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US ELECTION 2020

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

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

QUICK TAKES

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Trump identifies India, 20 other nations as major drug transit or major illicit drug-producing countries



Mr. Trump alleged that the most complicit kingpin in this Hemisphere is the Venezuelan dictator, Nicolas Maduro - Official portrait / Courtesy White House

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald Trump has identified India along with 20 other nations as major drug transit or illicit drug-producing countries and asserted that his administration is taking the fight to criminal organizations engaged in narcotics substances and their enablers on an unprecedented scale.

In his presidential determination, Mr. Trump also designated Bolivia and the regime of Nicolas Maduro in Venezuela as having failed demonstrably during the previous 12 months to adhere to their obligations under international counter-narcotics agreements.

A country's presence on the foregoing list is not necessarily a reflection of its government's counter-narcotics efforts or level of cooperation with the United States, Mr. Trump said. **contd on Page 2**

The Biden-Harris administration will place high priority on strengthening U.S.-India ties, says Biden's campaign

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Biden-Harris administration will place high priority on strengthening U.S.-India ties, said Biden's campaign.

A Biden administration will have no tolerance for terrorism in South Asia and it will place a high priority on strengthening U.S.-India ties, his campaign has asserted.

"We believe that India and the United States are natural partners, and if elected, our administration will place a high priority on continuing to strengthen the U.S.-India relationship," it said in a written response to a series of questions asked by the Hindu American Political Action Committee.

The committee recently sent a series of questions to the campaigns of former Vice President Joe Biden and President Donald Trump as part of its decision-making process to endorse either of

contd on page 2



Democratic U.S. presidential nominee and former Vice President Joe Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris - File photo

President accepts Harsimrat Kaur Badal's resignation

Narendra Singh Tomar has been assigned the charge of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, in addition to his existing portfolios.



Harsimrat Kaur Badal of Shiromani Akali Dal, a constituent of NDA, resigned from the Union Cabinet in protest against anti-farmer ordinances and legislation

NEW DELHI (TIP): President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday, September 18, accepted the resignation of Food Processing Industries Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal, who had resigned in protest against two farm sector bills. The Shiromani Akali Dal leader resigned on Thursday. "The President of India, as advised by the Prime Minister, has accepted the resignation of Harsimrat Kaur Badal

contd on Page 2

Donald Trump contradicts CDC on vaccination

Reiterates that vaccine distribution could start in October, calls facemasks a 'mixed bag'

WASHINGTON (TIP): U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday contradicted the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Robert Redfield on the efficacy of masks and the schedule for vaccine availability. Mr. Trump told reporters at the White House that Dr. Redfield had probably not understood the question on vaccine distribution correctly at a Senate hearing earlier on Wednesday.



President Trump and CDC Director Dr. Redfield hold divergent views

contd on Page 2

COVID-19 vaccine by early 2021, says Health Minister

India is among the few countries globally that have succeeded in isolating the virus, he said.

NEW DELHI (TIP): Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan told Rajya Sabha on Thursday, September 17, that there is a possibility of a vaccine for COVID-19 to be out by early next year and that the government is aiming to bring down India's mortality rate for the coronavirus to less than 1% from the current 1.64%.

The Minister said that the Science and Technology Ministry, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), and drug companies, were working together to find a solution. "Vaccines can come in future. Extensive planning is underway



COVID-19 vaccine by early 2021, says Health Minister

to execute how to manage the scenario," Dr. Vardhan said.

He said there are three vaccine candidates that have reached Phase 1, 2 or 3 levels. "Under the Prime Minister, an expert group is studying this. We expect by the beginning of next year, we can have a vaccine in the country. In this regard, we are also coordinating with WHO (World Health Organization) and global organizations," he said. He claimed that India is among the few countries globally that have succeeded in isolating the virus.

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**PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER:****Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja****VICE PRESIDENT:****Chitagam Saluja****CHIEF EDITOR:****Prof Indrajit S. Saluja****CONSULTING EDITOR :****Deepak Dwivedi, Chairman,
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PHOTOGRAPHERS:****Baldev Singh / BJ Videos****Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction****Jay Mandal,****Mohammad Jaffer,
SnapsIndia****Mohammad Shahzad,
Zia Khan,
Nisha Rani****Vaaho Photographers,****Vijay Shah - Photo Journalist.****CORRESPONDENTS :****SACRAMENTO:****Parminder S. Aujla****NEW YORK :****Chitagam****FRESNO:****Tarlochan Singh****DALLAS:****Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon****OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS****LONDON****Nirpal Singh Shergill****SPL CORRESPONDENT****DELHI BUREAU CHIEF:****Ashishpal Singh****CHANDIGARH:****Manjit Sidhu****LUDHIANA:****A.S. Arora,
R.P.Sharma****DALLAS BUREAU CHIEF & VP****Lovllien Kaurr****972-330-3139****editor@theindianpanorama.com****The Indian Panorama****P.O. Box No. 190067, South
Richmond Hill, NY 11419,
Tel: 646-247-9458****Email:****editor@theindianpanorama.com****contd from page 1**

The Biden-Harris administration...

them before the November 3 presidential election.

"A Biden-Harris administration will have no tolerance for terrorism in South Asia - cross-border or otherwise. Our administration will work to strengthen India's capabilities as a defense and counter-terrorism partner," the Biden campaign said.

"During the Obama-Biden administration, the U.S. and India strengthened their cooperation to fight terrorism in each of our countries and across the region, and if we are elected, the Biden-Harris administration will continue and build on this effort," it said.

Expressing concern about dangerous conditions for religious minorities in South Asia and elsewhere, Mr. Biden said if elected, his administration will renew America's commitment to standing as a beacon of hope for refugees around the world, including those fleeing religious persecution and seeking the freedom to worship as they choose.

Noting that the U.S. is fundamentally a nation of immigrants, he said he is committed to immigration reform that provides a roadmap to citizenship for nearly 11 million undocumented immigrants - including more than 500,000 from India.

"We will remove the uncertainty for Dreamers by reinstating the DACA programme and explore all legal options to protect their families from inhumane separation. All of this is in direct opposition to Trump's actions," the campaign said.

A Biden-Harris administration will work with the Congress to increase the number of visas awarded for permanent, employment-based immigration - and promote mechanisms to temporarily reduce the number of visas during times of high U.S. unemployment, it said.

"We will also exempt from any cap recent graduates of PhD programs in STEM fields in the U.S... We believe that foreign graduates of a U.S. doctoral programme should be given a green card with their degree and that losing these highly trained workers to foreign economies is a disservice to our own economic competitiveness," it said.

Critically, Vice President Biden believes that we need to reform our high skilled temporary visas support to establish a wage-based allocation process and establish enforcement mechanisms to ensure they are aligned with the labor market and not used to undermine wages, and, as part of that reform, he supports eliminating the limits on employment-based green cards by country, which have kept so many Indian and Hindu families in waiting for too long, the campaign said.

Ajay Bhutoria, national finance committee member of Biden campaign, said in a statement that a Biden-Harris administration will celebrate Hindu holidays, as was done in the Obama-Biden administration, which celebrated Diwali at the White House, the Vice President's residence at the Naval Observatory, and at the Pentagon.

"This election year Biden recognized Holi and Ganesh Chaturthi. In doing this, our hope is to showcase how Hindu-Americans are, in every way, Americans and that we are all bound by common values and aspirations, and that this may help to minimize the kinds of misunderstandings about Hinduism that cause bullying," he said.

Mr. Bhutoria said the Biden campaign made history in its outreach to the Hindu-American community. Mr. Biden became the first major-party presidential nominee to respond to a questionnaire for the Hindu-American community, he said.

Mr. Biden's a response to real concerns in the community, addressing the unique challenges facing Hindu students to the importance of reforming the immigration system to how to help small businesses recover from COVID-19, Mr. Bhutoria said. (Source: PTI)

Trump identifies India, 20 other...

He said countries such as Afghanistan, India, The Bahamas, Belize, Burma, Colombia, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic among others are a major drug transit or illicit drug producing nations.

Mr. Trump alleged that the most complicit kingpin in this Hemisphere is the Venezuelan dictator, Nicolas Maduro.

In Colombia, President Ivan Duque and his government remain strong partners of the United States, and Colombian police and military forces have shown great bravery and

commitment by targeting high-level drug traffickers, interdicting drug shipments, and manually eradicating coca, he said.

Nevertheless, coca cultivation and cocaine production remain at unacceptably high levels, Mr. Trump added.

Mr. Trump expressed concern that coca cultivation and cocaine production remain near historical highs in Peru, another longstanding U.S. ally.

"Peru is a valued law enforcement partner of the US and has demonstrated continuous commitment to fighting all aspects of the drug trade," he said.

He said Mexico must also clearly demonstrate its commitment to dismantling the cartels and their criminal enterprises and do more to protect the lives of Mexican and American citizens threatened by these groups.

The Mexican government should acknowledge the alarming trend of fentanyl production inside its territory, he said. (Source: PTI)

President accepts Harsimrat Kaur...

from the Union Council of Ministers, with immediate effect," the Rashtrapati Bhavan said in a statement.

Explained: Why are the Agriculture Bills being opposed

Further, as advised by the Prime Minister, the President has directed that Cabinet Minister Narendra Singh Tomar be assigned the charge of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, in addition to his existing portfolios, it said.

Mr. Tomar holds multiple portfolios including the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development Ministry and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

"I have resigned from the Union Cabinet in protest against anti-farmer ordinances and legislation. Proud to stand with farmers as their daughter and sister," Ms. Badal tweeted, hours before the bills were passed by Lok Sabha.

Lok Sabha on Thursday passed the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill. It has already passed Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill. (Source:PTI)

Donald Trump contradicts CDC on...

Coronavirus cases in the U.S. are soaring with over 6 million infections and around 200,000 deaths. The President faces a tough contest for re-election in November and has proclaimed a vaccine would be available by the end of the year. Dr. Redfield, testifying with other officials at a U.S. Senate committee hearing on the government's pandemic response, had told Senators that it would probably take until the "late second quarter, third quarter 2021" for the vaccine to be "fully available" to the American public so people could "get back to regular life".
(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

COVID-19 vaccine by early 2021...

Rebutting the Opposition parties' criticism on the number of COVID-19 positive cases crossing 50 million, the Minister said that the active cases were less than 20%.

He also patted the government's back, claiming that the country's recovery rate of 78%-79% is one of the highest in the world. Deaths in India due to the coronavirus pandemic are less than many nations in Europe, he said. Citing the examples of Spain and Brazil, the Minister said the mortality rate in those countries was over 11 times that of India. "We want to bring the mortality rate to less than 1%. We have 50 lakh cases right now, but out of these, only 10 lakh are active cases in the country right now," Dr. Vardhan said.

Currently, India is only second to the U.S. in the world in testing, which the government plans to improve, he said.

Replying to a query from Congress leader Anand Sharma on the basis of the government's claims that the lockdown had reduced the number of cases by 14-29 lakh, Dr. Vardhan said that the government had derived the figures from the findings of five scientific bodies, including the Boston Consulting Group, PHFI (Public Health Foundation of India), and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. "These bodies did five studies and based on that we prepared this data," Dr. Vardhan said.

Replying to another query on the use of the BCG vaccine for COVID-19, he said six clinical trials had been registered and the ICMR was a part of this study. (Source: The Hindu)

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India's Foreign Secretary Shringla takes a broad overview of 'Indian Diplomacy during the Pandemic' in his lecture

The lecture was organized by Indian Council of World Affairs

NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP): India's Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on 4 September 2020 delivered a major foreign policy lecture on "The Broad Canvas of Indian Diplomacy during the Pandemic," during a virtual event organized by Indian Council of World Affairs, one of India's premier and oldest foreign policy think tanks.

The scale and spread of the event covered the length and breadth of India, with participants from 28 states and 4 union territories. With 2000 registered participants, the lecture was attended by a diverse array of distinguished think-tankers and eminent academics, including deans and vice chancellors of prestigious universities and research centers.

The Foreign Secretary's lecture was a broad overview of Indian foreign policy. He described the fundamental impulses that underlie it in a rapidly changing international environment. He also spoke about its contemporary challenges and direction.

The Foreign Secretary pointed out that the current pandemic has affected every facet of India's national life and its external policies. It has been an enormous economic shock. It is also likely to have serious geopolitical repercussions.

The pandemic has exposed the deficiencies of globalization. The



India's first priority remains its neighborhood, said the Foreign Secretary

Foreign Secretary said that India is an advocate of globalization that is human-centric. He also spoke about the Prime Minister's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat." Atmanirbharta is not about inward-looking withdrawal from a globalized world. Instead, it aims to strengthen India's position as a prime participant in global supply chains and as a major player in global trade and innovation. The Foreign Secretary said

that India is committed to multilateralism. He referred to India's forthcoming tenure as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. He also referred to India's forthcoming presidencies of G-20, BRICS and SCO. These are testimony to India's enhanced global standing, providing India an opportunity to project its priorities and participate in generating global solutions. India's first priority remains

its neighborhood. It's Neighborhood First policy reflects this central focus.. India's engagements with ASEAN countries under Act East and with the Indian Ocean Region in line with Security and Growth for All in Region (SAGAR) vision have also strengthened. India's Think West outreach to West Asian countries, and its engagements with African countries have intensified.

Terrorism continues to remain a growing threat, while non-traditional challenges in space, cyber-space and biological domains are complicating the security landscape.

India takes its development partnerships very seriously. It is committed to working its partners in the spirit of sabka saath, sabka vikas.

During the pandemic, India established that it was a responsible member of the international community through its actions in supplying drugs such as Hydroxychloroquine and Paracetamol. These are investments it has made in the future. It has built on its reputation as the "pharmacy of the world."

He drew attention to the fact that serving the diaspora and Indians abroad is one of India's highest priorities. More than 1.2 million Indians have returned home to India under the Vande Bharat Mission, the largest repatriation exercise of this nature undertaken in recent history.

NJ based Staffing company to pay \$345,000 to resolve H-1B violations

Kickerline:A probe found that from January 2014 through June 2018, many of the company's H-1B workers were not paid the required wage in regular intervals at the required wage rate throughout their period of employment

NEW JERSEY (TIP): A New Jersey-based staffing company has agreed to pay \$345,000 to settle allegations that it has violated immigration and employment regulations concerning continuous employment and wage requirements of workers it had brought to the U.S. on H-1B visas.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows U.S. companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. H-1B visas are most sought-after among Indian IT professionals.

The U.S. Immigration and Customs

Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the Department of Labor and the U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey ordered Savantis Solutions to pay \$345,000 to resolve allegations against H-1B related violations.

Savantis, formerly known as Vedicsoft Solutions, has a presence in India as well. The company is involved in consulting, technology and staffing, utilizing primarily foreign nationals in the U.S. pursuant to H-1B visas.

A probe found that from January 2014 through June 2018 many of Savantis' H-1B

workers were not paid the required wage in regular intervals at the required wage rate throughout their period of employment, the ICE said in a statement on Monday, September 14.

The company also failed to properly pay many of its H-1B workers in conformance with their applications to the federal government and federal regulations, it said.

Savantis improperly recruited H-1B workers by having them submit a security deposit prior to submitting their application, the statement said.

The \$345,365 in restitution will be used



Picture for representational purpose only

to pay back wages plus interest to employees and former employees of the company, it said.

However, the statement did not mention how many employees were covered by this settlement and how many would receive the pending wages and interest.

"Savantis cooperated in the investigation of the matter and undertook compliance efforts in response. Pursuant to the agreement, the company is also required to hire an outside law firm to serve as a monitor to ensure ongoing and continued compliance with the relevant rules and regulations for the next three years," the statement said.



Andy Singh

516-441-7000

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Indian-Origin Author among Six others on Booker Prize 2020 List



Indian origin Avni Doshi is among the six authors shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize for her debut novel "Burnt Sugar".

LONDON (TIP): Dubai-based Indian-origin author Avni Doshi is among the six authors shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize for her debut novel "Burnt Sugar".

The shortlist was unveiled virtually in London on Tuesday, September 15, after judges re-evaluated the 13 longlisted novels published in the UK or Ireland between October 2019 and September 2020 to whittle down the shortlist for the GBP 50,000 literary prize in November.

"This utterly compelling read examines a complex and unusual mother-daughter relationship with honest, unflinching realism - sometimes emotionally wrenching but also cathartic, written with poignancy and memorability," the judges said of Avni

Doshi's entry.

Avni Doshi, born in the US and now living in Dubai, has previously spoken about the long journey to her first novel, which was released in India last year as 'Girl in White Cotton' and for its UK release in July.

The rest of the shortlist includes Diane Cook for "The New Wilderness", Zimbabwean writer Tsitsi Dangarembga for the third novel in her trilogy - 'This Mournable Body', Maaza Mengiste for "The Shadow King", Douglas Stuart for "Shuggie Bain" and Brandon Taylor for "Real Life".

Literary heavyweight and former double Booker winner Hilary Mantel, in the running for her final installment in her series set in King Henry VIII's 16th century England "The Mirror and the Light", failed to make the shortlist cut.

"The shortlist of six came together unexpectedly, voices and characters resonating with us all even when very different. We are delighted to help disseminate these chronicles of creative humanity to a global audience," said Margaret Busby, literary critic and chair of the 2020 judges.

"As judges, we read 162 books, many of them conveying important, sometimes uncannily similar and prescient messages," she said.

"The best novels often prepare our societies for valuable conversations, and not just about the inequities and dilemmas of the world - whether in connection with climate change,

forgotten communities, old age, racism, or revolution when necessary - but also about how magnificent the interior life of the mind, imagination and spirit is, in spite of circumstance," she said.

The organizers said that readers of the chosen books will travel to India to unpick an unsettling mother-daughter relationship redefined by dementia with Avni Doshi's entry; explore the tender story of a mother's battle to save her daughter in a dystopian city made inhospitable by the climate crisis; witness a woman confronting the realities of life and morality in Zimbabwe as she descends into poverty.

They will uncover the extraordinary tales of the African women who went to war during Italy's 1935 invasion of Ethiopia; find humanity and humor in the harsh realities experienced by a marginalized family in 1980s Glasgow; and question what "real-life" is in a fresh take on the campus novel, which offers a nuanced account of racism and homophobia.

Gaby Wood, Literary Director of the Booker Prize Foundation, said: "Every year, judging the Booker Prize is an act of discovery. What's out there, how can we widen the net, how do these books seem when compared to one another, how do they fare when re-read? These are questions judges always ask themselves, and each other."

"This year there has perhaps been more discovery than usual, both in the sense that debut novels are in the

majority and due to the fact that the judges themselves were surprised to find that was the case. Why were they surprised? They were focusing on the books," she said.

"No one wins the Booker Prize because of who they are. A book wins because of what it does. What has transpired is a testament to the judges' faith in - among other things - first fictions: they have found these writers to have much to say, and found them to have said it in a way that became even richer on second reading."

The Booker Prize for Fiction is open to writers of any nationality, writing in English and published in the UK or Ireland. The shortlist of six books will be announced on September 15, with each shortlisted author receiving 2,500 pounds and a specially bound edition of their book at the prize ceremony scheduled for November.

The 2019 Booker Prize for Fiction was won jointly by "The Testaments" by Margaret Atwood and 'Girl, Woman, Other' by Bernardine Evaristo. First awarded in 1969, the Booker Prize is recognized as the leading prize for literary fiction written in English.

The rules of the prize were changed at the end of 2013 to embrace the English language "in all its vigor, its vitality, its versatility and its glory", opening it up to writers beyond the UK and Commonwealth, providing they were writing novels in English and published in the UK.

Indian-Origin London Mayor Candidate Geeta Dropped Over Anti-Semitism Remarks



"I apologize profusely for my actions in the 1997 General Election campaign. My behavior caused offence and hurt and I am deeply sorry," said Sidhu Robb

LONDON (TIP): An Indian-origin entrepreneur-activist was on Monday dropped as a prospective London mayoral candidate to contest against Sadiq Khan next year after her past antisemitic comments came to light.

Geeta Sidhu Robb, the founder of organic food and juice products firm Nosh Detox, had been shortlisted as the Liberal Democrat candidate to take on Labor's Khan but was instead suspended from the party after a 1997 General Election footage revealed her making anti-Jewish remarks.

"I apologize profusely for my actions in the 1997 General Election campaign. My behavior caused offence and hurt and I am deeply sorry," said Sidhu Robb.

"There is no room for any form of racism or antisemitism in society and as such I very much regret my conduct at that time. It is in no way an excuse, but the context was that I was on the receiving end of a consistent racist campaign and, wrongly, retaliated as I did," she said.

"I apologize profusely for my actions in the 1997 General Election Campaign. My behavior caused offence and hurt and I am deeply sorry. There is no room for any form of racism or anti-Semitism in society and as such I very much regret my conduct at that time.

- Geeta Sidhu Robb (@GeetaSidhuRobb) September 14, 2020

It is in no way an excuse, but the context was that I was on the receiving end of a consistent racist campaign and, wrongly, retaliated as I did.

- Geeta Sidhu Robb (@GeetaSidhuRobb) September 14, 2020

As a Conservative Party General Election candidate in Blackburn 23 years ago when she was contesting against incumbent Labor MP Jack Straw, Sidhu Robb was filmed saying: "Don't vote for a Jew, Jack Straw is a Jew."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-Origin Man gets Life for Brutally Murdering his Partner in UK

LONDON (TIP): A 23-year-old Indian-origin man who stopped a police officer in the street and made comments implicating himself in an attack on his estranged partner has been sentenced to life imprisonment for her brutal murder by a UK court.

Jigukumar Sorthi was sentenced to serve a minimum of 28 years behind bars before being considered for parole after he was found guilty of the murder of 21-year-old Bhavini Pravin, who was found stabbed at her home in the city of Leicester in March.

"This was a horrific, brutal and merciless killing. You took the life of a beautiful, talented young woman, just 21 years of age," Justice Timothy Spencer told Jigukumar Sorthi at the sentencing hearing at Leicester Crown Court on Wednesday.

During a murder trial earlier this month, the jury heard how he had felt jilted by Bhavini Pravin after she broke off plans for their wedding ceremony.

At around 12.30 pm on March 2, Jigukumar Sorthi went to her home and once inside they talked for a few minutes before Jigukumar Sorthi stabbed her multiple times and left the property.

Leicestershire Police and East



Midlands Ambulance Service personnel were called to the address where the victim was pronounced dead.

Less than two hours after the incident, Jigukumar Sorthi approached an officer outside Spinney Hill Police Station in Leicester and made admissions implicating himself in the stabbing of Bhavini Pravin.

A post-mortem examination was carried out and concluded Bhavini Pravin died as a result of multiple stab wounds.

"Bhavini was a young woman who had the rest of her life to look forward to. She was a gentle caring soul and came from a close and very private family.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American NY based celebrity chef Vikas Khanna for Asia Game Changer award



Chosen "for dropping everything to feed millions in India at a time of great need and suffering."

NEW YORK (TIP): New York based India-American Michelin-starred chef Vikas Khanna has been chosen for the prestigious 2020 Asia Game Changer Award for feeding millions across India amid the covid-19 pandemic through a massive 'FeedIndia' drive.

The Asia Game Changer Awards, launched by the Asia Society - a US-based non-profit organization - in 2014, identify and honor true leaders who make a positive contribution to the future of

Asia.

Asia Society's 2020 Asia Game Changer Awards honorees were chosen for their responses to the year's twin traumas of COVID-19 and racially motivated violence.

In partnership with Citi, Asia Society annually honors game-changing leaders from a broad geographic range and varied backgrounds, it said. "This year's honorees have saved lives, changed lives, and lifted spirits all across the globe."

Khanna, 48, is the only Indian among the six honorees including Korean boy band BTS, noted US cellist Yo-Yo Ma, Japanese-American tennis star Naomi Osaka, producer of Oscar-winning Korean film 'Parasite' Miki Lee and business leaders and philanthropists Joe and Clara Tsai.

The six will be honored at a virtual event in October featuring a special message by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, a performance from Yo-Yo Ma, and a special moment to honor frontline health care workers in the US and Asia.

"I have always looked up to Asia

Society for connecting East & West. Today, I am proud to be awarded #AsiaGameChangers Award 2020," Khanna tweeted.

"Humbled to be in the company of @BTS_twt, @naomiosaka, @YoYo_Ma, @JoeClara #MikiLee," he wrote

"By September 23rd, we complete 175 Days of #FeedIndia and also cross 40 Million+ Meals(Cooked and Dry Ration) Working 24/7, best to our abilities to ensure that kitchens are running in our homeland," Khanna wrote in another tweet. The Asia Society noted "Khanna has been feeding people since he was a child. But not until 2020 did it become a matter of life or death."

"In April, while quarantining in his Manhattan apartment, Khanna, host of MasterChef India, monitored news out of his homeland and watched, with horror and helplessness, as a virus-fueled humanitarian crisis unfolded."

"Millions of Indians needed food. Khanna desperately wanted to help, but how? Khanna turned to Twitter, where he has more than 2.3 million followers,

and issued a heartfelt plea for information on communities in need," the Society said in its citation.

"I wanted to show that solidarity still exists," he was quoted as saying. Khanna received a torrent of responses, and #FeedIndia was born.

Khanna partnered with India's National Disaster Relief Force for logistical and on-the-ground support and his movement soon received aid from grain companies, tech firms, and offers of industrial kitchen space in Mumbai.

By late-August #FeedIndia had delivered more than 30 million dry food packets and cooked meals to hundreds of cities throughout India.

"I feel like the past 30 years ... have prepared me for this moment," Khanna said. "This has been the most gratifying [time] in my culinary career."

Past awardees include PepsiCo's former CEO Indra Nooyi, South Delhi Deputy Police Commissioner Chhaya Sharma, and co-founder and CEO of non-governmental education organization Pratham, Madhav Chavan.

Indian Americans favor Biden despite big shift towards Trump

Kamala Harris' historic nomination, Modi-Trump rallies give political clout to Indian origin voters

WASHINGTON (TIP): Despite a significant shift towards President Donald Trump, two thirds of Indian Americans, who have emerged as an influential voting bloc in "battleground" states, currently favor his Democratic challenger, according to a new survey. While only 28 % favor Trump for the 2020 presidential election, it marks a significant 12 point uptick in his support since 2016 when only 16 percent voted for Trump as against 77 % for Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

Both Democratic and Republican parties are reaching out to the increasingly influential voting bloc of Indian Americans for the 2020 presidential election, according to Indiaspora and AAPI Data's joint survey. High turnout by Indian Americans could make a huge difference in this election given senator Kamala Harris's historic vice-presidential nomination, as well as highly publicized rallies that Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held together, it says.

Indiaspora is a nonpartisan community organization, while AAPI Data, records demographics and policy developments relating to Asian American and Pacific Islanders. Their joint survey documents the strengthening political power of the Indian American electorate in the US due to factors such as their rapidly growing population and increased political participation. "With increased attention being paid to the Indian American vote given our growing numbers, increasing political contributions and overall political engagement, we wanted to shine a spotlight on the issues that really matter to Indian American voters," said MR Rangaswami, founder of Indiaspora.



The report, which has survey results of 260 Asian Indian registered voters, regardless of party affiliation, found that some of the issues at the top of the list for Indian Americans in this election included education, jobs and economy, health care, and the environment. The report also chronicles the rise of the Indian American electorate as one of the fastest growing minority groups in the US, with significant numbers in "battleground" states.

"Indian Americans are positioned to make a difference in several swing states that may be close in this election, such as Florida (87,000), Pennsylvania (61,000), Georgia (57,000), Michigan (45,000), and North Carolina (36,000), and perhaps even Texas, which has 160,000 Indian-American voters," said Dr. Karthick Ramakrishnan, professor of public policy and political science at UC Riverside, and founder of AAPI Data. "Given Senator Kamala Harris's historic vice-presidential nomination, as well as highly publicized rallies that President Trump and Prime Minister Modi held together, high turnout could make a huge difference in this election."

Currently, there are 1.8 million Indian Americans in the US who are eligible voters. About 310,000 Indian green card holders remain in a backlog for citizenship as of 2019, and another 310,000 Indian

residents in the US are in a backlog to obtain their green cards. In addition, Indian American political engagement extended to several areas, with a fifth of Indian American registered voters saying they contacted their representative or government official in the US this year.

As many as 74 percent had discussed politics with family and friends, and a quarter of those surveyed had donated to a candidate, political party or campaign this year. As many as 54 percent of Indian Americans identified as Democrats, 16 percent as Republicans, and 24 percent as Independents.

In 2016, 46 percent of Indian American voters identified as Democrat, 35 percent were Independent or Other, and 19 percent identified as Republican. Both Democratic and Republican parties have conducted outreach to Indian Americans in this election, with 56 percent of Indian American registered voters surveyed saying they had been contacted by the Democratic party in the past year, and 48 percent saying they had been contacted by the Republican party. This is a marked increase from 2016, when only 31 percent of Indian Americans said they had been contacted by a political party, compared to 44 percent of White voters and 42 percent of Black voters. In addition, several hundred Indian American candidates also are running for office in record numbers at federal, state and local levels. "Given the Indian diaspora's increasing political importance in the US, it's no surprise they are being courted by both sides of the aisle," said Rangaswami. "It's great that both major political parties have begun to realize just how critical it is to reach out to Indian Americans - our impact is only going to increase over time."

Indian-Origin UK Minister Alok Sharma Unveils UK's Investment to Tackle Dangers by Space Debris



Alok Sharma, UK Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: "Millions of pieces of space junk orbiting the earth present a significant threat to UK satellite systems which provide the vital services that we all take for granted - from mobile communications to weather forecasting."

LONDON (TIP): Indian - Origin Alok Sharma, UK Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, on Wednesday, September 16, confirmed a GBP 1-million government investment to be divided between seven companies to tackle the dangers presented by space debris to satellites of everyday importance. The seven projects will develop new sensor technology or artificial intelligence (AI) to monitor hazardous space debris. As part of a wider strategy, the UK Space Agency has signed a formal agreement with the Ministry of Defense (MoD) to work together on monitoring threats and hazards in orbit and track so-called "space junk" which could also pose a threat to the International Space Station (ISS) and its crew. **(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)**

Punjab Tourism under Vande Bharat Scheme



Harjap Singh Aujla

Due to Covid - 19 pandemic crisis and the resultant shutdown and curfew has hit every segment of economy. The worst hit segment was of travel and tourism. Now the government wants to revive the tourism industry. The Indian Government has proposed a new scheme called Vande Bharat, under which people from different states will tour various parts of India.

Punjab's tourism is still in its infancy, though it has immense potential, but it remains mostly untapped. Somehow, or rightly too, the name Punjab has been synonymous with excellence in agriculture and preponderance of small-scale industry. Now Vande Bharat program encouraged by the central government hopefully will open a new avenue for Punjab tourism.

This state consists of several princely states like Patiala, Nabha, Jind (Sangrur) Malerkotla, Faridkot and Kapurthala and each of the princely states has its own distinct architectural flavor depending on the tastes of its rulers and the people they have been hanging around with.

Patiala is known for its massive buildings constructed primarily in Rajput style of Rajasthan. Some high-tickethistoric restoration work is going on in Patiala. If after the restoration work is completed, which is in full swing and Patiala is clubbed with Sangrur, the two can make a world of difference in tourism. Sangrur has a mostly marble twelve acre "Baradari Building", which is an architectural masterpiece and has been repaired too. In addition the heritage Darbar Hall in Sangrur is another asset to be seen by heritage lovingtourists. Malerkotla, located close by, has distinctly Islamic Architecture. Faridkot is influenced by European (British) and Indian (Mughal) architectural styles, its drawback is that it is quite far away from both Patiala and Amritsar and protracted litigation has ruined its chances of attracting tourists. Patiala is being fast tracked for tourism, but so far it lacks high-end hotels, for which it depends on Chandigarh and Zirakpur.

Jagatjit Palace Kapurthala is by and large influenced by French Architecture. Kapurthala has a beautiful mosque built in Moroccan style of Islamic architecture. Being located very close to Amritsar, Kapurthala can attract hordes of tourists, if added to the already booming Amritsar tourism circuit. But its most magnificent Jagatjit Palace needs to be allowed to be visited by the army authorities, who run a Sainik School in Jagatjit Palace Kapurthala. Kapurthala has some high-class hotel accommodation, for the rest it can piggyback on Amritsar's huge hotel industry.

Since highly durable stones like Marble, granite, limestone and



Golden Temple, Amritsar



Jagatjit Palace, Kapurthala



Baradari, Sangrur

sandstones in various colors and hues are not native to Punjab state, most of the construction in Punjab is based on London's favorite brick masonry laid with lime or mud mortar. Such buildings are never long lasting like the Marble marvels of Jaipur and of the other cities of Rajasthan. Punjab's royal brick buildings need frequent repairs. That is why most of the architectural masterpieces of Punjab needed repairs more often. Some were repaired in recent past and some badly need restoration.

The only well maintained and well looked after architectural treasure of Punjab is itsprimary tourist attraction, known as the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Even it is built with small bricks laid in lime mortar, but it is covered with an external layer of marble and during the reign of Emperor Ranjit Singh, it was covered with gold plates on the exterior as well as the interior. Gold is impervious and it does not corrode, therefore the sanctum sanctorum of the Golden Temple does not need frequent expensive repairs. To an outsider, it always looks new and shining. In addition, the SGPC and the devotees meticulously take care of its daily cleanliness.

Due mostly to word of mouth, the name and fame of the Golden Temple in the past decade or so has reached not only all the parts of India but Europe, Australia, New Zealand and North and South America too. The domestic and foreign tourists have found a well-

meaningprimary tourist attraction in the Golden Temple, at par with the Eiffel Tower and Arc De Triumph of Paris, Taj Mahal of Agra and the Lake Palace of Udaipur. The broad and spacious "Parikarma" of the Golden Temple, built with fine Makrana marble, can accommodate more than one hundred thousand tourists at a time. The artwork "Nakkashi" on the interior of the sanctum sanctorum is matchless. The centuries old universally available tradition of free kitchen is another attraction. Prior to the Covid - 19 generated lockdown and shutdown, the Golden Temple was hosting between one hundred to two hundred thousand pilgrims on daily basis. The number has gone down to a trickle now, I don't know when the milling crowds will return back to the Golden Temple, because Covid - 19 is still with us. There are plenty of cheap hotels around it.

Only a stone's throw away from the Golden Temple is the historic "Jallianwala Bagh", where a brutal unprecedented massacre of patriots took place on 13th of April in 1919. This nine-acre park has recently been rehabilitated by a grant from the central government. On a daily basis twenty to fifty thousand tourists have been visiting this memorial garden.

Just a few yards from the "Jallianwala Bagh" is the "Partition Museum" associated with the bloodshed at the time of division of the country in 1947. It is also located in a century old historic

British style landmark building. This museum is also quite popular with the tourists.

Close to the "Partition Museum" are some of the most popular vegetarian eating places of Amritsar. These are not expensive, but are unbelievably delicious, nevertheless. The Durgiana Temple is not too far away from the Golden Temple and is another big place of tourism value. Near the Amritsar Junction Railway Station is the historic "Fort Gobindgarh", which houses the replicas of Emperor Ranjit Singh's "Zamzama Cannon" and the "Kohinoor Diamond". At one time both were housed in Fort Gobindgarh. The other tourist hot spots in Amritsar include the eighty acres plus historic "Ram Bagh" (also known as the Company Bagh) and the "Maharaja Ranjit Singh Panorama" depicting some of the main events of the

life of the Sikh emperor.

In the evenings, to cap off the day's events, there is a magnificent patriotic event enacted by the Border Security Force of India called "Retreat" at the Attari/Wagha international border. This lively and entertaining event lasts till dusk and leaves a fine taste in the mouth of the visitor. On the second day, the tourists can visit "Harike Wildlife Watching Place", which can be reached from any place within Amritsar within one hour. Or the tourists can visit the historic buildings of Kapurthala. The finest building in Kapurthala is the 112-year-old Jagatjit Palace. The other visitable buildings are the "Moorish Mosque", the "Darbar Hall" within the old district courthouse. Among the modern worth seeing buildings are the "Science City" and the "Rail Coach Factory Kapurthala". The pilgrims can visit the Gurdwaras associated with the life of Guru Nanak Dev ji in Sultanpur Lodhi only seventeen miles (29 kilometers from Kapurthala). The Vande Bharat visitors will enjoy the tourism of Punjab. Amritsar is well linked to the world by air, train and road. There are plenty of star category and low budget hotels in Amritsar. During the past half a decade, Amritsar has attracted dozens of star category hotels, including some five-star ones, more were coming up, when Covid - 19 lockdown crippled everything. Punjab welcomes Vande Bharat tourists with open arms.

(The author can be reached at harjapauja@gmail.com)

US ELECTION 2020

We have created a new column- US Election 2020 -where experts will analyze election scenario, week after weeks, until the election results are out, for the readers of The Indian Panorama. Articles and comments are welcome, and may please be emailed to editor@theindianpanorama.com

Model that predicted the last 25 of 27 Presidential Elections correctly has Trump Winning by 362 Electoral Votes



By Ven Parameswaran

Stony Brook Professor Helmut Norpoth is doubling down on his "Primary Model," which has correctly predicted 5 out of the past 6 elections since 1996 and every single election but two in the past 108 years.

"The primary model gives Trump a 91 per cent chance of winning in November," Norpoth said. "This model gets it right for 25 of the 27 elections since 1912, when primaries were introduced."

The two elections the model failed to predict were the 1960 election of John F. Kennedy and the 2000 election of George W. Bush.

We are still seven weeks out from the election, but if all you did was look at the polls, you might be discouraged about the chances of reelection for President Trump. Most of the polls have him behind Biden and not looking good. But of course as we know, polls are not particularly accurate and 2016 is a perfect example of that, especially when many seem to be slanted or often agenda-driven. Most of these polls are sponsored by the mainstream media that puts out fake news.

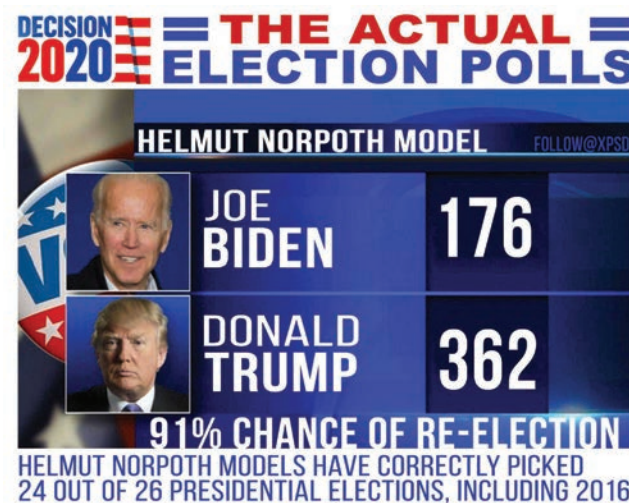
It is hard to know how the pandemic, not to mention the riots and chaos being propagated by the radical left,

are going to affect the election. If you blame the party in power, that might adversely affect Trump and that is what the polls may be showing. But if you see that he is far better to bring the economy back and is already doing that, if you see that voting for Biden and Democrats would open the door for even greater destruction and chaos from the radical left, then it would seem that that should push those in the middle toward Trump. I personally know folks in the middle or who were liberals who could not stand Trump but now not only will be voting for him but pushing for him. Because they are so outraged at what has been happening on both those fronts and the Democratic reaction to it all. WILL THAT "SILENT MAJORITY" be speaking in November for Trump?

In May, Stony Brook professor Helmut Norpoth said his model was predicting that Trump would win. Now he is doubling down on the prediction, even after the pandemic and riots.

Norpoth's model is based upon performance in presidential primaries and that enthusiasm or the lack thereof as the strongest indicator of the ultimate outcome. If in fact that is the measure, then there is no question that Trump trounced Biden big time in terms of enthusiasm. Trump has had record turnout of folks in the primaries even when he was the guaranteed winner. Biden in the early primaries had real trouble until South Carolina and is still objectionable than Bernie Sanders, albeit not by much. It would be really hard to say that anyone is enthusiastic about Biden.

What favors Trump in 2020 as well as the cycle of



presidential elections operating for nearly 200 years, as illustrated by the snapshots since 1960. After one term in the White House the incumbent party is favored to win reelection unlike the situation when it has held office for two or more terms.

Norpoth's model predicted Trump's victory nine months before the election in 2016 and he predicts Trump will win by an even wider margin than he did then, 362 electoral votes versus 304 he had then. If you thought they cried then, just wait if that happens in November, the meltdowns are going to be historic.

(Ven Parameswaran, Chairman, Asian American Republican Committee (founded 1988) lives in Scarsdale, NY. His email: vpwaren@gmail.com)

OPINION

Not the Third World War but the Nobel Peace Prize



By A. D. Amar

During the closing month leading the nation to the polls to elect the 45th President of the U.S.A., in October 2016, it wasn't just the presidential candidate Hillary Clinton but, there were other Democrats also who were pointing to the threatening language of Donald Trump to prove that he was not up to the Chief Commander's responsibilities, using it as an electioneering strategy to defeat him. It did not work.

Americans chose Donald J. Trump to be the president and he became. However, the fear that labeled him a warmonger did not disappear. When he was still in his first year, not only Democrats but some Republicans, such as Bob Corker, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who openly related his fears of Trump

causing the third world war. In April 2018, a year after Trump was sworn in the 45th President of the USA, BBC was talking about how he was pushing the world into the World War III. They speculated that it would involve America, Syria and North Korea as some of the warring parties.

As recent as January 2020, commentators at CNN, led by Richard Galant, were trending World War III because President Trump had killed Iranian terrorist mastermind Major Gen. Qasem Soleimani who ran the Iranian military operations across the Middle East and oversaw the attack on Americans that killed hundreds.

Now comes the real Donald J. Trump, the American President for almost the full first term without any war, what to talk of the world war. And, not just that, he has in fact brought the world to a state of peace that we have not seen in quite some time. The Arab World is calm. Afghanistan is close to signing a peace treaty with the Taliban that would end a 19-year old war. The loss of American life has been at the minimum. Americans

are coming home. Trump brought peace to America and the world that Obama was elected to do but ended the world and America in a worse shape than he got.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee, responsible for deciding who will receive the Nobel Peace Prize Laurel was watching and winked when last month Israel and United Arab Emirates signed a diplomacy and trade accord, with an Israeli flight from Israel to UAE that flew over the Saudi Arabian airspace, another first for peace in the region. And then, yesterday, the Abraham Accord was signed in the White House among Israel, United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain. This is the most the Middle East has been at peace. And more such accords are in the making.

The Nobel Committee received nomination of President Donald J. Trump for Nobel Peace Prize from Norwegian parliamentarian Ms. Tybring-Gjedde. Given the other peace initiatives Trump took, such as with North Korea, Iraq, and Turkey, there is enough for the committee to look at his



candidacy favorably. This will be a well-deserved Nobel laurel for another American president that the committee would not have to regret like it did for the last time it awarded the Nobel to a sitting American president, which was in 2009.

(A. D. Amar, Ph.D. is Professor of Management at the Stillman School of Business, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ 07079 (ad.amar@shu.edu). He is founder, president of Indian-Americans for Trump (FEC REGD.)

AS I SEE IT

Communal peace is a pre-requisite for progress



By NN Vohra

Experience in the post-Independence period has demonstrated that, other things being equal, meaningful growth and development is achieved when there is political stability and public order is maintained in the country. Domestic entrepreneurs and foreign companies shall make investments and be able to function profitably only if peace and normalcy prevail. For securing such an environment, it is imperative that the governance apparatus works with speed and efficiency, law and order is maintained, corruption is controlled and the well-being and safety of all our people is safeguarded. Thus, if progress is to be achieved on all fronts and our country is to advance rapidly towards the attainment of its avowed goals, it is of the highest importance that clean and efficient governance is delivered and an environment of trust, safety and security prevails across the land.

In the recent past, two universities in the Capital witnessed unprecedented violence.

First and foremost, if stability and public order are to be maintained and rapid advancement achieved on all fronts, we cannot afford to have recurring incidents of communal disturbances of the kind we recently witnessed in the national capital, which resulted in violence, killings and large-scale property losses. It is cause for grave concern that, as widely reported in the media, these disturbances occurred because the beliefs and socio-cultural practices of one community were allowed to be questioned and derided by political elements of another community, essentially with the objective of creating religious divisiveness.

It must be remembered that, besides resulting in the immediate loss of lives and large economic losses, every incident of communal violence also leads to many longer-term consequences: it generates suspicion, fear and hatred among people of different castes and faiths and lays the seeds of discord which may not be

Violence sows seeds of discord which may not be bridged for generations

bridged for generations to come. Also, as was the case in the Delhi incidents, such occurrences create an irreparable divide among people of different religions who had been living happily together, in the same clusters and colonies, for decades past. Sadly, the communal virus, once it gets into the societal bloodstream, is extremely difficult to eradicate.

It is singularly unfortunate that efforts have also been made to inject the cancer of discord and divisiveness in educational institutions. In the recent past, two universities in the Capital witnessed unprecedented violence, besides irreparable disruption of academic schedules. Instead of providing the best opportunities to the student community and tapping India's youthful demographic profile to achieve rapid economic gains, efforts are being made to misdirect the youth for electoral advantages.

The numerous and far spread communities which comprise our vast population represent religious, linguistic and cultural differences that make India a land of unbounded diversities. These differences were sensitively recognized by the founding fathers of our Constitution when they set out the rights and privileges of citizens and the Directive Principles of State Policy. In their public speeches and statements, political leaders invariably refer to the several thousand years of our country's civilizational past and express rightful pride in pointing to the enormous strength we draw from our 'unity in diversity'. However, it appears that, as a people, our sensitivities to the manifold diversities in our society have been getting progressively dimmed. This erosion is due to certain political parties creating divisiveness among the castes and religions of our people to secure electoral gains.

We need stability to achieve growth, eradicate poverty and inequality and advance towards becoming an economically and militarily strong nation. We cannot afford any disruption of communal harmony which, as has been repeatedly demonstrated, leads to devastating consequences. Instead, we must maintain sustained societal harmony and draw strength by reviving



We can ill afford to have recurring incidents of communal disturbances of the kind we recently witnessed in the national capital

It must be remembered that, besides resulting in the immediate loss of lives and large economic losses, every incident of communal violence also leads to many longer-term consequences: it generates suspicion, fear and hatred among people of different castes and faiths and lays the seeds of discord which may not be bridged for generations to come.

our traditional forbearance of the differences in race, religion, language and culture.

In recent years, in the search of jobs, young men and women in different parts of our country have moved far away from their homes. Today, we have Mizo, Naga and Manipuri youth working in the mountains of J&K and in the deserts of Rajasthan, and Punjabis and Haryanvis working in Kerala and the Andamans. This is a most welcome development as it helps to promote cultural integration. It is our duty to educate our children about the background and cultures of the people they have never seen before. They must learn to respect not only their religions, cultures and languages, but also the eating habits, clothing styles and even the hair-cut patterns of the many new faces we are getting to see and meet every day.

In recent years, there have been ugly incidents arising from caste and religion clashes, kangaroo trials and roadside lynchings. No government must allow such incidents to recur.

Our polity must recognize the dangers which lie ahead if the faults in the functioning of the governance apparatus are not remedied soon. Taking stock of the existing failures and the arising challenges, the executive and the legislature must urgently commence discharging their true constitutional roles. And the judiciary should not wait anymore to fully regain its supreme responsibility to defend, protect and fearlessly enforce the Constitution. The very long pending electoral reforms, which are required to remedy the many ills from which our democratic framework is suffering, must be implemented with the highest priority. Side by side, the polity must accept the need for self-purification, a thorough cleaning up of the entire administrative machinery and reforming the functioning of the multitudinous minions of the state.

It shall require enormous political will and unflinching determination to carry through the required reforms, without which we cannot deliver satisfactory governance to the people of India. One hopes that our polity will muster courage and pick up the gauntlet.

(The author is a former Jammu & Kashmir Governor)

COMMENT

With over 51 lakh cases and around 84,000 deaths so far, India is bearing the brunt of the novel coronavirus. The much-awaited Covid peak seems nowhere in sight, while herd immunity is also a distant dream. No wonder the country is desperate to have a potent vaccine at the earliest. The tie-up between Russian Direct Investment Fund and Indian pharma giant Dr Reddy's Laboratories to conduct Phase 3 trials of the Sputnik V vaccine has raised hopes that, if all goes well, the all-important shot will be available in India later this year. Subject to successful trials and the Indian drug

regulator's approval, 10 crore doses will be supplied. Phase 1 and Phase 2 clinical trials of Sputnik V have demonstrated 'no serious adverse effects and a stable immune response in participants', according to a research paper published earlier this month in The Lancet. However, these two phases had just 70-odd participants - too small a sample size to arrive at definitive conclusions. It's the result of Phase 3, in which thousands of people are involved to ascertain the efficacy and safety of the vaccine over a period of a few months, that

matters the most.

After the Indian Council of Medical Research caused a stir by setting an improbable deadline (August 15) for an indigenous vaccine, the government is understandably wary of jumping the gun. Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said in Rajya Sabha on Thursday that the coronavirus vaccine will be made available in the country by the start of next year. India is the manufacturing partner of Covishield, a vaccine candidate developed jointly by the University of Oxford's Jenner

Institute and AstraZeneca. British-Swedish pharma major AstraZeneca had to suspend global trials recently after a participant in the UK showed a serious side-effect. However, Oxford has stated that the trial illnesses may not be due to the vaccine shot, even as trials have resumed in Britain, Brazil and South Africa. Under the circumstances, the Russian vaccine could be India's best bet to save millions of lives, provided the notorious Indian red tape is not allowed to impede the process.

(Tribune, India)

Russian vaccine : Covid-ravaged India should facilitate trials

EXCLUSIVE TO THE INDIAN PANORAMA

Can the United States Renege on the Payment Due to the WHO?



By Ravi Batra

COVID-19 came from Wuhan in China in late December 2019. It is widely believed that China is responsible for the creation and spread of Coronavirus which has snuffed out 197 K lives in the US, and 942K lives worldwide (as on September 16). The Virus has shaken the world economies, including America's. President Trump has accused WHO of not warning member states of a public health crisis in time and delaying the information to help China cover-up its misconduct. - EDITOR

POTUS has accused WHO's Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus ("Dr. Tedros") of being ethically compromised, or worse, and "China-centric" in his performance - such that the early alarm system that the WHO is responsible to trigger to warn member states' leaders of a public health crisis was not "rung" timely, but delayed to help China cover-up its misconduct - and promised, as a punishment, to withhold Dues-payment to the WHO. The United States is the single largest member state-contributor to WHO's budget, be it assessed or voluntary "dues." Even, as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is the largest private donor.

The short answer is "yes." The long answer is "yes; but, it will cause consternation."

In violation of Truth in Labeling laws and WHO's unethical behavior, China has successfully mis-labeled the "Wuhan Virus" aka the "China Virus" into a neutered "Coronavirus" or "Covid-19" - unlike a century ago, when it was the Spanish Influenza, so-named as it originated in Spain. Today, China admits - a point of sharp dispute - that it came from the Wuhan Wet Market on or about December 30, 2019, even as nobody doubts that "Wuhan" is in China. Many believe it escaped due to poor protocols from the Virology Lab in Wuhan prior to December 2019, as Patient Zero was admitted on December 1, 2019 in Wuhan hospital. The protein make-up of the virus taken from Patient Zero is different than the ones identified by China as coming out of the Wet Market and given to WHO and others in mid-January 2020. For greater detail, see my Open Letter to POTUS, dated April 14, 2020. China has to-date not turned over Patient Zero's genome, which is different than the one they did turn over in late January 2020.

President Trump was infuriated with WHO for having failed to sound the alarm on or about December 1, 2019 and thereby caused so many Americans to get sick or die - when they didn't have to but for the WHO's complicity in covering up China's mis-deeds. The early and timely alarm is the primary reason for WHO's existence, and had it performed properly, all nations' leaders would have timely shut down their borders and blocked Chinese visitors in December 2019 to limit the infection. Trump acted rightfully, as every homeowner would, in refusing to pay the Home Alarm company after a group of intruders came into the house illegally and no alarm went off causing great loss to life, limb and property.

So, let us look at WHO: it has a governing body - World Health Assembly ("WHA") - which meets annually in Geneva, composed of its 194 member states. It has an Executive Board, that effectuates the mandates of the WHA. The WHA appoints the Director General of the WHO, currently, the embattled Dr. Tedros. A look at the binding Ethical Principles of the WHO underpins President Trump's frustration and desire to punish China, the place of origin of the virus, as well as all aiders and abettors, none more important than Dr. Tedros who refused to sound the alarm timely in December 2019 and who to-date has not secured Patient Zero's genome - even as vaccines are being developed - based upon the genome of the virus that was subsequently released by China as a "cloaking device" - to cloak the virus Patient Zero was infected with.



The accuser, US President Donald Trump, and the accused WHO's Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

"WHO is firmly committed to the following ethical principles:

INTEGRITY: To behave in accordance with ethical principles, and act in good faith, intellectual honesty and fairness.

ACCOUNTABILITY: To take responsibility for one's actions, decisions and their consequences.

INDEPENDENCE AND IMPARTIALITY: To conduct oneself with the interests of WHO only in view and under the sole authority of the Director-General, and to ensure that personal views and convictions do not compromise ethical principles, official duties or the interests of WHO.

RESPECT: To respect the dignity, worth, equality, diversity and privacy of all persons.

PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT: To demonstrate a high level of professionalism and loyalty to the Organization, its mandate and objectives."

Well, a calm reading and the WHO and its DG Dr. Tedros would stand charged for violating these binding ethical codes: for he lacks "integrity," "accountability," Independence and Impartiality" of a fiduciary, "Respect" of all those who needlessly got sick or died because he wouldn't sound the alarm timely, and "Professional Commitment."

That the world - people and governments - need a world health organization is obvious. This one has failed, and failed shamelessly by embracing Corruption instead of Honor. I have proposed that it be replaced and the UN Charter be amended. A new "UN Security Council" be created in place and stead of the Trusteeship Council, called the "UN Pandemic Council," and it have 12 Permanent Members, and either 9 or 13 Rotating Members. It would have Responsibility to Protect ("R2P") jurisdiction, and it can also have OPCW jurisdiction for chemical warfare, as Wuhan Virus is biowarfare, and each can create a global public health crisis. The P12's Veto power would not be individualized, but require a group of 4-member states. Humanity has embedded its Hope into the United Nations - which celebrates its 75th year for its many achievements, including, the Cuban Missile crisis and no WW III. We need to strengthen multilateralism, so humanity is better served by governments - as Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg told us we must.

That America has suffered so much - even the dastardly attack on Pearl Harbor killed less than 2400 American. And, we responded to Imperial Japan's temerity and warmongering, beat them by dropping two Nukes ("Little Boy" and "Fat Man") - when less than 2400 were killed. How many Pearl Harbors did China do to us with its Wuhan Virus? Oh, had it been a mistake, China would have apologized and offered to indemnify us for our losses - be it pain and suffering or

economic losses. That is what civilized persons and nations do: admit error, and indemnify the other's losses. But, China went "belligerent," not just in the South China Sea sinking and killing Philippines' Fishermen in their national sovereign 12-mile waters, but even sending a mandate to its diplomats to become "Wolf Warriors," so-called, after a Chinese movie of a Chinese Commando who kills Americans in Africa. China is at war with the United States and lots of other countries; they just conveniently forgot to send us that notice in writing, or too many of our leaders like being a "Neville Chamberlain" - and continue to appease China by being calibrated and reasonable - by punishing her less than her minimum sentence: express remorse, indemnify all victims fully, and promise not to misbehave by removing the triggers from each rifle, missile, gun and bomb. Imagine, if POTUS actually responded to China's war upon us nine (9) months ago; the artificial Mischief Reef made from the sand vacuumed up from the ocean's floor would sink back to ocean depths. Chinese Communist Party's China is rejuvenating the Ming Dynasty's Tribute system. Either we remove China's Jaws of War - peacefully or by whatever means necessary - or we all need to learn Chinese. Luckily, since a very tight election for President of these United States is upon us, perhaps Winston Churchill will make a cameo appearance in one of our candidates for POTUS, and do to CCP's global-dominating China, what he did to Hitler's fascist Germany.

So, President Trump is right to withhold payment of dues - until WHA or the Executive Board fires Dr. Tedros "for cause." Of course, if President Barack Obama's Attorney General Loretta Lynch could indict FIFA leadership as a U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, you know that Attorney General Bill Barr can indict Dr. Tedros, and the WHO if he wanted - in his sleep before the Grand Jury, so powerful is the evidence of misconduct. If the world cancelled all the debt China owns in every country, and created a trust fund to pay victims in a like manner as those who suffered in the WTC on 9/11, China's indemnification of losses just to America (federal, state and local) and Americans would exceed \$15 Trillion.

That China is interfering in our elections, after infecting us with almost 100 "Pearl Harbors," is beyond the cavil, and we must rise to defend our Flag and our nation - as ordinary Americans heroically did in 1814 at Fort McHenry under heavy bombardment from the Brits to repeatedly takedown the Flag. Indeed, Francis Scott Key, a hostages-release lawyer-negotiator, seeing such bravery, spontaneously wrote our "Star Spangled Banner."

Everyday hardworking Americans are worthy of American Exceptionalism; may our leaders be also, and actually and fully "defend and protect" these United States from enemies who commit war upon us. A nine-month old un-declared war by CCP's China has devastated us, unleashed a French Revolution of 1787 lawlessness and criminality upon our streets, and still we wait - wait for POTUS Trump and Secretary of Defense Esper to respond with full force before Election Day. It's much easier to pick between a would-be negotiator-appeaser Chamberlain and a Churchill, who well depicted in the movie, "The Darkest Hour," what is needed now: "we shall never surrender!"

(The author is Father, American Patriot, Lawyer, Wuhan Virus-Survivor. Chair, National Advisory Council South Asian Affairs, Advisor to Ukraine Mission to United Nations. Twitter @ravibatra)

India should consider withdrawing from the United Nations



By Ven Parameswaran

2020 is the 75th birthday of the U.N., founded in 1945 by the victors of World War II. The victors, U.S.A., France, U.K., Republic of China, and the Soviet Union automatically made themselves permanent members of the Security Council with a veto power. Just compare the maps of 1945 and 2020. The geopolitics of 1945 is totally obsolete today. The present U.N. does not represent the realities of the geopolitics of today. The Security Council is the most unrepresentative and undemocratic organization.

The Charter of the U.N. begins with the sentence: "WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD....."

Therefore, it is only logical that the Security Council should represent the PEOPLE OF THE WORLD.

The world has a population of 7.8 billion. Out of this, the Security Council does not represent 5.81 billion. A minority of 1.99 billion (25%) is represented: China 1.39 billion (20%); USA 330 million; Russia 144 million; UK 65 million; France 67 million. Thus 75% of the world population is not represented. If India is admitted two thirds of the world would be represented. **THUS, THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS THE MOST UNDEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION, AS OF NOW.**

Today, the U.K. and France have each a population of approximately 65 million, representing 1/10th of India's population. Both are from Western Europe. Why should two countries represent Western Europe with a population of 300 million? Furthermore, in 1945 the colonial powers of the U.K. and France represented many colonies in Asia, Africa and other parts of the world. Without amending the charter, both the U.K. and France were allowed to continue as permanent members of the Security Council when they stopped representing former colonies representing large population.

The Peoples Republic of China was established in 1949. The victor, Mao-Tso-Tung defeated Chiang-Ki-Sheik, head of the Republic of China, who took refuge in the island of Formosa, now known as Taiwan.

Although the People's Republic of China represented the largest population of any country in the world, it was excluded by the U.N. It is a political joke that Taiwan, representing less than 10 million people was allowed to continue as member of the Security Council for almost 30 years without amending the Charter. The Soviet Union represented several Eastern European and Central Asian countries in 1945. After the Cold War ended in 1989, the Soviet Union was disintegrated resulting in many countries winning their own

India cannot allow China to be the sole obstructionist to it getting a permanent seat in the Security Council

India's population of 1.32 billion, 20% of World population is not represented (in the Security Council). India is an original member of the U.N. even before it became independent. India is the largest democracy in the world. India has been an outstanding leader and contributed maximum during the formative years of the U.N. from 1945 to 1965. India's record of performance in the General Assembly, the Trusteeship Council and the Economic & Social Council is most outstanding.

independence. Thus, the remaining Russia with 140 million people was allowed to continue as a permanent member of the Security Council without amending the Charter.

India's population of 1.32 billion, 20% of World population is not represented. India is an original member of the U.N. even before it became independent. India is the largest democracy in the world. India has been an outstanding leader and contributed maximum during the formative years of the U.N. from 1945 to 1965. India's record of performance in the General Assembly, the Trusteeship Council and the Economic & Social Council is most outstanding.

INDIA'S MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE U.N.

1. The Trusteeship Council was entrusted with the responsibility of decolonization of former Trust territories and colonies. India's chief delegate, V. K. Krishna Menon's speech on Decolonization was published in two full pages by the NEW YORK TIMES in 1946 (See the internet). Krishna Menon represented the Interim Government of India. He was the Chairman of the Indian Delegation till 1962.
2. KOREAN WAR: Krishna Menon's formula was applied and Armistice was signed. President Eisenhower praised India's leadership in bringing the Korean war to an end.
3. SUEZ CRISIS: Krishna Menon negotiated with Egypt, U.K. and France in solving the Suez Canal crisis resulting from Egypt nationalizing Suez Canal. Here again, President Eisenhower credited Indian leadership.
4. France did not want to give up its colonies - Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco and walked out of the U.N. Krishna Menon negotiated and brought them back resulting in decolonization.
5. Krishna Menon championed the decolonization of colonies in Africa, Asia and elsewhere and succeeded in obtaining independence for the colonies.
6. Krishna Menon spoke on behalf of the Peoples Republic of China to correct its misrepresentation by Taiwan.

7. Just like the Security Council, the Western powers wanted to create a new international Atomic Energy Agency, a private club of nuclear powers then. Krishna Menon challenged this concept and negotiated hard resulting in the new International Atomic Energy Agency of all members of the UN.
8. Krishna Menon was responsible to admit 16 new members in 1956 as a package deal.
9. India was an active member of the Capital Development Committee that created U.N.D.P. Similarly, India was very active in creating almost all Specialized Agencies including the World Bank, IMF, WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, ITU, ICAO, ILO, UNCTAD, FAO, WMO, and others. Indian diplomats participated very actively in preparatory committees.
10. 11 American fliers were shot down by Communist China during the Korean War. Krishna Menon went to China to negotiate release of these prisoners. President Eisenhower invited Krishna Menon to the oval office to thank him personally.
11. India was the first member to contribute to Peace Keeping Force. India continued to contribute substantial peace keeping force in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. General Inderjit Rikhi served as Military Adviser to the Secretary General.

Any serious scholar of the U.N. or any active U.N. diplomat should be able to recognize the major contributions of V.K.Krishna Menon, Defence Minister of India. American and international media has covered India's contributions.

INDIA CANNOT BE ADMITTED AS A PERMANENT MEMBER WITHOUT AMENDING THE CHARTER IS A POLITICAL JOKE!

We know the Security Council, without amending the Charter has admitted Russian Federation by political agreement. Similarly, after decolonization of former colonial countries, the U.K. and France were allowed to continue as members representing the same region (Western Europe) and a population of 130 million people. Therefore, India should not



India's record of performance in the General Assembly, the Trusteeship Council and the Economic & Social Council is most outstanding

accept the flimsy argument that India cannot be admitted without amending the Charter.

U.S.A., U.K., FRANCE, AND RUSSIA HAVE OFFICIALLY AND PUBLICLY SUPPORTED THE ADMISSION OF INDIA AS A PERMANENT MEMBER. INDIA IS YET TO CAPITALIZE THIS UNITED SUPPORT

India received 184 votes in the UN General Assembly this year in favor of admitting India as a temporary member. Based on this strength, India should try to get a resolution approved by two thirds of the majority of the U.N.General Assembly to admit India as a permanent member based on the support of four members of the U.N.Security Council and major contributions of India to the U.N. India must take the initiative to achieve this. So far, Indian diplomats unfortunately have left it to China to postpone or not decide. It is time India capitalizes on the united support of 4 permanent Security Council members.

India should not be surrendering to China even at the U.N. India should not and cannot accept the status quo after 75 years of the U.N. It is not up to China to decide the rights of 1.3 billion people of India.

AGGRESSIVE INDIAN DIPLOMACY REQUIRED

Apparently, the Indian diplomacy succeeded in enlisting the support of 184 out of 193 members of the General Assembly for temporary membership. Aggressive Indian diplomacy should be employed at all capitals of the world seeking support for admission as a permanent member of the Council. Once India has a resolution approved by two thirds of the U.N.General Assembly, then it is easier for the US, UK, France, and Russia to pressure China not to veto admission of India. American diplomacy has succeeded in getting cooperation of China before sanctions against North Korea resolution was adopted. India must continue to use diplomacy and pressure on the USA, UK, France, and Russia for admission of India as a permanent member.

Before India is admitted, India should not be wasting its time in discussing the admission of the enemies of World War II, Germany and Japan.

Unlike his predecessors, Prime Minister Modi should even consider withdrawing from the U.N. if India is not admitted as a Permanent Member with a Veto power. The honor of India and its 1.3 billion people is at stake.

(Ven Parameswaran was with the Permanent Mission of India to the U.N. from 1954 to 1964. He was first Private Secretary to V. K. Krishna Menon and later Advisor, Economic & Social Council Affairs. He is currently writing a biography of V. K. Krishna Menon. His email: vpwaren@gmail.com)

India targets U.S. Christian leaders for deportation?



By George Abraham

India's future is intrinsically linked with the Non-Resident Indians' (NRIs) population. NRIs have a history with India's independence struggle. Some of India's great leaders, like Gandhi and Nehru, and many others have come from the NRI ranks. We are also profoundly grateful for the Gadar movement's sacrifices that gave a huge impetus to the freedom struggle. India is a country with one of the largest Diasporas that not only connects with the Indian motherland but also enriches it through foreign currency remittances and technology transfers.

However, at the end of the day, the NRIs are primarily economic refugees searching for a better life and opportunities. Although the popular notion is that the World requires our expertise, I still believe we need the World more than they need us. The NRIs provide a visible face for India that has garnered more attention and respect for the Indian culture and traditions worldwide. In Western Countries, India's soft power is displayed every day, whether it is the cuisine, yoga, or various philosophies that have roots in the ancient land. The country is more appreciated for its diversity and coexistence, while people like Gandhi are celebrated icons of such ideas in the West.

We, as Indians, also demand freedom and opportunities wherever we go. One of our top priorities has been to build places of worship and exercise that freedom without any prejudice or hindrance. We are also quick to react to anyone who denigrates our religious symbols and demand an apology and often restitution. We invite scores of our religious leaders from India for temporary visits and others on religious visas on a long-term basis. Even in diplomatic postings, we are placing religious scholars to familiarize our faith with the western folks who have shown some level of curiosity. It is also known that large sums of money are collected and sent to India from NRIs and other generous Americans attracted to some of these famous religious personalities.

However, it appears that what is good for the goose is not so for the gander. While we demand our way around, American Christian leaders are being deported directly from India's airports just because they are Christians. Several months ago, nine leaders from the New York Council of Christian churches headed by Rev. Peter Cook, who traveled to India with valid visas, were denied entry at the Chennai airport in a shocking display of bad faith. And after subjugating them to a grueling 12-hour questioning, they were deported back to the United States. The team was there to

It is learned that a group of people who were deported from India for their faith are expected to be discussing their ordeal in a virtual discussion hosted by the Washington DC based Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations, on Monday September 21 at 8 PM www.fiacona.org-EDITOR



From L to R: The Reverend Bryan Nerren (Pastor, International House of Prayer Ministries, Shelbyville, TN) ; The Reverend Peter Cook (Executive Director, NY State Council of Churches, Albany, NY); Mr. John K. Hutcheson (Field Director, Greentree Global, Taylors, SC); Mr. John Prabhudoss (Chairman, FIAONA, Washington DC)

meet some people and learn,' said Rev. Cook, who is also the Executive Director of the New York State Council of Churches. They were even denied the basic courtesy of making a phone call to their would-be hosts. According to one of the team members, the chief of the immigration at the airport went as far as to pronounce, 'we don't want Christians to come here!'

The ill-treatment of the Christian leadership by the officials is not just limited to American Christians but includes leaders from other countries as well. Considering that India, which has 30 million of its citizens living abroad and more at home are looking for opportunities around the World, what the Modi government has done to a Spanish Nun who lived in India for five decades and serving the poor is deeply shameful. Sister Enedina, 86 years old, a member of the Daughters of Charity, was denied the renewal of her visa and was told by the Government that she had ten days to leave the country. She flew August 20, 2019, from New Delhi to Spain. This shocking behavior is from a country that grumbles when America reduces the number of H-1B visas!

The case of Pastor Bryan Nerren was highlighted by President Trump recently as one of his successful interventions to get American citizens held by foreign countries. It is a case of not only deportation but also arrest and confiscation of Nerren's funds and travel documents. Senator Alexander and Senator Blackburn of Tennessee have worked hard on this case as well. Let me quote from a letter sent earlier by a multi-faith group to President Trump, highlighting the plight of this American Pastor that shows Religious persecution is not restricted to Indian citizens only. "In October 2019, police arrested U.S. Pastor Bryan Nerren in Bagdogra airport in India. The police arrested him on the grounds of failing to declare funds, this followed after the officers in New Delhi interrogated him, asking him if he was Christian and if the money was for Christians or Hindus,

they cleared him at the airport in New Delhi only to have him re-arrested in Bagdogra. The Pastor was compliant and said he would fill out the customs form and pay the penalties if any, but was instead arrested, with the authorities confiscating Pastor's funds and the passport. The boldness of the authorities' arrest and discrimination of a U.S. national because of his faith - shows that actors of religious persecution in India, afforded government impunity, further embolden state and non-state extremists to continue their discriminatory and abusive actions towards non-Hindus".

John Prabhudoss, the Chairman of the Federation of Indian Christian Associations of North America, was a victim himself of deportation despite having a valid visa on the grounds that he had visited Kandhamal, Orissa, where Hindutva extremists staged the anti-Christian riots. Those riots resulted in the deaths of hundreds, including a Catholic Priest and the raping of a Nun in broad daylight. Thousands of homes of Christians were destroyed by rioters. Four others who visited the Kandhamal area Mr. John Hutcheson, an associate of Green Tree Global based in North Carolina, Ms. Virginia Farris, a former U.S. Diplomat and the current Foreign Policy Advisor to the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference, along with Ms. Erin Weston and Ms. Valerie Payne officials of Jubilee Campaign USA, were also put on the blacklist by the Indian Government. Deportation of Mr. Prabhudoss on his subsequent visit to India, though he is of Indian origin, is a prime example of selective punishment for a Christian immigrant to the USA who is unjustifiably denied entry to his motherland just because he empathized with the plight of the fellow Christians.

As Dr. Christo Philip from Houston found out, one of his frequent trips to India turned out to be a nightmare. He was stopped at the airport and deported back to Spain, where the flight originated, ending up in prison for a day and losing his Overseas Citizen of India

(OCI) status. He was falsely accused of evangelizing though, as a medical doctor, his primary interest was to serve the needy people over their health concerns at some of India's remotest parts. Although the Delhi high court has finally restored his OCI status, the Judge involved may have paid a higher price and said to have been reassigned since then.

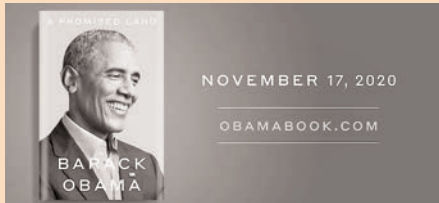
Considering all these horrific incidents that threaten the very essence of democracy and religious freedom in India, our Diaspora remains silent. While the 'conversion' is being blamed by the critics for all the ill will, they were celebratory in cheering Tulsi Gabbard, a Hindu convert, who took the oath of office as a Congresswoman placing her hand on Gita. They seem to have little problem with any American joining the Hare Krishna movement or becoming followers Satya Sai Baba or Mata Amrithandnamai. Many do not even show any qualms in promoting Yoga and Vegetarianism with its religious underpinnings. The duplicity displayed by a segment of the Indian Diaspora merely seems to have no limits.

It is widely believed that there are standing instructions with Indian embassies to deny religious visas and even to deny tourist visas to folks directly associated with any Christian Organization. It is just unfair, to say the least, that while many of the Hindutva leaders who have blood on their hands travel to the United States or Europe freely while the Christendom in India that has a 2000-year-old history of peaceful coexistence is forbidden to receive fellow Christians from around the World. It is not only unfortunate but a grave injustice to a minority community that has contributed so much to the enlightenment of the country through Education and the upliftment of the poor and the downtrodden via Social Services.

(The writer is a former Chief Technology Officer of the United Nations. He can be reached at gta777@gmail.com)

“However, it appears that what is good for the goose is not so for the gander. While we demand our way around, American Christian leaders are being deported directly from India's airports just because they are Christians.

First volume of Barack Obama's memoir "A Promised Land" coming on November 17



NEW YORK (TIP): The first volume of former President Barack Obama's memoir is coming out November 17, two weeks after Election Day. It's called "A Promised Land" and will cover his swift and historic rise to the White House and his first term in office.

The publication date for the second volume has not yet been determined.

"I've spent the last few years reflecting on my presidency, and in 'A Promised Land' I've tried to provide an honest accounting of my presidential campaign and my time in office: the key events and people who shaped it; my take on what I got right and the mistakes I made; and the political, economic, and cultural forces that my team and I had to confront then - and that as a nation we are grappling with still," Obama said in a statement Thursday.

"In the book, I've also tried to give readers a sense of the personal journey that Michelle and I went through during those years, with all the incredible highs and lows. And finally, at a time when America is going through such enormous upheaval, the book offers some of my broader thoughts on how we can heal the divisions in our country going forward and make our democracy work for everybody - a task that won't depend on any single president, but on all of us as engaged citizens." Obama's book, like his previous ones, will be released by Crown. The 768-page book is the most anticipated presidential memoir in memory, as much or more because of the quality of the writing than for any possible revelations.

He has been called the most literary president since Abraham Lincoln and has already written two highly praised, million-selling books: "Dreams from My Father" and "The Audacity of Hope," both of which have been cited as aiding his presidential run in 2008 and making him the country's first Black president.

Even with a substantial list price of USD 45, "The Promised Land" is virtually guaranteed to sell millions of copies. But it will face challenges far different from most presidential memoirs, and even from former first lady Michelle Obama's blockbuster book, "Becoming," which came out two years ago. Because of the pandemic, the former president will likely be unable to have the spectacular arena tour that Michelle Obama had.

Barack Obama also may find his book coming out at a time when the November 3 election is still undecided and the country is far more preoccupied with who the next president will be than with events of the past. (Agencies)

Biden says he trusts vaccines and scientists, not Trump

WILMINGTON (TIP): Joe Biden has said while he trusts what scientists said about a potential coronavirus vaccine, he doesn't trust US President Donald Trump.

His comments come as the debate over a vaccine - how it will be evaluated and distributed when it's ready - has taken center stage in the presidential race with seven weeks to go until the November election.

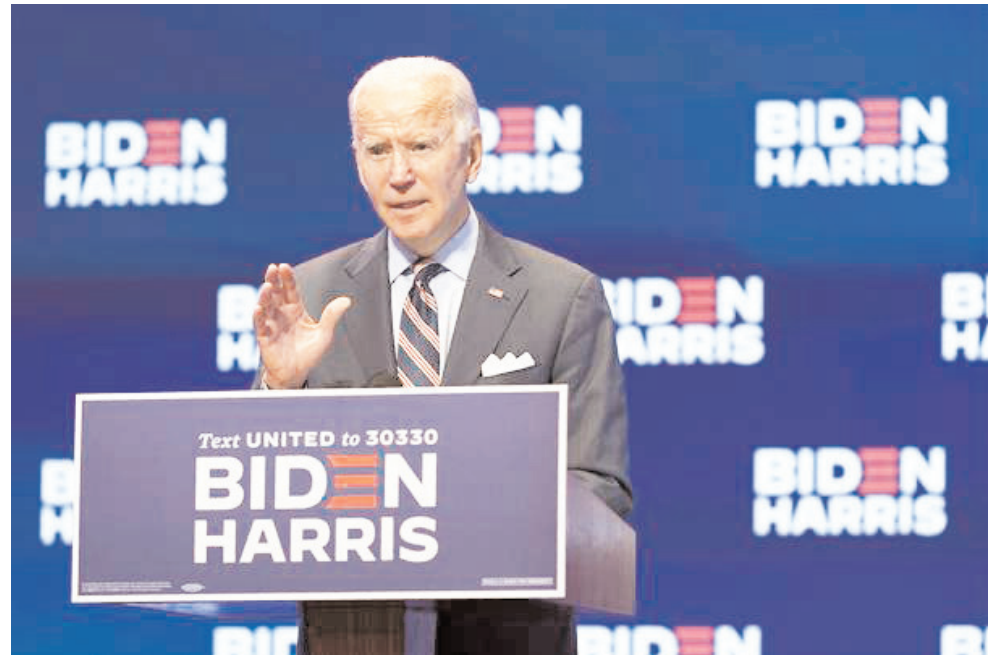
Trump and Biden have been trading accusations that the other is undermining public trust in a potential coronavirus vaccine. Biden has expressed concerns that the vaccine approval process could be politicized while Trump and his allies counter that such comments from Biden and other Democrats are turning off the public to a potentially lifesaving vaccine when it's released.

Biden, speaking in Wilmington, Delaware, after being briefed by public health experts about a potential vaccine, cited Trump's "incompetence and dishonesty" surrounding the distribution of personal protective equipment and coronavirus testing.

"The US can't afford to repeat those fiascos when it comes to a vaccine," he said.

"I trust vaccines, I trust scientists, but I don't trust Donald Trump," Biden said, adding: "And at this moment, the American people can't, either."

On Wednesday, September 16 evening, Trump raised new questions about the administration's rollout of a vaccine when he publicly contradicted



"I trust vaccines, I trust scientists, but I don't trust Donald Trump," Biden said, adding: "And at this moment, the American people can't, either." - Photo / Courtesy PTI

the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who said at a congressional hearing earlier Wednesday that a vaccine wouldn't be broadly available to most Americans until the summer of 2021.

Trump said CDC Director Robert Redfield had misspoken and that the US could start distributing a vaccine starting in mid-October.

"I think he made a mistake when he said that. I think it's just incorrect information," Trump said of Redfield's comments. "When he said it, I believe he was confused." He said he called Redfield after his testimony. "I think he

just made a mistake. He just made a mistake. I think he misunderstood the question, probably."

For his part, Biden has said he would take a vaccine "tomorrow" if it were available but that he would want to "see what the scientists said first".

His running mate, Kamala Harris, has said she wouldn't trust Trump to be honest about the safety of any potential vaccine and worries that experts and scientists would be "muzzled" by the president because he's so eager to get a vaccine approved by his stated goal of Election Day. (Agencies)



President Donald Trump addresses the UNGA in 2018 - File photo

Trump will not attend UN General Assembly

The decision marks an about-face for Mr. Trump, who last month said he wanted to deliver his speech in the General Assembly hall in New York

WASHINGTON (TIP): U.S. President Donald Trump will not attend next week's UN General Assembly gathering in person, his chief of staff told journalists aboard Air Force One Thursday, September 17, according to a pool report.

The decision marks an about-face for Mr. Trump, who last month said he wanted to deliver his speech in the General Assembly hall in New York, even if other world leaders are staying away due to the coronavirus pandemic.

White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows ended the debate once and for all, telling reporters en route to Wisconsin, where Mr. Trump was to hold a campaign rally, that he would not physically attend the General Assembly's 75th session, which will take place mainly by videoconference due to the health crisis.

The main part of this year's UNGA, when world leaders take turns to give speeches, runs through the week starting September 21 and ends on September 29.

In opening remarks Tuesday, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres emphasized this year's focus on the global response to the coronavirus pandemic plus "peace and security, disarmament, human rights, gender equality and sustainable development." (Agencies)

US envoy leading second recent high-level visit to Taiwan

TAIPEI / NEW YORK (TIP): A senior US State Department official arrived in Taiwan on Thursday, September 17 afternoon to begin a three-day visit that has already drawn



Undersecretary of State Keith Krach arrives in Taiwan, to meet Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen and other senior officials

a warning from China. US Undersecretary of State Keith Krach is due to meet Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen and other senior officials, the island's foreign ministry said Thursday, September 17. Krach is the highest-level official from the State Department to visit the island in decades.

His visit follows the high-profile visit in August of US Health Secretary Alex Azar, who was the highest-level US Cabinet official to visit since a break in formal ties between the US and Taiwanese government in 1979, when the US accepted the "one-China policy" with Beijing as its government. However, the US has maintained unofficial ties with Taiwan since the official diplomatic break and is the island's most important ally and provider of defense equipment.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

US law firm files class action suit against HDFC Bank for misleading claims

NEW YORK (TIP): As per the suit, bank officials "engaged in a plan, scheme, conspiracy and course of conduct, pursuant to which they knowingly or recklessly engaged in acts, transactions, practices and courses of business which operated as a fraud and deceit", resulting in the losses to investors.

A law firm in the US has filed a class action suit against HDFC Bank, claiming damages for the losses incurred by investors because of "materially false and misleading" representations made by India's largest private sector lender.

The suit by Rosen Legal specifically names the bank's managing director and chief executive Aditya Puri, his chosen successor Sashidhar Jagdishan and company secretary Santosh Haldnagar, who are the defendants in the suit, as per a copy of the complaint uploaded on the website.

The complaint did not mention the exact quantum of the damages sought, though it maintained that may be thousands of investors would have suffered. HDFC Bank could not be immediately reached for comment.

As per the suit, bank officials "engaged in a plan, scheme, conspiracy and course of conduct, pursuant to which they knowingly or recklessly engaged in acts, transactions, practices and courses of business which operated as a fraud and deceit", resulting in the losses to investors. The allegations pertain to the vehicle finance vertical, where the bank later acknowledged to have



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found some improprieties which resulted in some executives being acted against.

The bank had inadequate disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting, maintained improper lending practices in the vehicle financing making the operations unsustainable and all this was likely to have a materially negative impact on its financial condition and reputation, it alleged.

"The bank's public statements were materially false and misleading at all relevant times," the suit claims.

The defendants "knew that the adverse facts" had not been disclosed and were being "concealed from the public", it said, adding "the positive representations being made were then materially false and misleading. The individual defendants are liable for the false statements and omissions pleaded herein".

The period during which the losses are alleged to have happened to the investors is between July 31, 2019 and July 10, 2020 which is referred to as the "class period".

"Throughout the class period, defendants made materially false and misleading statements regarding the bank's business, operational and compliance policies," it alleged.

After the initiation of probe by the law firm, the bank had termed the move as a "frivolous" one and asserted that it has been transparent in all its disclosures.

According to reports, the bank used to bundle vehicle tracking devices along with auto loans sold by it, resulting in an additional cost to the borrower, and also concerns over privacy.

There was speculation over the circumstances under which its head of the unit left the office, but the bank later clarified that it was a scheduled retirement.

The HDFC Bank American Depository Receipt was trading 0.81% down at \$50.05 at 2115 hours IST on the NYSE. The scrip shed 0.94% to close at ₹1,083.25 apiece on the BSE earlier in the day. (Source: PTI)

US charges 5 Chinese hackers, Indian Govt network affected too



US Justice Department has charged five Chinese citizens with hacking over 100 companies and institutions in the US and abroad. - Picture for representational purpose

WASHINGTON (TIP): The US Justice Department has charged five Chinese citizens with hacking over 100 companies and institutions in the US and abroad, including Indian Government networks, and stealing valuable software data and business intelligence.

Deputy US Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen on Wednesday announced three indictments had been unsealed in the matter that collectively charge five Chinese nationals with computer hacking and charge two Malaysian nationals for helping some of those hackers.

The Malaysian nationals were arrested on Sunday and the Chinese nationals have been declared fugitive, according to a Justice Department statement. Rosen severely criticized the Chinese Government.

"The Department of Justice has used every tool available to disrupt the illegal computer intrusions and cyberattacks by these Chinese citizens. Regrettably, the Chinese Communist Party has chosen a different path - to make China safe for cyber criminals so long as they attack computers outside China and steal intellectual property helpful to Beijing," the Deputy Attorney General said.

In 2019, conspirators compromised Government of India websites as well as virtual private networks and database servers supporting the Government of India. (Source: PTI)

Shooting outside Wisconsin senior apartments leaves 4 hurt

MAYVILLE, WIS (TIP): A shooting outside a senior living apartment complex in a small Wisconsin town left four people wounded, including the suspected shooter, law enforcement said Thursday, September 17.

Life saving measures were performed at the scene after the shooting Wednesday evening in Mayville, and all four were taken by air to trauma centers, the Wisconsin Department of Justice said.

Spring Glen Apartments matches the location of the shooting provided by the Dodge County Sheriff's Office. Authorities have not said if any residents of the senior living complex were involved or hurt in the attack.

A message left at a possible number for the apartment building wasn't immediately returned Thursday.

Mayville is a town of 5,000 people about 80 kilometers northwest of Milwaukee. Mayor Rob Boelk did not immediately respond to an Associated Press call for comment Thursday, but he told the Fond du Lac Reporter that the suspected shooter is in critical condition.

It has been a "troubling and disturbing night," Boelk said.

Mayville Common Council member Dale Tollner said his ward includes the apartment building. He said no one has told him anything about the shootings. He said the building sits across the street from a McDonald's and a family-style restaurant.

He described the area as "small-town, not rough at all." The DOJ's Division of Criminal Investigation and Mayville police are leading the investigation with help from the sheriff's office, the State Patrol, and police departments in Horicon, Lomira and Theresa.

Mayville police referred questions to the DOJ. DOJ spokeswoman Gillian Drummond said she could offer no additional details. (Agencies)



FBI announces \$15K for info on Indian's murder



The FBI has announced a reward of USD 15,000 to anyone giving information leading to those responsible for the abduction and murder of Indian national Pareshkumar Patel in the US in 2012.

WASHINGTON (TIP): The FBI has announced a reward of USD 15,000 to anyone giving information leading to those responsible for the abduction and murder of Indian national Pareshkumar Patel in the US in 2012.

Patel was abducted from Raceway Gas Station he operated in Chesterfield, Virginia, on September 16, 2012. Four days later, his body with gunshots was found at the Ancarrow Boat Landing in the City of Richmond, Virginia. (Source: PTI)

Dubai suspends AI flights for 15 days for flying covid patients twice

Air India Express flights to Dubai airports have been temporarily suspended for 15 days, starting from September 18 until October 3, for allegedly ferrying coronavirus positive patients to Dubai twice during the last couple of weeks. Air India Express has also been penalised to bear all medical and quarantine expenditures of the coronavirus patients who had been ferried to Dubai.

Dubai Civil Aviation Authority has stopped Air India Express from flying to Dubai for 15 days, starting today, alleging that two coronavirus positive passengers flew on board the flights to Dubai on two separate occasions despite having Covid-19 positive test reports.

As per the UAE government rules, each passenger travelling from India needs to bring original coronavirus-negative certificate from RT-PCR test done 96 hours prior to the journey.

NCB unearths Bollywood drug trail

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Mumbai team led by Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede has detained one Rahil Vishram with 1 kg charas (cannabis). NCB also seized Rs 4.5 lakh cash from Rahil Vishram's residence. According to the NCB, Rahil Vishram is directly connected to other peddlers who have been named in the Sushant Singh Rajput death case.

Rahil Vishram was detained following an operation that was carried out on Thursday and went on till Friday morning. Rahil Vishram is said to be a leading drug supplier in Bollywood.

Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede and his team, investigating the case related to Rhea Chakraborty and others, found details of Rahil Vishram who is connected directly to the network, and conducted a raid and search at his residence in Versova, Mumbai.

The NCB team has seized high-quality Hashish (cannabis) also known as Malana Cream from Himachal Pradesh. The high-value 1 kg narcotic drug could be worth over Rs 3 to 4 crore. The NCB team has also seized Rs 4.5 lakh cash from Rahil Vishram's residence. During primary interrogation, Rahil has revealed that his boss is associated with the film industry and is one of the biggest suppliers of high-end Malana Cream to Bollywood celebrities. NCB has now launched a manhunt to nab Rahil's boss.

Wankhede and his team are currently following leads provided by Rahil Vishram to nab his boss. Sources have said that Rahil Vishram and his boss's arrest would be a major blow to narcotics operations and drug supply chain in Bollywood.

India's coronavirus cases rise to 52 lakh with 96,424 new infections

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's COVID-19 tally raced past 52 lakh with 96,424 people testing positive in a day while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease rose to 41,12,551 on Friday, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 52,14,677 while the death toll climbed to 84,372 with the virus claiming 1,174 lives in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am on September 18 showed.

The COVID-19 case fatality rate due to the coronavirus infection has further dropped to 1.62 per cent.

There are 10,17,754 active cases of COVID-19 in the country which comprises 19.52 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and it went past 50 lakh on September 16.

According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 6,15,72,343 samples have been tested up to September 17 with 10,06,615 samples being tested on Thursday, September 17.

As of September 18, India has 10,17,754 active coronavirus cases, 41,12,551 'discharged' cases, and the total death toll stood at 84,372. India has recorded 52,14,678 coronavirus cases so far. The coronavirus recovery rate in the country stood at 78.64 per cent along with a case fatality rate (CFR) of 1.63 per cent, the data provided by the Union Ministry of Health shows.

The five most affected states have reported 60 per cent of the active Coronavirus cases. However, there are 13 states and UTs that have reported less than 5000 active cases, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.



The Central government stated that it is proactively supporting high caseload States/UTs. Several Central teams have been deputed for providing support. Capacities of ICU doctors have been built up through teleconsultation by AIIMS, New Delhi and active steps are being taken to ensure adequate Medical Oxygen in health facilities.

In the last 24 hours (Sept 17 and 18), Maharashtra reported 24,619 coronavirus cases, Karnataka 9,366, Tamil Nadu 5,560, Uttar Pradesh 6,029, Delhi 4,432, Mumbai 2,389, West Bengal 4,183, Odisha 4,241, and Madhya Pradesh 2,391. Three states have recorded the highest single-day spike in Coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours. These are Gujarat (1,379), Kerala (4,351), and Chhattisgarh (3,809).

Overall, states with the most number of active coronavirus cases are Maharashtra (2,97,506), Karnataka (1,01,645), Andhra Pradesh (90,279), Uttar

Pradesh (67,002), Tamil Nadu (46,633), Chhattisgarh (37,470), Kerala (32,775), Odisha (32,405), Delhi (30,914), Telangana (30,443), and West Bengal (24,147).

Among the states, Maharashtra (30,883), Tamil Nadu (8,559), Karnataka (7,536), Andhra Pradesh (5,105), Delhi (4,839), Uttar Pradesh (4,690), West Bengal (4,123), and Gujarat (3,256) have reported the maximum number of deaths.

Maharashtra has shown a 7-day average growth of 2.13 per cent, Andhra Pradesh 1.68 per cent, Tamil Nadu 1.13 per cent, Uttar Pradesh 2.13 per cent, and Delhi 1.95 per cent.

India has also been ramping up coronavirus tests. So far, 6,15,72,343 samples have been tested up to September 17 for COVID19. Of these, 10,06,615 samples were tested on September 17, as per details provided by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Indian lawyer or Queen's Counsel: India invokes Commonwealth to ensure justice to Jadhav

NEW DELHI (TIP): After being stuck on the issue of who will represent Kulbhushan Jadhav in the civilian court in Pakistan, India has invoked the Commonwealth grounds to end the debate over the appointment of his counsel. India on Thursday called for the appointment of an Indian lawyer or a Queen's Counsel for the death row prisoner, Kulbhushan Jadhav, so that he receives a fair trial in his death sentence review.

Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said the government of Pakistan has not been able to fulfill its obligations on the implementation of the ICJ judgment in letter and spirit.

"The Government of Pakistan has not been able to fulfill its obligations on implementation of the ICJ judgment in letter and spirit," MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said.

"It has not yet addressed the core issues, which includes the provision of



all documents related to the case, providing unconditional and unimpeded consular access to Kulbhushan Jadhav and appointment of an Indian lawyer or a Queen's Counsel to ensure a free and fair trial," he added.

Queen's Counsel is a barrister or advocate, appointed Counsel to the UK Crown on the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor. Queen's counsels are

recognised in almost all courts around the world.

Has India managed to solve two problems with this proposal given that Harish Salve has defended the Kulbhushan Jadhav case on consular for India at the International Court of Justice?

This comes after Pakistan had objected to an Indian defending Kulbhushan Jadhav in Pakistani courts which, according to Pakistan's Attorney General, is not allowed as per their Constitution.

On September 10, during a briefing, Pakistan foreign office spokesperson, Zahid Hafeez, had insisted that they have been adhering to the ruling of the ICJ in letter and spirit.

"India has responded to Pakistan on the matter of Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav, offer for consular access stands and we are working on a reply, last time, too, we gave India an unimpeded uninterrupted consular access," he said.

PM Modi thanks Trump for birthday wish, says India-US friendship good for humanity

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday, Sept 18, thanked US President Donald Trump for the birthday wish and said the friendship between India and the US is strong and is a force for good for the entire humanity.

"Thank you @POTUS @realDonaldTrump for your warm wishes. The friendship between our nations is strong and is a force for good for the entire humanity," the Prime Minister tweeted in response to Trump's tweet in which he praised Modi as a "great leader and loyal friend".

"I would like to extend best wishes and a very happy 70th birthday to the Prime Minister of India, @narendramodi. Many happy returns to a GREAT LEADER and loyal friend!" Trump tweeted on Thursday.

Trump also posted a photograph of him and First lady Melania Trump with PM Modi at the 'Namaste Trump' event. The two leaders had their hands raised and clenched before a 125,000-strong crowd who had gathered to welcome the US president on his first India visit at the Motera cricket stadium in Ahmedabad in February this year.

Pulwama-like attack averted, 52 kg explosives found, says Army

The Indian Army on Thursday, Sept 17, said that it averted a major attack in Jammu and Kashmir by discovering 52 kilograms of explosives, not far from the site of the 2019 Pulwama terror attack.

The Army said in a statement that the explosives were found in a joint search operation launched in the morning in Garikal in Pulwama. "During the search op [operation], a dug in syntax tank was spotted," Defence Spokesperson Colonel Rajesh Kalia said. "Detailed search led to recovery of 416 packets of explosives, each packet of 125 g [grams] making a total of 52 Kgs, were recovered."

The spokesperson added that the Army also recovered 50 detonators from a second water tank.

"We have averted another Pulwama-type attack," an unidentified Army official told PTI. The official added that the explosives are called "Super-90" or S-90 in short. In February 2019, forty Central Reserve Police Force personnel were killed after an explosive-laden car driven by a suicide bomber rammed into their bus in Pulwama. Last month, the National Investigation Agency had filed a chargesheet in the case. Nineteen people, including Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar and his brother Rauf Asghar, were named in the chargesheet.

Forces trying to mislead farmers, farm bill will lead to more profits: PM

NEW DELHI (TIP): Hailing the passage of three farm sector bills in Lok Sabha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, Sept 17, described these proposed legislations as historic and asserted that they will rid farmers and the farm sector of middlemen and other bottlenecks.

With ruling BJP ally Shiromani Akali Dal joining the opposition in protesting these bills, Modi asserted that many forces are trying to "mislead" farmers and assured the farming community that minimum support price (MSP) and government procurement of their produce will continue along with a lot of other options for them.

These reforms will provide new opportunities to farmers to sell their produce and will lead to increased profits for them, he said.

Modi also urged farmers and those associated with the agriculture sector to listen to Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar's reply to the discussion on these bills.

"These agriculture reforms will provide new avenues to farmers to sell their produce which will increase their profits. Agriculture sector will benefit from modern technology and our farmers will also be empowered," the prime minister said in a series of tweets.

Many forces are trying to mislead farmers, he added, while assuring them



of the benefits of these reforms.

Lok Sabha on Thursday passed the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill.

It has already passed Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill.

The three bills will now be tabled in Rajya Sabha and become laws after the Upper House also passes them.

They will replace ordinances promulgated by the Union government.

The two bills were passed by voice vote in Lok Sabha earlier in the evening amid protests by opposition parties with SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal also vehemently opposing them, calling these measures as anti-farmers.

The SAD's lone member in the Union Cabinet Harsimrat Kaur Badal quit the government, accusing it of not taking

farmers on board.

Cong MPs burn copies of farm bills

Congress MPs from Punjab burnt copies of the farm bills proposed by the government inside the Parliament complex on Thursday, Sept 17, even as the party staged a protest in front of Mahatma Gandhi's statue.

The Congress is opposed to the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, that the NDA government has proposed in Parliament during the ongoing monsoon session, replacing the ordinances issued by it earlier.

Congress MPs Jasbir Singh Gill, Ravneet Singh Bittu, Gurjit Singh Aujla and Amar Singh burnt copies of the bills and said they will oppose the proposed legislations tooth and nail. They also wore black robes, saying "I am a farmer and farm labourer and don't betray me".

"We will oppose these bills from Parliament to panchayats. We also appeal to all MPs to vote against the bills, hearing the inner voice of their conscience for the sake of 'zameer and zameen' (conscience and land)," Gill said.

China's words and actions don't match, no power can stop patrolling at LAC: Rajnath

NEW DELHI (TIP): Underlining that there is a mismatch between what China says and does, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told Rajya Sabha on Thursday, Sept 17, that India will not back down from taking "any big and tough step" in its interest, and that there will be no change in the "traditional and well-defined" patrolling pattern of Indian soldiers along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh.

"No power in the world can stop Indian soldiers from patrolling," he said.

Making a statement in the House on the situation in Ladakh, two days after he made a similar statement in Lok Sabha, Singh said the government wants to assure 130 crore people of the country that it will not let India "bow down" its head. At the same time, he said, it does not want to bend anyone else's head.

Citing operational reasons for not giving detailed replies to questions from members, Singh, responding to a query from Congress leader and former Defence Minister AK Antony, said there will be no change in the patrolling pattern of Indian soldiers.

With all Opposition parties backing the government, the Congress, which had been demanding a full-fledged discussion on the issue, did not register any protest.

Singh also agreed to Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu's suggestion that he consider meeting some prominent leaders in his chamber and brief them on the ground situation.

Earlier, the Defence Minister briefed the House on how and when the present crisis began, and the diplomatic and military steps taken by India to resolve the issue.



Court orders FIR against ex-minister Arun Shourie for Udaipur hotel sale

NEW DELHI (TIP): A special CBI court has said that one of the grandest palace-hotels in Rajasthan's Udaipur was sold at a huge loss and former Union Minister Arun Shourie should be charged for it and investigation re-launched in the case, a media report said on Thursday, Sept 17.

According to a NDTV report, the special CBI court wants the case to be reopened and has asked for criminal case against Shourie, former bureaucrat Pradeep Bajjal and hotelier Jyotsna Suri.

Hotel Laxmi Vilas Palace was valued at over Rs 252 crore but was sold for Rs 7.5 crore to hotelier Lalit Suri, the report quoted the court as saying. At the time of this sale, Shourie was Disinvestment Minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.

"I have not seen the order, advocates will examine the order and then we will decide what to do next," NDTV quoted Shourie as saying on the special CBI court order. "Advocates will examine the order and then we will decide what to do next."

The grand-palace hotel in question is one of the famous five-stars hotels on the banks of lake Fateh Sagar in Udaipur.

Last year, the CBI had filed a closure report saying there was no evidence in this case and concluded that evidence worth launching prosecution was not found in the entire process of disinvestment of M/s Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel, Udaipur, NDTV reported.

Rejecting the closure report, the special court in Jodhpur has ordered to reopen the case, relaunch the investigation and file charges against Shourie.

NY & NJ E-FESTS : DANCE, MUSIC, TALK

BY MABEL PAIS

".....Bringing (artists) together on an online platform was not only the most responsible and exciting way of showcasing their work but also displaying the virtuosity of diversity." - Deepsikha Chatterjee, Festival Director



Dancer-Participants at EB Dance Fest 2020
Photo / Courtesy IAAC

**Indo-American Arts Council Presents
VirtualErasing Borders Dance Festival
September 20-27, 2020, 8:30 pm EST**

The Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC) presents the Erasing Borders Dance Festival from September 20-27, 2020 at 8:30pm EST each day for free on Facebook Live at

facebook.com/iaac.us

The Erasing Borders Dance Festival (EBDF) for the twelfth year has been expanded by the IAAC. For the first time, eleven artists trained in Indian dance forms from across the world will be brought together in a virtual borderless festival.

Program

Sunday, September 20, 2020

Shambhu Nath Karmakar/Ashpara Care Club
(Purulia Chhau)

Monday, September 21, 2020

Neha Mondal Chakravarty (Kalakshetra
Bharatanatyam)
Krishnakshi Kashyap (Sattriya)

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Ganesh Vasudeva (Bharatanatyam)

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Divyaa Unni (Bharatanatyam)
Arun Mathai (Bharatanatyam)

Thursday, September 24, 2020

Sandhya Raju (Kuchipudi)

Friday, September 25, 2020

Damir Tasmagambetov (Kalakshetra Bharatanatyam)
Barkha Patel (Contemporary Kathak)

Saturday, September 26, 2020

Mesma Belsaré (Shilpa Natana)

Sunday, September 27, 2020

Vishwakiran Nambi (Contemporary)
Workshops by Nahid Siddiqui (Sufi Kathak)

The Festival dancers, turned away from traditional performance spaces, take the time to reflect, activate, and energize through other forms of healing. Mesma Belsaré seeks inspiration in the fluid lines of India's

ancient architecture while Singapore-based Neha Mondal Chakravarty meditates on a tiny seed sprouting into the fullness of womanhood in Bharatanatyam. Vishwakiran Nambi collects his contemporary group in the urbanscape of Bengaluru to use their bodies in deeply felt and original ways. Arun Mathai draws power and energy from The Great God Shiva against the Black Lives protests in US for his Bharatanatyam performance. New Yorker Damir Tasmagambetov from Kazakhstan, trained in Kalakshetra Bharatanatyam in India bridges many cultures, and concludes his creative presentation through a prayer for Shanti or peace. US based Kathak dancer Barkha Patel is nourished by her week-long walk in Gujarat in prayers for Goddess Bahuchara Maa, a deity for the transgender community in India. Divyaa Unni in Bharatanatyam depicts the unusually calm Goddess Kalika, who appears with neem leaves and holy water this one time to bring balance and tranquility back. Kuchipudi dancer Sandhya Raju's solo presents Lord Krishna, the one who lifted the Govardhan mountain to provide much needed shelter. Her Tarangam dance piece on a brass plate, built through years of training provides much needed charm. Ganesh Vasudeva's Bharatanatyam depicts the Ganga River flowing down from the icy Himalayas, believed to be Lord Shiva's locks of hair, into nourishing rivers and streams. Assam's Sattriya dancer and social entrepreneur Krishnakshi Kashyap reflect on the centuries old meditative performances of the region while Purulia Chhau artist Shambhu Nath Karmakar marches with his ensemble in the traditional acrobatic martial art form to show Goddess Durga vanquishing Mahishasur, the bull demon to restore peace and prosperity. To learn more about each artist and performance, visit iaac.us/erasing-borders-dance-festival-2020

To learn more about IAAC, visit iaac.us

US YOUTH ORCHESTRAS E-FEST



Top Row: Music-Director-Participants
Bottom Row: Youth-Participants in the E-Fest
Photo / Courtesy WIPA

**US YOUTH ORCHESTRAS E-PRESENT 'WE
NEVER STOPPED MAKING MUSIC'
September 20, 2020, 8 p.m. Est**

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS) will be joined by the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras, Hawaii Youth Symphony, Los Angeles Youth Orchestra, and Youth Orchestras of San Antonio for the U.S. Youth Orchestras eFestival on September 20, 2020.

The NJYS, a program of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA), hosts the U.S. Youth Orchestras eFestival "We Never Stopped Making Music" on September 20, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. EST via Zoom and YouTube Live. Celebrating American youth orchestras across the country during the global pandemic, the eFestival is FREE and open to the public. For more information, visit NJYS.org

NJYS Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Helen H. Cha-Pyo partnering with Russell Steinberg, Music Director of the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra, invited music directors across the country to

share how their youth orchestras responded to the global pandemic.

Allen Tinkham, Music Director of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras; Joseph Stepec, Symphony Program Director of the Hawaii Youth Symphony; and Troy Peters, Music Director of the Youth Orchestras of San Antonio, will join together to celebrate the vitality of American youth orchestras and raise awareness of the importance of performing arts education, especially during social distancing.

In addition, each youth orchestra will feature a student representative who will share how continuing to make music throughout the pandemic has had a positive impact on their lives. The student musicians will also introduce a virtually coordinated performance video, demonstrating the innovative ways their youth orchestras have continued to connect, perform, and amplify the creative voices of young musicians during the COVID-19 outbreak. "In the midst of this global crisis, we must do everything we can to keep music and creative arts alive in the lives of young people," said Cha-Pyo. "On behalf of over 400 youth orchestras in the U.S., we want to take a moment to celebrate and encourage our student musicians to keep making music and spread the message of hope in their communities and beyond."

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS) is a program of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA). To learn about the WIPA, visit whartonarts.org To learn more about NJYS, visit whartonarts.org/njys

JOHN LEWIS: "GOOD, NECESSARY TROUBLE"

"Conversations about justice, equality and access have always been an integral part of NJPAC's role as an anchor cultural institution. As America's most diverse performing arts center in terms of programming, staff and audiences, these values are embedded in the Arts Center's DNA." - John Schreiber, NJPAC's President & CEO

**Celebrate Icon Who Spent Life Getting "Good Trouble"!
National Free Panel Discussion:
Lewis' History, Impact on Today's Social Justice Struggles
Monday, September 21, 2020 at 7PM**

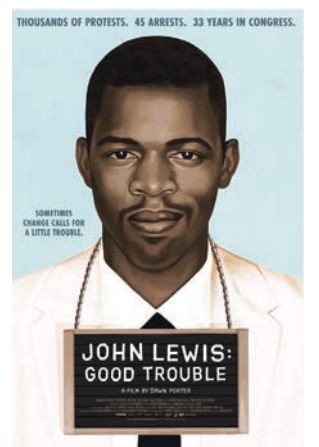
The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) organizes a nationwide watch, inviting over 60 of the nation's arts and cultural institutions to participate in a virtual viewing of the riveting new documentary "John Lewis: Good Trouble". The documentary takes a look at the impact of Lewis's life and work.

NJPAC encourages every participant to rent the documentary at <https://bit.ly/3c1ncsh> which is also available now from Magnolia Pictures at <https://bit.ly/3hzs1dE> before the conversation on Monday, September 21, 2020. Take part in the national live virtual conversation about John Lewis's remarkable legacy on Monday, September 21, at 7PM by registering at <https://bit.ly/3c0EUvX>. The FREE virtual event will take place on Zoom. The discussion will also be broadcast on NJPAC's Facebook Live feed.

The interactive online panel discussion will be about Lewis's history and impact on the social justice struggles of today. Representative John Lewis of Georgia -- Freedom Rider and Congressman, Presidential Medal of Freedom honoree and conscience of the nation -- served the cause of social justice for decades, both as an elected representative and as a groundbreaking activist whose fervent belief in getting into "good trouble, necessary trouble" for the cause of racial equality changed America.

Panelists include director Dawn Porter, Ras J. Baraka, Mayor of Newark, NJ, Khalil Gibran Muhammad, Professor of History, Race and Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School and Director of the Institutional Antiracism and Accountability Project, and Lonnie G. Bunch III, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution -- who worked extensively with Lewis to establish the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. US Senator, NJ Cory Booker, will provide opening remarks. To learn more, visit njpac.org

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



"John Lewis: Good Trouble" poster

Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

FILM FESTS / FILMS OF NOTE

BY MABEL PAIS

LA ASIAN PACIFIC FILM FEST (LAAPFF)

In a season where anti-Asian American sentiment and violence is alarmingly on the rise, LAAPFF's programming hopes to mobilize and engage audiences towards social activism and civic engagement - a cornerstone that is part of the Festival's foundation.

The Virtual 36th Annual Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival (LAAPFF)

**225 Filmmakers, 24 Shorts, 3 Features
5 Weekends**

September 24 to October 31, 2020

"THE MISEDUCATION OF BINDU" by Parthana Mohan

"BECAUSE WE ARE GIRLS" by Baljit Sangra

"PASSAGE" by Asavari Kumar

"I'LL MEET YOU THERE" by Iram Parveen Bilal

The Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival (LAAPFF) 36th edition takes place online from September 24 to October 31, 2020. The Festival presents the works of more than 225 filmmakers across five weekends, including 24 short film world premieres and 3 feature film world premieres.

In addition to the film lineup, attendees can connect with one another. Every Friday to Sunday throughout the Festival, LAAPFF will host artist conversations programmed under the C3:Conference brand, where filmmakers and audience can gather, connect with each other, and listen to select artist conversations from peers. Building on the success of last year's debut, the 2020 edition of the REORIENT program will highlight creative works in emerging media-virtual reality, video games, live streaming, and more. All REORIENT programming is accessible from laptops and/or mobile devices, and is free to the public.

The largest festival of its kind in Southern California, LAAPFF is also a proud Academy Award®-qualifying film festival for the Short Film Awards. The Festival will be presented online to stay in guidelines that protect the health and safety of the Festival community.

This year's productions by Asian American & Pacific Islander artists from across the globe will amplify themes, including race, immigration, gentrification/economic security, and the upcoming US election.

"2020 marks the 50th Anniversary for Visual Communications," said Francis Cullado, Executive Director of Festival Founder, Visual Communications. "The organization was born because our founders began searching for visual resources to build a greater consciousness of Asian Pacific history in America. Fueled by the burgeoning Civil Rights and Anti-War movements, they set out creating learning kits, photographing community events, audiotaping stories, and collecting historical images of Asian Pacific American lives."

For the complete and updated program and ticket information, visit festival.vcmedia.org #LAAPFF2020

The organization, Visual Communications (VC), is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year! Join us on December 1, 2020 for a virtual presentation to celebrate VC's past, present, and future by (re)connecting with people and communities who make great things happen. Learn more at vcmedia.org.

MY NAME IS PEDRO



Pedro Santana with students - Photo / Sweet180 Productions

DIR: LILLIAN LASALLE | USA | 2020 | 2h 7m | English
"For Santana, there was no later, only now. After all, he had 'work to do' for kids."

Release: September 17, 2020 in New York City
Expanding Nationwide October 2 onwards

"MY NAME IS PEDRO", explores what public education meant to South Bronx Latino maverick educator Pedro Santana, and what he, in turn, meant to public education. The film is also especially timely in this moment of national reckoning since the murder of George Floyd, the subsequent protests, the immediacy of public-school needs and the need for parity. When a glowing front-page New York Times article catapults him into the spotlight, he is recruited and then accepts a promotion to use his famed 'out of the box' and transformative practices to save a corrupt and divided suburban school district. But the political challenges there may simply be too great, even for the infallible Santana. In order to continue his life's mission that 'every kid can learn', (he himself was labeled 'special ed' as a child), he realizes that he must venture beyond not only the restrictive 'four walls' of the public education system, but also his own neighborhood, city and even his own country. To learn more, visit mynameispedro.com

SOFTIE

DIR: Sam Soko | Kenya | 2020 | 1h 36m |

Premiere at SUNDANCE FILM FEST

Special JURY AWARD for EDITING

Release: September 18, 2020

Expanding to More Cities September 25

"SOFTIE", the first film from Kenya ever to premiere at the Sundance Film Festival and a World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award for Editing, is coming to virtual cinemas nationwide starting September 18th and expanding to more cities on September 25th. Following its World Premiere at Sundance this year, the film was named an official selection at CPH:DOX, Full Frame Film Festival and the Opening Night Film at Hot Docs Film Festival.

Boniface "Softie" Mwangi has long fought injustices in his country as a political activist. Now he's taking the next step by running for office in a regional Kenyan election. From the moment Boniface decides to run, telling his wife, Njeri, in passing with a hesitant laugh, he responds to each challenge with optimism. But running a clean campaign against corrupt opponents becomes increasingly harder to combat with idealism alone. And Boniface soon finds that challenging strong political dynasties are putting his family at risk. Should country really come before family, as he's always believed?

Soko's film highlights how misinformation in politics can have long term effects on a voting population, a problem we are facing in America. To learn more, visit softiethefilm.com

IN MY BLOOD IT RUNS



Aboriginal boy Djujan with grandmother
Photo / Courtesy pbs.org/pov

DIR: Maya Newell | Australia | 2020 | 1h 24m

Colonialism is a war that began hundreds of years ago and never ended. Its modern tactics and its weapons are noted with precision in the ferocious documentary, 'In My Blood It Runs.'" - The New York Times

"'In My Blood it Runs' (tells) how Australia treats Indigenous children; and presents a missing voice - the voice of the kids themselves." - Maya Newell, Director

ON PBS-POV SEPTEMBER 21 AT 8 PM

Set in Australia's Northern Territory, "In My Blood it Runs" follows Djujan, a young Aboriginal boy with a spiritual connection to, and vast knowledge of, his cultural ancestry. At home in Alice Springs, Djujan is surrounded by his loving family, which includes his mother, his two brothers, and his maternal grandmother Nana Carol, with whom he has a special bond.

At the time of filming in Australia's Northern Territory, one hundred percent of children in juvenile detention were Aboriginal. The prejudice that Aboriginal people face in Australia mirrors the experience of African Americans in America, and the film intercuts footage of protestors carrying signs with statements like "Hands off Aboriginal Kids" at a Black Lives Matter march in Melbourne, the state capital of Victoria, Australia.

In an early scene, Djujan is at his western school being taught how Australia was "discovered", however, he knows that Aboriginal people were there first and that his history is absent from the teaching. That theme of being torn between two worlds, and the painful legacy of colonization is present throughout.

"I was born a little Aboriginal kid. That means I had a memory, a memory about Aboriginals. I just felt something. A memory. History. In my blood it runs," Djujan says in an opening voice over.

Learn more at pbs.org/pov and follow @povdocs on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

RESIDUE

DIR: Merawi Gerima | USA | 2020 | 1h 30m | Color

2020 Slamdance Film Festival - Jury Award

Best Narrative Feature (World Premiere)

Release: September 17, 2020

OPENS IN SELECT THEATERS AND ON NETFLIX SEPT. 17

"RESIDUE" chronicles aspiring filmmaker Jay (Obinna Nwachukwu) who returns to his native Washington, DC to find his old neighborhood is gentrified beyond recognition. Dealing with alienation from his friends, troubled by the disappearance of a loved one and unsure of his place in this new community, Jay confronts issues of identity, isolation and loss on a tumultuous personal journey.

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



Anushka to resume work in April 2021

There has been constant buzz that Anushka Sharma, who is expecting her first child with husband Virat Kohli, has signed Adipurush, starring Prabhas. However, we can confirm that this information is completely untrue. Anushka has not been involved in the project at all and no detail of this project has been discussed with her.

"Anushka is raring to resume work immediately post her pregnancy and there will be big announcements in place as and when the time is appropriate but Adipurush definitely doesn't feature in her plans. She was not involved in the project at all, and thus, she is definitely not doing the film. There has been no discussion on anything about this film right from the script to the dates with her," a source informs us.

"Adipurush, we hear, starts its shooting schedule soon so all this rumour of Anushka doing the project is full conjecture. Anushka is making concrete post-pregnancy plans on her work front and we are excited about what those projects will be. As of now, she is soaking in all the happiness while expecting her first child. We think Anushka will be ready to shoot from the end of April next year. That's what she has been aiming for and given how fit and healthy she is, she will definitely be ready to roll at that time," the source added.

THERE IS A LOT MORE GOOD THAN BAD: SUNNY LEONE ON BOLLYWOOD

Actress Sunny Leone, who is currently in Los Angeles with her family due to the coronavirus pandemic, reflected on her Bollywood career of eight years. She had made her debut with Jism 2 in 2012. Sunny said that her journey was amazing but "very very difficult" at the same time.

Talking to Hindustan Times, she said, "I am so thankful for everything that has happened, and people here have been so inviting, caring and accepting. I don't come from a typical 'journey', it's been very, very difficult than almost everybody in Bollywood. It was tough, a lot of crazy things happened, and there is a lot more good than bad."

She also said that even though the Hindi film industry is amazing, it took people time to fully accept her. "My journey is so different from everybody out there, and I was fortunate that people accepted me. It took a while for people to do that, but even when I first got here, there was a vast majority of people who accepted me, and that is why I survived," she said. She added that it is her fans who kept her alive in Bollywood, and kept everything going. She added that she wouldn't be in Bollywood without her fans.

Sunny will be next seen in Rangeela, a Malayam film, which will mark her Bollywood debut. Directed by Santhosh Nair, the film also stars Salim Kumar, Johny Antony, Sujith Raj Kochukunju, Krrish Menon, Major Ravi, Jacob Gregory and Ramesh Pisharody in pivotal roles.



Shraddha's horror-comedy 'Stree' to release in Japan

Actress Shraddha Kapoor has been on a roll when it comes to delivering diverse characters with utter perfection on-screen.

The film created huge buzz when it was released in India and after Saaho, this marks another project of Shraddha's to the list of the films crossing boundaries and going global.

The film recently marked its second year anniversary and Shraddha had shared a carousel of posts on her social media celebrating it.

The song 'Milegi Milegi' had become a huge hit and with those unique moves, Shraddha made heads turn and won hearts too. The film also stars Rajkumar Rao and Pankaj Tripathi. Stree also marks Shraddha's first collaboration with the actors. Shraddha's mysterious character hasn't been solved yet and the audience look forward to more! Did you also know that Shraddha is the first actress to lead the role in a horror comedy in Bollywood?

The actress is now preparing for her character in Luv Ranjan directorial alongside Ranbir Kapoor.



Karisma, Kareena, Alia have a blast at Riddhima Kapoor's 40th birthday

Neetu and the late Rishi Kapoor's daughter Riddhima Kapoor Sahni brought in her 40th birthday in the most fun way with her family, including mum Neetu, brother Ranbir Kapoor, his girlfriend Alia Bhatt, cousins Karisma and Kareena Kapoor, aunt Rima Jain, sister-in-law Anissa Malhotra Jain, and others.

Karisma Kapoor shared some inside photos from the family get-together that show the birthday girl cutting her cake and the family posing for some fun photos.

Karisma Kapoor also shared a lovely family portrait featuring cousins, aunts and the newest member of the Kapoor-Jain family, Anissa Malhotra, who recently got married to Rima Jain's son, Armaan Jain. The Mentalhood actress also posted a warm birthday note for cousin Riddhima on her 40th birthday. Sharing a couple of pictures, she wrote,



"Happy 40th birthday! so glad we got to celebrate with you!"

Kareena Kapoor Khan, too, shared a cute black and white photo from their childhood

that also features the late Raj Kapoor. Sharing the photo, Bebo wrote, "Sister sledge. Happy birthday beautiful Ridz."



Kris Jenner 'will never get married again'

Kris Jenner "will never get married again". According to a family friend, the 64-year-old matriarch - who has six children from her marriages to the late Robert Kardashian and Caitlyn Jenner - doesn't plan to tie the knot with longtime partner Corey Gamble.

The pal told The Sun: "Kris is still with Corey but she's not engaged and they won't get engaged."

"She will never get married again. This works for her."

The couple met at designer Riccardo Tisci's 40th birthday bash in Ibiza in 2014.

Two years ago, Kris fuelled speculation she was engaged to 39-year-old toyboy Corey.

The momager sparked rumours she and her boyfriend had taken their relationship to the next level after she was spotted numerous times sporting a huge diamond on her ring finger, but she refused to answer any questions on the subject.

KACEY MUSGRAVES REACHES DIVORCE SETTLEMENT

Kacey Musgraves has reached a divorce settlement with her husband.

The country singer split from musician Ruston Kelly earlier this year, and new court papers have revealed that Kacey will get 84.4% of the proceeds of their house sale, whilst Ruston will have the rest, TMZ reports.

Kacey and Ruston announced their split in July.

A joint statement from the former couple said: "With heavy but hopeful hearts we wanted to put our own thoughts into the air about what's happening. These kinds of announcements are always met with scrutiny and speculation and we want to stop that before it even starts. We believe that we were put into each other's lives for a divine reason and have both changed each other infinitely for the better. The love we have for each other goes far beyond the relationship we've shared as husband and wife. It's a soul connection that can never be erased. We've made this painful decision together - a healthy decision that comes after a very long period of trying the best we can. It simply just didn't work. Though we are parting ways in marriage, we will remain true friends for the rest of our lives. We hold no blame, anger, or contempt for each other and we ask for privacy and positive wishes for us both as we learn how to navigate through this."

Kacey and Ruston met at a songwriters' showcase in Nashville.



Madonna to co-write, direct her biopic at Universal Pictures

A biopic about Madonna has found a uniquely qualified director: Madonna, herself.

Universal Pictures announced on Tuesday that the studio is developing an untitled film about the pop star that Madonna will direct and co-write with Juno scribe Diablo Cody. Madonna said she wants the film to convey "the incredible journey that life has taken me on as an artist, a musician, a dancer - a human being, trying to make her way in this world."

"The focus of this film will always be music," said Madonna in a statement. "Music has kept me going and art has kept me alive. There are so many untold and inspiring stories and who better to tell it than me. It's essential to share the roller coaster ride of my life with my voice and vision."

The film will be produced by Amy Pascal, the former Sony Pictures chief who produced A League of their Own, the 1992 film co-starring Madonna.

"This movie is an absolute labour of love for me," said Pascal. "I have known Madonna since we made A League of Their Own together, and I can't imagine anything more thrilling than collaborating with her and Diablo on bringing her true-life story to the big screen with Donna (Langley) and our partners at Universal."



SHARON STONE PLANS DATING DISASTER BOOK

Sharon Stone wants to write a book about her "dismal" online dating experiences. The 62-year-old actress - who has three sons - has experimented with matchmaking app Bumble but doesn't believe it's the right place to look for love because there's no substitute for real "chemistry", so she'd like to document her stories as a warning to others.

She said: "Honestly the whole thing was so dismal that I now want to write a book of short stories about my online dating experiences."

"Dating sites are just not a successful thing. Because real chemistry, that frisson, that happens in the air - not on a site."

"And people are becoming less socially adept because of those sites."



Nepal's coronavirus tally nears 60,000

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal's number of coronavirus cases neared 60,000 on Thursday after 1,246 new infections were detected in a single day, the health ministry said.

Jageshwar Gautam, spokesperson for the Ministry of Health and Population, said that 1,246 new COVID-19 cases were reported while conducting 10,641 tests across the country in the past 24 hours.

With this, the total number of people infected with COVID-19 has reached 59,573, he said.

The number of coronavirus patients currently undergoing treatment is 16,241.

Four people have died of COVID-19 in the country, taking the total number of fatalities to 383.

The national capital Kathmandu on Thursday reported 618 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours.

A total of 42,949 people have recovered from the disease. "Of the total coronavirus infections, 72 per cent have recovered," he said. PTI

Earthquake strikes Nepal, no casualty reported

KATHMANDU (TIP): An earthquake measuring 6 magnitude struck Nepal on Wednesday morning, the country's seismological centre said, and tremors caused by the quake were felt in the capital, Kathmandu.

The European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre measured the magnitude at 5.3.

Police said they had received no reports of casualties or damage from the quake so far.

The epicentre of the quake was Ramche, about 100 km (62 miles) east of Kathmandu, near the border with China's Tibet region. Reuters

Pak passes Bill to check terror funding

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan's Parliament has passed a Bill aimed at bringing more control and transparency in the registration and regulation of cooperative societies to check terror financing as part of the country's efforts to escape from being blacklisted by the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog. The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) put Pakistan on the grey list in June 2018 and asked Islamabad to implement a plan of action to avoid being blacklisted. — PTI

Pak to introduce legislation to curb rape, child abuse

Such incidents ruin the lives of victims and their families also have to suffer, says Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that his government would soon introduce a three-tier legislation providing for registration of sex offenders, exemplary punishment for rape and child abuse and effective policing.

Khan made the announcement while addressing a joint sitting of parliament after passage of a number of Financial Action Task Force-related bills on Wednesday.

"Such incidents ruin the lives of victims and their families also have to suffer," he was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper.

Khan was referring to the gang-rape of a French-Pakistani woman in front of her three children near a highway in Lahore on September 9 which sparked widespread outrage.

One of the suspects wanted in the case was arrested on Monday and confessed to his crime.

Noting that the main suspect in the gang-rape case was a history-sheeter, Khan said that global data indicated that such criminals were repeat offenders and therefore maintaining their data was important. He said the legislation



being prepared would not only provide for exemplary punishment for rape and child abuse offences, but would also contain provisions for registration of sex offenders and effective policing, the report said.

He admitted that only a very small percentage of such cases were reported

to police in the country.

Even after the arrest of offenders in rape and child abuse cases, their conviction is not easy in absence of proper prosecution and concrete evidence. For this reason, the bill being prepared would also provide for witness protection, he said. PTI

Myanmar army probes 'wider patterns' of abuse against Rohingya

DHAKA (TIP): The Myanmar military has said it is investigating "possible wider patterns of violations" before and during a 2017 crackdown in Rakhine State that the United Nations has said was executed with genocidal intent against Rohingya Muslims.

More than 7,30,000 Rohingya fled to Bangladesh that year following the launch of a sweeping security campaign that refugees said included mass killing, gang-rape and arson.

The army has denied genocide, saying it was carrying out a legitimate operation against Rohingya militants, but says it has court-martialed some troops over incidents in certain villages though details on the perpetrators, their crimes, and sentences have not been released.

The military, in a statement carried in state media on Tuesday, acknowledged for the first time a possible broader pattern of abuses.

It said the military-run Office of the Judge Advocate General had reviewed a report by a government-backed commission that accused soldiers of committing war crimes and had expanded the scope of its investigations in response.

The office was "investigating possible wider patterns of violations in the region of northern Rakhine in 2016-2017", the military said in the statement.

"Allegations regarding villages in the



The army has denied genocide, saying it was carrying out a legitimate operation against Rohingya militants, but says it has court-martialed some troops over incidents in certain villages though details on the perpetrators, their crimes, and sentences have not been released.

Maungdaw area are included in the scope of this wider investigation," the military said, referring to a district on the border with Bangladesh that was a focus of its security operations in 2017.

It provided no more details and an army spokesman did not answer telephone calls by Reuters seeking

further comment.

The announcement follows reports last week that two Myanmar soldiers have been taken to the Hague to appear as witnesses or face trial after confessing to killing dozens of villagers in the north of Rakhine State and burying them in mass graves. Reuters

COVID-19 antibody treatment may cut hospitalisation risk

Raising hope of Covid-19 treatment at an early stage, an antibody therapy has been found to quickly reduce SARS-CoV-2 viral load in newly infected patients and cut hospitalisation risk, US-based pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly said, while revealing interim results of a clinical trial.

The Phase 2 study of the BLAZE-1 clinical trial evaluated LY-CoV555, a SARS-CoV-2 neutralising antibody, for the treatment of symptomatic Covid-19 in the outpatient setting, the company said.

The trial enrolled mild-to-moderate recently diagnosed Covid-19 patients across four groups -- placebo, 700 mg, 2800 mg, and 7000 mg.

Analyses of viral data demonstrated that LY-CoV555 improved viral clearance at an earlier time point -- day 3 -- and reduced the proportion of patients with persistently high viral load at later time points.

Most study hospitalisations occurred in patients with underlying risk factors -- age or body mass index (BMI) -- suggesting a more pronounced treatment effect for patients in these higher-risk groups.

Ongoing studies will seek to confirm this finding, the drugmaker said.

Family, friends major source of infections: French Health Minister

Gatherings of family are a major source of COVID-19 infections, French Health Minister Olivier Veran said on Thursday, adding the spread of the disease had accelerated in the last weeks.

"If everyone reduced his number of social contacts, this would help reduce the spread of the virus", he said during a press conference.

Five people out of 100 tested for COVID-19 are today positive, versus one in a 100 at start of summer, Veran also said.

France is to implement extra measures to curb the COVID-19 epidemic in the cities of Lyon and Nice, the health minister said, adding to the three other regions deemed as virus "red zones" where additional measures are already in place. The minister, Olivier Veran, did not say what those measures would be, but that local officials in Lyon and Nice would have until the weekend to submit their plans for extra measures to the government in Paris. France has this month seen a resurgence in the number of virus cases, surpassing the daily record reached earlier this year.

Global coronavirus cases cross 30 million mark; US worst-hit, India second

Deaths have increased to more than 944,000, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

The overall number of global coronavirus cases has crossed the 30 million mark on Friday (September 18, 2020), while the deaths have increased to more than 944,000, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

As of Friday morning, the total number of cases stood at 30,065,728 and the fatalities rose to 944,604, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed in its latest update.

The US is the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 6,674,070 and 197,615, respectively, according to the CSSE.

India is currently in second place in terms of cases at 52,14,677, while the country's death toll soared to 84,372.

In terms of cases, Brazil ranks third (4,455,386), and is followed by Russia (1,081,152), Peru (744,400), Colombia (736,377), Mexico (684,113), South Africa (655,572), Spain (625,651), Argentina (601,713), France (454,266), Chile (441,150), Iran (413,149), the UK (384,083), Bangladesh (344,264), Saudi Arabia (328,144), Iraq (307,385), Pakistan (303,634), Turkey (298,039), Italy (293,025), Philippines (276,289), Germany (269,048), Indonesia (232,628), Israel (175,256), Ukraine (170,373), Canada (142,879), Bolivia (128,872), Qatar (122,693), Ecuador (122,257), Romania (108,690), Kazakhstan (107,056), Dominican Republic (106,136), Panama (104,138) and Egypt (101,641), the CSSE figures showed.

The other countries with over 10,000 deaths are the Brazil (134,935), Mexico (72,179), the UK (41,794), Italy (35,658), France (31,103), Peru (31,051), Spain (30,405), Iran (23,808), Colombia (23,478), Russia (18,996), South Africa (15,772), Argentina (12,460), Chile (12,142) and Ecuador (10,996).

US Plans Millions of Cheap, Fast COVID-19 Tests

US manufacturers are sharply increasing production of cheap, fast, but less accurate - COVID-19 tests, aiming for 100 million per month by year end that will enable schools and workplaces to significantly expand testing. Manufacturing and government sources tell Reuters that more than half a dozen so-called antigen tests will likely be authorized by the end of October. US regulators in recent months have authorized antigen tests from Abbott Laboratories, Becton Dickinson & Co, Quidel Corp and LumiraDX.

First Case-free Day for New Zealand in 5 Weeks

New Zealand has reported no new confirmed cases of the coronavirus for the first time in more than five weeks as hopes rise that an outbreak discovered in Auckland last month has been stamped out. Friday's report also marked the fourth consecutive day without any cases

TRACKING THE VIRUS

GLOBAL

Cases	Deaths
30,065,728	944,604

INDIA

Cases	Deaths
52,14,677	84,372



of community transmission. All recent cases have been found among quarantined travellers returning from abroad.

Latin American Nations Want More Time to Join WHO Vaccine Plan

Brazil and several other Latin American countries have informed the World Health Organization (WHO) they need more time to sign up for its global COVID-19 vaccine allocation plan known as COVAX, officials say. Countries have until today midnight to formalize legally binding commitments to COVAX, a mechanism for pooled procurement and equitable distribution of eventual vaccines. A representative for the GAVI Alliance, the COVAX secretariat that will handle the requests for an extension, said by email that details of which nations have joined COVAX so far will only be made public after the deadline.

Canada Clamps Down on Partygoers

Canada's most populous province of Ontario clamped down on big parties, unveiling steep fines for breaches of strict limits on the number of people attending social gatherings to try to prevent a second wave of Covid-19 outbreaks. Organizers of private gatherings of more than 10 people inside homes and more than 25 outside will face a fine of up to Can\$10,000.

France Not to Buy Vaccine Through WHO's COVAX Scheme

France will provide funding for an initiative led by the World Health Organization to buy potential COVID-19 vaccines, but will not source shots through the programme, an official at the French health ministry said. The decision by one of the U.N. agency's biggest supporters is a big blow to its strategy aimed at uniting governments around the world to fight the coronavirus pandemic together.

China Sees Surge in Imported Cases

China says imported coronavirus cases surged to 32 on September 17. Thirteen of the newly confirmed cases reported today were in the northern province of Shaanxi, whose capital Xi'an is a major industrial center. The eastern financial and business hub of Shanghai reported 12. China has gone more than a month without reporting any cases of locally transmitted coronavirus cases within its borders.

Australia Looks Set to Ease Border Limits

The Australian government is expected to announce today an increase in the number of citizens able to return home, while one state said it would partially reopen its borders given a general downward coronavirus infection trend. Prime Minister Scott Morrison is seeking to raise the cap on the number of people allowed into Australia each week by 2,000 from next Friday, after a National Cabinet meeting later in the day where states will be asked to boost quarantine capacity.

First case-free day for New Zealand in 5 weeks

WELLINGTON (TIP): New Zealand has reported no new confirmed cases of the coronavirus for the first time in more than five weeks as hopes rise that an outbreak discovered in Auckland last month has been stamped out.

September 17 report also marked the fourth consecutive day without any cases of community transmission.

All recent cases have been found among quarantined travellers returning from abroad.

Authorities have still not pinpointed the origin of the August outbreak, which they believe was imported. Auckland was temporarily placed into lockdown as the country continued its strategy of trying to completely eliminate community spread of the virus. New Zealand has reported a total of just over 1,800 cases and 25 deaths. AP

Italy: 70 migrants on ship awaiting OK to land jump into sea

MILAN (TIP): More than 70 migrants on a rescue ship awaiting permission to dock in southern Italy jumped into the sea in frustration sept 17 and were picked up by Italian authorities off Palermo, a Spanish humanitarian group said.

The group's ship, which is also called Open Arms, had been carrying some 280 migrants and refugees rescued last week in the central Mediterranean as they tried to reach European shores in flimsy boats. Video showed the migrants who jumped wearing life jackets.

Ten of the Open Arms migrants had also needed to be rescued on sept 15 after they jumped into the sea off Sicily's southern coast, when they were informed that nearby Malta had refused them entry, the NGO said. The ship then headed for Palermo, on Sicily's northern coast, where it awaited instructions on where to disembark its passengers.

On Sept 10, Italy allowed 27 migrants who had spent some 40 days aboard a Danish tanker to be brought to land aboard an Italian humanitarian rescue ship. The tanker had rescued them from the central Mediterranean after their vessel sank. Humanitarian groups complain that the European Union is abandoning migrants making the dangerous sea crossing from North Africa. They say that the EU is instead bolstering the Libyan Coast Guard, with the goal of preventing migrants from departing the lawless country where many complain they have faced torture. Maltese Foreign Minister Evarist Bartolo, said on Sept 17 that his small island nation is unable to take in any more migrants. AP

UK defends planned Brexit deal breach as Biden slams move

LONDON (TIP): The British government struggled Thursday to overcome American opposition to its plans to breach the Brexit withdrawal agreement with the European Union, after Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden became the latest U.S. politician to express alarm.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's move to break parts of the EU divorce deal relating to Northern Ireland has triggered fears it could undermine the 1998 Good Friday peace accord that ended decades of violence between Irish nationalists and British unionists.

"We can't allow the Good Friday Agreement that brought peace to Northern Ireland to become a casualty of Brexit," Biden tweeted.

"Any trade deal between the U.S. and U.K. must be contingent upon respect for the Agreement and preventing the return of a hard border. Period," he wrote.

Britain and the EU jointly promised in the Brexit agreement to ensure there are no customs posts or other obstacles on the Northern Ireland-Ireland border. The open border is key to the stability that underpins the peace settlement.

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab is in Washington this week, and has been trying to assuage American concerns that a pending government bill would undermine Northern Ireland peace, if passed by lawmakers.

He is meeting U.S. politicians including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi,



who has warned that Britain won't secure a much sought-after trade deal with the United States, if it undermines the peace accord.

Raab insisted the U.K. has an "absolute" commitment to the Good Friday Agreement. He described Britain's planned law as "precautionary" and "proportionate." Johnson argues the law is intended to be an insurance policy against unreasonable behavior by the European Union that could threaten the unity of the U.K. by disrupting trade between Northern Ireland and the rest of the U.K.

The bloc has demanded the U.K. drop the plan by the end of September or face legal action.

The bill, which began its journey through Parliament this week, has also

caused an uproar in Britain.

Five former British prime ministers have criticised Johnson's willingness to break international law, and the government's top legal civil servant and most senior law officer for Scotland have both resigned.

In an attempt to quiet unease among lawmakers from Johnson's Conservative Party, the government late Wednesday offered a compromise that would require Parliament to vote before the government took any actions that broke international law.

The U.K. withdrew from the EU's political institutions on January 31 but remains in a tariff-free transition period until the end of the year while negotiators work out the terms of a future trade relationship. --AP

Poland's president appoints daughter as unpaid advisor

WARSAW (TIP): Poland's President Andrzej Duda has appointed his 25-year-old daughter, Kinga, to be an unpaid advisor on social issues.

The president stressed on Twitter late Wednesday that his daughter was working as a volunteer and "does not receive any remuneration".

The appointment nonetheless raised some allegations of nepotism by critics of Duda and the ruling right-wing party that backs him, Law and Justice.

Kinga Duda, a lawyer, has already been dubbed by presidential critics as "Poland's Ivanka Trump", a reference to President Donald Trump's daughter, who plays a key role in the US administration. Kinga Duda has for the most part not played a visible role in the presidency of her father, who won his first five-year term in 2015 and was re-elected in July. However, she seized the nation's attention with an election night speech in July in which she called for all people in society to be respected despite their differences. It was seen as an attempt to soften her father's image.

During his campaign, Duda spoke out repeatedly against the movement for greater civil rights for lesbians, gays, bisexual and transgender people.



He called the LGBT rights movement an "ideology" more dangerous than communism, and said at one point that LGBT people "are not people".

Kinga Duda struck a very different message, saying all people should feel safe and accepted.

"Nobody deserves to be hated, absolutely nobody," she told her father's

supporters on election night.

LGBT rights activists say they have seen a sharp rise in the number of hate crimes targeting LGBT people in recent months, and have widely denounced Kinga Duda's appeal as an act of hypocrisy.

The presidential website says she was appointed in August. AP

Germany apologises for past military anti-gay discrimination

BERLIN (TIP): Germany's defence minister has apologised for decades of discrimination against gay service people in the military until a change of policy in 2000.

A study commissioned by the defense ministry and being presented on Thursday documented "systematic discrimination" in the Bundeswehr — the military of West Germany and since 1990 of reunited Germany — from 1955 until the beginning of the new millennium.

"I very much regret the practice of discrimination against homosexuals in the Bundeswehr, which stood for the policy of that time," Defence Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer said in a statement.

"I apologise to those who suffered because of it," Kramp-Karrenbauer said she wants to advance legislation to rehabilitate those affected.

The study said that "same-sex orientation was viewed as a security risk in the Bundeswehr until the turn of the millennium and made a career as an officer or noncommissioned officer impossible."

The study on discrimination in the military is the latest move in Germany to address past anti-gay discrimination.

In 2017, parliament voted to annul the convictions of thousands of gay men



under a law criminalising male homosexuality that was enforced enthusiastically in post-World War II West Germany.

The legislation was introduced in the 19th century, toughened under Nazi rule and retained in that form by democratic West Germany, which convicted some 50,000 men between 1949 and 1969. Homosexuality was decriminalised in 1969 but the legislation wasn't taken off the books entirely until 1994.

Lawmakers approved compensation for men who were convicted. Payments

were later extended to people who were put under investigation or taken into investigative custody but not convicted.

A federal court decided in 1970 that homosexuality was no longer a disciplinary offense for soldiers unless there was a "service connection", the new study said. That was interpreted strictly to start with and gradually loosened.

The study cited a 1984 letter from the defence ministry's personnel department which said an officer "who says that he has homosexual tendencies" must be given "an assignment in which is he no longer the immediate superior of predominantly younger soldiers".

Then-Defence Minister Rudolf Scharping ended official discrimination in 2000 — "after initial hesitation, against the expressed will and persistent resistance of the military leadership of the armed forces," the study said — after an officer who had been removed from his post as a commander took his case to Germany's highest court.

He issued a paper stating that "homosexuality does not constitute grounds for restrictions in terms of assignment or status and thus also is not a suitability criterion to be examined separately". — AP

ByteDance says China will have to approve its US TikTok deal

BEIJING (TIP): China will need to approve ByteDance's proposed deal with Oracle Corp for its TikTok app, the Chinese company has said on Thursday, indicating how its bid to stave off a ban in the United States could be further complicated.

Oracle has submitted a proposal to the Trump administration that will allow it to become a technology partner in the TikTok app, as ByteDance hopes to head off a Trump order that it divest TikTok's US operations.

The proposal envisages making TikTok Global a US-headquartered company.

But US President Donald Trump on Wednesday raised questions about ByteDance's plans to keep a majority stake in TikTok's US operations and said he did not favour the idea of the Chinese firm retaining control after six Republican lawmakers urged him to reject the proposal.

Also read: Looking into Oracle-TikTok deal to ensure no compromise on national security: Trump

Trump has said he would ban TikTok in the United States as early as Sunday if ByteDance does not comply amid the US concerns that the company could pass user data to China's Communist Party government.



Trump has said he would ban TikTok in the US as early as Sunday if ByteDance does not comply amid the US concerns

An outright sale of TikTok's operations or technologies was not included in ByteDance's proposal to the United States, Chinese state media reported on Thursday citing a separate statement from the company.

ByteDance declined to comment when asked about this by Reuters.

When asked about ByteDance's comments regarding the need for China's approval, the Chinese Foreign

Ministry on Thursday urged the United States to respect the principles of the market economy and fair competition and to stop politicising normal economic and trade cooperation.

China late last month updated its export control rules to give it a say over the transfer of technology such as TikTok's user recommendation algorithm to foreign buyers.

Reuters has reported that the Oracle deal would not require ByteDance to apply to Chinese authorities for an export licence for TikTok's algorithm.

ByteDance and its founder Zhang Yiming have faced public criticism in China for seeming to give in to US pressure after it was reported it was contemplating a sale of TikTok's US operations to Microsoft Corp. Some netizens said they would stop using Douyin, ByteDance's Chinese version of TikTok.

"ByteDance, as it works to find a solution to keep TikTok's US business alive, is walking a tightrope between the demands of the US government on the one side and the expectations of both the Chinese government and public on the other," said Mark Natkin, managing director at Marbridge Consulting.

"It can't afford to make any missteps along the way," Reuters

More than 30 killed in militia attacks in western Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA (TIP): Armed militia men killed more than 30 people in the Metakal zone of Ethiopia's Benishangul-Gumuz region, a senior opposition leader told Reuters on Sept 17, the latest security headache for reformist Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government.

The attacks, whose victims included women and children, happened on September 6-13, said Desalegn Chane, a senior member of new political party the National Movement of Amhara (NAMA).

"Farmers and members of their families were kidnapped (and) brought to an elementary school in the area where they were handcuffed and shot one by one," Desalegn said.

Abiy said a meeting on Sept 17 of the federal and regional authorities had "evaluated the sporadic security incidents that have been occurring, particularly in the border areas".

"The 29 hostages taken in Benishangul-Gumuz region have been released," Abiy wrote on Twitter, adding the attackers are "groups aimed at overturning the reforms journey".

Benishangul-Gumuz is a region bordering Sudan.

The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission said hundreds of civilians were displaced as a result of the violence and asked regional authorities to launch an investigation.

"There have been at least two rounds of killings of civilians, and hundreds of civilians have also been displaced," the commission said in a statement. In June last year, men in camouflage uniforms killed more than 50 people and injured 23 in the same area. Reuters

New Zealand economy in deepest recession as Q2 GDP shrinks

WELLINGTON (TIP): New Zealand fell into its deepest economic slump on record in the second quarter as its battle against the coronavirus pandemic paralysed business activity, official data showed on Sept 17.

Gross domestic product contracted a seasonally adjusted 12.2% quarter-on-quarter, its sharpest quarterly contraction on record and largely in line with forecasts of a 12.8% decline from economists polled by Reuters. GDP fell 12.4% year-on-year.

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand had forecast a quarterly and annual GDP decline of 14% in its August statement. Growth has been hit by a standstill in economic activity as a strict nationwide coronavirus lockdown in April and parts of May forced almost everyone to stay at home and businesses to shut. Reuters

INTERIOR TRENDS TO UPDATE YOUR HOME IN AUTUMN

Incorporate moody, autumnal florals

Invest in shades of blue, burnt orange, magenta and forest greens and source some blousy blooms and you will have this trend nailed. It's bold and beautiful, eccentric and opulent. We are madly in love with the floral cushion on the sofa, it's from George at Asda, and scour car boots for vintage frames that you can spray gold, you might even find some old floral paintings too.

Go for country heritage

The design team at John Lewis have delved into their textiles archives and found original patterns that they have expertly remastered for this season. The result is their 'modern archive' trend which is eclectic so say the least – we love the pattern clashing, the rich colours and the authenticity. To achieve this look in your home use jewel toned shades, illustrative prints for both wallpaper and curtains and pick accessories that are inspired by other eras like the 20s and 70s – glitzy and glam.

Add in the fabric of the season – bouclé

Bouclé – yes, that slightly slubby to the touch, tactile fabric – that is also a yarn (just to confuse us all). Back in the late 1940s, Florence Knoll asked for a chair she could curl up in, the result was the Saarinen's Womb Chair in Knoll's Classic Bouclé. It's now back and you're going to see it everywhere, in both interiors and fashion, so get ahead of the crowd and bag your bouclé buys early – this gorgeous armchair is by Heal's.

Create a space filled with natural textures

Ikea is on a big mission to be more sustainable, and this trend is what this look is about. Think simple yet beautiful, and choose pieces that last. Plywood is appearing a lot in kitchens, so why not use it in the bedroom? Its natural grain adds texture and character, and it's great value, team it with other natural materials like linen curtains, cotton bedding and wool throws. The other aspect of this trend is wellness and



nature - being clutter free and sustainable is great for the mind, this TUFJORD bed is going online in November and it has underneath storage.

Embrace cottagecore with irregular and homemade pieces

During lockdown, 'cottagecore' became a thing – not so much a trend, rather a way of life. It epitomises a return to traditional skills and crafts, like baking, foraging and hand-thrown ceramics. This trend is a nod to this, and even if you don't live in a delightful tumble-down country cottage, you can be inspired by aspects, support local makers or even start learning a new skill yourself. We love the irregular shaped tableware shown here by Amara, and the beautiful earthenware storage jars are divine.

Tips to avoid wrinkles around eyes and make them look youthful

What Causes These Wrinkles?

SMOKING: Smoking is not good for anyone and has no benefits so wrinkles are no exception. According to the Mayo Clinic, smoking puts extra oxidative stress on our skin. It damages the skin's elastin and collagen. Not just that, it also "constricts the blood vessels in your face, obstructing circulation to your blood vessels and depriving your skin of vitamin A." So quit smoking not just for your lungs and mouth but also to prevent wrinkles.

FACIAL MOVEMENTS & EXPRESSIONS: Nobody is saying that you quit smiling but what I am talking about here is that habit of frowning and furrowing your brow. Not just that, when you feel sad you droop your mouth so the key here is to work on your facial muscles and take less stress. One more cause is when you bury your face in the pillow and sleep. That contributed to the fine lines around your eyes and face, as per research, noted by Healthline.

Skincare Products & DIYs

There are many eye care products



out there that vouch to work on your wrinkles. If you do not want to buy them, make them at home.

Facial Exercises

There are some facial exercises which are said to tighten your skin. Some even call it facial yoga and here are some examples.

Allergies

If you have watery eyes due to inflammation and you rub and scratch your eyes a lot, it could be due to some allergy. Dryness in the

eyes is also an allergy so get yourself checked. It is best to nip in the bud before something bad happens and this way you also prevent wrinkles.

Gently Scrubbing

If you are not the sort who go to a parlour monthly for a facial then do it at home. Add the eye exfoliation step in your regime. When you wash your face, at least, once a week, exfoliate the skin around your eyes with a very light hand, using a very very mild scrub that has tiny beads. Invest in a scrub which is meant just for your eyes as the skin near your eyes is very thin and sensitive.

Eye Cream

Besides using a night facial cream, apply an eye cream before going to sleep and massage gently in an upwards direction. Invest in organic moisturisers which have good reviews for promoting circulation and new cell growth. The perfect eye cream or gel would be the one which has retinol (a derivative of vitamin A), hyaluronic acid, and peptides. In case you are not sure, consult your dermatologist.



By Tript Arora

CONNOISSEUR'S CHOICE



MOONG DAL IDLI

The South Indian dal idli has undergone many avatars, e.g oats idli, rava idli, urad dal idli and many more. Continuing the tradition, we are bringing to you moong dal idli with vegetables. Goodness of protein and fibre both. It is very moist and yummy. Paired with Coconut chutney, it completes any meal of the day. I love to have it for breakfast. You can prepare coconut chutney in advance and in 10 min you can prepare batter and cook it in a steamer or microwave while getting ready for your day. I found it Convenient dish for my breakfast in terms of cooking. Moreover it is healthy and nutritious too. It has protein, carbs and fibre and healthy fats.. If you skip curd and add lemon juice instead for the fermentation, it is Vegan too. As we all know coconut oil is heart healthy. The tempering of chutney as well as batter is done with coconut oil. And that makes it a perfect breakfast to start a perfect day. So what are we waiting for? Let us start with this nutritious dish.



We need

For Idli: 1 (100 gm) cup Moong dal(yellow lentil), ½ cup thick curd, 1 cup chopped vegetables of your choice. 1 tsp Mustard seeds (Rai), 2 Tbsp chopped Curry patta, ½ Tsp Baking Soda, 1" Ginger piece, ¼ tsp Black pepper, Salt to taste.

For Tempering Idli: 2 Tsp Coconut oil, 1 Tsp Mustard seeds, A pinch of Asafoetida. (Hing), For Coconut Chutney, 1 cup Fresh grated coconut, 5 pieces Cashew nuts, ½ " Ginger piece, 2 pieces Tamarind, 7 to 8 curry leaves, Salt to taste.

For tempering Chutney: 2 Tsp Coconut Oil (or any), 1 Tsp Mustard seeds (Rai), 2 to 3 Red chillies Whole, 3 to 4 Curry Leaves.

Method for preparing Coconut Chutney: To a grinder add coconut, cashew nut, ginger, tamarind, curry leaves and salt to taste. Also add ¼ cup water. Grind to a fine paste. Add more water if required to adjust the consistency. Take out in a serving bowl. Heat a small pan. Add coconut oil to it. When oil is warm add mustard seeds(rai). When it starts spluttering, add whole red chillies. When the chillies are roasted add curry patta to the pan. When curry patta starts wilting, switch off the flame. Pour this tempering over the coconut chutney. It is ready to serve with steaming idlis.

Method for preparing Idli: Wash moong dal(yellow lentil) till the water runs clear. Soak it overnight or at least for two hours. Chop finely all the vegetables of your choice. Here I have taken carrot, capsicum and beans. To this add chopped curry leaves. In the morning drain all the water from the lentil. Take a grinder jar. Add yellow lentil, ginger, salt and black pepper powder. Grind to a paste. Don't add water, instead add curd if required to grind the dal.

Take out this batter in a bowl and add all the chopped vegetables and curd. Add salt. Mix well. Take a small pan and heat it. Add 1 tbsp coconut oil or any oil of your choice. When heated add 1 tsp mustard seeds (rai). When it starts spluttering add it to the dal batter. This adds taste and Softness to the idli. Add Baking soda and leave for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile Take a deep vessel(according to the size of the idli stand). The stand should fit in the vessel. Add water to it and put the vessel or steamer on a high flame. The level of water should be lower than the idli stand. Grease idli mould. Now fill the batter in the idli mould and keep in the vessel / steamer to steam. Keep the flame on low.

It will take 15 minutes to cook idlis. Take a toothpick and insert it in idli. If it comes out clean, it means the idli is cooked. Switch off the flame and take the mould out of the steamer. Let it rest for 3 to 4 minutes. Take out idlis from the mould and serve hot with coconut chutney.

Tips: For soft and spongy idlis don't forget to temper it with hot oil and mustard seeds. The batter should be of cake batter consistency. If by chance you have put extra water in the batter, nothing to worry just add 2 to 3 tbsp of semolina (sooji) to it. Let it rest for 5 minutes. The sooji will soak extra water.

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

2 MINUTES OF AEROBIC EXERCISE DAILY WILL KEEP YOUR MIND SHARP

Researchers in Sweden have found that even two minutes of aerobic exercise can have a positive effect on brain function in young adults.

According to a recent review, published in the journal Translational Sports Medicine, just opting for a single exercise workout has positive effects on learning and memory in young adults.

Previous studies have shown that physical exercise improves mental health and cognitive function.

"Exercise makes you smart. The purpose of this systematic review was to evaluate the current literature examining the acute effects of a single exercise workout on learning and memory functions in young adults," said study author Peter Blomstrand from the Jonkoping University in Sweden.

For the findings, the research team included 13 relevant studies for the review.

The types of exercise that were studied involved walking, running, and bicycling in individuals between 18 to 35 years of age.

Investigators found that aerobic exercise for two minutes to one hour at moderate to high intensity improved attention, concentration, and learning and memory functions for up to two hours.



They noted that the results may have important education-related implications.

The researchers said there was a connection between exercise and "learning ability," which suggests that exercising before you work or study could be beneficial -- though

they said more research was needed to identify "optimal exercise strategies".

"This systematic review shows that aerobic, physical exercise before encoding improves learning and memory functions in young adults," the study authors wrote.



Eyesight problems rising among kids

With children spending more time on computers and mobile phones for online classes and gaming, cases of eye sight problems are on the rise.

Children and teens between the ages of 6 and 18 years have been found to be suffering from convergence insufficiency, computer vision syndrome, reflective errors and other eye sight problems.

According to rough estimates, nearly 40 per cent children have complained of various eye and vision related problems in recent weeks.

Majority of the children are being diagnosed with convergence insufficiency -- a condition in which the eyes are unable to work together when looking at nearby objects. This condition causes one eye to turn outward instead of inward with the other eye, creating double or blurred vision, said Anil Rastogi, a well-known ophthalmologist.

Children working long hours on computers and smart phones usually complain of itching or burning in eyes, watering, loss of retention power, besides headache and eye pain, Rastogi added.

Shikha Kumar, another ophthalmologist, said that since the national lockdown, most children have been found to be spending eight to 10 hours on electronic devices.

"They are either attending online classes, or watching cartoons or television and playing video games. Parents feel that this is the best way to keep them occupied but this prolonged exposure to electronic devices is playing havoc with their eyesight," she pointed out.

Doctors say that children are being diagnosed with computer vision syndrome where they complain of pain, redness, dryness, blurring of vision, double vision and other head and neck sprains.

Besides, cases of reflective errors in terms of myopia and hypermetropia have also surfaced among children.

Doctors suggest eye exercises, frequent breaks from TV/computer/ mobile phone screens to prevent permanent damage to the eyes.

Foods that are damaging your heart

Diet Soda

Sugary sodas are fairly well-known as bad news. It's no secret that these are on the warning list of beverages that aren't great for your heart. Because of this, some may rightfully assume that a diet soda is a safer option.

Cold Cuts/Deli Meat

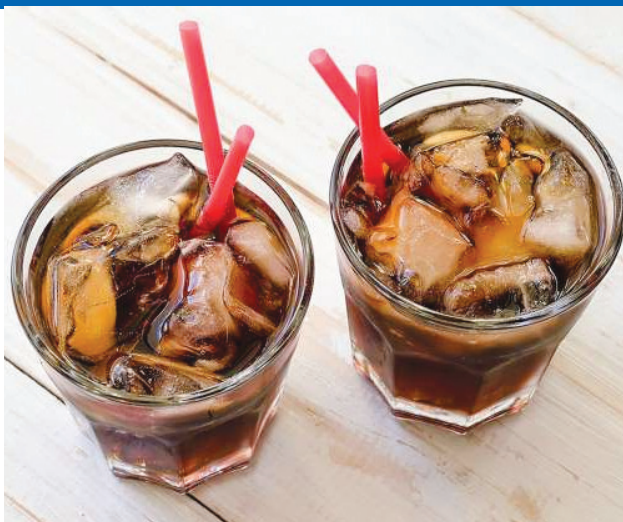
It's normal to get excited about a delicious toasted sub with slices of ham from the local deli and all of your favorite toppings. The bad news is that deli meat (or cold cuts) has been proven to greatly increase your risk of heart disease. A 2020 study found that eating processed meats just two times a week could heighten your risk by 3-7%.

Boxed Pasta

Pulling out a box of pasta at home is one of the easiest dinner options on those busy evenings. What you might not realize, though, is that processed carbohydrates are risky when it comes to damaging your heart health. Processed carbs like pasta, white bread, and white rice are all known as high GI foods (high glycemic index). Foods like these are known to raise the glucose levels in your body to dangerous amounts.

Energy Bars

Yes, some energy bars are healthier than others. But you need to be careful—just because a company advertises themselves as "healthy," it doesn't always mean it's true. If you're going to reach for the energy bar, check out the back of the box to make sure you can read and pronounce the ingredients. Many energy bars are made with corn syrups, citric acids, and



added sugars.

Red Meat

This one can be sad for all the steak lovers out there. For many years, red meat has been heavily debated on the subject of heart disease. Recently, a chemical called Trimethylamine N-oxide (TMAO for short) has been discovered as an ingredient in red meat that can cause damage to the heart and increase your risk of heart disease.

Rotisserie Chicken

Rotisserie chicken is probably the most enticing smell you'll encounter in the grocery store. For those fans of this quick, delicious dinner choice, it's important to know that it can actually put you at risk for heart damage.

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DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



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

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

A wearable device provides at-home ozone therapy for patients

Researchers at Purdue University have created a portable, wearable device for at-home ozone therapy to patients.

Ozone therapy is an anti-microbial treatment that requires patients to travel to clinical setting for treatment by trained practitioners.

A breathable patch is applied to the wound and connected to a small, battery-powered, ozone-generating device, Purdue said in a statement.

The ozone gas is transported to the skin surface at the wound site and provides a targeted approach for wound healing.

The team worked with Purdue Research Foundation to patent the technology, the statement read.

This type of treatment kills the bacteria on the surface of the wound or diabetic ulcer and accelerates the healing process.

The low-cost innovation comes as an increase in life-threatening, antibiotic-resistant infections has resulted in challenging wound complications and limited choices for effective treatments, Purdue said.

AR glasses can enhance hearing in noisy places, Facebook says

Facebook Reality Labs Research said it is working on developing technology to help people hear better in noisy environments using augmented reality (AR) glasses.

The AR glasses will be able enhance people's hearing abilities to a level where they will be able to hear better in noisy places such as restaurants, coffee shops, and concerts.

Facebook says, the audio team has a two-fold mission to create virtual sounds that are perceptually indistinguishable from real ones, and to redefine human hearing. They are doing this by working on audio presence and 'perceptual superpowers'.

Audio presence is experiencing virtual sound as real. And perpetual superpower technology reduces unwanted background noises.

Research Scientist Pablo Hoffmann has developed an always-on audio calibration system that works with a pair of headphones with strategically placed microphones. The microphones record sounds in a room from a listener's perspective. When the audio recording is played back, it feels real that the listener virtually cannot distinguish it from the real thing.

The team is also working on telepresence technology - the ability to feel present in a location other than your own, in real time. By using a modified virtual reality (VR) headset and a pair of headphones, an array of 32 microphones captures the sounds in a room and delivers spatialised audio directly to a wearer's headphones, Facebook noted.

Scientists discover possible signs of life on Venus

The discovery of Phosphine gas on Venus as a potential sign of life on the glittering planet has made many scientists and astronomers ecstatic, but on the contrary to it, a significant question arises whether we are alone in this solar system or is there any form of life substantially existing elsewhere.

Delving into facts produced by the research so far, it becomes quite essential to take those weird happenings on the planet next door with a pinch of salt. Here we note some significant observations regarding the planet based on the inferences drawn from the research.

- With the onset of this new discovery, some overhyped notions of human existence, in future, on Venus may come into foray, but it is indeed a fact that Venusian atmosphere is completely hellish and untenable for human existence. Generally, day temperatures reach as high as 460 degree Celsius, with Sulphuric acid clouds hanging in the air. Despite the claims, that around 3 billion years ago, the oceans on Venus evaporated and disappeared as prevalence of heat trapping gases grew.
- Phosphine gas is generally toxic with a garlic-like smell and is found



in the bodies of living beings on earth. It is quite impossible to produce artificially. Its hazardous ramifications are such that, it's used by terrorists as a chemical agent in warfare.

- As per the research, this gas has been detected on the clouds of Venus, away from the surface of the planet, which may throw some light towards the existence of microorganisms producing it in a conducive environment.
- The information cited in 'The Atlantic' claims that this gas was

first discovered on Venus from the Earth by Jane Greaves, an astronomer of Cardiff University, through telescope based in Hawaii. The astronomer observed the pattern produced by the light emitted from the gas in the Venusian atmosphere and was able to infer such a conclusion.

Much skepticism still lying ahead of the scientists who claim that the amount of gas used in the findings is not enough and a consistently rigorous approach has to be made in order to reach an incisive result.

World's smallest and lightest full-frame mirrorless camera with IBIS announced



Sony A7C has just been announced and is touted as the 'world's smallest and lightest' full-frame camera. Despite the smaller footprint compared to the Sony A7 III it still features a 24.2-megapixel sensor, in-body image stabilisation (IBIS), and 4K video recording. It also supports advanced shooting modes such as S-Log, HLG picture profiles, and real-time eye-autofocus (Eye AF).

The Sony A7C will be available in late October for \$1,800 (roughly Rs. 1,32,000). It will also be available with the FE 28-60mm F4-5.6 zoom lens for about \$2,100 (Rs. 1,54,160).

The Sony A7C features a 24.2-megapixel full-frame CMOS sensor, in a magnesium alloy body. It has a native ISO range of 100-51,200, burst shooting of up to 10fps, and 5-axis IBIS. It features 693 phase detection autofocus (PDAF) points

with support for Eye AF for both humans and animals. The camera measures 124.0mm x 71.1mm x 59.7mm and weighs about 509g. Sony has managed to cram in the NP-FZ100 high-capacity battery, which promises up to 740 images on one charge (when using the LCD display).

The Sony A7C has a 3-inch rear, touchscreen LCD display with a 921K dot resolution. You also get an OLED viewfinder (EVF) with a 2.36 million dot resolution but with a lower magnification of 0.59x, compared to the A7 III. The camera also has built-in Wi-Fi ac, Bluetooth and NFC. There's a USB Type-C port too, which can be used to charge the battery while it's in the camera. It has a single SD card slot. The A7C can shoot video up to 4K 30fps or 1080p 120fps.

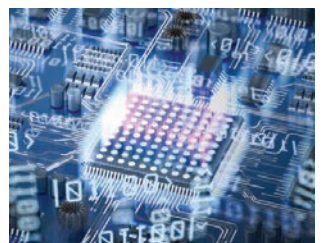
Cosmic rays may soon stymie quantum computing

Qubits, the logic elements of quantum computers, are coherent two-level systems that represent quantum information. Each qubit has the strange ability to be in a quantum superposition, carrying aspects of both states simultaneously, enabling a quantum version of parallel computation. Quantum computers, if they can be scaled to accommodate many qubits on one processor, could be dizzyingly faster, and able to handle far more complex problems, than today's conventional computers.

But that all depends on a qubit's integrity, or how long it can operate before its superposition and the quantum information are lost -- a process called decoherence, which ultimately limits the computer run-time. Superconducting qubits -- a leading qubit modality today -- have achieved exponential improvement in this key metric, from less than one nanosecond in 1999 to around 200 microseconds today for the best-performing devices.

But researchers at MIT, MIT Lincoln Laboratory, and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) have found that a qubit's performance will soon hit a wall. In a paper published in Nature, the team reports that the low-level, otherwise harmless background radiation that is emitted by trace elements in concrete walls and incoming cosmic rays are enough to cause decoherence in qubits. They found that this effect, if left unmitigated, will limit the performance of qubits to just a few milliseconds.

Given the rate at which scientists have been improving qubits, they may hit this radiation-induced wall in just a few years. To overcome this barrier, scientists will have to find ways to shield qubits -- and any practical quantum computers -- from low-level radiation, perhaps by building the computers underground or designing qubits that are tolerant to radiation's effects.



Govt may defer Air India sale

The government may defer the planned sale of Air India by up to three years until the turbulence caused in the aviation industry by the Covid-19 pandemic eases, two persons aware of the development said. Another option under consideration is sweetening the deal by reducing the Air India debt liability that a prospective buyer of the airline would assume.

Experts engaged in the process of divesting Air India have pointed to the lukewarm response by investors to the existing offer on the table and suggested that the government consider extending the October 30 deadline for submission of bids, reduce the debt liability of Rs 23,286 crore or allow bidders to place a value on the government's equity stake and say how much how much debt they would assume, the two persons said on condition of anonymity.

New Zealand economy in deepest recession

New Zealand fell into its deepest economic slump on record in the second quarter as its battle against the coronavirus pandemic paralysed business activity, official data showed on Thursday, Sept 17.

Gross domestic product contracted a seasonally adjusted 12.2% quarter-on-quarter, its sharpest quarterly contraction on record and largely in line with forecasts of a 12.8% decline from economists polled by Reuters. GDP fell 12.4% year-on-year.

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand had forecast a quarterly and annual GDP decline of 14% in its August statement. Growth has been hit by a standstill in economic activity as a strict nationwide coronavirus lockdown in April and parts of May forced almost everyone to stay at home and businesses to shut.

Flipkart may list overseas by 2021

Flipkart may go public as early as next year at a valuation of \$40-45 billion, a person familiar with the development said, as India's largest online retailer benefits from accelerated adoption of digital platforms for shopping and payments by customers because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Flipkart would look at an overseas listing, either in the US, where its parent Walmart Inc. is based, or another country, the person said on condition of anonymity. Walmart had in 2018 acquired a majority stake in Flipkart for \$16 billion, valuing the Bengaluru-based company at \$21 billion. At that time, Doug McMillon, president and CEO of Walmart, said that Flipkart will go public within four years of closing the deal. "The IPO should be done at no less a valuation than that at which Walmart invested in the Indian e-commerce firm," Walmart had then said in a regulatory filing.

US broke trade rules by putting tariffs on China, finds WTO

The World Trade Organization found that the United States breached global trading rules by imposing multibillion-dollar tariffs in President Donald Trump's trade war with China, a ruling that drew anger from Washington.

The Trump administration says its tariffs imposed two years ago on more than \$200 billion in Chinese goods were justified because China was stealing intellectual property and forcing US companies to transfer technology for access to China's markets.

But the WTO's three-member panel said the US duties broke trading rules because they applied only to China and were above maximum rates agreed to by the United States. Washington had not then adequately explained why its measures were a justified exception, the panel concluded.

"This panel report confirms what the Trump administration has been saying for four years: the WTO is completely inadequate to stop China's harmful technology practices," US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said in response.

China's Commerce Ministry said Beijing supported the multilateral trading system and respected WTO rules and rulings, and hoped Washington would do the same.

The decision will have little immediate effect on the US tariffs and is just the start of a legal process that could take years to play out, ultimately leading to the WTO approving retaliatory measures if it is upheld - moves that China has already taken on its own.

The United States is likely to appeal Tuesday's ruling. That would put the case into a legal void, however, because Washington has already blocked the appointment of judges to the WTO's appellate body, preventing it from convening the minimum number required to hear cases.

The WTO panel was aware it was stepping into hot water. It noted that it had looked only into the US measures and not China's retaliation, which Washington has not challenged at the WTO.



"The panel is very much aware of the wider context in which the WTO system currently operates, which is one reflecting a range of unprecedented global trade tensions," the 66-page report concluded.

The panel recommended the United States bring its measures "into conformity with its obligations", but also encouraged the two sides to work to resolve the overall dispute.

"Time is available for the parties to take stock as proceedings evolve and further consider opportunities for mutually agreed and satisfactory solutions," it said.

During a two-year trade war with Beijing, Trump threatened tariffs on nearly all Chinese imports - more than \$500 billion - before the two countries signed a "Phase 1" trade deal in January. Extra tariffs are still in place on some \$370 billion worth of Chinese goods, and \$62.16 billion in duties have been collected since July 2018, US Customs data [https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/trade show](https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/trade-show).

ADB paints gloomy picture of developing Asian economies



MANILA (TIP): Developing economies in Asia will contract in 2020, the first such downturn in nearly 60 years, the Asian Development Bank said in an update to its forecasts.

The update of the ADB's outlook estimates the regional economy will contract 0.7% this year, recovering to 6.8% growth in 2021.

Conditions could deteriorate further, however, if the Covid pandemic worsens significantly, the regional lender said.

Asia's status as a production base for many medical products, digital devices and optical equipment helped to cushion the blow to trade from the pandemic downturn, the report noted.

Nonetheless, the downturn is the worst since the early 1960s, the report said.

"This has set back efforts to life

hundreds of millions of people in our region out of poverty," said the ADB's chief economist, Yasuyuki Sawada.

Indian economy will shrink by 9% this fiscal, the ADB predicted saying growth outlook remains highly vulnerable to either a prolonged outbreak of the pandemic or a resurgence of cases. This will be the first time in four decades that the Indian economic growth will contract.

The update of the ADB's outlook estimates the regional economy will shrink by 0.7%

The bank said developing economies in Asia will contract in 2020, the first such downturn in nearly 60 years.

Conditions could deteriorate further, however, if the Covid pandemic worsens significantly, the regional lender said.

Over 1,600 Indian companies received USD 1 billion FDI from China during Apr 2016-Mar 2020

More than 1,600 Indian companies have received foreign direct investments worth USD 1 billion from China during the April 2016 to March 2020 period, according to government data.

The data was provided in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday to a question on whether it is a fact that large scale investments have been made by Chinese agencies in Indian companies, specially the start-ups.

Over 1,600 companies received USD 1,020.25 million (USD 1.02 billion) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows from China for the April 2016 to March 2020 period, as per the data.

These companies were in 46 sectors. Out of them, the automobile industry, printing of books (including litho printing industry), electronics, services and electrical equipment received more than USD 100 million FDI each from China during the said period.

The automobile industry received the maximum FDI from China at USD 172 million. The services sector attracted such funds worth USD 139.65 million, the data showed.

In the written reply, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Anurag Singh Thakur said the corporate affairs ministry does not maintain information regarding the investment made by Chinese agencies.

He said the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has informed that FDI Data Cell compiles and maintains the data of FDI reported through equity inflow in the country.

The relevant data for the April 2016 to March 2020 period was provided along with the written reply.

Indian and Chinese troops are engaged in a standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

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 21 - September 27, 2020

ARIES: Ganesha says there is more stability and you know where you are headed. You have emerged much stronger from all the confusions that have assailed you, 'Put down your shield and stand in the rain of blessings,' says life coach Danielle LaPorte. There is powerful bonding with loved ones and you feel amiable, content, charitable, cherubic, warm and loving. The work front takes top priority and you surge ahead.

TAURUS: Once again you are powered and sprinting away. You are fast off the blocks. I must remind my readers that I was a sprinter in my youth, and a hockey goalkeeper, and know my sport well. In this period you formulate your goals and identify ways to achieve them. Your ego drives are high and you are able to work with others too. That is the best part. You know what is good for you and are shrewd enough to keep ego drives in check for the larger good.

GEMINI: There are upsets this period. There are disruptions to your life and schedule. Routine goes for a toss. Others will also find your behaviour bizarre. There could be altercations, arguments, fights and accidents. Ganesha urges you not to drink and drive. Astrology never compels. It only impels. You can expect the unexpected today as your world in the way in which you have defined it all along gets a beating. Your spirit is restless and you take undue risks.

CANCER: There is a sharp schism between your personal needs and your public and professional duties. You are pulled in different directions. At some point, you may even feel that your world is in tatters. You are simply unable to be rational, and hinge your life and all decision making on your emotions. Ego issues and passions run deep, and there could be avoidable outbursts. Fortune favors the brave. Ganesha agrees.

LEO: Trends of one period often slip into the other. You may be deceived by trusted friends. If you are signing on the dotted line, I suggest you have witnesses and take the help of someone proficient in the law. In simple words, take precautions. Of course, I am not God and I could be wrong. This can be a tricky time in dealing with people, as they won't be representing themselves truthfully. Do not take anything at face value. This is not the time to take risks or to be unethical and take short cuts.

VIRGO: You could be prone to hysterics and histrionics, but one eye is firmly placed on the balance sheet, and that helps. Nothing brings more stability to the mind, body and soul than sheer hard work. Once you are gainfully occupied every other distraction falls by the wayside. Your feelings are deep and powerful in this phase. There are love and longing. You are caught in the orgasmic delights of armor. Love is your muse. Ganesha keeps you balanced.

LIBRA: Your energies are in harmony with your intentions. This is a good time for starting new projects. You are motivated and want to make things happen. You think and act big. You are brimming with confidence and it shows. You excel at tests and interviews. Youngsters do exceedingly well. There could be immigration on the cards or a new overseas job which excites you. If you use the energies of this period well, you will go places.

SCORPIO: There is a lot of movement in your life now. This is also the time to reach out and travel. You want to know more of the world you live in. You are in the throes of communication and look at e-Books, Mac, Kindle, I-Pad, I-Phone and every other technological marvel. In this phase every kind of activity is favored. You are able to assert yourself without offending others. You call a spade a spade and don't hold back your punches.

SAGITTARIUS: 'Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value,' said Albert Einstein. I love this quote. In this period you dwell on the lighter aspects of life. You are not particularly disciplined and are not in the mood for hard, sustained work. You feel like stepping back from the hurly-burly of life and having fun. You spend like there is no tomorrow and if there are harmful habits like smoking, drinking and taking recourse to recreational drugs I am afraid they may get the better of you.

CAPRICORN: Your instincts are heightened and this could lead to wrong assumptions. You may then work on these assumptions and act recklessly. Impulsive behaviour could lead to trouble. So take care and watch your step. Ego drives are high and you could get into altercations and brushes with the law. Children will be particularly rebellious and parents will have a tough time harnessing them. You may have to make changes in your personality.

AQUARIUS: 'Life is an adventure in forgiveness,' said Norman Cousins. You run through the gauntlet of the past and work your way through misadventures, grudges, hurts and recriminations. You go looking for a guru, take to yoga and meditation and wade through yantra, tantra and mantra. New vistas open up dramatically and you are on the verge of regeneration like a sapling that has finally seen its first drop of rain hit the parched earth.

PISCES: Your energies are bursting at the seams and the exuberance makes you take unnecessary risks. You could take a shot at adventure sport, gambling or speculative financial pursuits. This may also be a time when you lose control and go overboard with your indulgences. There is a risk of accidents and wrong calculations. You could be foolishly overconfident, and may overreach.

Birthday Horoscope September 21 - September 27, 2020

SEPT 21: If you're on vacation and ready to being a trip, consider yourself lucky. Indications are excellent for anything you do just for fun. Children's interests, romance, and creative expression fare well too.

SEPT 22: Year's positive indications get another boost, and high spirits abound. Still, there could be tensions to contend with, most likely emanating from your social life

SEPT 23: The Moon urges caution about health. Be

judiciously helpful, but careful about allowing yourself to become overburdened.

SEPT 24: Travel, whether setting out on a journey or planning one, can benefit from today's trends, as can learning, legal and academic interests, self - promotion, and matters of justice

SEPT 25: A display of foresight and ability will help you further your interests. Hammer out plans for the future, with an emphasis on deciding what practical

steps you need to make in order to get there.

SEPT 26: You'll spare yourself eventual disappointment if you can avoid putting stock in any new proposals or directions that come your way. Stick with what you know to be true and dependable.

SEPT 27: You may have to deal with complications involving work, money, earnings, or expenditures. You can ride out these unexpected changes by not losing sight of long - term goals

KRISHNA: A SUPREME TEACHER

The entire Mahabharata is peopled with rishis, munis, acharyas (preceptors), sages, and teachers of rajadharma (dharma of kingship) to the kings and of ethical ways of living to the common people. While distinctions can be made between rishis, munis, acharyas, upadhyayas, and others, they all have one function in common and that is teaching. Apart from them, there are other sages and also rajarishis (royal sages) such as Bhishma Pitamah and King Janaka. Vidura does not count himself in this category as he was born of the union of Rishi Vyasa and a domestic maid or a dasi but he is the wisest and is said to represent Dharma himself. Apart from the male rishis there are also female ascetics or rishikas such as Shandili, Sulabha, and Madhavi, who teach by example. King Janaka's wife, the princess of Kosala, delivers important lessons of life to her husband when she counsels him that running away from one's dharma or duties is not ascetic virtue.

Then there are the ordinary people, who seemingly lead very ordinary lives like the unnamed housewife, the grocer Tuladhara and the meat seller Dharmavyadha, all of whom become evolved enough to be able to teach even an ascetic what a truly virtuous life should be. Thus, the Mahabharata makes the point that true knowledge or wisdom can come from those belonging to any section of society and yet, those whom we look up to, can also fail sometimes. These are the rishis. There are several prominent and exalted rishi families descending directly from the intellectual sons or manasputras that Brahma created first. The rishis reiterate the basic concepts and assert that the only path to liberation and self-mastery is control over the senses. Without this control destructive emotions such as anger, lust, greed, arrogance, and egoism overpower and make the person helpless. This is, however, easier taught than done as the rishis themselves find it hard to maintain control over their senses. Immersed in the world of greed for power and wealth or motivated by desire, they sometimes even use their knowledge to cause greater destruction than ordinary mortals are capable of as they can curse and grant boons through powers acquired by their ascetic practices. What the Mahabharata shows is that power without wisdom is dangerous. Ironically therefore, we see many rishis and sages themselves become unscrupulous wielders of power, destroying wantonly, because they have no control over themselves and they give in to sensual pleasures. One reason for this could be that they get too involved in the world and develop too many vested interests. They are unable, therefore, to watch the affairs of the world with detachment as witnesses. The redeeming factor however, is that having reached a level of understanding, the rishis, who get caught in the web, are more often than not able to gather themselves in good time.

As Sri Krishna explains, those who realize the eternal Truth are neither reborn at the time of creation, nor are they 'disturbed' at the time of dissolution. The total material substance, called Brahman, is the source of birth and the Supreme Godhead, that is Krishna himself, impregnates it. All species of life are made possible by birth in this material



nature of which he is the seed-giving father. Material nature consists of three modes - goodness, passion and ignorance or sattva, rajas and tamas. When the indestructible one or the eternal living entity comes in contact with nature, he becomes conditioned by these modes. Sliding down from the level of sattva to rajas and tamas, is easy but staying steadfast in sameness is the one defining qualification of a 'realized one'. Sri Krishna elucidates...one who does not hate illumination, attachment, and delusion when they are present nor longs for them when they disappear; is unwavering and undisturbed through all these reactions of the material qualities, remaining neutral and transcendental knowing that the modes alone are active; is situated in the Self and regards alike happiness and distress; looks upon a lump of earth, a stone, and a piece of gold with an equal eye; is equal towards the desirable and the undesirable; is steady, situated equally well in praise and blame, honour and dishonour; treats alike both friend and enemy; and one who has renounced all material activities - such a person is said to have transcended the modes of

nature. It is only Sri Krishna who is the basis of the personal Brahman, which is immortal, imperishable, and eternal and is the constitutional position of ultimate happiness. Only one person in the entire Mahabharata can achieve being a part of the world and yet stay out of it, and that is Sri Krishna himself. As he says in the Bhagavad Gita, there is nothing for him to do in

all the three worlds since there is nothing that he has not acquired. But he is still engaged in action because without it, the worlds will perish. Just as the ignorant work with attachment, the wise work without attachment. This is the ideal set by Sri Krishna and that is why he is regarded as the supreme teacher of the world or the Jagatguru.

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Indian Physicians Achieve Novel Alternative Success in Pandemic

High-Flow-Nasal-Cannula Therapy gives better curative support than Ventilator in Covid-19 patients

BY TIP CORRESPONDENT
YASH GOYAL IN JAIPUR

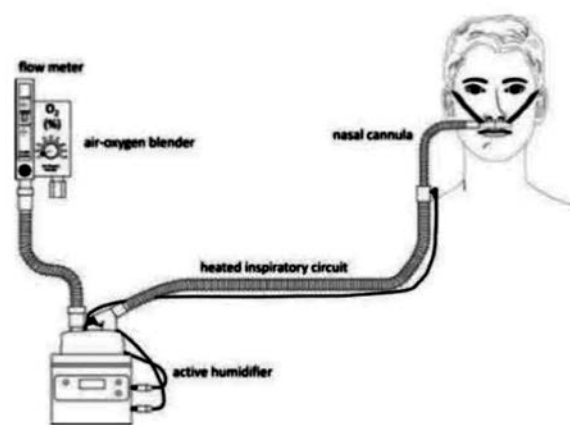
On one side, India's Covid cases cross 5 million, the second country in the World after the US to record 5 million patients, and on another end, the availability of Ventilators' and beds in COVID centers are shrinking in many states of the country causing serious alarming situations specially lifeline OXYGEN.

Probably for the first time in India, Physicians affiliated to Jaipur's Institute of Respiratory Diseases and Rajasthan Hospital have successfully tried to replace ventilator treatment by a High Flow Nasal Canula (HFNC) Therapy that gives a better curative support to Covid patients. Though HFNC treatment needs more oxygen supply than from ventilators.

HFNC is a type of oxygen treatment normally provided to patients with Pneumonia, heart failure and sleep apnoea (temporary cessation of breathing, especially during sleep). It is different from a ventilator as the patient is conscious and there is no intubation in the patient's lungs. Thus, the complications of ventilator are bypassed and patient breathes himself or herself which prevents muscle atrophy. Many cases respond to HFNC and putting the patient on ventilator can be avoided.

WHO Clinical Guidelines on COVID-19 (March 13/2020) also recommended application of HFNC in chosen and needy patients.

HFNC is useful in COVID-related acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)



HFNC Therapy



A patient administered NFNC therapy in recovery ward

patients as the alternative to the ventilator support system.

When contacted Dr Sheetu Singh, Associate Professor at the Institute of Respiratory Disease (SMS Medical College), told TIP, "The number of COVID-19 pneumonia cases have seen a rapid surge in India. This has led to more patients presenting at hospitals with requirement for oxygen. As the lungs get increasingly involved with the virus and the ongoing inflammation, the patients find increasing difficulty in breathing. The first step is to supplement oxygen by nasal prongs or face mask. These devices can provide maximum of 15L/min of oxygen at up to 99% concentration. If the patient does not maintain saturation or develops increase in respiratory rate the patient has to be switched to either Bi-Level Positive Airway Pressure (BIPAP). BIPAP helps in some cases but the oxygen that is supplemented with it is

still limited".

As per the treatment style, HFNC provides warmed and humidified oxygen at a rate of 60-80 Liter/minute with FiO2 ranging from 21-100 percent. The oxygen has to be warmed to body temperature of 37-degreeCelsius and humidified so as not to cause cooling and drying of mucous membrane of the lungs.

Dr Sheetu explained, "This high rate of oxygen flow not only provides oxygen supplementation to oxygen deprived patients with COVID-19 but also splints open the alveoli in the lungs. HFNC has been found useful in patients of COVID-19 who are not maintaining saturation on nasal cannula or mask. Also it has been found to be superior to BIPAP or noninvasive ventilators. Thus, HFNC is a boon and prevents patients from going on ventilators, which have poor outcomes".

HFNC is different from BIPAP or

noninvasive ventilator because it provides high flow oxygen along with pressure which relieves the air hunger of the patient. BIPAP uses a tight fitted face mask which may be uncomfortable to the patient and discourages the patient from clearing the secretions from the lungs. HFNC is more comfortable to patient and secretion clearance can be done easily as it requires only nasal cannula, she said.

Dr Virendra Singh, Chest Expert of Rajasthan Hospital & Editor of Lung India journal, claimed that HFNC was being useful in children suffering from Pneumonia, but in adult patients it was taken up for the first time in the country specially in COVID-19 patients. This substitute of oxygen supply (HFNC) was beneficial in previous epidemics of MERS and SIRS-CoV1, he who is a senior member of the state's Covid Medical Experts Team, added.

Hindi Fortnight Observed at Consulate General of India, New York

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The Consulate General of India here observed a Hindi fortnight from September 1 to 14, 20220. During the period, on September 9 a Hindi essay, poetry and dictation contest was held for the staff of the Consulate in which the Consulate employees participated enthusiastically.

The conclusion of the Hindi fortnight and celebration of Hindi Day were held on September 14.. Participants recited their Hindi poems and won the admiration of listeners. Participation and enthusiasm of non-Hindi contestants was appreciable. Consul General Randhir Jaiswal gave away certificates and prizes to the participants.

The evening witnessed a grand Hindi Day celebration organized jointly by the Indian Consulate, Hindi USA and other educational institutions. Students of different age groups displayed their skills in Hindi and in dance forms. The well-known Hindi poet Gajendra Solanki recited a poem of valor which was highly appreciated..



ICCR offering scholarships under the AYUSH Scholarship Scheme for the academic year 2020-21

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi is offering AYUSH scholarships for studying undergraduate, post graduate and Ph.D. courses related to Yoga, Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy in Indian universities/institutes/ colleges, according to a press release from the Consulate General of India in New York. The applications will be accepted online only through the portal <http://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in/>. Detailed guidelines including terms and conditions on the process of applying for ICCR scholarships online are available on www.a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in. However, the salient features of the Scheme are mentioned below. The last date for uploading the application by the applicant is September 30th, 2020.

SIKKIM: A HIMALAYAN WONDERLAND

Sikkim is nestled in the foothills of the eastern Himalayas and nature has gifted this state with unique beauty. The state is bestowed with a greater variety of vegetation and undisturbed valleys, five climatic zones, total sanitation, peaceful environment, hospitable and humble people and a rich cultural heritage – which is unmatched and would be hard to find anywhere else. Among its mountains is the fabulous Kanchenjunga is the third highest mountain in the world. Sikkim is also the least populous state in the Indian union. Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim is situated at a height of over five thousand feet above sea level.

Sikkim was once a remote mountain kingdom, ruled by Chogyals (Kings) until 1975; Sikkim is today opening up and proving to be an enchanting new world of friendly, socialite people, exotic flora and fauna, fabulous vistas and serene monastic settlements. Sikkim Tourism India offers several treks that lead through pine forests and picturesque valleys. The state is also the base for mountaineering expeditions and excellent river rafting. In the past few years the state has become one of the most sought after tourist destination.

Gangtok

Believe it or not, but resisting the alluring charm and appeal of Gangtok is almost impossible for anyone! The capital city of Sikkim, Gangtok is nestled in the Eastern Himalayas and is one of the kaleidoscopic tourist destinations in the state.

Whether you are looking for serene beauty, lush forests, gurgling rivers or mental peace, Gangtok travel packages will cuddle up your Sikkim holidays. For the nature lovers, a holiday in this scenic city is enough to fulfill all their wishes. On the other hand, for the adventure lovers, they can enjoy cable car rides, river rafting, go for mountain biking and several other activities in Gangtok.

Yuksom

Located in the Western parts of Sikkim, Yuksom is the origin of several enthralling treks into the Himalayas or the magical Kanchenjunga. The once a capital of Sikkim, this hamlet is more known for its pristine beauty and rustic appeal.

Also known as the 'Meeting place of Three Lamas', this Sikkimese village has recently started gaining tourism attention. Well, this is also the reason, you can expect pristine beauty and untouched nature in Yuksom. Home to the oldest monastery in Sikkim, this pictorial hamlet is one amongst the most peaceful and serene places to visit



in Sikkim.

Tsomgo Lake

On a visit to Gangtok, do not miss the chance to visit the Tsomgo Lake or the Changu Lake! Located only 38km from Sikkim's capital, it lies at an altitude of 12,400ft and is one of the highest lakes in India.

While the lake remains frozen during the winters, summer brings in a magical charm and appeal to Tsomgo. It is during this time of the year, the turquoise waters of the lake reflects the amazing views of the nearby peaks and the azure sky above!

Nathula Pass

The once a part of the historic 'Silk Road', a visit to Nathu La is a must in any of the Sikkim travel packages. One of the highest motorable pass in the world, this amazing pass is located at a towering height of 4,310m above the sea level and connects Sikkim with Tibet.

The pass is open to Indians; however, one has to obtain permission from the tourism department in order to visit this pass. And for the foreign national, they cannot make it to Nathu La.





BWF postpones Thomas and Uber Cup Finals

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) has postponed the Thomas and Uber Cup Finals in Denmark to next year following withdrawals by many teams due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

India had announced both the men's and women's squads for the prestigious event which was scheduled to be held in Aarhus from October 3 to 11.

However, after Indonesia and South Korea joined Thailand, Australia, Chinese Taipei and Algeria in pulling out due to Covid-19, the sport's governing body held a virtual emergency council meeting on Sunday.

"The Badminton World Federation, in full consultation and agreement with local host Badminton Denmark, has made the tough decision to postpone the Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2020 in Aarhus, Denmark," BWF said in a statement.



Indian-American appointed NBA basketball assistant coach for Memphis team

Memphis Grizzlies, an American professional basketball team, which competes in the NBA, has hired an Indian-American as its assistant coach. Sonia Raman joins Vin Bhavnani (Oklahoma City Thunder) and Roy Rana (Sacramento Kings) as the only coaches of Indian origin in the National Basketball Association.

Raman becomes the 14th female assistant coach in the history of the NBA and the 10th among current coaching staffers in the league. She becomes the seventh female coach to be hired as an assistant in the league since the beginning of the 2019-20 season.

According to ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski, she replaces Niele Ivey, another women's assistant coach who left for a head coaching position at the University of Notre Dame.

"She has a high basketball IQ and a tremendous ability to teach the game, as well as a strong passion for the game," head coach Taylor Jenkins said.

Carey, Maxwell lift Australia to dramatic win in 3rd ODI

Superb centuries from Alex Carey and Glenn Maxwell inspired Australia to a dramatic three-wicket victory over England on Wednesday, Sept 16, as the touring side clinched the one-day international series 2-1.

The pair put on 212 runs for the sixth wicket after Australia had slumped to 73-5 chasing a stiff target of 303 runs in the final game of the series.

Jonny Bairstow scored 112 as England recovered from losing their first two wickets to the opening two balls of the game to score 302 for seven in their 50 overs after winning the toss.

Australia lost their first five wickets cheaply but fought back brilliantly to win with two balls to spare against the world champions and inflict their first home one-day series defeat for five years.

England got off to the worst possible start as Jason Roy drove a thick outside edge to backward point and Joe Root was trapped lbw by Mitchell Starc off the first two balls of the innings.

Bairstow set about engineering a recovery, however, and England quickly pushed the run rate above six an over.

A 114-run partnership for the fifth wicket between Bairstow and Sam Billings (54) provided the backbone of the innings and Chris Woakes also contributed a rapid half century to take England past the 300-run mark.

Woakes then took the first two wickets of the Australia innings before Root, with his part-time off spin, nicked out David Warner and Mitchell Marsh cheaply to remove the tourists top order.

When Marnus Labuschagne was run out in the 17th over, Australia were reeling on 73-5.

Carey and Maxwell fought back, however, dragging Australia right back into the match with lusty hitting and leaving them needing 21 runs off the last 18 balls for victory.



They looked like throwing a winning position away when Maxwell top-edged spinner Adil Rashid and was caught by Tom Curran for 108 off 90 balls and 10 balls later Carey was caught by Mark Wood at third man off Jofra Archer for 106.

Australia needed 10 runs off the final over which England captain Eoin Morgan bravely entrusted to Rashid. Starc smacked a six off his first ball and hit another boundary to win the game, bringing a crowded summer of international cricket to an exciting conclusion.

England had a busy three-month window into which they crammed six tests and 12 limited-overs internationals all played behind closed doors in a bio-secure bubble because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

England all-rounder David Willey tests +ve for COVID-19

England all-rounder David Willey has tested positive for COVID-19, the player announced on social media on Thursday, Sept 17.

The 30-year-old Willey last played for England in the ODI series against Ireland in August.

"Thank you for all the kind messages. My wife and I received positive Covid test results," Willey tweeted.

The Yorkshire player said he was "gutted to be missing the remaining (group) games" of the domestic T20 league Vitality Blast.

"Even more devastated that having been in contact with the other three lads Sat morning (before we had symptoms) means they're at risk and unavailable too," he wrote.

Yorkshire earlier announced that Willey, Tom Kohler-Cadmore, Josh Poysden and Matthew Fisher would miss their remaining Vitality Blast group games.

Austria's Dominic Thiem claims US Open title

Austria's Dominic Thiem finally claimed his first Grand Slam title with a stunning comeback to beat Germany's Alexander Zverev 2-6 4-6 6-4 6-3 7-6(6) in a brutal and nerve-jangling US Open final on Sunday, September 13.

The 27-year-old world number three, beaten in his first three Grand Slam finals, started as favourite but appeared to have blown his golden chance as he fell two sets behind.

Thiem, who had dropped only one set en route to the final, looked stifled by nerves early on but gradually broke the shackles to hit back from a break down to take the third.

Zverev faltered on serve at 3-4 in a high-quality fourth set allowing Thiem to take the contest to a decider.

A limping Thiem trailed 5-3 in a tense decider but Zverev could not close it out and the Austrian summoned some incredible baseline winners to take it into a tiebreak.

A gut-wrenching climax saw Thiem squander two match points from 6-4 with forehand errors but he would not be denied and set up a third match point with a passing shot before Zverev fired



wide after four hours and two minutes.

"I wish there were two winners today, we both deserved it," Thiem, the second Austrian to win a Grand Slam title after Thomas Muster's 1995 French Open title, said on court after a tearful speech from his crestfallen 23-year-old opponent.

Thiem had lost the last two French

Open finals to Rafa Nadal and this year's Australian Open final to Novak Djokovic.

This time he started as the favourite but needed to become the first player to win a Grand Slam title from two sets down since Gaston Gaudio at the 2004 French Open to end his wait.

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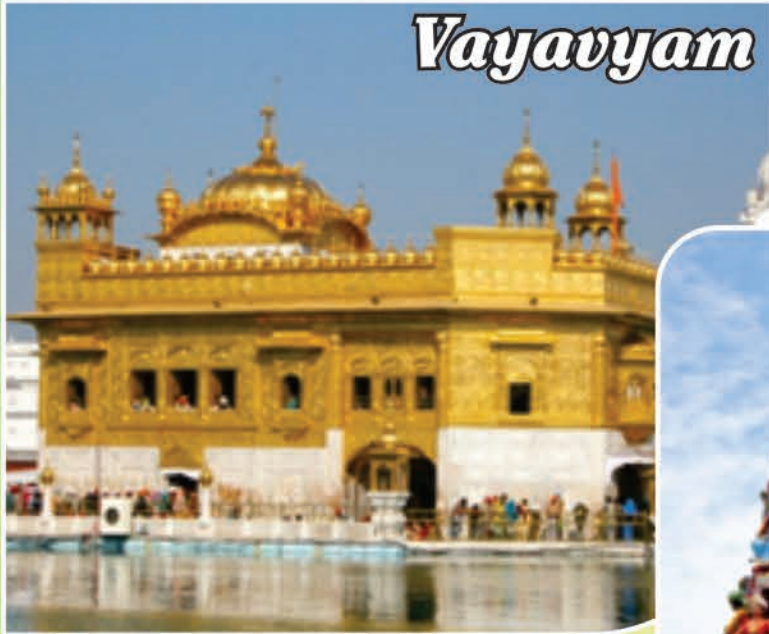
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12 hours before the supreme court verdict on the Babri Masjid / Rama Janma Bhumi controversy, a friend from India suggested that the land under dispute may be divided into 5 equal parts and five temples representing 5 major religions -Hinduism, Islam,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