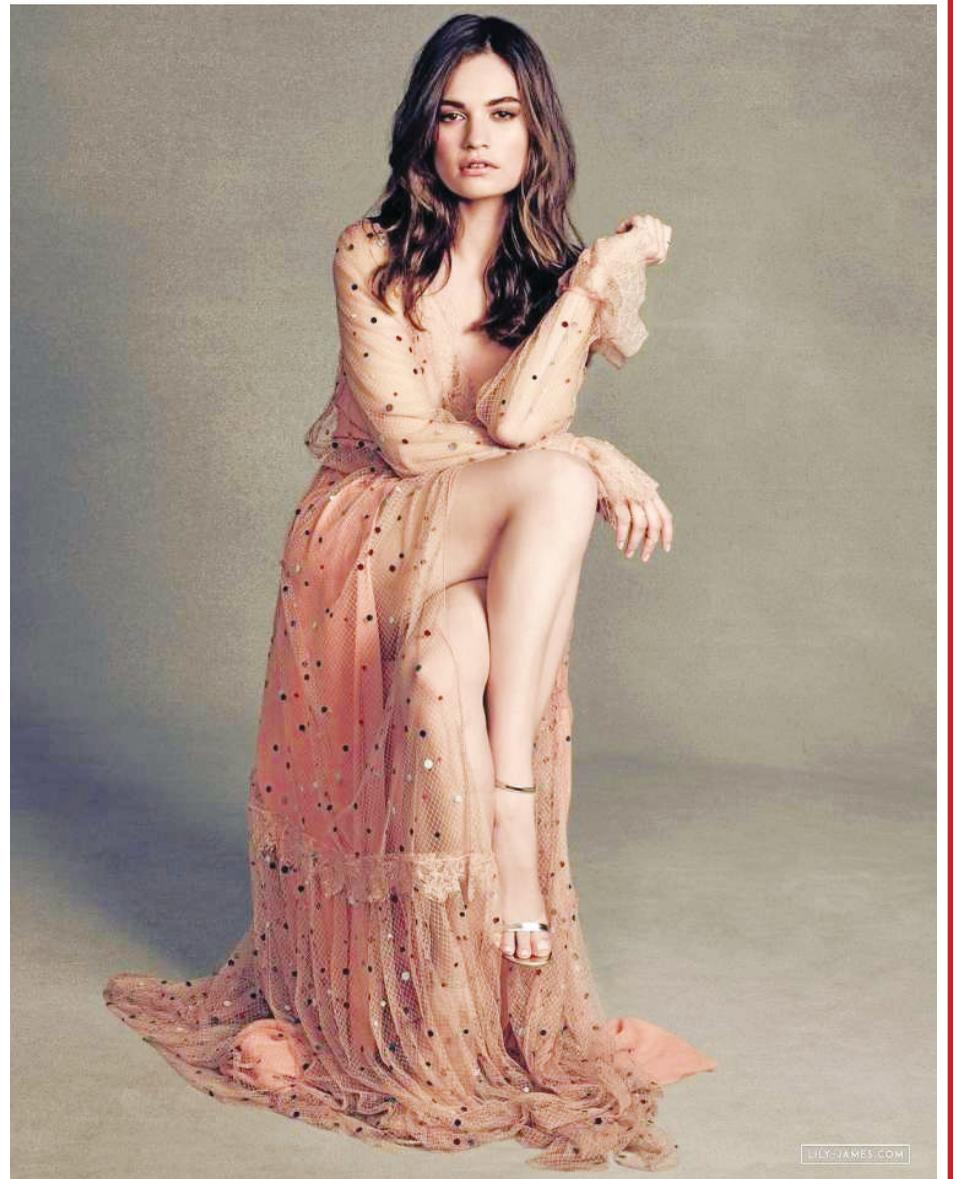
She said: "Everything that's come out of this time, the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement, has been illuminating. So much has risen to the surface. I'm just trying to stay open and learn. It's crucial to focus on what's important, to grow, and to stay engaged."

"I admire people who are truthful. That's so inspiring, and I don't think I always have been. I'm going to endeavour to be more truthful. I want to do more activism as well. Right now, I use social media as a tool to spread awareness about causes that matter to me."

Lily, 31, has been able to reflect on her own life amid lockdown, and says she's been taking care of her mental health by enjoying baths and tending to her garden.

She added: "Usually, I'm so distracted by life. This is the first time in a long while that I've been able to just sit with myself. My favourite thing lately is to lie in a bath for hours and check out under the sound of running water. To unwind, I light candles and add fragrant oils and soaps. It's so relaxing."

I've also been reading a lot of poetry; tending my garden; and going on walks - getting back to the basics. I'm lucky to even be able to do that. This time has been so hard for so many."



## Drew Barrymore to stage Charlie's Angels reunion on talk show

Drew Barrymore is set to reunite with her 'Charlie's Angels' co-stars for the inaugural episode of her daytime talk show.

The 45-year-old actress will be hosting the very first episode of 'The Drew Barrymore Show' on Monday (14.09.20), and when she does, she'll be joined by her former co-stars Cameron Diaz and Lucy Liu, to celebrate almost 20 years since 'Charlie's Angels' first premiered in October 2000.

Drew's talk show will also see her reunite with longtime friend and collaborator Adam Sandler, as well as deliver a big surprise for a deserving family of essential workers in one of the show's signature segments known as 'Designed by Drew'.

The second episode, which will air the following day, will then see Drew joined by Reese Witherspoon and Billy Eichner, who will play a new round of 'Would Drew Barrymore Like That?', a skit from the comedian's Emmy-nominated show.

Jane Fonda, Gabrielle Union and Christian Siriano round out the guests for the series' third episode before Charlize Theron and Tyra Banks join in on the fourth episode, with the week finishing with a fifth episode guest starring Billy Porter.



## SOFIA RICHIE AND JADEN SMITH 'LOVED HANGING OUT' AT MALIBU BEACH

Sofia Richie and Jaden Smith "loved hanging out" with each other in Malibu over the weekend. The celebrity duo - who dated as teenagers back in 2012 - were recently spotted at the beach in California and a source has suggested that Sofia and Jaden both enjoyed spending time with each other.

The source told People: "Sofia is having a fun summer. She stays with friends in Malibu and enjoys the beach."

"There have been guys around that she acted flirty with, but she doesn't seem to be dating."

However, the insider claims that "the vibe was different" between Sofia, 22, and Jaden.

The source explained: "The vibe was different over the weekend though when she hung out with Jaden."

"They spent hours together on the beach. They kept flirting and hugging. Sofia looked very happy."



## NYFF 2020: VIRTUAL & DRIVE-IN

BY MABEL PAIS

<https://www.filmlinc.org/nyff2020/daily/revivals-lineup-announced-for-the-58th-new-york-film-festival/>  
Talks will be announced in the coming days.

### NYFF58 Main Slate Highlights

#### Opening Night - "Lovers Rock" - Sep 17

Dir: Steve McQueen | 2020 | UK | 1h 8m

A movie of tactile sensuality and levitating joy, "Lovers Rock" finds the always daring Steve McQueen ("Hunger", "12 Years a Slave") in an ecstatic yet no less formally bold mode. Produced as part of McQueen's ambitious, multifaceted "Small Axe", an anthology of decades-spanning films that alights on various lives in London's West Indian community, the intoxicating, 1980-set "Lovers Rock" takes place largely over one night at a house party.

#### Centerpiece - Nomadland - Sep 26

Dir: Chloé Zhao | 2020 | USA | 1H 48m

From director Chloé Zhao ("The Rider", NYFF55), adapted from Jessica Bruder's acclaimed 2017 nonfiction book about itinerant older Americans. Set against the grand backdrop of the American West, "Nomadland" recounts a year in the life of Fern (Frances McDormand), a stoic, stubbornly independent widow who, having spent her adult life in a now-defunct company town, repurposes an old van and sets off in search of seasonal work.

#### Closing Night - French Exit - Oct 10

Dir: Azazel Jacobs | 2020 | USA | 1H 50m

Facing insolvency, Frances Price (Michelle Pfeiffer), an imperious, widowed New York socialite makes the decision to escape the city by cruise ship and relocate to her friend's empty Paris apartment with her dyspeptic son, Malcolm (Lucas Hedges), and their mercurial cat, Small Frank (voiced by Tracy Letts). This adaptation of the best-selling novel by Patrick deWitt is a rare American film of genuine eccentricity, elegantly directed by Azazel Jacobs ("The Lovers").

For more information on the Main Slate, visit <https://www.filmlinc.org/nyff2020/daily/58th-new-york-film-festival-main-slate-announced/>



A scene from "French Exit" - Photo / [filmlinc.org/nyff2020](https://www.filmlinc.org/nyff2020)

### Venues

The reimaged festival will feature virtual and drive-in screenings. All ticket sales will be streamlined via online purchase; physical box office sales are not available at any venues at this time. Outdoor screenings will have extensive health and social distancing procedures in place.

### Schedule: Drive-Ins and Virtual

The schedule for the 58th New York Film Festival features drive-in and virtual screenings. The below schedule features each film and the time it will screen at both drive-ins and in our virtual platform. Please note for drive-ins, only cars will be allowed to enter. All films begin at 8pm ET and the doors will open an hour earlier at 7pm ET. Arriving around 7pm ET is recommended to secure your spot. (Exceptions apply to the second screenings of "Lovers Rock", "Nomadland", and "French Exit" at Brooklyn Drive-In, which begin at 9pm ET.)

**"Movies are neither made nor experienced in a vacuum, and while the works in our program predate the current moment of crisis, it's striking to me just how many of them resonate with our unsettled present, or represent a means of transcending it. It has been a joy and a privilege to work with a brilliant, tireless programming team - the newly composed selection committee and our new team of advisors-and we are truly excited for audiences to discover and discuss these films."**-Dennis Lim, Director of Programming - NYFF

General public tickets go on sale September 11 at 2pm ET. For ticket information, for both drive-ins and virtual screenings, visit <https://www.filmlinc.org/nyff58-ticket-information/>

For drive-in screenings, explore an interactive schedule at <https://www.filmlinc.org/nyff2020/schedule/>

Brooklyn Drive-In at The Brooklyn Army Terminal  
80 58th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11220

<https://rooftopfilms.com/drivein/brooklyn/faqs/>  
Queens Drive-In at The New York Hall of Science  
47-01 111th Street, Corona, NY 11368

<https://rooftopfilms.com/drivein/queens/faqs/>  
Film at Lincoln Center Virtual Cinema

To be ready for NYFF58, create a free account today at <https://virtual.filmlinc.org/>

To learn about new releases, revivals, and restorations, visit <https://virtual.filmlinc.org/page/all-films/>

Virtual screenings are available in the U.S. or U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands).

All times are in US Eastern Time.

### Tickets

Tickets will go on sale to the general public on September 11, with early access opportunities for FLC members prior to this date. For details, visit <https://www.filmlinc.org/nyff58-ticket-information/>

Support of the New York Film Festival via the purchase of Festival tickets and passes benefits Film at Lincoln Center in its nonprofit mission to support the art and craft of cinema.

### For more information, visit

Website: [filmlinc.org](https://www.filmlinc.org)

Twitter: [twitter.com/thenyff](https://twitter.com/thenyff)

Instagram: [instagram.com/thenyff/](https://www.instagram.com/thenyff/)

### About NYFF & FLC

Since 1963, the New York Film Festival (NYFF) has been a centerpiece of New York's arts scene: an annual bellwether of the state of cinema that has shaped film culture in the city and beyond. Festival organizers will keep this tradition alive while adapting as necessary to the current health crisis. The safety of audiences and staff is the first priority. The 58th edition of NYFF will focus on outdoor and virtual screenings, as directed by state and health officials.

Presented by Film at Lincoln Center (FLC), the New York Film Festival highlights the best in world cinema. The festival continues a long-standing tradition of introducing audiences to bold and remarkable works from celebrated filmmakers as well as fresh new talent.

For more information, visit [www.filmlinc.org](https://www.filmlinc.org), on Twitter at [twitter.com/thenyff](https://twitter.com/thenyff) and Instagram at [instagram.com/thenyff](https://www.instagram.com/thenyff/)

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



A scene from "Lovers Rock" - Photo / [filmlinc.org/nyff2020](https://www.filmlinc.org/nyff2020)

### NYFF 58TH EDITION: VIRTUAL AND DRIVE-IN

September 17 - October 11, 2020

### The New York Film Festival (NYFF58)

The New York Film Festival (NYFF), returning every fall to celebrate a new slate of essential cinematic offerings from around the globe, has been an enduring part of New York's rich cultural and historical landscape for nearly six decades. The 58th edition of Film at Lincoln Center's (FLC) illustrious festival represents just that - an enduring symbol of New York's strength and resilience through the collective spirit of cinema.

Marking a historic first for NYFF, this year's reimaged festival will feature drive-in and virtual screenings, providing movie lovers near and far the opportunity to enjoy the festival in the format they find most comfortable.

NYFF58 will run September 17 - October 11, beginning one week earlier than usual in order to expand access to the festival via drive-in screenings. Opening Night is September 17, the Centerpiece screening is September 26, and the Closing Night selection will screen October 10.

Film at Lincoln Center presents this year's Main Slate of 25 films NYFF58 from 19 countries, September 17 - October 11, beginning one week earlier than usual in order to expand access to the festival via drive-in screenings.

This year's Main Slate includes new titles from renowned auteurs, exceptional work from directors making their NYFF debuts, and an especially strong slate of documentary features.

The NYFF58 Opening Night selection is Steve McQueen's "Lovers Rock", Chloé Zhao's "Nomadland" is Centerpiece, and Azazel Jacobs's "French Exit" will close the festival. Two other films from McQueen's "Small Axe" anthology - "Mangrove and Red", "White and Blue" also screen in the Main Slate.

### Program

The festival's offerings have been streamlined into five sections.

Main Slate remaining the heart and historic core of the program. For more information, visit <https://www.filmlinc.org/nyff2020/daily/58th-new-york-film-festival-main-slate-announced/>

The new Currents section complements the Main Slate, tracing a more complete picture of contemporary cinema with an emphasis on new and innovative forms and voices. For more information, visit <https://www.filmlinc.org/nyff2020/daily/currents-lineup-announced-for-the-58th-new-york-film-festival/>

The Spotlight section is NYFF's showcase of sneak previews, gala events, screenings with live elements, and other special evenings. For more information, visit <https://www.filmlinc.org/nyff2020/daily/spotlight-lineup-announced-for-the-58th-new-york-film-festival/>

The Revivals section connects cinema's rich past to its dynamic present through an eclectic assortment of new restorations, titles selected by the festival's filmmakers, rarities, and more. To learn more, visit

## At-Home Fun-tainment

BY MABEL PAIS

### WIPA Hosts "Open House"

**W**e will continue to expand our offerings on an ongoing basis as online learning will remain a crucial component of our education system moving forward and will be a priority in the strategic planning process of Wharton." Peter H. Gistelinck, Exec. Director - WIPA

The Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA) hosts a virtual "Open House" on Sunday, September 13 at 1:00 p.m. EST via Zoom. In addition to class demos and information sessions with the Performing Arts School, Artistic Director Helen H. Cha-Pyo, faculty, and staff, the event will include a



Wharton Players, 2019 - Photo / Wharton Arts

presentation on "What to Expect with Online Learning: Private Lessons and Group Classes" with

Director of Student Services Kristen Wuest and Director of Musical Theater Arts Timothy Maureen Cole.

Wharton's Performing Arts School, which launched a nationwide online learning platform this summer including virtual camps, Zoom private lessons, workshops, and master classes for the whole family to enjoy right from home, will continue this fall with expanded online program offerings. Dedicated to the highest quality performing arts education, Wharton has cultivated an online space for creativity, community, and collaboration through an array of affordable performing arts activities for all ages. All of the Performing Arts School's online programs can be found at [www.WhartonArtsOnline.org](http://www.WhartonArtsOnline.org).

Group class enrollments taken during the virtual Open House, get a discount. To attend the free event, sign up at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdS4GJqV3WuPtZKKHElyXeP9oyxu2BklwjiXNcu3Ded3f-EsQ/viewform>

For more information, call (908) 790-0700

To learn more about WIPA, visit [www.whartonarts.org](http://www.whartonarts.org)

## NJSO's LISTEN & LEARN: Music & Conversation

**T**he New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO), this fall, is launching new NJSO-at-Home donor events. Enjoy four special evenings of music and conversation on Zoom hosted by President & CEO Gabriel van Aalst and Director of Artistic Planning Patrick Chamberlain.

### New Listen & Learn Series Sep 10 & 17 at 8 pm

Start your September off with the new NJSO at Home Listen & Learn series exclusively for donors. Patrick Chamberlain and musical headliners take an in-depth look at composition and classical music, while Gabriel van Aalst discusses being a music director with NJSO's own Xian Zhang.

Sep 10: New Jersey composers Steven Mackey, Sarah Kirkland Snider and Paquito D'Rivera.

Sep 17: NJSO Music Director Xian Zhang talks about her life as a music

director.

Donor Broadcast & Chat with Special Guest Conrad Tao

### Sept 24 at 8 pm

Pianist Conrad Tao joins Patrick Chamberlain for a one-on-one conversation, followed by an audio rebroadcast of a recent NJSO performance of Tao's electrifying NJSO rendition of Bartók's Third Piano Concerto. Enjoy an engaging chat commentary throughout the broadcast.

### Live NJSO Couch Concert Featuring a Special Guest Oct 1

Pianist Stephen Hough is Special Guest for the Live NJSO Couch Concert.

Don't miss this special performance and live conversation! Enjoy a recorded performance by the special guest, followed by a live Ask a Musician Q&A.

Register Now

Advance registration is required. Join NJSO for a fee per household per event.

<https://support.njsymphony.org/event/njso-virtual-event-registration/e294994/register/new/select-tickets>

Current donors (see link for details) will receive complimentary tickets to all four events.

<https://support.njsymphony.org/event/njso-virtual-event-registration/e298077/register/new/select-tickets>

### About NJSO

Named "a vital, artistically significant musical organization" by 'The Wall Street Journal', the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra embodies that vitality through its statewide presence and critically acclaimed performances, education partnerships and unparalleled access to music and the Orchestra's superb musicians.

Music Director Xian Zhang-a



Xian Zhang - Photo / Courtesy, NJSO

"dynamic podium presence" 'The New York Times' has praised for her "technical abilities, musicianship and maturity"-continues her acclaimed leadership of the NJSO.

To learn more, visit [njsymphony.org](http://njsymphony.org)

## NJPAC CREATOR SERIES: Newark Resilience

### 10 NEWARK CREATORS

Instagram Live @njpac

EVERY TUESDAY AT 6 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 15 - NOVEMBER 24

In a time of constant change and overlapping challenges, how are Newark's most creative thinkers working, evolving - and thriving?

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) Launches a New Virtual Series: 10 NEWARK CREATORS. Meet some of Newark, New Jersey's brightest creative talent. Instagram Live visitors can join the conversation with the young innovators who've made Newark's tight-knit community one of the most diverse, interesting, and active in the state. Viewers will be able to ask questions about their work, their response to the pandemic, and the Black Lives Matter movement - and learn more about the energy that's making New Jersey's largest city resilient. The Series kicks off with Chrystofer Davis, a Newark-native fine art photographer and filmmaker.

The 10 Newark Creators Series goes Live starting Tuesday September 15th at 6PM. Join the conversation by following NJPAC's Instagram Live @njpac

### September 15, 2020

**CHRYSOTOFER DAVIS** : Chrystofer Davis, a Newark-native fine art photographer, teaching artist and filmmaker, whose work is influenced by street and portrait photography and contemporary culture. Chrystofer has worked with companies and celebrities including Michelle Obama, New York Magazine, Leica Camera, Puma, Urban Outfitters, MTV, Vogue Italia, and Rutgers University over the course of his career. Named one of the best fine art photographers in the city by Peerspace, he's now engaged in teaching photography workshops, and documenting Newark's architecture and people through his own unique lens.

### September 22, 2020

**LISA CONRAD** : Lisa Conrad is the founding executive director of the Newark Print Shop, a community printmaking facility in Newark. To learn more about Lisa and her Print Shop, visit [www.newarkprintshop.org](http://www.newarkprintshop.org)

### September 29, 2020

Layqa Nuna Yawar. To learn more about Layqa, visit [www.layqa.info](http://www.layqa.info)

### October 6, 2020

Diana Candejejo. To learn more, visit

[www.dianacandejejo.com](http://www.dianacandejejo.com)

### October 13, 2020

**MIRA ABOU ELEZZ** : Elezz is the Muslim Chaplain at Providence Health & Services, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and University of Pennsylvania Health System. She is also a Blogger/Writer for Miss Muslim and Muslim Girl educating young women about their sexuality. She is a firm believer that sex plays an important component within Muslim spirituality. She is also a Vegan entrepreneur.

### October 20, 2020

Adam Bergo. He runs Black Swan Espresso in Newark. To learn more, visit [bse.coffee](http://bse.coffee)

### October 27, 2020

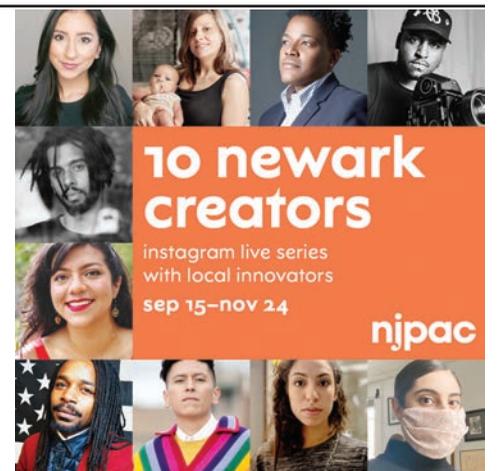
Sally Helmi. To learn more, visit [www.sallyhelmi.com](http://www.sallyhelmi.com)

### November 10, 2020

Isaiah "Zay" Little. To learn more, visit [newarkbusinesshub.com/team/isaiah-little](http://newarkbusinesshub.com/team/isaiah-little)

### November 17, 2020

**JESSICA VALLADOLID** : Jessica "JV" Valladolid, a sexuality educator and Board member at the Newark-based Masakhane, a youth-driven organization promoting healthy outlooks on sex and sexuality. To



Newark Creators poster - Photo / CourtesyNJPAC

learn more, visit [masakhanecenter.org](http://masakhanecenter.org)

### November 24, 2020

**SHARRONDA "LOVE" WHEELER**: Sharronda Wheeler is a Newark native spending her entire professional career helping others. Wheeler's provided support to various populations including mothers and children, teens, developmentally disabled, homeless, and senior citizens. Her motto is, "Be the change you seek."

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

## Nepal's coronavirus tally crosses 50,000-mark

**KATHMANDU (TIP):** Nepal's COVID-19 tally crossed the 50,000-mark on Sept 10 with 1,246 new cases while the death toll reached to 393.

The coronavirus cases in the country jumped to 50,465 after 1,246 new cases were recorded during 11,144 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests conducted at various labs across the country, said the Health Ministry.

The Kathmandu Valley alone recorded 572 new cases of coronavirus in the past 24 hours. With 1,818 persons discharged from different health facilities after recovery in the past 24 hours the country's COVID-19 recovery has jumped to 35,700, it said.

Five deaths linked to the coronavirus were recorded in the past 24 hours, taking the country's COVID-19 related deaths to 317. There are currently 14,448 coronavirus active patients undergoing treatment at different isolation centres across the country. PTI

## Bangladesh ferry accident kills at least 11, many missing

**DHAKA (TIP):** A ferry in Bangladesh carrying around 40 passengers capsized after colliding with a sand-laden vessel on Sept 9, leaving at least 11 people dead and many more missing, officials said. The dead include five children and three women, said Kazi Mohammad Abdur Rahman, district administrator of Netrokona, where the accident happened on the Gumai river 160 km (99 miles) north of the capital Dhaka.

"So far, 11 bodies have been recovered," he said. "The rescue operation for those missing is ongoing." Hundreds of people die each year in ferry accidents in Bangladesh, a low-lying country that has extensive inland waterways but lax safety standards.--Reuters

## Sri Lankan Navy, Indian ships battling fire on board oil tanker, one crew dead

**COLOMBO (TIP):** The Sri Lankan Navy with assistance from Indian ships was battling for a second day on Sept 11 to douse a major fire raging on an oil tanker carrying crude from Kuwait to India that left one of its 23 crew members dead. The Sri Lankan Navy on Friday confirmed that a Filipino sailor died in a boiler explosion in the engine room of the Panama registered tanker MT New Diamond that caught fire on Thursday. The Navy said that 22 of the 23 member crew had been safely rescued off the tanker. The tanker was carrying 270,000 metric tonnes of crude oil from Kuwait to India when its engine room caught fire off the coast of Sangamankanda in the eastern district of Ampara. PTI

# Pak woman gang-raped by robbers in front of her children on a motorway

**LAHORE (TIP):** A Pakistani woman was allegedly gang-raped in front of her three children by robbers on a motorway in Punjab province, triggering public outcry.

The woman was driving on the Lahore-Sialkot motorway on Wednesday when her car stalled near Gujarpura area either due to shortage of petrol or some fault, police said.

In the FIR, she said that she was waiting for her relative to arrive and pick her children and herself from the spot when two armed robbers smashed her car window and attacked her.

The robbers took her and children to a nearby field and gang-raped her, police said.

They also took away her purse that had cash, jewellery and three ATM cards, she said in her statement to police.

Newly-appointed Lahore police chief Umer Shiekh said he has constituted multiple teams to arrest the culprits.

He said some 12 suspects have been taken into custody so far. Sheik, however, "blamed" the women for the incident saying "she should have taken GT Road to go to her house in Gujranwala".

"I am shocked... she, a mother of three, and the only driver late at night should have taken the GT (Grand Trunk) Road instead, which is densely populated," he said.

Political leaders, civil society and rights activists have condemned the incident and blamed the Punjab government for its failure to ensure law and order in the province.

Opposition Jamaat-i-Islami chief Senator Sirajul Haq has given an ultimatum of 48 hours to the Punjab government to arrest the culprits otherwise it would launch a countrywide protest. He said. "Prime Minister Imran Khan and his team have politicised the police in Punjab and there are infighting



among the police officials to grab better slots and no one is paying attention to the deteriorating law and order."

PML-N president and opposition leader in the National Assembly Shahbaz Sharif said nothing could be more shameful than this incident.

He demanded justice for the woman and exemplary punishment for the rapists.

Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz said: "The tragic rape incident on motorway is as traumatising and heart-rending for me as it is for the entire nation. Such incidents are indicative of a deeper malaise that warrant a national response so as to put an end to the curse that stems from a culture that encourages impunity." PTI

## Vice-President convoy targeted, 10 killed in Afghanistan



**KABUL (TIP):** A bombing in the Afghan capital on Wednesday targeted the convoy of the country's first Vice-President, killing 10 people and wounding at least 31, including several of his bodyguards, the Interior Ministry said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack and the Taliban quickly denied they were behind the bombing. First Vice-President Amrullah Saleh suffered minor burns in the blast. The bomb was hidden in a cart

by the roadside and detonated as his convoy passed by. Saleh, who is also Afghanistan's former intelligence chief, said in his first television appearance immediately after the attack that he was fine and had sustained only slight burns.

His spokesman, Razwan Murad, called the attack a "vicious terrorist attempt" on Saleh's life.

The explosion left behind a scene of destruction — at least 10 shops were smoldering in the aftermath of the explosion. — AP

## Nawaz Sharif files review petition against immediate return to Pakistan to face corruption charges

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Embattled former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Sept 8 filed a petition in the Islamabad High Court (IHC), stating that his health condition would not allow him to return home from London and surrender in a corruption case by September 10, according to a media report. Last week, the IHC gave a "last chance" to the former premier to surrender and appear before it on September 10 for hearing in the Al-Azizia corruption case. The court had warned of legal action for absconding.

Sharif, 70, has been in London since November last year after the Lahore High Court granted him permission to go abroad for four weeks for treating a heart disease and an immune system disorder. The three-time premier was sentenced to seven years in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills case.

Nawaz's lawyer, Khawaja Haris Ahmed, filed the review petition on Wednesday and submitted the former premier's latest medical files attested by London-based consultant cardiathoracic surgeon Dr David Lawrence, The Dawn newspaper reported.

"The fact of the matter is that [Nawaz] is still suffering from multiple comorbidities [and] his treatment in London has been delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic. All the doctors that have treated him in the past, as well as those who have been treating him since his arrival in London. PTI

# New International Student Immigration Routes Open Early

**NIRPAL SINGH SHERGILL**  
**TIP CORRESPONDENT IN LONDON**

**LONDON**, September 10, 2020. New routes for international students to apply for visas will open early delivering on the government's commitment to introduce a new points-based immigration system, a press release issued by Home office says.

As detailed in the immigration rules laid in Parliament today (10 September 2020), the Student route and Child Student route will both open on 5 October 2020 to the best and brightest international students from across the globe.

International students play a key part in the government's agenda to unleash the UK's potential now that we have left the EU. They make important contributions economically, academically, and financially. We recognize that as a result of coronavirus, some overseas students are choosing to defer their entry onto courses in the UK until the spring semester of 2021. Introducing these new routes now means that students will be able to benefit from the new streamlined process whilst still giving sponsors time to adapt after their autumn intake.

The routes treat all students equally, with international students, including

those from Europe coming to study after the transition period ends, using the same, simplified route when it opens for applications.

It will ensure our world-leading education sector can continue to welcome talented and high potential students to our globally renowned universities, further education and English language colleges, and independent schools.

**Minister for Future Borders and Immigration Kevin Foster said: "Now we have left the EU, we are free to unleash this country's full potential and implement the changes we need to restore trust in the immigration system and attract talent to drive our economy forward."**

"Launching the Student route early sends a clear message to the world we want the best and brightest to come to the UK to study at our globally renowned education institutions."

There will be no limit on the number of international students who can come to the UK. This will help to increase the total number of international students choosing to study in the UK higher education system each year to 600,000 by 2030, as set out in the International Education Strategy published in March 2019.

Chief Executive of the Russell Group Dr Tim Bradshaw said: "The UK is a global leader in higher education, research and innovation. As we look to the UK's future place in the world, we want to protect our hard-won status and the opportunities it provides to help with the economic recovery of towns and cities across Britain - as well as finding solutions to the wider challenges that face our society."

"We welcome these changes to the immigration rules, which will help to ensure the UK remains an internationally attractive place for the best and brightest students to study. We will continue to work with the government to ensure our visa system remains flexible and responsive to developing issues, such as those emerging from the coronavirus pandemic."

Cardiff University's Vice-Chancellor Professor Colin Riordan said: "Given the continuing uncertainties arising from the global pandemic, it's even more important that the UK is seen as open and welcoming so we can retain our hard-won status as a global leader in higher education, research and innovation."

"That's why these changes are welcome. The new arrangements will

send a clear message that we have the support of our government to welcome talented students from across the world to come and study with us."

The new Student route improves on the previous Tier 4 route by making it more streamlined for sponsoring institutions and their students, creating clearer pathways for students, and ensuring the UK remains competitive in a changing global education market.

Students will require a total of 70 points to be granted leave. They will achieve the required points if they can demonstrate that they have an offer from an approved educational institution, speak English and are able to support themselves during their studies in the UK.

We also want to ensure we retain the brightest and the best students to continue to contribute to the UK post-study, which is why we are launching the Graduate route in the summer of 2021. This additional new route will allow those who have completed a degree at a UK Higher Education provider with a track record of compliance to stay in the UK for two years (three years for PhD graduates) and work at any skill level, and to switch into work routes if they find a suitable job.

The government is on track to deliver its new points-based immigration which will attract talent and take back control by treating people from every part of the world equally and giving us control of our borders.

## Cops, protesters clash in Mali amid transition talks

**BAMAKO (TIP):** The police fired tear gas to disperse campaigners for civilian rule before substantive talks over Mali's political future began on Thursday, a sign of a deepening rift over who should lead the post-coup transitional government. About 100 supporters of the M5-RFP coalition, which led months of mass demonstrations against deposed President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, clashed with police at the entrance to the conference centre, delaying the start of the talks. The junta that toppled Keita on August 18 wants the transitional government to be led by the military. — Reuters

## Russia says West trying to victimise Moscow over Navalny

**MOSCOW (TIP):** Russia's top diplomat on Thursday accused the West of levelling accusations of poisoning top Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny without providing evidence, staunchly denying any official involvement. Navalny, the most visible opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was flown to Germany two days after falling ill on August 20 on a domestic flight in Russia. AP

## China approves first nasal spray COVID-19 vaccine for trials

**BEIJING (TIP):** China has approved for trials its first nasal spray vaccine to combat the novel coronavirus that has claimed over 904,000 lives and infected more than 27 million people globally, official media here reported on Sept 10.

China's only nasal spray vaccine against the coronavirus is expected to start Phase-I clinical trials in November, and it is recruiting 100 volunteers.

It is the only vaccine of its type approved by China's National Medical Products Administration, the state-run Global Times reported.

The vaccine is a collaborative mission between Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland that involves researchers from the University of Hong Kong, Xiamen University, and Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy.

Microbiologist from the University of Hong Kong, Yuen Kwok-yung, said the vaccine stimulates the natural infection pathway of respiratory viruses to activate the immune response.

The nasal spray vaccination could generate double protection for vaccine recipients — influenza and the novel coronavirus — if it also contains influenza viruses including H1N1, H3N2 and B, Yuen said, adding that it would take at least another year to finish the



three clinical trials.

A Beijing-based immunologist told the daily that compared with injections, a nasal spray vaccination is easier to administer and would also be easy to mass-produce and distribute as it adopts the mature influenza vaccine production technology. The nasal spray vaccine uses live attenuated influenza vaccine; the other four technical routes China is using to develop the coronavirus vaccines are inactivated vaccines, adenoviral vector-based vaccines, and DNA and mRNA vaccines. The inactivated vaccine is estimated to be the earliest to be in the market, the report said. The immunologist said the new vaccine may not cause systemic side effects, but side effects may occur in the respiratory system such as asthma and shortness of breath. PTI

## Suu Kyi ousted from award community

**BRUSSELS (TIP):** The European Parliament on Sept 10 excluded Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi (in pic) from the group of former winners of its top human rights prize because of her "failure to act and her acceptance" of the oppression of the Rohingya Muslim ethnic group. Suu Kyi won the Sakharov Prize in 1990 but was only able to collect it 23 years later. She was once admired for her non-violent struggle against Myanmar's military rule and she won the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize — AP

## Month after explosion, huge fire at Beirut port

**BEIRUT (TIP):** A huge fire broke out Sept 10 at the Port of Beirut, sending up a thick column of black smoke and raising new panic among traumatised residents after last month's catastrophic blast at the same site killed nearly 200 people. It was unclear what caused the blaze at the facility, which was decimated by the August 4 explosion when nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate blew up and sent out a shock wave that caused widespread damage and was felt as far away as the island of Cyprus.

AP

# MANAGE TOXIC RELATIONSHIPS WHEN YOU'RE STUCK AT HOMES

Isn't it amazing how you meet someone and fall in love? Relationships are beautiful, but not when they turn toxic. Dealing with a toxic partner is never a walk in the park as it can affect your energy and damage your self-esteem. It becomes even more difficult when you are stuck at home, unable to limit your contact with the one toxic member of the family.

The microscopic villain, Covid-19 has changed our lives in the worst way possible. And it can be worse for people going through these tough times with a partner who isn't even there to support them. If you're stuck at home with a toxic partner during such difficult times, you don't need to feel trapped by anxiety or stress. Try to recognize the signs and work on yourself in any way you can.

Here are some ways to help manage toxic relationships when you're stuck at home.

- Everyone gets frustrated or angry in a relationship. You need to recognize the emotional and physical signals and face them. Suppressing these emotions will lead to pent up feelings, and it can take a toll on your mental health. So, let it out.
- One mistake almost all of us make is make assumptions. Even though we all make assumptions, they can be draining and toxic. It is important not to make



assumptions in a relationship to avoid confusion. The person you're dealing might not even know that their behaviour is affecting you negatively.

- The next step is talking to them and clearing the air. Talk to that person confidently with a gentle tone. But don't get worked up. Yes, it is easier said than done, but you need to be calm while approaching your partner if you want to restore the peace in the relationship.
- If it's possible, give yourself some space by moving into a room with a lock or going on the terrace for a while to get away and calm down. When the person is emotionally or verbally abusive, try to contact a family member or

friend or services that provide immediate help.

- These are tough times, and you need to preserve your mental health as much as you can, so make sure you are careful of what you say or do. Set some boundaries for yourself to avoid being triggered by any situation that makes you go out of control.
- Be verbal about your boundaries. Let them know that they should respect your boundaries, and if they can't do that, you will have to take strict actions against them. If need be, you should definitely reach out for help, especially if you will feel violated in any way.

## Magical benefits of Aloe Vera for long hair and glowing skin

Aloe Vera is a medicinal plant that is widely used in home remedies and even in cosmetic products. Earlier, the pot plant was not found at homes because of its thorny leaves. But, when people came to know about its multiple health benefits, they started using it. Aloe Vera holds a green-coloured translucent gel which is known for its anti-bacterial and anti-viral properties. The gel contains 96 per cent of water, some vitamins, organic and non-organic compounds. Aloe vera gel also contains a complex carbohydrate compound that allows the nutrients to absorb in the cells and to leave their toxins. Aloe Vera is highly beneficial for long hair and glowing skin.

### Uses of Aloe Vera

- Aloe Vera gel contains anti-bacterial properties that help to kill the bacteria in the stomach and intestine. If your stomach is cleaned from inside, it will reflect on your face. So, you can drink aloe vera juice to keep your stomach and skin clean.
- Aloe Vera is rich in Vitamin C and E, so it helps to rejuvenate the skin cells. It nourishes the skin and serves as an anti-ageing remedy. Take a small piece of Aloe Vera and rub it on your face for 1 minute to rejuvenate your skin.
- Aloe Vera gel can also be used as an exfoliation



scrub. Take 1 spoon of Aloe Vera gel and mix it with a few drops of lemon. Apply the scrub gently on your face, it will exfoliate your skin, fade out scars and dead skin.

- Aloe Vera is equally beneficial for hair. Take 5 tablespoons of Aloe Vera gel, mix it with a few drops of lemon and apply it on your scalp. It will deep cleanse the scalp and will give you a dandruff-free hair. It will also give shine and strength to your hair.



By Tript Arora

CONNOISSEUR'S CHOICE



## BEDMI POORI

Bedmi poori with aloo ki sabzi is a popular breakfast dish in Uttarpradesh. It is not only famous in agra, mathura and varanasi but found all over the state as a street food. Ground urad or moong dal is mixed with wheat flour and rawa to form crispy pooris which are then puffed up in hot oil. Aloo ki rasedar sabji is also very basic yet spicy and tasty.

The combination of both make an awesome brunch on holidays. Do give it a try. It will tingle your taste buds.

### We Need

#### FOR BEDMI POORI

1½ Cup. Wheat flour, ½ Cup Rawa (Sooji), 2 Tbsp Oil, ½ Cup. Urad Dal, 1" Ginger, 2 Green Chillies, 1 Tsp Red Chilli Powder, 1 Tsp Dhania Powder, 1 Tsp Saunf Powder, 1 Tbsp Kasuri Methi, Salt 1 Tsp or to taste, Oil for frying

#### FOR ALOO KI SABJI

6 Boiled Potatoes, A pinch of Hing, 1 Tsp Jeera seeds, 1 Tbsp Dhania powder, 1 Tsp Kalonji Seeds, 1 Tsp Kashmiri Red Chilli Powder, 1 Tsp Haldi Powder, ½ Tsp Red chilli Powder, 1 Tbsp Kasuri Meethi, 1 Tsp Amchoor Powder, 1 Tbsp Gram flour, ½ Tsp Jaggery, 1 Tbsp Chopped Ginger, 2 green chillies finely chopped, 1 Tsp Salt, 2 Tbsp Oil, Green coriander for Garnishing.



### Here We Go

- Soak urad dal overnight or minimum for 3 hours.
- Drain dal and add it to a Grinder Jar. Also add ginger, green chillies, red chilli powder, Dhania powder, Kasuri methi, saunf and salt to taste. Grind everything coarsely. If you need the necessity of water add 1 to 2 tsp for smooth grinding.
- Take both suji and wheat flour in a large bowl. Add ground dal and oil/ ghee to it. Knead a stiff dough. Cover it with damp cloth and set aside for half an hour.
- Meanwhile break boiled potatoes into small chunks with your hands. Don't cut the potatoes. Keep aside.
- Warm 2 Tbsp oil in a pan. Add jeera, hing, Kalonji, saunf, chopped green chilli and chopped ginger. Saute a while and haldi powder, kashmiri lal mirch powder, red chilli powder and dhania powder. Add 1 Tbsp of gram flour / besan. Add a little water and saute these masalas. Add broken boiled potatoes to this and saute for a while. Add kasuri methi and amchoor. Now add 300 ml of water to make gravy. Add jaggery. Keep the flame on low and let it simmer for 10 minutes. After 10 min when all the masalas are incorporated in the gravy switch off the flame. The rasedar aloo ki sabzi is ready to be served with Bedmi poori.
- Now Heat the oil for frying the pooris. Divide the poori dough in lemon sized balls. Now roll 3" Disc out of every ball. Roll a little thick disc. To check whether oil is heated or not, drop a little dough in the oil, if it rises on the oil, the oil is hot enough. Now slip a poori in the hot oil. Press it gently till it puffs up. Flip it and fry from the other side till it browns. Fry all the pooris one by one and serve them hot with aloo ki rasedar sabji.

### Tips

- Knead the poori dough tightly. Don't use dry flour to roll the pooris, instead use oil to roll them.

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# PLASMA THERAPY NOT BENEFICIAL IN REDUCING MORTALITY: ICMR STUDY

Use of convalescent plasma therapy in coronavirus-infected patients does not help in reducing mortality or progression to severe COVID-19, a multi-centric study funded by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has found.

The 'open-label parallel-arm phase II multicentre randomized controlled trial' (PLACID Trial) was conducted across 39 public and private hospitals across India between April 22 and July 14 to find effectiveness of convalescent plasma (CP) for the treatment of COVID-19, it said.

The CP therapy involves taking antibodies from the blood of a person who has recovered from COVID-19 and transfusing those into an active coronavirus patient to help kick-start the immune system to fight the infection.

A total of 464 participants (moderately ill COVID-19 patients admitted to hospitals) were enrolled for the study, which has not yet been peer-reviewed and has appeared on medRxiv, a preprint server.

The National Task Force for COVID-19, a committee formed by the ICMR to respond to the pandemic, has reviewed and approved this study, it said.

The Clinical Management Protocols for COVID-19 issued by the



Union Health Ministry on June 27 allowed use of convalescent plasma (Off label) for treating coronavirus-infected patients in moderate stage of the illness under "investigational therapies" This authorisation has been paralleled by questionable practices such as calls for donors on social media, and the sale of CP in the black market with exorbitant price tags in India, the study said.

Additionally, although CP is a safe therapeutic modality, plasmapheresis, plasma storage and NAb measurement are all resource-intensive processes, with a limited number of institutes in the country having the capacity to undertake these activities in a quality-assured

manner.

"The CP was not associated with reduction in mortality or progression to severe COVID-19," the study said, adding this trial has high generalisability and approximates real-life setting of CP therapy in settings with limited laboratory capacity. A prior measurement of neutralising antibody titres in donors and participants may further clarify the role of CP in management of COVID-19, it said. The study trial included 464 moderately ill coronavirus infected hospitalised patients, of whom 235 were given convalescent plasma along with best of standard care while 229 received only standard care, as per the study.



## Lower your creatinine levels naturally

Creatinine is a chemical produced in the body as a result of routine muscle wear and tear. Usually, it passes through the bloodstream, is filtered through the kidneys, and excreted from the body through urination, says Nikola Djordjevic, MD, a family doctor and co-founder of MedAlertHelp.org. As a waste product, creatinine can be used to measure the function of your kidneys, and the creatinine level in your blood is a good indicator of your overall kidney function, Djordjevic says. A high level of creatinine in the blood can be indicative of kidney disease. This is because impaired kidney function results in increased creatinine levels, as the kidneys aren't able to filter it out effectively.

### Don't take creatine

Your body produces creatinine when it breaks down creatine, a substance produced by amino acids in the body, and also found in protein-rich foods like fish and meat. Creatine helps provide energy to the muscles and is stored in the brain, kidneys, and liver. Creatine is also a popular supplement among athletes and weight-lifters to build muscle and enhance performance. High doses found in some bodybuilding supplements have resulted in elevated creatinine levels, though not necessarily impaired kidney function.

### Limit intense exercise

Vigorous, high-intensity exercise — like weight lifting or circuit training — can increase creatinine levels in your bloodstream. If you are concerned about creatinine levels, you should discuss less intense workout options with your doctor, Djordjevic says. Generally, people with chronic kidney conditions should opt for less strenuous exercise routines to keep their kidney function in balance.

### Eat more fiber and less protein

Dietary changes can be helpful in lowering creatinine levels, Djordjevic says. In particular, you should cut out dense proteins, like red meat. Red meat is essentially muscle tissue that contains creatine. That creatine breaks down into creatinine during the cooking process, and your body absorbs it when you eat red meat. Eating more fiber-rich foods can also help decrease the amount of creatinine in the body, because fiber helps remove toxins and other chemical waste byproducts. For example, a 2014 study published in the European Journal of Clinical Nutrition showed a significant decrease in creatinine levels among 143 participants with chronic kidney disease who increased their fiber intake.

## Almonds may help promote heart health

Eating almonds in place of typical snacks may reduce the drop in heart rate variability (HRV) that occurs during mental stress, thereby improving cardiac function, a study claims.

While HRV is a measure of the fluctuation in time intervals between consecutive heartbeats, cardiac function is the ability of the heart to meet the metabolic demands of the body.

The dietary strategy in the research has the potential to increase cardiovascular resilience to mental stress, along with other heart health benefits of consuming almonds, according to the study published in The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

Mental stress is among the psychosocial factors thought to contribute to cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk, researchers from King's College London in the UK said in a statement.

HRV is an important indicator of the cardiovascular system's response to stress, they said.

It is thought that lifestyle factors including physical activity and diet might impact HRV, according to the researchers.

Higher HRV represents greater adaptability of the heart in response to environmental and psychological challenges, while low HRV is linked to cardiovascular disease and sudden cardiac death, the researchers said.

They measured HRV in participants undergoing a mental stress challenge and saw improved measures of HRV in participants who had been replacing typical snacks with almonds over a six-week period.

The finding was part of the ATTIS study, a 6-week randomised control, parallel-arm trial, where participants with above average cardiovascular



disease risk consumed a daily snack of almonds or a calorie-matched control snack providing 20 per cent of each participants' estimated daily energy needs.

The team measured participants' real-time heart rate (HR) and HRV at rest -- lying down for 5-minute periods -- and during a Stroop test, in which participants were asked to read coloured words to simulate short period of mental stress.

During acute mental stress, participants in the almond group showed better heart rate regulation compared to the control group, indicated by statistically significant differences in high frequency power, which specifically evaluates beat-to-beat intervals, a measure of HRV, the researchers said.

"This study shows that the simple dietary strategy of swapping almonds for typical snacks may bolster resilience to the adverse cardiovascular effects of mental stress by improving regulation of heart rate," Wendy Hall, co-principal investigator from the King's College London.

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## Move aside robots, Tesla bets on aluminium casting

Robots are not efficient enough for Tesla's new car factory in Germany, which plans to replace hundreds of them with giant aluminium casting machines to build simpler chassis parts, a person familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The electric carmaker has struggled to raise production volumes through hi-tech automation and was forced to fly in a new production line from Germany to Nevada in 2018 after robots failed to coordinate seamlessly at the US factory. For the new Model Y, Tesla chief executive Elon Musk has said he will replace 70 components glued and riveted into the car's rear underbody with a single module made using an aluminium casting machine.

That's just the start of a new automation drive, with the vehicle's front module and other parts to come, the source said.

## WhatsApp Spotted Working on Catalogue Shortcut

WhatsApp is reportedly working on several improvements, and some of them were spotted in the code of the latest Android beta. This includes a new Catalogue Shortcut for business accounts enabling quick access to their product portfolio. There is also a new 'Add WhatsApp Doodles' option that is under development allowing users to make their solid wallpaper look a bit more fancy. Separately, a new 'Call' button is also under works. This new call button looks to slightly tweak the process of making video and voice calls inside the app. WABetaInfo, which tracks new features in WhatsApp, dug into the latest WhatsApp 2.20.200.3 beta for Android to spot several new features. The first one is the possible addition of a quick shortcut in business chats, when the business has set a catalogue. This catalogue icon will be added next to the Call button whenever it arrives.

## Google Pixel Phones Start Receiving Android 11 Update

Google's Pixel range is now receiving the latest Android 11 update. The update brings along additional features especially for Pixel phones including app suggestions, Live View with Location Sharing in Google Maps, a new Smart Reply method in Gboard, and more convenient ways to select text and images, or take a screenshot with new overview actions. All of this is in addition to the other common changes that Android 11 brings along. Google says that the update has started rolling out in a staged manner and will be completed over the next two weeks.

# US spacecraft named after late Indian-American astronaut Kalpana Chawla

An American commercial cargo spacecraft bound for the International Space Station has been named after fallen NASA astronaut Kalpana Chawla, the first India-born woman to enter space, for her key contributions to human spaceflight.

Northrop Grumman, an American global aerospace and defence technology company, announced that its next Cygnus capsule will be named the "S.S. Kalpana Chawla", in memory of the mission specialist who died with her six crewmates aboard the space shuttle Columbia in 2003.

"Today we honour Kalpana Chawla, who made history at @NASA as the first female astronaut of Indian descent. Her contributions to human spaceflight have had a lasting impact," the company tweeted on Wednesday (September 9).

"Northrop Grumman is proud to name the NG-14 Cygnus spacecraft after former astronaut Kalpana Chawla. It is the company's tradition to name each Cygnus after an individual who has played a pivotal role in human spaceflight," the company said on its website.

"Chawla was selected in honour of her prominent place in history as the first woman of Indian descent to go to space,"



it said.

"While Chawla made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the space programme, her legacy lives on through her fellow astronauts and those she has inspired to follow in her footsteps," it said.

"Her final research conducted onboard Columbia helped us understand astronaut health and safety during

spaceflight. Northrop Grumman is proud to celebrate the life of Kalpana Chawla and her dream of flying through the air and in space," it said.

The S S Kalpana Chawla capsule is scheduled to launch on the NG-14 mission atop a Northrop Grumman Antares rocket from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS) at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia on September 29. The spacecraft will arrive at and be attached to the space station two days later.

For the NG-14 mission, the Cygnus spacecraft will deliver approximately 3,629 kg of cargo to the space station.

Chawla was born in Karnal, Haryana on March 17, 1962. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering from Punjab Engineering College in India in 1982.

Chawla then moved to the United States to pursue her graduate education; in 1984 she received a Master's degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas, and a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from the University of Colorado in 1988.

She held commercial pilot's licenses for single- and multi-engine aeroplanes, seaplanes and gliders, and was also a certified flight instructor.

## Microsoft brings Office editing to Android devices



Microsoft has made Office editing available on Android devices that will allow its G Suite users edit, comment and collaborate on Word, PowerPoint or Excel.

The Office editing is already available to all G Suite customers and users with personal Google Accounts on the web.

According to the company, the feature allows users to collaborate on Microsoft Office files using Google Docs', Sheets', and Slides' powerful real-time collaboration tools. "It improves sharing options, sharing controls and

reduces the need to download and email file attachments," the company said in a statement on Tuesday. Office editing will replace QuickOffice (also known as Office Compatibility Mode), which has more limited functionality and collaboration capabilities. For the end users, this feature will be on by default. File types such as .doc, .docx, .xls, and .ppt are all supported.

The feature started rolling out on Tuesday and will reach all G Suite customers as well as users with personal Google accounts soon, the company said.

## 13-million-year-old fossil ape discovered in Uttarakhand

An international team of researchers has unearthed a 13-million-year-old fossil of a newly discovered ape species in Uttarakhand, which is the earliest known ancestor of the modern-day gibbon.

The finding, published in the journal 'Proceedings of the Royal Society B', fills a major void in the ape fossil record and provides important new evidence about when the ancestors of today's gibbon migrated to Asia from Africa.

The fossil, a complete lower molar, belongs to a previously unknown genus and species (Kapi ramnagarensis), and represents the first new fossil ape species discovered at the famous fossil site of Ramnagar in nearly a century.

The researchers, including those from Arizona State University in the US and Panjab University in Chandigarh, were climbing a small hill in an area where a fossil primate jaw had been found the year before.

While pausing for a short rest, the team spotted something shiny in a small pile of dirt on the ground.

"We knew immediately it was a primate tooth, but it did not look like the tooth of any of the primates previously found in the area," said Christopher C Gilbert, from City University of New York.

"From the shape and size of the molar, our initial guess was that it might be from a gibbon ancestor, but that seemed too good to be true, given that the fossil record of lesser apes is virtually nonexistent," Gilbert noted.

He explained that there were other primate species known during that time, and no gibbon fossils have previously been found anywhere near Ramnagar.

Since the fossil's discovery in 2015, years of study, analysis, and comparison were conducted to verify that the tooth belongs to a new species, as well as to accurately determine its place in the ape family tree, said the researchers.

The molar was photographed and CT-scanned, and comparative samples of living and extinct ape teeth were examined to highlight important similarities and differences in dental anatomy, they said.

## RIL's market valuation crosses \$200-bn mark

Continuing its rally, shares of Reliance Industries Ltd on Thursday closed over 7% higher, helping its market valuation cross the \$200 billion mark and become the first domestic firm to achieve the milestone.

During the day, its market valuation jumped to Rs 15,84,908 crore (\$215.75 billion) on the BSE. The stock of the country's most valuable firm rose 7.10% to close at Rs 2,314.65 on the BSE. During the day, it jumped 8.45% to a record high of Rs 2,343.90.

On the NSE, it gained 7.29% to close at Rs 2,319 after hitting a lifetime high of Rs 2,344.95, up 8.49% during the day. In the previous session too, it had closed with nearly 3% gain.

## From October 1, 5% tax on foreign fund transfer

Any amount sent abroad to buy foreign tour packages, and every other foreign remittance made above Rs 7 lakh, will attract a tax-collected-at source (TCS) beginning 1 October unless you are making the remittance from income that is already tax-deducted at source (TDS).

While the tax on foreign tour packages will be 5% for any amount, for other foreign remittances, the tax will kick in only for the amount spent above Rs 7 lakh.

For education-related foreign remittances funded by loans, though, the tax will be just 0.5% for the amount above Rs 7 lakh, considering many Indian students take loans to pursue education abroad.

Under the Reserve Bank of India's liberalized remittances scheme, individuals can remit a maximum of \$250,000 abroad every year. The provision to collect tax on remittances was introduced in the Finance Act of 2020 subject to riders and notified on 27 March to take effect from 1 October.

## GDP to contract by 9% in FY 21: Crisil

The Indian economy will contract by 9% in 2020-21 as the coronavirus infections are yet to peak and the government is not providing adequate direct fiscal support, ratings agency Crisil said on Thursday (Sept 10).

In May, Crisil had estimated the economy to contract by 5%. The latest projection comes days after official data for the June quarter showed a contraction of 23.9% in the economy. Crisil said the 9% contraction will be the highest since the 1950s.

The government had announced a Rs 20 lakh-crore relief package but the actual new spending was less than 2% of GDP.

# IMF chief warns global economic crisis 'far from over'

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The global economy is showing signs of bouncing back from the severe downturn caused by the global coronavirus pandemic, but a full recovery is "unlikely" without a vaccine, IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva said Wednesday (Sept 9).

In a column co-authored with IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath, the officials stressed that governments should continue to support workers and businesses since the unprecedented nature of the crisis could give rise to a wave of bankruptcies and job destruction.

As lockdowns have eased and businesses around the world have been allowed to reopen, there has been a "sharp rebound of output, consumption and employment," they said in Foreign Policy magazine.

The massive scale and speed of government support has helped cushion the blow and allowed for the initial rebound, Gopinath and Georgieva wrote.

"This crisis, however, is far from over," they said. "The recovery remains very fragile and uneven across regions and sectors. To ensure that the recovery continues, it is essential that support not be prematurely withdrawn."

Businesses, even insolvent firms, will need continued help to prevent destruction of millions of jobs. That could include governments taking equity in firms or providing grants in exchange for higher tax rates later, they said.

But governments will have to be cautious in how they distribute their scarce resources, and some companies will inevitably fail, especially in industries like travel that may not survive or will be curtailed in a post-pandemic world.

In a speech Wednesday to the World Economic Forum, Georgieva said rapid government action "put a floor under the world economy," which helped everyone without "differentiating between... winners and losers."

Going forward, policymakers will need to invest wisely in areas that have the broadest benefit, including green jobs --



such as training workers to make buildings more energy efficient -- and "accelerating digital transformation" in a way that will reduce inequalities, she said.

"In other words, support programs that take the countries towards growth that is green smart and inclusive," the IMF chief said.

But the fund officials in their essay cautioned that, "Though the world has learned to live with the virus, a full recovery is unlikely without a permanent medical solution."

With 128 coronavirus vaccines currently under development, there is a strong chance a solution will be found, but "we must urgently devise multilateral solutions" to ensure adequate supply and distribution, Georgieva and Gopinath wrote.

## Amazon seeks to hire 33,000 people



Amazon is on a hiring spree. In the latest sign of how it's prospering while others are faltering during the pandemic, Amazon said Wednesday it is seeking to bring aboard 33,000 people for corporate and tech roles in the next few months.

It's the largest number of job openings it's had at one time, and the Seattle-based online behemoth said the hiring is not related to the jobs it typically offers ahead of the busy holiday shopping season.

Amazon can afford to grow its workforce: It is one of the few companies that has thrived during the coronavirus outbreak. People have turned to it to order groceries, supplies and other items online, helping the company bring in record revenue and profits between April and June. That came even though it had to spend USD 4 billion on cleaning supplies and to pay workers overtime and bonuses.

Demand has been so high,

Amazon has struggled to deliver items as fast as it normally does and had to hire 175,000 more people to help pack and ship orders in its warehouses.

Walmart and Target have also seen sales soar during the pandemic.

But other retailers have had a rougher time. J.C. Penney, J.Crew and Brooks Brothers have all gone bankrupt. And Lord & Taylor, which has been in business for nearly 200 years, recently said it will be closing its stores for good.

Companies across other industries have announced layoffs, including Coca-Cola and American Airlines. Amazon said the jobs will be centered around Amazon's offices across the country, including Denver, New York, Phoenix and its hometown of Seattle. The new hires will work from home at first, but the company said it does want employees to return to the office eventually.

## \$23 billion incentive program in the works to boost manufacturing in India

The government is planning incentives worth \$23 billion to attract companies to set up manufacturing plants in the country. The production-linked incentives would be offered to automobile manufacturers, solar panel makers, consumer appliance companies, while textile units, food processing plants, specialised pharmaceutical product makers are also being considered.

The incentive programme is modelled on the template of the production-linked incentives (PLI) scheme that the government implemented earlier this year. In response to the scheme, companies such as Samsung, Foxconn and Wistron pledged \$1.5 billion of investments to set up mobile-phone factories in the country.

"The move will definitely have a positive impact on manufacturing, especially for so-called booming sectors such as solar and electronics. It is a good way of attracting investments and has potential to make a difference in these sectors," Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Care Ratings told Bloomberg.

The government is also planning to introduce a phased manufacturing programme for other sectors to increase value-addition. This programme is currently implemented for components and accessories used for mobile phones. It is likely to be extended to furniture, plastics, toys and low-value consumer durables, most of which is currently imported from China, mentioned the news site.

Details of both the programmes are being framed and would be up for approval of the Cabinet soon.

Amid an economic slump -- GDP contracted 23.9% in Q1 -- the government is working to attract investments to revive the economy. Insolvency rules were also overhauled to improve ease of doing business and corporate taxes are too among the lowest in Asia. However, Vietnam continues to be the most favoured destination for manufacturers.

## 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 14 - September 20, 2020

**ARIES:** Ganesha says you rope in your associates in your dealings and this proves to be a good move. The attention also shifts from the work front to home and family and there are many domestic responsibilities and joys to handle and enjoy. Nor do you want to. There are other responsibilities to attend to as well. Plus there may be demands from siblings, co-workers, immediate and distant family and neighbors.

**TAURUS:** Love and money are the twin themes of the period. You also find time to relax, and there could perhaps be a home away from home as a kind of holiday retreat or weekend getaway. There will be loans, joint accounts, bonds, insurance and funds of all kinds to deal with on the money front, along with soaring expenses. You will also be spending a lot of time with loved ones and that will give you many happy moments.

**GEMINI:** Your people skills will be at their best and you will get the support of both colleagues and loved ones. Partnerships and collaborations are vital and most beneficial in this period. You surmount many obstacles and ride the wave to glorious times. You confide in family and form a strong team to battle these challenges. You find great support and strength in your associations and emerge victorious with ease.

**CANCER:** Money and its jingle appeal to you more than ever before. You look at finances in a big way, as that is the main theme of this period. Personal and work-related finances hog the limelight. There are tax issues and all sorts of monetary developments that will take up your time. You have to solve it all and spend time behind closed doors getting to the nitty gritty of your finances and its implications. There are meetings galore in this period but they all work out happily in the end.

**LEO:** Once the finances are worked out, you get to spending the money which you believe is hard earned. There are many expenses and for a change, your creative instincts blossom. You do well at work and there is recognition. You are the toast of the office, and may get a promotion, if not more. If you are on your own, you make tangible expansion of the business / enterprise. A tremendous sense of aestheticism, of beauty, new grips you. There have been good times and you have worked hard and earned well and now you want to get creative and bring some beauty into your surroundings.

**VIRGO:** You have achieved a lot but you don't want to stop here. You are prepared to stick your neck out like a platoon commander flushing out terrorists. This works as you break new ground and make many startling discoveries. You have kept money aside for the family and for a nest egg, and so monetary issues are not the real focus this period. You look for harmony and try to smooth the feathers you have rustled in the past.

**LIBRA:** Your conciliatory moves and work success are highly appreciated. You party a lot now and look at finances in the form of inheritance and legacies. You are a social butterfly and spend time at various gatherings enjoying yourself thoroughly. You are ebullient and enthusiastic and your happy mood is contagious. All this is a welcome respite from the hard slog that you have put in over the last period.

**SCORPIO:** You are again on the work track. You earn plaudits for your achievements and decide to expand further and make more money, which is never out of your sights for long. You look at holistic progress and make the necessary adjustments to your personal and work life so that both show steady progress and harmony. Everyone has a ball!

**SAGITTARIUS:** You give your best to work and your relationships and there is great intensity in whatever you do. You are full of commitment and bond well with others. You are endowed now with a new vision and charisma and look at the future with immense possibilities in mind. You are riding the crest of a wave and feel that the world is yours to conquer.

**CAPRICORN:** You see yourself in a new light and are empowered by your success. The early part of the period will be hectic and now you try to enjoy yourself and ride on the momentum generated in the previous period. There is a welcome change in your perspective and the way you are looking at the world. There is a new you eyeballing the world and whatever it has to offer. There is a chance that you are getting too big for your boots. You spend and entertain easily and have happy, boisterous times.

**AQUARIUS:** You are busier than ever before and highly motivated in all that you undertake - and it shows in the results. But there are pinpricks like unexpected expenses, ill-health in the family, and a frittering away of valuable resources on issues that are of no relevance to you; in other words there is highly avoidable wastage of both time and money. There is envy and politics at the workplace and you have to tread with caution.

**PISCES:** There are many distractions at play here. There are partnerships, religious ceremonies, meetings and interviews and several business / collaborations / connections, all of which lead you into a profitable, upward spiral. There will be journeys and conferences and you will benefit greatly from them. There is romance in the air and, if married; there will be dealings with close family, your spouse, even your in-laws. If single, there is a chance that you may meet your life partner.

## Birthday Horoscope September 14 - September 20, 2020

**SEPT 14:** The weekend may be over, but you'd like it to be a social day anyway. The weekend's excitement has a lingering effect and you'd like to have fun and stand out among your friends again.

**SEPT 15:** Early - morning antics may be left over from a bad dream, but later in the morning you'll be happy with a pal or neighborhood buddy, all feeling strong yet stabilized by tonight.

**SEPT 16:** Relationships may present problems that include power struggles or resistance. But there's a chance for self-improvement that can lead to rectification of troubles and a higher path before you.  
**SEPT 17:** Whatever's going on behind the scenes or in private gets to look good with helpful companions during early evening, but watch that it doesn't turn into polarized or separate positions after that.  
**SEPT 18:** Ganesha says you've got to have intensity to get the job done today, but even if that leads to anxious

emotions, keep focused on your ambitions and don't squander your energy.

**SEPT 19:** Take a leap into local or social activities that come up suddenly and sound exciting. There's space to be a free spirit and enjoy love with a child, romance on a new level, or thrilling self-xpression!

**SEPT 20:** If you're a creative person, speak your mind or show your work. People will be enthralled with your ideas and dramatically interesting words. Are you pursuing romance or child-play?

# CHANTING GAYATRI MANTRA BRINGS POSITIVE VIBRATION

Growing up in an Indian household, we are often taught by our parents or teachers the 'Gayatri Mantra'. Gayatri Mantra, also known as 'Savitri Mantra', was originally written in the Vedas and the mantras as made up of 24 syllables. The mantra is chanted around the world with reverence and love.

But did the importance and benefits of these mantras ever cross your mind? According to findings, it has been observed that chanting the mantras helps in bringing calmness and it also helps in relieving stress from your body. Chanting mantras are touted to be highly beneficial for our brains too. It is believed that these mantras bring positive vibration which eliminates negativity from our surroundings and minds.

There are several benefits of chanting Gayatri Mantra, read on to find out about them:

- Calms the mind and body: According to studies, chanting of mantras calms the mind. The moment one starts reciting the mantras, the mind releases the stress and it starts relaxing the body. The enunciations of the mantra send a vibration through the body which has proven to be extremely relaxing.
- Brings down the stress level: Mantras spreads positivity, it is an ancient practice that helps in calming the mind and soul. Scientific studies have shown that chanting mantras can reduce anxiety.
- Increases concentration and sharpens memory: Chanting helps in concentration and focus on a single task. Practicing Gayatri Mantra for 10-15 minutes every day can activate chakras on the face and head, which can result in improved concentration levels.
- Improves breathing: While chanting mantras, a person needs to take deep controlled breathing, which eventually helps to expand the lung function and improves breathing. It can also help to relieve the symptoms of Asthma, as chanting helps in making the lungs stronger.
- A Healthy Heart: As per the research done by the British Medical Journal, the synchronized beating and functioning of the heart along with the baroreflex sensitivity (a mechanism that helps keep your blood pressure in check) are parameters that help keep heart disease at bay.

The Gayatri Mantra has been chronicled in the Rig Veda, which was written in Sanskrit about 2500 to 3500 years ago, and the mantra may have been chanted for many centuries before that.

For ages, this beautiful prayer has seemed mysterious to the Western mind and was out of reach even for most Hindus. It was a well guarded secret, withheld from women and from those outside the Hindu Brahmin community.

Today, it is chanted, meditated to, and sung around the world with reverence and love. It is often compared to The



Lord's Prayer in significance and impact.

The beautiful and soothing ancient sounds, the flowing rhythmic patterns, and the powerful intent make the Gayatri Mantra a wonderful part of one's daily spiritual practice. Because it is an earnest and heartfelt appeal to the Supreme Being for enlightenment, it can be universally applied. It really doesn't matter what your religion, your color or your ethnicity is – what matters is your intent, and your authenticity, and your willingness to be moved.

The ancient Hindu scriptures describe how the sage Vishwamitra was given the Gayatri mantra by the Supreme Being as a reward for his many years of deep penance and meditation. This was to be a gift for all humanity.

It is said that this sacred prayer spirals through the entire universe from the heart of the chanter, appealing for peace and divine wisdom for all.

The Gayatri Mantra inspires wisdom in us. In very basic but beautiful language, it says "May the divine light of the Supreme Being illuminate our intellect, to lead us along a path of righteousness".

While there are numerous mantras in the Vedic Tradition, there is none greater than the Gayatri Mantra. The Gayatri is dedicated to the aspect of the sun just before sunrise so that all the potential energy emanating from the entire cosmos is contained within

fulfilled and you attain complete union with the supreme goddess of divine consciousness.

The Vedic scriptures state that the non-dual "OM" emerged from the supreme unmanifest absolute originally expressed as the three letters "A", "U", and "M." From these emerged the gross physical (Bhuh), subtle (Bhuvah), and celestial (Suvah) universes. These gave rise to the great Gayatri Mantra. From the Gayatri Mantra emerged knowledge of the transcendental nature of the cosmic being (Purusha) giving you the entire meaning of the Vedas. And finally, from the Vedas, Brahma created the manifest universe as you know it. Gayatri appears as a verse in the Rig Veda and is the name of the Vedic meter or rhythm in which the verse is composed.

Gayatri is said to be the quintessence of the Vedas. Its esoteric meaning is that it gives you the knowledge of the oneness of the Jivatman with the Paramatman—that is the individual soul with the supreme soul.

The mantra is personified as the goddess Gayatri Devi, usually depicted as having five heads and 10 arms, with a swan as her vehicle. Gayatri is considered a form of Parvati, the wife of Shiva and, in some texts, as a form of Saraswati making her the second wife of Brahma, the creator. It is said that she can even be seen by those who have mystic vision, and she is the bestower of all knowledge to those who worship her regularly. In her goddess form, Gayatri is known as the "Mother of the Vedas", the essence of the Upanishadic wisdom of enlightenment and the mother of the universe. While there may be many kinds of bodyguards in the external world, you should never forget that the greatest and most important protection is that of Jagan Mata, mother of the universe. The repetition of the Gayatri Mantra with devotion and faith gives the spiritual seeker divine protection. It is said that worship of other forms of the mother goddess without the Gayatri is like worshipping other mothers and forgetting your own.

The Gayatri Mantra is also known as the Savitri Mantra, dedicated to Savitri, the sun deity, who represents the source, inspiration and life-giving force of the universe.

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

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

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

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# THERE'S MORE TO AGRA THAN TAJ MAHAL

Agra is not just the Taj Mahal; the city is littered with Mughal-era monuments. What is the common mistake often committed by tourists to Agra? Believing that a trip to the Mughal capital; is complete with the mandatory visit to the Taj Mahal. Though nothing can match the beauty of Taj Mahal, there are several monuments which speak grandiosely of Indian architecture during the Mughal era.

A UNESCO world heritage site, the fort was the seat of the Mughal empire before it was shifted for a short time to Fatehpur Sikri and later to Delhi. Captured by the Mughals in 1526, a vast treasure including the Koh-i-Noor diamond was seized.

It took 4000 workers eight years to build the fort and was completed in 1573. Double ramparts with massive circular bastions encircle the 94-acre fort. Four gates on four sides provide access to the fort. Delhi Gate is the grandest and was the gate for king's formal entry.

Diwan-i-Am, Diwan-i-Khas and Jahangiri Mahal are must visits. A visit to the fort is incomplete without a visit to Musamman Burj where Shah Jahan was held captive by Aurangzeb. The bastion offers the most poignant views of the Taj Mahal.

## Fatehpur Sikri

Culmination of Akbar's desire to create a grand capital close to the final resting place of Sufi saint Salim Chishti, Fatehpur Sikri served as the capital from 1571 to 1585. It took 15 years in planning and construction and included a series of royal palaces, courts, mosque and private quarters. Akbar named the city, Fatehabad, meaning "victory". Made of red stone, it was abandoned in 1585 due to paucity of water and for safety reasons.

Constructed using Indian principles, the buildings show a synthesis of various regional schools of architecture such as Gujarat and Bengal.

It is accessed through gates along the five-mile long fort wall, namely, Delhi Gate, the Lal Gate, the Agra Gate, Birbal's Gate, Chandanpal Gate, the Gwalior Gate, the Tehra Gate, the Chor Gate and the Ajmere Gate.

## Itmad-ud-Daula's Tomb

Often described as 'jewel box' or the 'Baby Taj', the tomb of I'timad-ud-Daulah is often regarded as a draft of the Taj Mahal. The tomb, built between 1622 and 1628 represents a transition between the first phase of monumental Mughal architecture – primarily built from red sandstone with marble decorations, to its second phase, based on white marble and pietra dura inlay, most elegantly realized in the Taj Mahal. It was commissioned by Empress Noor Jahan for her father Mirza Ghiyas Beg, who had been given



the title of I'timad-ud-Daulah (pillar of the state).

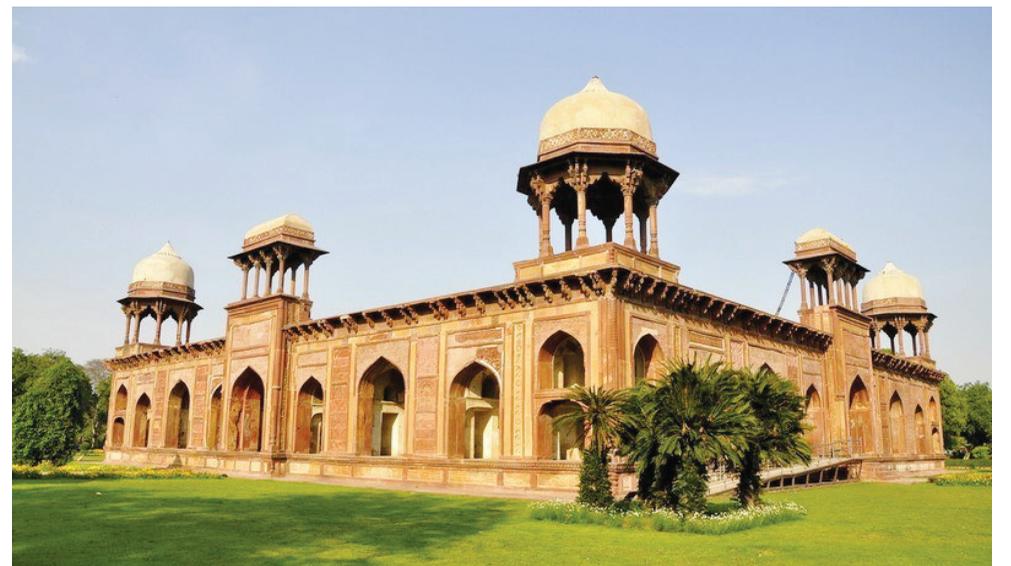
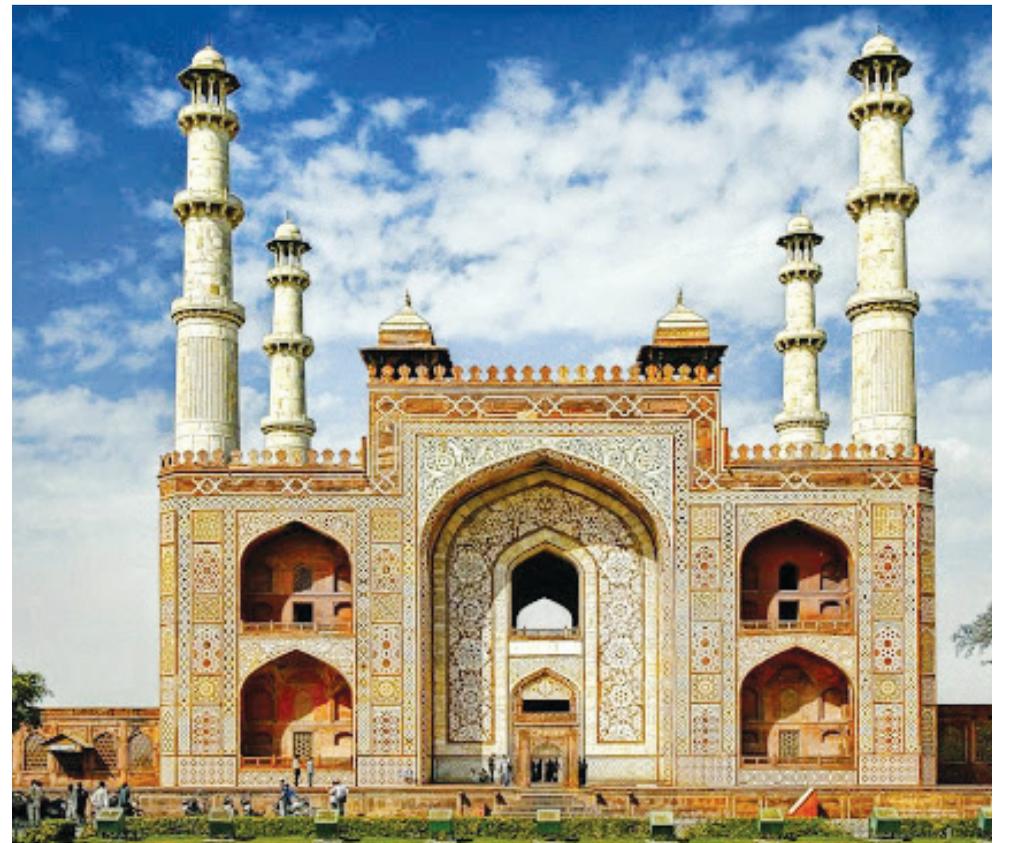
## Tomb of Akbar the Great

The tomb of the greatest Mughal is spread over 119 acres in Sikandra. Mughals followed the Tartary tradition of commencing the construction of one's tomb during one's lifetime. Akbar himself commenced construction in around 1600 but the work was completed by Jahangir in 1613. Akbar's tomb, like that of his father, Humayun, was built of red sandstone with extensive use of marble inlay work.

The tomb building is a four-tiered pyramid, surmounted by a marble pavilion containing the false tomb. The true tomb, as in other mausoleums, is in the basement. The buildings are constructed mainly from deep red sandstone, enriched with features in white marble.

## Tomb of Mariam uz-Zamani

Just a kilometre from Akbar's tomb, is the tomb of his wife Mariam-uz-Zamani. According to popular perception Mariam uz-Zamani, the Rajput wife of Akbar, was known as Jodha Bai. However, there are no records to prove it.





## Ronaldo joins elite '100 Club'

Added 100 international goals to the extraordinary list of milestones achieved by soccer superstar Cristiano Ronaldo.

The 35-year-old Ronaldo became just the second male player to reach a century of goals for a national team when he curled a free-kick into the top corner from 25 metres for the first of his two strikes in Portugal's 2-0 away win against Sweden in the Nations League yesterday.

Scoring one of the best goals of his international career was a fitting way to enter the "100 Club," where he joins former Iran striker Ali Daei, and he wheeled away in delight in an empty Friends Arena in Stockholm before performing his trademark celebration — the mid-air pirouette. Ronaldo, who was playing in his 165th game for Portugal, then added a second goal — another curler into the top corner — and needs nine more to surpass the international record of 109 scored by Daei from 1993-2006. The five-time world player of the year already holds the record for goals in the Champions League with 131 — 16 more than nearest rival Lionel Messi — and has now scored an international goal for the 17th straight calendar year.



## Lionel Messi back training with rest of Barcelona squad

Lionel Messi rejoined the rest of his Barcelona teammates at practice on Wednesday (Sept 9).

Messi had been practicing separately from the group since returning to the club on Monday. He had not been with the squad since announcing he wanted to leave and then deciding to stay to avoid a legal dispute with Barcelona.

He needed to pass two coronavirus tests before he could practice with the rest of the squad under incoming coach Ronald Koeman.

Also back with the group was Philippe Coutinho, who also had been practicing separately. Players who had been with their national teams for Nations League matches also returned, including Frenkie de Jong, Ansu Fati and Sergio Busquets.

# Yuvraj confirms comeback plans

If everything goes to plan, Yuvraj Singh will be back in action, playing at least Twenty20 cricket for Punjab as and when the much delayed domestic season kicks off.

A little over a year after he announced his decision to retire from all formats of the game in June 2019, the dashing Punjab left-hander has rediscovered his zest and motivation for the game he graced with such authority for more than a decade and a half at the international level.

The Player of the Tournament at the 2011 World Cup spent a fair bit of time in the last few months working with the young Punjab quartet of Shubman Gill, Abhishek Sharma, Prabhsimran Singh and Anmolpreet Singh at the PCA Stadium in Mohali at the behest of the Punjab Cricket Association. It was during that period that, almost subconsciously, he was sucked back into the vortex of playing.

"I enjoyed spending time with these youngsters, and talking to them about various aspects of the game, I realised that they were able to pick up various things that I was telling them," Yuvraj, 38, told Cricbuzz on Wednesday afternoon, as he confirmed his comeback plans. "I had to get into the nets to show them a few other elements, and I was pleasantly surprised at how well I was hitting the ball even though I hadn't held a bat for a really long time."

Until the Punjab players' off-season camp, Yuvraj had spent much of his time playing golf and tennis once the lockdown restrictions were lifted. "I also trained for those two months, and then I started to bat in the off-season camp. I made runs in some of the practice matches. Mr Puneet Bali, the secretary of the Punjab Cricket Association, approached me after one of the sessions and asked me if I would reconsider coming out of retirement."

Bali's logic was that since there were a lot of youngsters in the Punjab side, since they were already responding positively to Yuvraj's guidance and



suggestions, since the star himself was in good shape physically and was batting as well as ever, it was a win-win for all.

"Initially, I wasn't sure that I wanted to take up the offer," Yuvraj admits. "I was done with domestic cricket, though I did want to continue to play in other domestic franchise-based leagues worldwide if I got permission from the BCCI. But I also couldn't ignore Mr Bali's request. I gave it a lot of thought, for nearly three or four weeks, and it was almost as if I didn't even have to make a conscious decision in the end."

"The motivation is to help Punjab win championships. Bhajji (Harbhajan Singh), myself, we have won tournaments, but we haven't done it together for Punjab, so that was a big factor in my final call," Yuvraj points out. "Obviously, Shubman is already playing for India, and I feel there's plenty of potential in the other three boys. If I can contribute in any way to their development and to the development of Punjab cricket, then that will be wonderful. After all, playing for Punjab

is what paved the way for my international career."

Once he was convinced he could commit himself to 'at least a couple of seasons' with Punjab, Yuvraj dashed off a mail to BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah, seeking their permission to come out of retirement. In his letter of last week, Yuvraj has made it clear that if he can play for Punjab again, he will obviously not pursue his options of playing outside the country. He has yet to hear back from the board. The letter seeking permission stemmed from the fact that he played for Toronto Nationals in the Global T20 in Canada in August last year, and for Maratha Arabians in the Abu Dhabi T10 League last November.

"As things stand now, I will be playing only T20s if I get the nod," Yuvraj observes. "But who knows, let's see."

The patented full swing of the bat sending the ball soaring way over long-on, now available only on film, could be on view in the near future if things take their natural course.

## Victoria Azarenka knocks Serena out of US Open in semis

Victoria Azarenka ended Serena Williams' latest bid for a record-tying 24th Grand Slam singles title, rallying for a 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory in the US Open semifinals. Azarenka, a two-time Grand Slam champion, advanced to her first major final in seven years and will play 2018 US Open champion Naomi Osaka on Saturday (September 12).

They were supposed to meet in the final of the Western & Southern Open, played this year in Flushing Meadows immediately before the US Open, but Osaka withdraw because of a hamstring injury.

Williams appeared she would reach her third straight US Open final easily after rolling through the first set. But Azarenka won five straight games to close out the second set and surge to a 3-0 lead in the third, going on to beat Williams for the first time in their 11 Grand Slam meetings.

"It's been seven years. That's my favourite number. I guess that's meant to be. I'm very grateful for this opportunity," said Azarenka who won the Australian Open in 2012 and 2013 and lost to Williams in the US Open finals



each of those two years. "On the road to the final, you have to beat the best players and today was that day."

The loss left Williams just short of No. 24 yet again. She was beaten in the finals of four of the preceding seven Slams, including at Flushing Meadows in 2018 and 2019. With her 39th birthday a little

more than two weeks away, the question will become: How many more chances will Williams get?

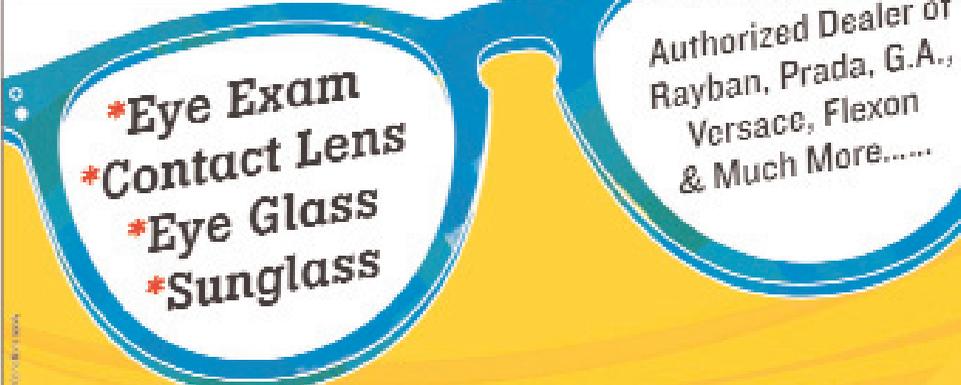
This was Williams' fourth consecutive three-setter in New York and although she was far better at the outset Thursday, racing to a 4-0 lead inside of 15 minutes, Azarenka eventually did get going.

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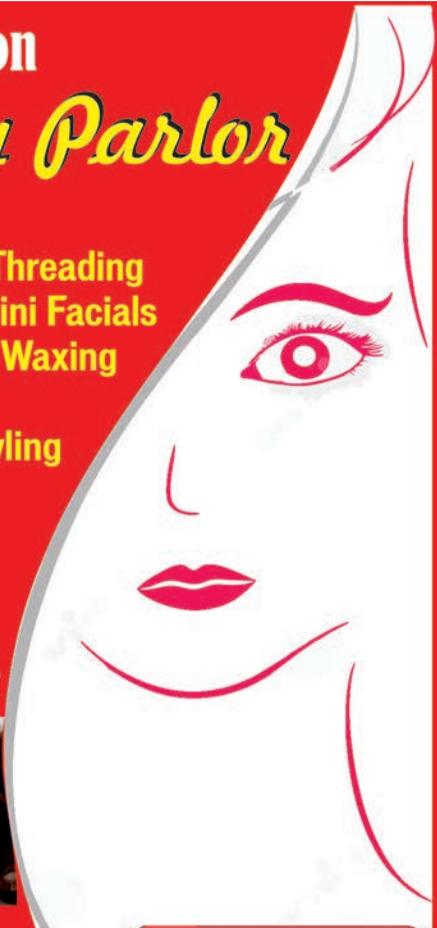
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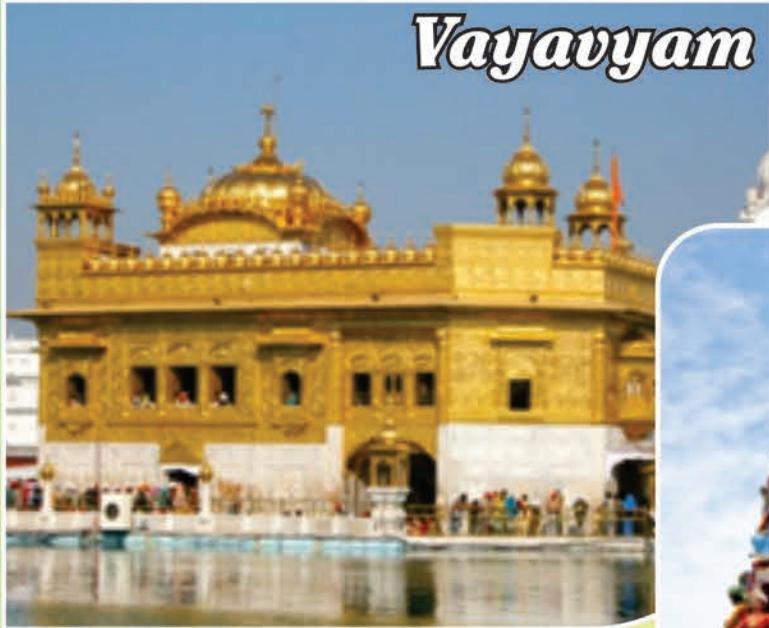
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## ***Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam***



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

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

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

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