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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

The INDIAN PANORAMA

will bring out a special edition on the occasion of **Deepavali on Friday, November 13**, Articles and advertisements for the special edition may please be submitted by **November 7**.

QUICK TAKES

- India fares poorly in hunger index **Page 02**
- 72% Of Indian Americans Support Joe Biden, says Survey **Page 05**
- The Tribune, true voice of people **Page 08**
- Beware of the consequences of disregarding recommendations of health experts **Page 08**
- Are we losing the war against the obscenity of hunger? **Page 09**
- Trump continues to be most unpredictable, as in 2016 **Page 10**
- Should we Reject Indian-Americans to our legislative bodies? **Page 10**

Trump says he supports larger coronavirus relief package

WASHINGTON (TIP): U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday, Oct 15 he was willing to support a comprehensive COVID-19 coronavirus relief package larger than \$1.8 trillion to make a deal with Democrats and get a bill passed.

"I would," he said during a telephone interview with Fox Business News. "Absolutely, I would. I would say more. I would go higher. Go big or go home."

He went on to say that he had directed Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to make an offer over the \$1.8 trillion package previously supported by the White House but said Mnuchin "hasn't come home with the bacon."

contd on page 2



It has been a yes or no; less or more with regard to Coronavirus relief package, which the larger chunk of American population badly needs, and needs now.

Dr. Dnyaneshwar Mulay Tasked to Lead Committee of NRI Academics and Scientists

I.S.SALUJA



"With his vast experience and valuable insights from a long service in the Ministry of external affairs, Dr. Dnyaneshwar Mulay would be able to guide this high-level committee to bridge the gap between Overseas Indians and India."

TIP File photo

provide policy guidance, establish and launch joint collaborative programs/schemes etc., a press release said.

contd on page 2

NEW YORK (TIP): New Yorkers will be happy and proud to know that a former Consul General of India at New York Dr. Dnyaneshwar Mulay has been appointed Chair of an Inter-ministerial Working Group to develop a single national Portal titled "Pravasi Bharatiya Academic and Scientific Sampark (PRABHASS).

Dr. Mulay is a member of National Human Rights Commission, India and a former career diplomat who has held key positions in the ministry of external affairs, government of India.

The new body, PRABHASS would work towards effectively engaging with Global S&T community for enriching the Indian innovation ecosystem for networking them with Indian researchers/institutions,

If elected, 11 million immigrants to get citizenship, promises Biden

WASHINGTON (TIP): Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has vowed to provide citizenship to 11 million illegal immigrants if voted to power in the November 3 presidential election. Biden identified this as one of his priorities in addition to beating the coronavirus pandemic, rebuilding the economy and figuring out how to restore American leadership around the world.



"We're going to have to deal with the immigration crisis," Biden said.

At a virtual fundraiser on Wednesday, October 14, Biden said there is a need to deal with what's going on at the border. "We're going to have to deal with the immigration crisis," he said.

Donald Trump has been calling for the deportation of illegal immigrants.

Meanwhile, Democratic vice-presidential nominee Kamala Harris has cancelled her travel plans through Sunday as a precaution after one of her staff members tested Covid positive.

(Source: PTI)



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India fares poorly in hunger index

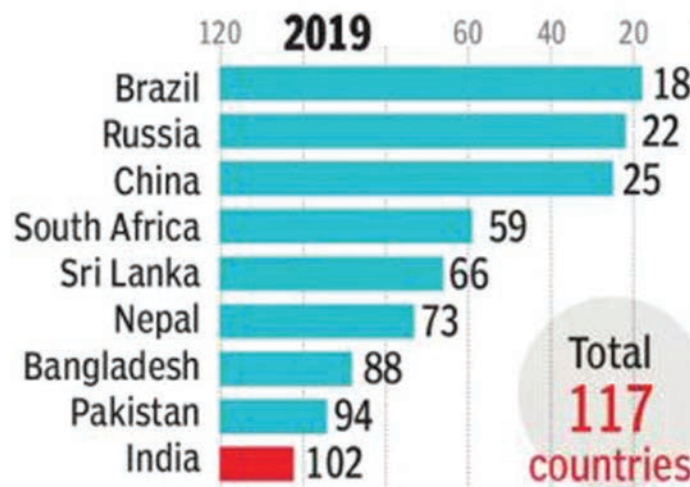
Country has the highest prevalence of 'wasted children'; even Bangladesh and Pakistan score better

NEW YORK (TIP): India has the highest prevalence of wasted children under five years in the world, which reflects acute undernutrition, according to the Global Hunger Index 2020. The situation has worsened in the 2015-19 period, when the prevalence of child wasting was 17.3%, in comparison to 2010-14, when it was 15.1%.

Overall, India ranks 94 out of 107 countries in the Index, lower than neighbors such as Bangladesh (75) and Pakistan (88). 2020 scores reflect data from 2015-19. The Index, which was released on Friday, is a peer-reviewed report released annually by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.

It uses four parameters to determine its scores. India fares worst in child wasting (low weight for height, reflecting acute undernutrition) and child stunting (low height for age, reflecting chronic undernutrition), which together make up a third of the total score.

Although it is still in the poorest category, however, child stunting has actually improved significantly, from 54% in 2000 to less than 35% now. Child wasting, on the other hand, has not improved in the last two decades, and is rather worse than it was decade ago.



Overall, India ranks 94 out of 107 countries in hunger Index

India has improved in both child mortality rates, which are now at 3.7%, and in terms of undernourishment, with about 14% of the total population which gets an insufficient caloric intake.

In the region of south, east and south-eastern Asia, the only countries which fare worse than India are Timor-Leste, Afghanistan and North Korea.

Pandemic effect

Globally, nearly 690 million people are undernourished, according to the report, which warns that the COVID-19 pandemic could have affected

the progress made on reducing hunger and poverty.

"The world is not on track to achieve the second Sustainable Development Goal - known as Zero Hunger for short - by 2030. At the current pace, approximately 37 countries will fail even to reach low hunger, as defined by the Global Hunger Index Severity Scale, by 2030," says the report. "These projections do not account for the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which may worsen hunger and undernutrition in the near term and affect countries' trajectories into the future ... COVID-19 has made it clearer than ever that our food systems, as they stand, are inadequate to the task of achieving Zero Hunger."

contd from page 1

Trump says he supports larger coronavirus relief package

Trump said he would not accept "goodies" in the Democrats' proposal.

House Democrats, led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), have been pushing for a \$2.2 trillion package that would include funding for state and local governments, schools, and coronavirus testing and tracing, among other priorities.2

Republicans in the Senate support a \$500 billion bill that would not offer a wide a range of measures. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said the upper chamber would be working on the bill next week.

REPUBLICANS

Democrats demanding a 'wish list'

"(Democrats) say anything short of their multi-trillion-dollar wish list, jammed with non-COVID-related demands, is 'piecemeal' and not worth doing," McConnell said in a statement. "Speaker Pelosi frequently says she feels 'nothing' is better than 'something.' And she has worked hard to ensure that nothing is what American families get."

DEMOCRATS

Republicans have the wrong priorities

"We want to have an agreement. Yet Republicans refuse to ensure that such an agreement puts #FamiliesFirst," Pelosi said. (Agencies)

Dr. Dnyaneshwar Mulay Tasked to Lead Committee of NRI Academics and Scientists

This sort of initiative is first of a kind to tap the expertise of overseas Indians for India, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat," the press release said.

The PRABHASS committee is constituted of officers from various ministries including Sanjeev Varshney, head of the Science and Technology department, Dr. Rajani Kant from

Indian Council of Medical Research, A.K. Tyagi from Department of Atomic Energy, N. Ranjana from D.R.D.O., Gopal Raman Iyengar from Ministry of Earth Sciences, M.S. Anurup from Space department, Manish Rana from Department of Biotechnology, Rama Swami Bansal from Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Renu Paul from Ministry of External Affairs along with a member from the Department of Agricultural Research and Education.

"With his vast experience and valuable insights from a long service in the Ministry of external affairs, Dr. Dnyaneshwar Mulay would be able to guide this high-level committee to bridge the gap between Overseas Indians and India," the press release said.

Born on November 5, 1958 in Kolhapur District of Maharashtra State (Western India), Dr. Dnyaneshwar Manohar Mulay took his primary education at the village Primary School. Subsequently, he completed bachelor's degree in English Literature from Shahaji Chhatrapati College at Kolhapur, followed by master's degree in Personnel Management from Mumbai University. He joined Indian Foreign Service in 1983 and, besides serving at the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, has also done postings in Indian Missions in Tokyo, Moscow, Port Louis. He served as Minister in Damascus and was High Commissioner of India to Male (Maldives) from April 2009-March 2013. He was Consul General of India at New York from April 2013 to 2016. In New Delhi, he acquired diverse experience during his assignments at Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Finance, and, of course, Ministry of External Affairs.

In his position as Secretary NRI Affairs at the external affairs ministry, he was responsible for softening or removal of many restrictive policies governing passport, visa, OCI and PIO cards. His contribution to organizing Pravasi Bharatiya Sammelan (now almost defunct) is an unforgettable chapter of history.

Dr. Mulay is an award-winning writer in Marathi and Hindi. He has contributed several books some of which have been translated into Kannada, Arabic, Urdu and Dhivehi. He has keen interest in Education, Environment (particularly water security) and socio-economic issues. Dr. Mulay is married and has three children—a daughter and two sons.

The Indian Panorama team takes pride in his new assignment and wishes him all the best, as ever, and waits to report on his charismatic performance, again, as ever.

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Herman Singh hosts a fundraiser for Kevin Thomas, NY Senator from District 6

Indian American community leaders pledge support for reelection of the Senator

I.S.SALUJA

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): Herman Singh, a well known Indian American businessman whose company Omni Mortgage is a household name, and who is a close friend of Senator Kevin Thomas, hosted a fundraiser for the Senator who is seeking re-election from District 6, located

in Nassau County.

Because of Covid-19 restrictions on large gatherings, only selected community leaders were invited. They constituted a representative gathering of community leaders, politicians, and media.

In his welcome address, Herman Singh spoke eloquently about the great work

Senator had done for the Indian American community in a brief period of two years, and appealed to the gathering to marshal all resources to re-elect Kevin Thomas for another term on No 3. He said he was proud that Kevin Thomas was a family friend, and added, he is a friend of the Indian American community.

Senator Kevin Thomas spoke about his long association with Singh's family, having been a friend to Singh's nephew Andy Singh from college days, and thanked the Indian American community, whose part he is, for their support always. He said he had been working to ensure religious liberties of all Indian faiths. His contribution in the enactment of law of a religious garb bill he introduced with fellow Senators is a landmark work of his.

As the Chair of the Consumer Protection committee, he was working on a data bill entitled the "New York Privacy Act".

About the forthcoming Presidential election, Senator said he was confident the Biden-Kamala team will win, and Democrats will do well on Senate seats.

Senator Kevin Thomas appealed for



Omni Mortgage President Herman Singh welcomes Senator Kevin Thomas and guests to the fundraiser at Lotus Restaurant in Hicksville, October 14

enthusiastic support for his re-election and asked the gathering to ensure hundred percent voting. He also said he was always available to his constituents to listen to their suggestions and address their issues.

Those who spoke on the occasion included Bobby Kumar Kalotee, Jay Jasbir Singh, Raghbir Singh Subhanpur, Pritam Singh Gilzian, and Sanjeev Jindal, besides many others.

The New York State Senate is one of 86 state legislative chambers holding elections in 2020. All 63 seats in the New York State Senate are up for election in 2020. The voting takes place on November 3.

contd on page 6



Community leaders at the fundraiser. From L to R: Andy Singh, Raj Jaggi, Kevin Thomas, Raghbir Singh Subhanpur, Herman Singh, Pritam Singh Gilzian, Gurinder Sahni, and an unidentified gentleman

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Indian American Couple's Campaign for Joe Biden

PARAMINDER AUJLA

SACRAMENTO(TIP): A Silicon Valley-based Indian-American couple has released a digital graphic campaign in Hindi, urging their community members to support and vote for Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris.

The campaign titled "Trump Hatao America Bachao" and "Biden Harris ko jitao, America ko aagebadao", was launched in 14 Indian languages on Monday, October 12. Biden supporters, Ajay and Vinita Bhutoria.

The focus of the campaign on the battleground States where every vote matters and Indian-Americans can play an important role in the election results, Bhutoria said in a statement.

Battleground States of Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, along with three southern states Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, as well as Arizona collectively have 127 electoral votes.

"The Indian American Votes will be the margin of victory and make the winning difference in battleground states," he said.

In 2016 Trump had a narrow win in Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania.

Democratic supporters this year are doing extensive outreach to the Indo Americans /South Asians in 14 languages through thousands of phone banking calls each week.

"We are determined to turn out the 1.3 million Indo American votes for Biden," he said.

Earlier Ajay had released two Bollywood videos to "unite all South Asians and people of Indian origin to support Biden and Harris.

"ChaleChalo Biden ko vote do" (Let's go, vote for Biden) the music video is now running on TV Asia as advertisement and Ajay also led by bringing Digital Graphics of "America Ka Neta Kaisa Ho Jo Biden Jaisa ho" and "Jaago America Jaago, Biden Harris ko Vote do" earlier in 14 languages.

Indian American co-founded company and University of Houston partner for COVID-19 vaccine

HOUSTON (TIP): The University of Houston (UH) has joined hands with an Indian American co-founded biotech company, AuraVax Therapeutics, to develop a 'differentiated-approach' vaccine against aggressive respiratory diseases, such as COVID-19.

AuraVax, however, has the option to exclusively license a new intranasal vaccine technology developed by its Indian-American co-founder, Navin Varadarajan, M.D. Anderson Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of Houston.

"A safe and durable vaccine is urgently needed to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic that has infected millions of people and caused over 620,000 deaths globally," Varadarajan stated.

"We plan to stop COVID-19, a respiratory virus, at its point of entry - the nasal cavity - and we believe our intranasal platform is a differentiated approach that will lead to a vaccine with increased efficacy to create sustained immunity to COVID-19," he said.

Based on pre-clinical experiments, Varadarajan reports his technology not only elicits a mucosal immune response, but also systemic immunity, according to the UoH.

Varadarajan is targeting the spike



Indian-American co-founder of AuraVax Therapeutics, Navin Varadarajan, M.D. Anderson Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of Houston and University of Houston have joined hands to develop a 'differentiated-approach' vaccine against aggressive respiratory diseases, such as COVID-19.

proteins, which allow infections to penetrate host cells, in his study. The professor also prefers proteins because of their ability to induce strong immune responses, flexibility and scalability, and the absence of infectious particles, as per an UoH statement.

AuraVax describes its vaccine administration platform as 'next-generation', one which could be administered at home.

"We are excited to be collaborating with the University of Houston and look forward to future success by advancing the development of this novel intranasal

vaccine platform to address a multitude of respiratory viruses, starting with COVID-19. We plan to stop COVID-19, a respiratory virus, at its point of entry -- the nasal cavity -- and we believe our intranasal platform is a differentiated approach that will lead to a vaccine with increased efficacy to create sustained immunity to COVID-19," said Varadarajan.

"AuraVax, being created by an UoH professor, is the ideal partner for us, and what better cause than to advance the creation of a vaccine to COVID-19, arguably the primary challenge facing our generation. The partnership has my wholehearted support," said Amr Elnashai, University of Houston vice president for research and technology transfer.

"The race for more effective ways of vaccinating against COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases has led to a broad and extensive focus on various protective mechanisms of action. Based on pre-clinical work, our technology not only elicits a mucosal immune response, but also systemic immunity. We believe AuraVax has a competitive advantage given the immune responses and a supply chain that is well-suited for widespread distribution and self-administration distribution," said Dr Varadarajan.

Indian American Organization AAPI released Coffee table book

CHICAGO (TIP): It was tough and challenging for the pioneer physicians of Indian origin to establish practice and find suitable job opportunities when they started coming to the US in the early 1960s and the 1970s.

So recalled Dr. Ranga Reddy, who has chronicled the history of American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) in a coffee table book released during the mini convention of the association Chicago last month.

"The journey to the land of opportunities was tough and challenging," said Dr. Reddy, Chair, AAPI History Task Force & Past President, 1997-98, according to an AAPI media release. "Faced with instances of overt as well as subtle discrimination in Residency recruitment and License Reciprocity, physicians of Indian Origin organized themselves in several states to fight the unfair treatment."

"It was a passion for history" that made this historic moment a reality, said Dr. Ranga Reddy, a medical graduate of Kurnool Medical College, where he had obtained MBBS and M.S Degrees. Consul General of India in Chicago, Arun Kumar, along with Dr. Suresh Reddy, Immediate Past President of AAPI released the book. The first copy of the book was presented to Dr. Ranga Reddy.

"This coffee table book is dedicated to all the 'First Ladies' who have sacrificed



"This coffee table book is dedicated to all the 'First Ladies' who have sacrificed innumerable hours of their family time for the sake of AAPI," Dr. Suresh Reddy said.

innumerable hours of their family time for the sake of AAPI," Dr. Suresh Reddy said. Dr. Ranga Reddy had his Training in Anesthesiology at State University of New York (SUNY). He started his career at St. Louis University School of Medicine as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology. He later on, moved to Springfield, Illinois to join practice in Memorial Medical Centre, where he served as the Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology. Dr. Ranga Reddy served AAPI in various capacities including as its President and as a member of the Board of Trustees.

During his presidency "One Member One Vote" policy was introduced for electing the leaders making the process truly democratic. In order to comply with AAPI's 501 (3) C status, AAPI's

Political Action Committee was replaced with Legislative Affairs Committee.

He led efforts to create AAPI's Patron Trustee Membership to support AAPI Charitable Foundation and raised over \$600,000 during his Presidency. In India, Dr. Ranga Reddy started an AAPI Charitable Clinic in a remote village called Ellayapalle to provide medical services to the indigenous people.

He promoted "Adopt the Primary Health Care Center of Your Native Place" in Andhra Pradesh. He co-sponsored a water project with Nandi Foundation to supply clean water to the villagers. Dr. Ranga Reddy was invited to the White House in 1995 by President Bill Clinton on behalf of AAPI Leadership.

He is the recipient of the AAPI Distinguished Service Award, Distinguished Public Service Award by American Telugu Association and Leadership Award by the Association of International College of Physicians. "This is an excellent historical review of AAPI by Dr. Ranga Reddy," said Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, President-Elect of AAPI.

"Over the past 37 years, AAPI has grown and is now the largest ethnic medical society in the US, representing the interests of over 100,000 Indian American physicians and Fellows," noted Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda, current President of AAPI.

72% Of Indian Americans Support Joe Biden, says Survey



The survey found 72% of registered Indian American voters supported Biden for president compared to 22% for Trump. - Photo / Facebook IndianAmericansForBiden

NEW YORK (TIP): Nearly three-quarters of Indian Americans plan to vote for Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden in the U.S. election next month, believing the country is headed in the wrong direction under President Donald Trump, according to a survey on Wednesday.

Indian Americans, the second largest immigrant group in the United States, make up less than 1% of registered voters for the Nov. 3 election. But both parties have reached out to the community in case they become important in the event of a close vote.

The Indian community is also in the spotlight after Biden picked Senator Kamala Harris, the daughter of an Indian immigrant, as his running mate. Harris is the first Black woman and Asian American in history to make the presidential ticket for a major party.

The survey found 72% of registered

Indian American voters supported Biden for president compared to 22% for Trump. The rest either chose "others" or said they did not intend to vote.

The survey, a collaboration between the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Johns Hopkins-SAIS, and the University of Pennsylvania, covered 936 Indian Americans.

It was conducted between Sept. 1 and Sept. 20 in partnership with YouGov with an overall margin of error of +/- 3.2%.

The Indian community has traditionally supported the Democratic Party, but strong personal ties between Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have raised expectations of a shift.

In an effort to win support from Indian-American voters, Trump hosted a 50,000-person "Howdy Modi" rally in

Texas with PM Modi last year. PM Modi returned the favor in February, organizing a 110,000-attendee rally for Trump in India.

There has been speculation the Indian community in the U.S. may not favor a potential Biden presidency, fearing he may be tougher on India on issues such as human rights and civil liberties that activists say are increasingly at risk under PM Modi.

Still, the survey showed little erosion in support for Biden.

"The big takeaway from these numbers is that there is scant evidence in the survey for the widespread defection of Democratic voters toward Trump," said Milan Vaishnav from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Devesh Kapur from Johns Hopkins and Sumitra Badrinathan in their assessment.

Voters who were polled listed the economy and healthcare as their top two concerns in the lead-up to the vote. U.S.-India ties were near the bottom of the list.

Harris's run for vice president has galvanized Indian Americans to turn out to vote, especially the Democrats.

About 49% of respondents indicated that Harris's nomination made them more enthusiastic about Biden's candidacy while just 15% said it made them less enthusiastic.

Harris is born to an Indian mother and a Jamaican father who both emigrated to the United States in their youth to study.

Indian American Philanthropist Gets Lifetime Achievement Award



Harish Kotecha has been awarded the prestigious Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his work in the United States for meeting the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

WASHINGTON (TIP): Indian American philanthropist Harish Kotecha has been awarded the prestigious Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his work in the United States for meeting the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

The lifetime achievement award from the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) was presented to Harish Kotecha, who is founder and president of Hindu Charities for America (HC4A), at its 32nd annual conference on October 9, a statement said.

Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award is presented annually to honor people who have tirelessly worked to ensure that all children may have what most take for granted: safety, shelter, and a future and that young people without shelter may find the promise of tomorrow.

NAEHCY's Board of Directors were impressed with "your (Harish Kotecha's) ability to transform a singular movement into a replicable program that now is established in 4 major cities," the statement said.

In her award letter to Mr Kotecha, Jimiyu Evans, president, NAEHCY wrote that, "We are glad to have an advocate like you in the field to meet the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness - supporting and encouraging academic success - while implementing program coordination and community collaboration."

Indian American police officer Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal Honored

HOUSTON (TIP): A year after Indian American Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal was shot and killed on duty during a traffic stop, a portion of a tollway in Houston was renamed after the Indian-American police officer.

Dhaliwal, 42, was the first Sikh sheriff's deputy in Harris county with a population of over 10,000 Sikhs. He made national headlines when he was allowed to grow a beard and wear a turban on the job.

He was gunned down in Cyprus on Sept. 27 last year while conducting a routine mid-day traffic stop in northwest of Houston.

Dhaliwal was scheduled to be promoted to a supervisor role where he would have mentored younger deputies on community policing.

His death resonated across the US and the world and tributes to his memory continued with the renaming of a section of Beltway 8 tollway between Texas 249 and US 290 after him last week, Houston chronicle reported.

The Harris County Toll Road Authority put up the sign 'HCSO Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal Memorial Tollway' near Texas 249. A special ceremony was also performed at the Gurdwara Sikh National Centre on the occasion.



The Harris County Toll Road Authority put up the sign 'HCSO Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal Memorial Tollway' near Texas 249. A special ceremony was also performed at the Gurdwara Sikh National Centre on the occasion.

Dhaliwal, a father of three, joined the force 10 years back and was the state's first law enforcement officer to receive permission to wear a religious turban and beard while on duty.

Commissioner Adrian Garcia, who hired Dhaliwal, said, "I was honored to commemorate a section of the Beltway 8 as 'Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal Memorial Tollway' to honor one of HC's finest who paid the ultimate sacrifice."

"We miss our friend and teammate," said Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez. "It's a loss that we feel every day," he said.

Garcia as former county sheriff had allowed Dhaliwal to wear a beard and turban, Sikh articles of faith, while serving - becoming one of the first law enforcement agencies to do so in the

country, Chronicle said.

The new policy was borne from an incident just before Garcia took office as sheriff when a Sikh had been wrongly arrested.

Garcia met with the incensed community and during his remarks, told them new policies and training will be there, but that wouldn't transform the department.

"What will change us is you encouraging your sons and daughters to join the Harris County Sheriff's Office so that we can change from within," he was quoted as saying.

"Who would know that Sandeep would be in that audience with his father who had been a policeman in India, and look to him and tell him he wanted to be in law enforcement," the former sheriff said.

It set off a chain of events that would change the fiber of the department. Later, he would see a Sikh in a magazine wearing his turban and beard in a US military uniform.

"It set me off. How could the US military do this and not us?" Garcia asked himself. After an internal debate, he gathered his legal team, staff, commanders, and members of the community and worked to craft what is now known as the Accommodations Policy. **(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)**

The Indian American Impact Project has a political action committee

Around 70 Indian Americans running for the office

NEW YORK (TIP): While media attention is focused on vice presidential candidate, Kamala Harris, Indian American have made great strides in politics since they started coming to the US in the early 1960s to emerge as an influential community much beyond their numbers.

GOPIO chapters in the New York area (Manhattan, New York, Connecticut and Central Jersey) in collaboration with IMPACT Project organized an interactive Zoom session, celebrating Indian American community's emerging political leaders in the Northeast US on Oct. 8.

Moderated by Raj Goyle, former member of Kansas State Assembly and Co-Founder, IMPACT (New York), the session showcased several Indian American leaders from the Northeast, with the audience from around the US, on how they developed interest in public service, their challenges and the sense of pride and achievement in what they have accomplished.

Describing himself as a pioneer in US politics, Goyle said, "When I had joined politics, I did not know much of politics. I was one of the first to be elected to any State Assembly. And I am proud to be part of the new generation of PIOs/NRIs in politics."

Joining politics after working as a policy analyst and civil rights attorney, Goyle has served two terms in the Kansas House of Representatives, making him the first Asian American elected to office in Kansas' history. He is currently the CEO of Bodhala, a leading legal technology firm.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Gautam Mukunda at The Center for Public Leadership, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, traced the rise of Indian Americans starting with Dalip Singh Saund, the first Indian American to be elected to the US Congress in the 1950s.

Pointing to Indian American candidates running for State elective offices in the Northeast among the speakers, he said, "Every one of you gives me hope. People in the United States believe that Indian Americans are capable of becoming leaders in the nation."

Connecticut State Rep. Raghiv Allie-Brennan, seeking re-election in the 2nd District said he got interested in entering



From top left clockwise: CT Rep. Raghiv Allie-Brennan, OH Rep. Niraj Antani, Jeremy Cooney, NH Rep. Latha Mangipudi, Rupande Mehta, NJ Rep. Raj Mukherji, Keshu Ram and NY Senator Kevin Thomas

politics, through his "commitment to environment after Hurricane Katrina devastated the nation."

Losing the election the first time by 260 votes did not deter him from contesting again to win convincingly the second time. "It was the desire to give back to the society that prompted me to enter politics and serve the people," he said.

New York State Senator Kevin Thomas, running from Senate District 56, said, he is "proud of the community he has come to represent. My constituents sought change and they got the change by electing me."

During his short term in the New York Senate, Thomas said, he has been successful in bringing in much needed funding to serve the diverse needs of his constituents with several new programs. He urged everyone to vote in the Nov. 3 election and make "our voices heard."

Ohio State Representative Niraj Antani, running for Ohio State Senate District 6, noted he is the second Indian American ever elected to a statewide office and the only Republican of Indian Origin to be elected.

"I work hard to reach across the aisle and cooperate with people in both the Parties to legislate."

Sharing his early days and inspiration to enter politics, he said, "My parents worked hard to live the American dream. There is a need for us to be at the decision-making table."

"Everyone is able to realize the dream. We stand on your shoulders, to carry on

the Indian values."

Now serving his third term in the Ohio House, Antani was the youngest Indian American elected official in the US. Jeremy Cooney from Rochester, New York, is running for State Senate District 56 to create new and good paying jobs, improve schools and provide access to quality healthcare for all.

"I am from India. I was adopted as a young child. My commitment is to give back to the community," he said. "We cannot control the politics of DC but can serve the inclusive New York state."

Born in an Indian orphanage, Jeremy was adopted by a single-mother and grew up in the South Wedge neighborhood of the City of Rochester.

After losing his mother to dementia and brain cancer, Jeremy has devoted his career to serving the community that helped raise him from the YMCA to all levels of government.

New Hampshire State Rep. Latha Mangipudi, who is running again from 35th District for a fifth term, spoke about the challenges in becoming a female, non-White elected official from a White majority state.

"It was a very slow and gradual journey after I had come to the US to pursue higher studies in the 1980s."

"I am a woman, Brown colored, first generation Indian and very vocal in expressing my views," said Mangipudi Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's message of non-violence.

Rupande Mehta from New Jersey,

running from Senate District 25, said, "My story is a story of dreams. Coming from Mumbai, seeking freedom, I am running for office because representation matters."

If elected she will be the first person of South Asian origin to be elected from his District.

Describing her story as "simple," New Jersey State Rep. Raj Mukherji from 33rd District said, "it's premature to say we have arrived. Our community's vote matters. We are proud to be Brown community."

Keshu Ram, Burlington, Vermont, running from Senate Chittenden District, said she entered politics because "I got engaged with the community for long, where we care for each other."

One of the youngest ever to be elected to State Assembly at the age of 21, she said, she had left active politics, but now she is back to run for the Senate seat.

"As a daughter of a Punjabi from India, I try to listen and follow up. Ninety percent of what we communicate is through body language. "I strive to make people comfortable," which helps the Indian American win people's hearts.

The Indian American Impact Project, has a political action committee called the Indian-American Impact Fund.

Collectively known as "IMPACT," it was founded by Raj Goyle and Deepak Raj, Chairman of Pratham USA and founder of the Raj Center on Indian Economic Policies at Columbia University.

Deepak Raj noted there are as many as 70 Indian Americans are running for office in the upcoming elections around the nation.

"This is our time," said Raj. "Across the country, a record number of Indian-Americans are running for office. We can't leave it to chance that they will win on their own. We owe them our support - and we have a plan to help them run, win, and lead."

GOPIO Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham, the coordinator of the event, underscored the need for Indian Americans to come together and help elect candidates from the community across the nation.

Shivender Sofat, President of GOPIO Manhattan, wished all the Indian American candidates' success and offered wholehearted support of the Indian American community.

Herman Singh hosts a fundraiser for Kevin Thomas, NY Senator from District 6

CONTD FROM PAGE 3

Kevin, a greenhorn when he pulled a surprise victory in 2018 against the incumbent Senator Kemp Hannon 50.8%-49.1%, is seeking re-election from District 6, located in Nassau County. Kevin has, in two years as a Senator, risen as a shining star on the political horizon of New York State. He has been

doing so well that his victory against his rival Republican Dennis Dunne, Sr. is being taken for granted.

Thomas Kevin is the first Indian to serve in the New York Senate.

Kevin is currently serving as Chair of the Consumer Protection committee. As the chairman of the Consumer Protection Committee, Thomas is currently working on a data bill entitled

the "New York Privacy Act," which would require companies to allow consumers to obtain the names of all entities with whom their information is shared and give those consumers the power to stop the company from sharing that data if they do not want it distributed.

Born in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Thomas immigrated to the United States as a ten-year-old boy. He received his J.D.

from Western Michigan University Cooley Law School.

Thomas practiced law and was an appointee of the US Commission on Civil Rights to the New York State Advisory Committee, a federal agency tasked with civil rights oversight. He is married and the couple has a daughter. The family lives in Levittown, Long Island.

Narendra Modi's birthday celebrated with launching of Program 70@70

NEW YORK (TIP): On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, as per direction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on building self-reliant Bharat through building self-reliant villages, an unique '70@70' program was formally launched by Union Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development Narendra Singh Tomar from New Delhi via video conference in partnership with ekisaan foundation, GIBV Boston, Jaipur Foot USA, Computer Society of India, Edufront, Friends of MP, India Global, and ATREE to adopt 70 villages to make them self-reliant villages.

These 70 villages are adopted to commemorate Modi's 70th Birthday. These villages will follow the comprehensive WHEELS framework - W - Water for all, H - Health for all, E - Education for all, E - Clean Energy for all, L - Land (Agri) and Housing, and S - Skills development and Employment generation, said Pramit Maakoday organizer of the event.

He said under the Wheels framework in the first phase the focus would be on smart education, smart health, smart agriculture, clean energy and skill development, with a special emphasis on making them accessible, affordable and scalable. The objective of this program is to educate, engage, and empower our farmers, along with implementing programs in PPP mode.

This program "70@70" was virtually launched by



Kanchan Bannerjee, Prem Bhandari, Pramit Maakoday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi - File photo

Union Cabinet Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development Narendra Singh Tomar. Tomar mentioned that India is a country of villages and in order to have Aatma-Nirbhar (Self-reliant) Bharat, it's essential that our villages become Aatma-Nirbhar (Self-reliant). This program would also inspire neighboring villages to move towards becoming Self-reliant. He commended the team on taking this program to make a difference at the grass root level, and this would also inspire others.

Initiatives like this build stronger bonds with the Indian diaspora and villages in India. He said recent agriculture reforms would help empower farmers and would help people in the villages to take advantage of technology and processes.

Core team for this '70@70' program includes Pramit Maakoday, Kanchan Bannerjee, Jyoti Bhowraskar, Sanjeev Tripathi, Srikanta Bhaskara and Manoj Sisodia.

P Bhandari President of Jaipur Foot USA said all the deserving disabled persons in these villages will get the artificial limbs. Satish Jha Principal Advisor for the education initiatives explained the importance of education for all. Computer Society of India President Prof. RK Vyas pledged the support of hundreds of volunteers for 70@70. Senior IAS officer Ajit Kesari Principal Secretary Agriculture mentioned how useful these programs for farmers welfare and agriculture ecosystem.

Not only in India but few of the villages will be developed with the comprehensive wheels framework outside of India in Nepal and West Africa. The program was conducted by Kanchan Banerjee and Srikanta Bhaskara proposed a vote of thanks.

(Contributed by Prakash M Swamy)



Consulate General of India, New York

**Public Notice about Change of Outsourcing Service Provider
Cox & Kings (CKGS) ceases operations; VFS Global to be the new
service provider**

NEW YORK (TIP): The Indian Consulate at New York has issued the following press release to the effect that Cox & Kings Global Services (CKGS), the existing service provider located at 235 West, 23rd Street, New York 10011 for providing outsourcing services for Visa, OCI, Renunciation, Passport and Global Entry Programme (GEP) (Website: www.in.ckgs.us) will shut down its operations at close of business on October 14, 2020. The new service provider, VFS Global would commence its operations from November 02, 2020.

In the interim, October 14 onwards, the Consulate will provide direct limited services only in emergencies.

In this context, it may please be noted that applicants can only submit applications on the CKGS website before the above deadline. Applicants must ensure that the documents are shipped to CKGS with suitable pre-paid return envelope in a manner to ensure it reaches CKGS by October 16, 2020. Any applications received after October 16, 2020 at CKGS will be returned to the applicants without processing.

With effect from October 14, 2020 and till VFS Global commences its operations on November 02, 2020, the Consulate General of India, New York will provide services in emergency cases directly. Applicants falling under CGI, New York jurisdiction are advised to follow the instructions given below to avail emergency services.

- (i) **VISA:** Emergency visa will be issued to the eligible categories allowed to travel to India as per the advisories issued by the Government of India. Applicants for emergency visa may write an email to visa.newyork@mea.gov.in or through PRAMIT dashboard available on our website www.indiainnewyork.gov.in explaining the exigency, The Consulate thereafter will inform you of the next steps.
- (ii) **PASSPORT:** For emergency passport services, applicants are requested to send an email to passport.newyork@mea.gov.in or through PRAMIT dashboard available on our website www.indiainnewyork.gov.in. Once the request has been approved by the Consulate, the applicant will be informed of the procedure for initiating application process. The approved applicants may send the completed form by postal mail to Consulate along with return pre-paid envelope for further processing.
- (iii) **OCI:** All OCI services will remain suspended till the new service provider takes over on November 02, 2020.
- (iv) **ATTESTATION SERVICES:** Miscellaneous Consular services such as Power of Attorney, Birth Certificate, PCC etc. shall be continue to be accepted by postal mail. These can be applied through the following link https://www.indiainnewyork.gov.in/Miscellaneous_general_info_new

The contact details of VFS Global, service fee details, operational hours, website etc. will be published on Consulate's website shortly.

In case of any further query, it may please be addressed through PRAMIT dashboard available on www.indiainnewyork.gov.in

A New Sikh Temple- Gurdwara Shaheedan inaugurated in Levittown, Long Island, New York

I.S. SALUJA

LEVITTOWN, LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP): Sikh community is known to be much devoted to their religion, Masters of their religion, and their places of worship. Wherever they may go, one of the first things they would do is to set up a place of worship. Sikh soldiers who served British army, and there were many, used to carry their Living Guru Holy Guru Granth Sahib with them even in remote areas of their posting and action.

Bhai Bhupinder Singh, a popular and scholarly priest took upon himself to build a Sikh place of worship in Levittown a couple of years ago. October 11 witnessed the culmination of his efforts, and the inaugural ceremony of a beautiful place of Sikh worship. The Gurdwara is named Gurdwara Shaheedan in commemoration of the sacrifices of Sikh martyrs, particularly, the most venerated Sikh martyr, Baba Deep Singh Ji, who is believed to have fought the enemy even after his head was severed by the enemy.

As customary, prayers were offered, hymns sung, and langar (food) served. Bhai Bhupinder Singh who is the founder of the Sikh shrine in Levittown told The Indian Panorama that keeping in view the COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings, only a limited number of Sikhs were requested to participate in the inaugural ceremony. Proper social distancing was maintained, as also all were requested to cover their faces as recommended by CDC.

Managers of various Sikh shrines, Sikh community leaders and devotees participated. Gurdwara Shaheedan is now open to devotees round the clock, as it is the Sikh tradition to keep Gurdwara doors open all the time for all the people, regardless of their faith, race and color.



The imposing building of the gurdwara



Sikh community leaders with Bhai Bhupinder Singh, Founder of Gurdwara Shaheedan in Levittown (third from left) at Gurdwara's inaugural ceremony, October 11

**The gurdwara is located
at 1 Center Lane, Levittown,
NY 11756.
Phone nos. 929-423-5995;
917-353-7265**

AS I SEE IT

The Tribune, true voice of people



By Prabhjot Singh

I am really saddened by an unsavory controversy in social media about The Tribune, an organization with which I have remained associated for more than 40 years. I strongly believe that institutions are much bigger than individuals. Individual come and go but institutions stay. It is not to undermine the contributions of individuals that help in building the institutions. But when individuals, or even some groups or associations, try to run down credible institutions, it becomes immense painful.

Before I joined The Tribune as a Staff Correspondent at Chandigarh, 41 years ago, my association with this great institution was already three years old. Before moving to Chandigarh I worked as a Sports Reporter at Ludhiana. I had the privilege of starting my career with The Tribune under the watchful eyes of a professional giant, Mr Prem Bhatia

My years with The Tribune were eventful. After more than four decades most of these incidents are still fresh in my memory. Bordering an emotional or traumatic angle, many of these events have been a part of my indelible memory. From trying circumstances of covering militancy in the trouble-torn State, the Tribune group continued to serve its dedicated readership in North India in a true professional manner. Pressures from both the State and the militants notwithstanding, it stood by its avowed principle of staying apolitical. Curfews and censorship failed to deter from its path of reporting the developments.

As the voice of people, the credibility of The Tribune remained unquestionable. Its readers would vouch for its stories. Unlike many other media organizations, The Tribune continued to distinguish itself with its editorial supremacy. While the management generally thrived upon its past laurels, members of the editorial staff took the challenges, including threats not only to their lives but also their families, in their stride to uphold the professional values.

Besides the professional challenges, The Tribune also had to compete with market forces as some of the leading national media houses also started their

As the voice of people, the credibility of The Tribune remained unquestionable. Its readers would vouch for its stories. Unlike many other media organizations, The Tribune continued to distinguish itself with its editorial supremacy. While the management generally thrived upon its past laurels, members of the editorial staff took the challenges, including threats not only to their lives but also their families, in their stride to uphold the professional values.

While everyone has a right to criticize any individual or a group, but an attempt to tarnish the image of this great institution, The Tribune, and its editorial team, is both unwarranted and deplorable.

The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

The Tribune-Voice of the People

editions from Chandigarh. While editorially The Tribune was ahead of its impending challenges, the management was still basking in the glory of monopoly era.

While the professional competitions were trying to make dents in strongholds of The Tribune, the management was slow to react. Issues about limited visibility of The Tribune publications at popular public spots like Railways Stations, Bus Stands, Airports, Hotels and Libraries were overlooked.

It is pertinent to mention that The Tribune not only faced challenges from strong rival national publications but also had to support two of its sister publications that even after more than 40 years are still dependent upon the mother publication for their survival. While the Punjabi and the Dainik Tribune have struggled throughout, many other vernacular newspapers that came to the region much later have scripted success stories. Some blame must go to the trade unions that have generally been dominated by the loss bearing sister publications.

It may sound strange but is true that while the employees of The Tribune were required to work and support for the Dainik and Punjabi editions as well, wage structures of the new publications, though in much lower category under the Wage Board guidelines, were brought at par with the mother publication.

Incidentally, the City pull outs started in late 90s became self-supporting within a couple of years of

their launch. I had the distinction of leading the launch of Chandigarh Tribune that became number one among all City pull outs. And all members of the City team, including its desk staff, worked in total unison to make this experiment successful even after the usual management impediments.

For any newspaper to grow, editions are launched to expand the paper's base in the region. Therefore, it was only logical that The Tribune launched its J&K and Uttarakhand editions.

While doing so, The Tribune Trust left it to the editorial section to decide on the number of pages/paginations. Historically, The Tribune has been a big paper in J&K even when it was published from Lahore. So the Trust rightly decided to bring out an edition for the people of J&K. Unfortunately, the edition has had to be closed owing to the failure of the business side, especially the circulation and advertisement departments. While HT and TOI are viable in Uttarakhand and Daily Excelsior and Greater Kashmir in J&K, The Tribune was rendered non-viable because of the declining advertisement and circulation revenue from the main edition in the past 6-7 years. The paper was unable to subsidize the J & K edition and had to close it.

Handpicked associates of a former GM, who are now on important positions, have been using the employees' union and the website to attack the editorial section and the Trust to divert attention from their own failures and to deflect blame.

While everyone has a right to criticize any individual or a group, but an attempt to tarnish the image of this great institution, The Tribune, and its editorial team, is both unwarranted and deplorable.

(The author is a former editor of The Tribune)



COMMENT

Prof I.S. Saluja

Politicians all over the world, by and large, are guided by similar lust for power. For them, all is fair in love and war. Their standards of morality are grounded deep in immorality. Of course, there are exceptions. Once in a while, you see a politician who is unlike his breed. He is not a politician. He is a visionary. He is a philosopher. He is a saint.

For the traditional politician, to grab power, to hold on to power, and to stay on in power, by hook or by crook is his most pious duty. He is not the one to ever doubt his ability to continue to wield power. In a democracy, power flows from the people, and he knows well how to influence them and get their support and vote.

Thus, a Trump is ready to risk the lives of his blind faithfuls at his rallies where he declares his defiance to the

threat of the deadly Coronavirus, encourages them to insult the wisdom of the health experts who recommend certain precautions to keep the virus away. The health experts recommend covering of face in public, but the President of the country would tell the rallyists by his example of not wearing a mask, that face covering is not required, and that the idea of social distancing is a stupid one. And his cronies join him in propagating the hoax.

We know for certain that many who attended the Trump rallies suffered

the consequences. They got infected. Many of them may have recovered, but many of them may still be fighting for survival. Innocent people fall a prey to the machinations of vile politicians; we have known it for long.

Take a cue from a former Governor of New Jersey Chris Christie who until the other day was mixing around in the Rose Garden in White House, without a face covering. He realized, after he got infected, that health experts are right, and that their recommendations are for the protection of the people, and has now

recommended that the guidelines issued by CDC be followed.

I will expect people like Chris Christie to take upon themselves to educate Americans of the dangerous consequences of disregarding the recommendations of health experts to protect themselves from the deadly virus which has already claimed more than 215,000 precious American lives, and struck more than a million, and is still raging all over America, threatening to bring more misery in the approaching winter season.

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay blessed.

Beware of the consequences of disregarding recommendations of health experts

Are we losing the war against the obscenity of hunger?



By Prabhu Dayal

As the humanitarian organization Mercy Corps puts it, "Hunger and malnutrition are the biggest risks to health worldwide - greater than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. Globally, food deprivation still claims a child's life every three seconds and nearly half of all deaths in children under five are attributable to undernutrition". Eveyone.org, another charity organization says "Every hour of every day, 300 children die because of malnutrition. It's an underlying cause of more than a third of children's deaths - 2.6 million every year". There is an urgent need to take action on war footing against such a situation.

As Mahatma Gandhi had said, there are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread. Hunger is one of mankind's worst enemies and has driven millions of people to desperation; it has also provided the subject-matter for some powerful literature, an outstanding example being the French writer Victor Hugo's classic 'Les Misérables'.

In her article Let Them Eat Bread: The Theft That Helped Inspire 'Les Misérables' which appeared in the 'npr'(National Public Radio) in March 2017, Nina Martyris wrote:

"On a bitterly cold day in February 1846, the French writer Victor Hugo was on his way to work when he saw something that affected him profoundly. A thin young man with a loaf of bread under his arm was being led away by police. Bystanders said he was being arrested for stealing the loaf. He was dressed in mud-spattered clothes, his bare feet thrust into clogs, his ankles wrapped in bloodied rags in lieu of stockings."

"It made me think," wrote Hugo. "The man was no longer a man in my eyes but the specter of la misère, of poverty." In his novel, Hugo portrays the family's

The World Food Programme may have got the Nobel Peace Prize, but the world is not winning against hunger



Hunger and malnutrition are the biggest risks to health worldwide. Malnourished children in Rwanda

circumstances in these few, short lines: "A very hard winter came. Jean had no work. The family had no bread. No bread literally. Seven children!"

Jean Valjean is sentenced to five years' hard labor for stealing a loaf of bread! He attempted to escape four times, and each time his sentence was lengthened by three years; he also received an extra two years for once resisting recapture during his second escape. After nineteen years in prison, he was released, but by law had to carry a yellow passport that announced that he is an ex-convict, an outcast. Hugo uses that loaf to attack society's criminal indifference to poverty and hunger and to highlight the injustice of the penal system.

'Les Misérables' should have awakened mankind's conscience, but one must ask oneself if it has succeeded in doing that. As former US President Dwight Eisenhower said, "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed".

As the humanitarian organization Mercy Corps puts it, "Hunger and malnutrition are the biggest risks to health

We, as individuals, also have a great responsibility. In such trying times, the words of Mother Teresa should guide us: "If you cannot feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

worldwide - greater than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. Globally, food deprivation still claims a child's life every three seconds and nearly half of all deaths in children under five are attributable to undernutrition". Eveyone.org, another charity organization says "Every hour of every day, 300 children die because of malnutrition. It's an underlying cause of more than a third of children's deaths - 2.6 million every year". There is an urgent need to take action on war footing against such a situation.

Thus, the announcement by the Norwegian Nobel Committee on October 9 that the World Food Programme(WFP) has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020 is indeed most welcome. The award has been given for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.

The World Food Programme(WFP) has indeed been doing God's work by providing food aid through the UN system since 1961. Its website mentions: "Every day too many men and women across the globe struggle to feed their children a nutritious meal. In a world where we produce enough food to feed everyone, 690 million people still go to bed on an empty stomach each night. Acute food insecurity affected 135 million people in 55 countries in 2019. Even more - one in three - suffer from some form of malnutrition".

Since its establishment, the WFP has responded to natural disasters and conflicts around the world. Currently, it is working in a number of countries, and it faces its severest challenges in three conflict-torn countries, namely Yemen, Afghanistan and South Sudan.

Since its establishment, the WFP has responded to natural disasters and conflicts around the world. Currently, it is working in a number of countries, and it faces its severest challenges in three conflict-torn countries, namely Yemen, Afghanistan and South Sudan.

Announcing the Nobel Peace Prize, the Chairperson of the Committee, Berit Reiss-Andersen said at a news conference: "The World Food Programme plays a key role in multilateral co-operation in making food security an instrument of peace". She also said that with this year's award, the committee wanted to "turn the eyes of the world to the millions of people who suffer from or face the threat of hunger".

In 2015 the global community adopted the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development to improve people's lives by 2030. Goal Two is 'Zero Hunger' which pledges to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Achieving this goal is the priority of the WFP; if present trends continue, the number of people affected by hunger will surpass 840 million by 2030, or 9.8 percent of the global population.

It may be mentioned that India has enjoyed steady economic growth and has achieved self-sufficiency in grain production in recent years. Despite this, high levels of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition persist. The WFP's website mentions that it has been working in India since 1963, with work transitioning from food distribution to technical assistance since the country achieved self-sufficiency in cereal production. It also says something that should prick our conscience: "India is home to a quarter of all undernourished people worldwide, making the country a key focus for tackling hunger on a global scale. In the last two decades, per capita income more than tripled, yet the minimum dietary intake fell. The gap between rich and poor increased during this period of high economic growth".

Coronavirus has further multiplied the challenges which India faces. In the second week of April 2020 itself, the International Labour Organization (ILO) had said that about 400 million workers from India's informal sector are likely to be pushed deeper into poverty due to Covid-19. There is no doubt that during the past six months, poverty in the country has worsened; so too, has hunger. The Government as well as many NGO's are grappling with the colossal problem of feeding millions of impoverished people who have lost even their means of earning a livelihood.

We, as individuals, also have a great responsibility. In such trying times, the words of Mother Teresa should guide us: "If you cannot feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

(The author is a retired career diplomat of India. He can be reached at Prabhu_dayal70@hotmail.com)

(Courtesy OPOYI)



India is home to a quarter of all undernourished people worldwide, making the country a key focus for tackling hunger on a global scale." India ranks 94 among 107 countries in 2020 Global Hunger Index, even below neighbors like Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan

Picture / Courtesy Akshaya Patra

US ELECTION 2020

Trump continues to be most unpredictable, as in 2016



By Ven Parameswaran

The shy Trump vote is bigger this year...and who falls into this category should terrify Democrats. I will say it again, folks. The polling is skewed. It is a mess. Either we are right to be highly skeptical and Trump wins an Electoral College landslide, or the pollsters are right and Biden wins landslide. Young Americans are not excited about this election at all. They are not planning on voting. Gallup is reporting the youth interest in voting this cycle has hit its lowest since 2000. That is in keeping with the results from Democracy Institute's Patrick Basham, whose polling data, which has been mentioned in The Washington Times and Forbes, suggests there will be one million fewer young people voting this cycle. Hill-Harris X Research shows younger voters are consistently more likely

- Youth interest in voting has hit its lowest since 2000, GALLUP reports
- Does Ohio provide a model?

to say they do not plan to vote. Basham spoke with Joseph Cotto about his new data. Pollwatch had a good thread summarizing the interview. Democracy Institute's poll had a sample size of 1500 voters, where Trump leads Joe Biden by one point. He also noted that the "shy Trump" vote is very much alive and will be bigger this time. Suburban white women and urban black women are the two groups that are most likely to fall into the shy category for the 2020 cycle. That latter part should shake Democrats to their core. And as for Florida, a state that Biden must carry, it could already be out of his reach. Basham notes Trump cannot fall asleep at the wheel, but things are becoming more comfortable for him in the Sunshine State. And based on some recent polling from the state, it looks like the tide has shifted solidly in favor of Trump.

The outcome of Election Day 2020 would seem to be a foregone conclusion if the latest national and battleground polls are

any guide as to whether President Trump will win in his reelection bid.

However, the GALLUP poll has just released the results of a new survey that suggests President Trump might have a better shot than you would think.

Most Americans responded positively to the survey question asking whether they feel better off now than they did four years ago.

Trump's odds of winning reelection seem to be growing slimmer by the day-though, it is worth remembering that we have also seen this movie play out before. This is not the first time that Trump has been in this predicament.

DOES OHIO PROVIDE A MODEL FOR PRESIDENTIAL VICTORY?

No Republican has won the Presidency without winning Ohio. Franklin D Roosevelt in 1944, and John F Kennedy in 1960 won without winning Ohio. President Trump won Ohio by 8 points in



Both Donald Trump and Joe Biden are engaged in a fight to the finish

2016. He accomplished this in spite of stiff opposition from Republican Governor John Kasich. So far, all indications are Trump will easily win Ohio. Biden has been visiting Ohio but his reception has been poor. If Trump wins Ohio like in 2016, it will influence his outcome in Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

POINT OF CAUTION IN READING POLLS SPONSORED BY THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA:

All these pollsters have been interviewing registered voters -- there are much more registered Democrats than Republicans. Polling most likely voters may give a better clue. The undecideds and third parties comprise 10% of final voters.

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

Should we Reject Indian-Americans to our legislative bodies?



By Mike Ghouse

Why should we support or pull down the Indian-Americans running for US Congress or Senate?

The answer is simple, almost all Indian Americans have families back in our motherland, and we must support and elect candidates who subscribe to American values. You and I came to America and have cherished this nation for its values of freedom, equal opportunities, equal justice, equal dignity, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We should wish the same for our fellow Indians back home or any people anywhere.

We must reject those candidates who do not want the same values as the Indians living in India and certainly pull the hypocrites down if they support the fascist Modi regime in India that is lynching, harassing, raping, and killing fellow Indians. We cannot let our motherland go down the drain with such individuals.

Law Makers Ro Khanna, Pramila Jayapal, and Kamala Harris have proved to be patriotic Americans fully subscribing to American Values. However, we have to make a critical decision about new candidates running for the legislatures. The questionable man is Sri Preston Kulkarni, a controversial person running for the US Congress from Congressional District 22 from Houston, Texas.

He is accused of taking donations from the people who run the RSS organization in India. RSS is a paramilitary organization

like the Nazis, ISIS, and KKK, which runs the Indian government and believes that the Christians (30 Million) and Muslims (200 Million) who have lived in India from the 2nd Century and 8th Century respectively do not belong in India. Through his minions, Prime Minister Modi, who has similarities with Hitler has given them three choices- convert to



Mr. Kulkarni is not willing to condemn this ideology, and hence his integrity is questionable.

Hinduism, live as 2nd class citizens or disappear.

The ideology of RSS is dangerous to the social fabric of India and detrimental to India's economic stability and prosperity. Now, it is creeping into America, and we need to stop it.

I have texted Mr. Kulkarni thrice to answer simple questions. He turned it over to Jack, his field director; both have promised to respond in vain for almost a month.

Here are few of the several questions I have asked Kulkarni.

1. If elected, would you initiate a bill in the house about equal rights, equal pay for women and equal justice for all citizens?

2. If elected, would you support a bill that would require the Indian Government to treat the Dalits, Muslims, and Christians as equal citizens with equal rights and equal justice for all?
3. If elected, would you support a bill to restore the full freedoms to the People of Kashmir?
4. If elected, would you encourage the RSS to renounce its extremist ideology and accept Indian Dalits, Muslims, Sikhs, Jews, and Christians as Indians and have equal rights with all citizens?
5. Should a conflict arise between India and the United States, and Congress is short of one vote for passing the bill, what would be your position?

Would Kulkarni make the following statements?

"I am concerned about the violations of religious freedoms in India, particularly against minorities. Being a minority myself, I will not tolerate minorities to be treated like that in any country. I am appalled to hear the statements like Muslims are termites, and I will throw the immigrants into the Bay of Bengal ascribed to the Home Minister of India Mr. Amit Shah a close confidant of Mr. Modi the Prime Minister."

"I support the request of the US Government to the Government of India to issue visas to the commissioners of the USCIRF to investigate the human rights violations and earn a clean certificate and or fix the problems and earn a clean certificate - clean chit as they call it in India."

"I do not support the exclusionary policies of the RSS, that advocate Indian Christians and Muslims to disappear from India, live as 2nd class citizens or convert to

Hinduism. Indeed, I oppose that policy and urge India to have a place among civilized nations."

"I urge the Government of India to withdraw the unnecessary citizenship laws like the CAA** - Citizens Amendment Act. It will stop the protests and restore political stability and social unrest. As Americans, we want a stable India to invest and build a healthy relationship."

"America is my home and my motherland, and I pledge to defend her constitution."

Lastly, talks are going on quietly about booting the Indians out of America if they boot Christians from India.

Given the unilateral decisions Trump has taken, disregarding the societal norms, and if the White Supremacist take over the governance, all of the Indians maybe kicked out of the nation.

If we don't correct the rogues who run the Government of India, we deserve to be kicked out. Modi was not allowed to come to the United States; it may happen again once Trump is gone. Modi should not bring shame to India.

I love my India and hate to see the RSS extremists destroying her; as an individual, I will do my share of the work to save my motherland from the men hell-bent on destroying her. All those who are supporting Modi now will come to regret. One by one, he will push the South Indians, then the Bengalis, Marathas, and finally you. All he wants is power. Modi is a power-hungry man. If the country is destroyed, he will walk away with his jhola (shoulder bag) as if nothing has happened; he does not care about Indians.

(The author is the founder and president of the Center for Pluralism in Washington, DC and offers pluralistic solutions to the media and policymakers on issues of the day. For more information, visit www.TheGhouseDiary.com)

15 killed in Pakistan terror attack

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Eight soldiers and seven civil security personnel were killed in a terrorist attack in Pakistan's Balochistan province, police sources said.

The incident took place on October 15 in Ormara area, when a group of militants ambushed and attacked a convoy of the Frontier Corps (FC) and Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), and fled the scene, the sources told Xinhua news agency.

"Two vehicles of OGDCL were being escorted by three FC vehicles on their way to Karachi when they were attacked by the militants who used sophisticated weapons in the offensive," the sources added.

The vehicles were also burned and destroyed by the militants following the attack.

Paramilitary troops and personnel from the Pakistan Navy reached the attack site and shifted the bodies to a nearby naval base.

A search operation to arrest the fleeing militants was launched in the area.

Baloch Raji Ajoji Sangar (BRAS), an



outlawed organization formed with the coalition of several extremist outfits of the province, claimed responsibility for the attack.

The same outfit killed some 14 personnel of the navy in an attack launched in the same area in April 2019.

Condemning the attack, Prime Minister Imran Khan sought a solicited report into the incident and directed the concerned authorities to make every possible effort to identify and bring the perpetrators of the attack to justice.

--IANS

Bangladesh okays death penalty for rapists

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh's Cabinet on October 12 approved an increase in the maximum punishment in rape cases to death from life imprisonment after a series of recent sexual assaults triggered protests on streets and in social media.

Cabinet spokesman Khandaker Anwarul Islam said President Abdul Hamid was likely to issue an ordinance amending the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act because Parliament was not in session. Details of the amendment were not immediately available, but Islam said the Cabinet agreed to a proposal that trials in rape cases be completed in a speedy manner. Under the current law, the maximum punishment in rape cases is life imprisonment, except for cases in which the victim dies, when capital punishment is allowed.

Law Minister Anisul Huq said the President was expected to issue the ordinance on Tuesday. A series of violent sexual attacks in recent weeks has triggered protests in the capital, Dhaka, and elsewhere. Local human rights groups say rapes have surged in the country. Ain-o-Salish Kendra, a women's rights group, said 889 rapes, including many gang rapes, occurred between January and August. At least 41 victims died, it said. Rights groups say many more cases remain unreported because of fears of harassment by influential people. Bangladesh's judicial system is painstakingly slow and cases often take years to finish. Protests broke out in recent days after a video of a group of men stripping and attacking a woman in a southeastern district went public through Facebook. AP

Pak to celebrate Guru Nanak's 551st birth anniversary from November 28-30



ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan will celebrate the 551st birth anniversary of Sikh faith's founder Guru Nanak Dev from November 28 to 30, the Foreign Office said on October 15.

Every year, a large number of Sikh pilgrims from India and different parts of the world gather at the Gurdwara Janamasthan Nankana Sahib, the birth place of Guru Nanak, in Pakistan's Punjab province to mark his birth anniversary. However, the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to affect festivities this year.

Addressing a media briefing here, Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said that the 551th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak would be celebrated from November 28 to 30.

He said that Pakistan reopened the Kartarpur corridor on July 29, but India has not yet opened from its side.

The corridor - which allows Indian pilgrims to undertake visa-free travel to the historic Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara - was closed on March 16 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

India has said a decision to re-open the

Kartarpur corridor would be taken in accordance with the protocols relating COVID-19 and easing of restrictions.

Chaudhri expressed the hope that India will review its decision in view of the upcoming 551th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak.

The corridor links Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur in India to Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan - the final resting place of Guru Nanak.

In response to a question about the construction of a bridge on the Ravi river, Chaudhri said that Pakistan has already started the construction work on its side of the bridge, but "India has not yet provided engineering design of its side of the bridge".

Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara is located in Pakistan's Narowal district across the river Ravi, about four kilometres from the Dera Baba Nanak shrine.

In November last year, the two countries threw open the corridor linking Dera Baba Sahib in Gurdaspur in India and Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan, in a historic people-to-people initiative. PTI

Emergency in Thailand amid massive protests

BANGKOK (TIP): Thailand declared a new state of emergency for the capital on October 15, a day after a student-led protest against the country's traditional establishment saw an extraordinary moment in which demonstrators heckled a royal motorcade.

After the pre-dawn declaration, riot police moved in to clear out demonstrators who after a day of rallies and confrontation had gathered outside Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's office to push their demands, which include the former general's stepping down, constitutional changes and reform of the monarchy.

Several top leaders of the protest movement were taken into custody. The police said they had made 22 arrests.

The text of the emergency declaration said it was needed because "certain groups of perpetrators intended to instigate an untoward incident and movement in the Bangkok area by way of various methods and via different channels, including causing obstruction to the royal motorcade."

The royal family is considered sacrosanct and a pillar of Thai identity. — AP

Oli sparks speculation by keeping defence ministry with himself in Cabinet reshuffle

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has reshuffled his Cabinet, keeping the key defence portfolio with himself, in a bid to strengthen his grip within the fractious ruling party and to allow smooth functioning of his government. Oli has inducted three new ministers, including Finance Minister Bishnu Poudel, and changed the portfolio of Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Ishwor Pokharel. However, the dissident faction of the ruling Communist Party of Nepal led by executive chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' was not satisfied with Oli's latest move, which they considered as one-sided, a source close to the ruling party said.

Oli and Prachanda, bitter political rivals, have been trying to shore up their base within the party in recent months. The finance ministry had remained vacant for some time and the nomination of Poudel, who is also the general secretary of the ruling party, to the department was a normal phenomena, the party source said. However, Oli's move to relieve Pokharel from the defence ministry and retain the portfolio with himself has sparked speculation in the Nepalese political spectrum and the media. PTI



US Coronavirus pandemic update, October 15
New cases in the week ended Oct. 15: 372,978, compared with 322,093 in the previous week
New deaths in the past week: 4,763
Current hospitalizations: 37,308
Total cases: 7,939,566
Total deaths: 209,340
Total recoveries: 3,177,397

Senate Committee to vote on Barrett Supreme Court nomination on Oct. 22



The US Senate Judiciary Committee is set to vote on nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court on October 22
 File photo

WASHINGTON (TIP): The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday scheduled a vote for Oct. 22 on the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court.

The vote was set by the majority Republicans on the committee after Democrats attempted to delay the process by invoking a committee rule requiring two members of the minority party to be present to conduct business.

"I want to take official note of the fact that I am the only member of the minority that is here, and so we cannot conduct business until that second member of the minority arrives," Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL) said.

Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham (R-SC), however, said the panel would proceed with its business. "If we create this problem for you in the future, you're going to do what I'm going to do which is move forward on the business of the committee," he said.

The exchange came on the final day of Barrett's nomination hearings, at which experts invited by Democrats and Republicans commented on the nominee's qualifications.

The Judiciary Committee is all but certain to approve Barrett's nomination, which will clear the path for a full Senate vote.

"She'll come out of committee next Thursday ... and we'll go to the floor with her on Friday the 23rd and stay on it until we finish," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said to reporters in Kentucky. After being asked if the Senate would approve her nomination, he replied, "We have the votes."

US weekly jobless claims rise to 898,000



WASHINGTON (TIP): The number of Americans who filed initial claims for unemployment insurance rose to 898,000 during the week ended October 10, the Labor Department said on Thursday, October 15.

The number of people claiming benefits in all unemployment programs during the week ended September 26 was 25.29 million, the Labor Department said.¹ There were 1.42 million people claiming benefits across all programs during the comparable week in 2019.

This week's initial claims figure is 53,000 higher than the previous week's.

During the week ended October 10, some 372,891 people in 51 states and territories filed initial claims for

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), which provides unemployment benefits to workers ineligible for standard unemployment benefits.

During the week ended September 26, a total of 11.17 million individuals in 51 states and territories were claiming the benefit, the Labor Department said.

In that same week, 49 states reported a total of 2.78 million people claiming Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), which provides an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits to those who have used up their standard unemployment benefit.

PUA and PEUC will expire by December 26 if not extended by Congress.

No benefit of Remdesivir in reducing COVID deaths: WHO study

NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP): Widely prescribed antiviral drug Remdesivir has shown little or no benefit in reducing COVID-19 deaths, the world's largest trial on the efficacy of four repurposed drugs on COVID-19 mortality reveals ten months into the pandemic outbreak.

Interim results from the WHO Solidarity Trial, which studied re-purposed anti-viral drugs Remdesivir, Hydroxychloroquine, Lopinavir, and Interferon- β 1a found none of these helped reduce deaths in COVID patients.

The trial ran through March 22 to October 4, 2020 and followed 11,266 patients in 405 hospitals across 30 countries in all six WHO regions.

"These drug regimens appeared to have little or no effect on hospitalized COVID-19 patients as indicated by overall mortality, initiation of ventilation and duration of hospital stay. No study drug appreciably reduced initiation of ventilation in those not already ventilated," said the pre-print of the study published today.

Authors said the chief aim of the trial was to help determine whether any of four re-purposed antivirals could at least moderately affect in-hospital mortality and whether any effects differed between moderate and severe disease. "For each of these 4 repurposed non-specific antivirals, several thousand patients have now been randomized in various trials. The overall findings suffice to refute early hopes based on smaller or non-randomized studies that any will substantially reduce inpatient mortality, initiation of ventilation or hospitalization duration," the researchers note.

Indian expert K Srinath Reddy, one of the study authors, told The Tribune, "This was the world's largest trial on Remdesivir and three other repurposed drugs. None showed any benefit in reducing deaths. Of the 2743 patients who were given Remdesivir, 301 died and in the control group of 2708 patients who were given other treatments, 303 died. So, there was no impact on mortality reduction." US-based Gilead Sciences, the makers of Remdesivir, however, issued a statement today, saying, "The emerging data appear inconsistent with more robust evidence from multiple randomized, controlled studies published in peer-reviewed journals validating the clinical benefit of Remdesivir."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

US BRIEFS

- President Donald Trump said on Thursday, October 15 he will accept the outcome of the election.
- And then they talk about, 'Will you accept a peaceful transfer?' And the answer is yes, I will. But I want it to be an honest election, and so does everybody else," the president said at a town hall event hosted by NBC.
- Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden said President Trump had bungled the U.S. response to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic and said the country needed a national approach to handle it.² "He missed enormous opportunities and kept saying things that weren't true," Biden said about the president at a town hall event hosted by ABC.
- President Trump leads former Vice President Biden in South Carolina 49% to 41%, according to a New York Times/Siena College poll published on Thursday.³ South Carolina Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham leads his Democratic opponent Jaime Harrison by 6 points, according to the poll, which has a 4.5-point margin of error.
- The campaign of Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden raised \$383 million in September. Biden said the donations came from 5.5 million donors at an average of \$44.4 In August, Biden raised \$364.5 million.

YouTube cracks down on QAnon conspiracy theory

NEW YORK (TIP): YouTube on Thursday, October 15, said it would prohibit content



promoting conspiracy theory QAnon that targets an individual or group, becoming the latest media giant to crack down on the online phenomena.

YouTube announced in a blog post that it was updating its harassment and hate speech policies to ban "content that targets an individual or group with conspiracy theories that have been used to justify real-world violence."

QAnon is an unfounded conspiracy theory that claims the existence of a cabal of child sex predators in which prominent Democrat lawmakers and Hollywood elites are involved. It has been identified by FBI officials as a potential motivator of domestic terrorism.

Facebook and Twitter have also taken action against the conspiracy theory. YouTube said it will begin enforcing the new policies immediately, "and will ramp up in the weeks to come."

YouTube in 2019 updated its policies to reduce the visibility of certain videos in search results and recommendations, resulting in an 80% drop in non-subscribed recommendations to channels related to the conspiracy theory, the company said.

Ambassador addresses entrepreneur-members of TiE Global



Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu complimented the TiE members and entrepreneurs for driving technology and innovation. - File photo

WASHINGTON DC (TIP): At the invitation of The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Global & TiE DC Chapter, Ambassador of India to the U.S. Mr. Taranjit Singh Sandhu interacted with TiE membership in a virtual business roundtable October 8. Chairman of Board, TiE Global Mr. Mahavir Pratap Sharma; President, TiE DC Chapter, Mr. Manish Malhotra, and Board Member, TiE DC Chapter, Mr. Ravi Puli set the stage for the discussion. Around 80 members across TiE Chapters participated in the roundtable.

Ambassador complimented the TiE members and entrepreneurs for driving technology and innovation.

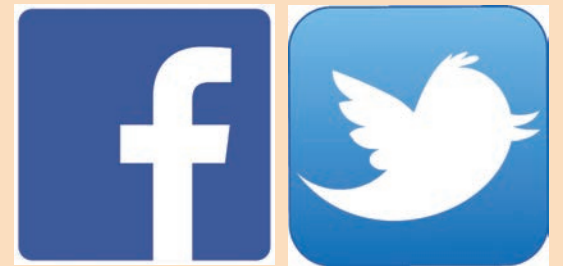
He stated that India's inherent strengths - huge domestic market, skilled workforce, exist digital services infrastructure, a competitive tax regime, labor costs - and its democratic credentials make it an attractive investment destination. Ambassador also shared an update of the evolving COVID-19 situation in India and highlighted the grit of the Indian people in overcoming the challenges. India's COVID-19 recovery rate stands at 85 percent.

Ambassador's address was followed by a Q&A session with the members, where Ambassador discussed the growing role of India in global value chains. He said that the reliability and trust factor in supply chain diversification decisions make India a frontrunner. He also briefed the members on the recent reforms being undertaken by the Government of India, including the labor and education reforms.

The discussion also covered the latest developments and investment opportunities in India in sectors such as ICT; advanced manufacturing; renewable energy including solar power; and pharmaceuticals.

(PRESS RELEASE)

Republicans accuse Twitter, Facebook of unfair censorship of New York Post story about Hunter Biden



NEW YORK (TIP): Twitter and Facebook were subject to public scrutiny on Wednesday, Oct 14 and Thursday, October 15 over their handling of two New York Post stories about Hunter Biden, son of Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden.

The stories reference emails the newspaper says it recovered from a laptop that purportedly belonged to Hunter Biden. The story says the emails detail Hunter Biden's business dealings in Ukraine while his father was vice president.

The claims have not been verified, and the Biden campaign denied central elements of the stories.

Twitter prevented users from posting links to the stories due to the inclusion of private information such as email addresses and other "hacked materials."

Facebook limited the distribution of the story in its news feed. It later said this was part of its "standard process" to allow third-party fact-checkers to review it and decide whether or not it should be regarded as misinformation.

"Never before have we seen the censorship of a major outlet's reporting," said Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas).

After Republican members of the House Judiciary Committee posted a copy of the New York Post article on their website, Twitter blocked users from posting the link.



Embassy of India, Washington DC

Public Notice Regarding Change in Outsourcing Service Provider Cox & Kings (CKGS) ceases operations; VFS Global will be the new service provider

WASHINGTON DC (TIP): The Embassy of India has issued the following press release to the effect that the existing service center of Cox & Kings Global Services (CKGS) located at 1250, 23rd Street, NW, Washington DC 20037 for providing outsourcing services for Visa, OCI, Renunciation, Passport and Global Entry Program (GEP) (Website: in.ckgs.us) will shut down its operations at close of business (1700 hours Eastern Standard Time) on Wednesday, 14 October, 2020.

The new service provider is VFS Global, likely to start operations from November 2. In the interim, October 19 onwards, the Embassy of India will provide direct limited services only in emergencies.

"In this context, the following may kindly be noted:-

- (i) Applicants can only submit applications on the CKGS website before the above deadline.
- (ii) Applicants must ensure that their documents are shipped to CKGS with suitable pre-paid return envelopes in a manner to ensure it reaches CKGS by 1700 hours Eastern Standard Time on Friday, 16 October 2020.
- (iii) Any applications received after 1700 hours

Eastern Standard Time on Friday, 16 October 2020 will be returned to the applicants without processing.

- (iv) Applicants must ensure that they receive back the processed documentation from CKGS as it will not be possible for CKGS or the Embassy to take care of any returned envelopes. The responsibility is that of the applicant.

With effect from 19 October 2020 and till M/s VFS Global - the new outsource service provider takes over operations (expected from 02 November 2020), the Embassy of India will provide direct limited services only in emergencies. Applicants are advised to keep in mind consular jurisdiction as well as the emergency contact information of the Embassy/Consulates in USA and submit an application to the relevant office. These details are available at <https://www.indianembassyusa.gov.in/extra?id=60>

- (i) Emergency visa to the eligible categories allowed to travel to India as per the advisories issued from time to time by the Government of India. Visa applicants are requested to send an email to asovisa.washington@mea.gov.in and visa1.washington@mea.gov.in requesting for

emergency visa. On receipt of the documentation checklist, applicants are requested to carefully go through the requirements relating to the different categories of visa before submitting their applications. The Embassy may request additional documentation in certain cases.

- (ii) For diplomatic/official visas, please contact the Special Issuance Agency of the Department of State for completion of necessary formalities. In case of any questions, please send an email to atcons.washington@mea.gov.in for details.
- (iii) For emergency passport services, applicants are requested to send an email to atcons1.washington@mea.gov.in explaining the reason. Only after approval from the Embassy, the application process must be initiated by the applicant.
- (iv) OCI services will remain suspended till the new service provider takes over.

Applicants residing in the consular jurisdictions of Consulates General of India at Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, New York and San Francisco, may please visit the websites of respective Consulates for information on the services during the transition period.

The contact details of VFS Global, service fees details, their operational hours, etc. will be published on the websites of the Embassy of India, Washington DC and on the websites of the Consulates in due course.



Even Pak handled Covid better than India: Rahul

NEW DELHI (TIP): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took a dig at the centre on Friday, Oct 16, over IMF's projection that the Indian economy is set to contract by a massive 10.3 per cent this year, saying it was another "solid achievement" by the government.

Gandhi took a swipe at the government on Twitter by tagging a chart that showed IMF growth projections for 2020-21 for Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, China, Bhutan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and India.

The chart showed that the Indian economy is projected to contract by a massive 10.3 per cent this year, the highest contraction among the countries mentioned.

"Another solid achievement by the BJP government. Even Pakistan and Afghanistan handled Covid better than India," Gandhi tweeted with the chart.

India's Covid-19 tally rises to 7.37 million; recoveries at 6.4 million

NEW DELHI (TIP): With 63,371 fresh cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and 895 related deaths in the past 24 hours, India's tally went up to 7,370,468, rising by more than 100,000 since the beginning of this month, according to the Union health ministry on Friday, October 16.

India has been reporting around 66,000 new Covid-19 cases daily since October 12 and even witnessed 55,342 infections on October 13, official data shows. Deaths have also been fewer with 816 succumbing to the viral disease on October 12 and 680 fatalities on Thursday. The number of deaths have been sustained below the 1,000 mark since the last 17 days.

The health ministry said on Friday that the country continues to have one of the lowest deaths per million population due to the coronavirus disease compared to other countries across the world. It also said that at least 22 states and Union territories have lower deaths per million population than the national average, which is currently at 80. "Some States/UTs are performing better and reporting much lower deaths/million population than the national average," the ministry posted on Twitter.

There are 804,528 active cases of the coronavirus disease and the death toll in the country, which is the second worst-hit in the world, has gone up to 112,161, the



health ministry's dashboard showed at 8am. There have been 6,453,779 recoveries so far with 70,338 people cured of the respiratory disease in the last 24 hours. This has taken the national recovery rate to 87.56%.

"India is reporting a progressively high increase in the recoveries and a

persistent decline in the percentage of active cases. As a result, the doubling time of the infection has sharply improved. It is now almost 73 days (72.8 days). This indicates a substantial fall in the daily New Cases and the consequent increase in time taken to double the Total Cases," the health ministry said.

Woman has right to stay at estranged in-laws' home: SC

NEW DELHI (TIP): A woman can stay in her husband's family home even if she is estranged from him, the Supreme Court said today, overruling its earlier decision to the contrary. An estranged daughter-in-law cannot be evicted by her husband or family members and she has a right to stay there under the Domestic Violence Act, said the bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and MR Shah.

Domestic violence in the country is rampant and every day some women encounter violence in some form or other, the court said. Under such circumstances, a woman resigns herself to the never-ending cycle of enduring violence and discrimination as a daughter, a sister, a wife, a mother, a partner or a single woman in her lifetime.

The judgment dismissed an appeal filed by one Satish Chander Ahuja challenging a Delhi High Court judgment of 2019, which ruled that his daughter-in-law Sneha Ahuja had the right of residence even though she was in the process of divorce from her husband Raveen Ahuja.

Satish Ahuja had also appealed that his son had no share in the house as the property was his self-earned.

Interpreting the provisions of Section 2 (shared household) and Section 17 (right of residence) under the Domestic Violence Act, the judges said: "The definition of shared household given in



Domestic violence in the country is rampant and every day some women encounter violence in some form or other, the Supreme Court said

Section 2 (s) cannot be read to mean that shared household can only be that household which is household of the joint family of which husband is a member or in which husband of the aggrieved person has a share".

The court also rejected the man's appeal that his son had no share in the property at the posh New Friends Colony area of Delhi.

India rejects China's stance on border infra and Ladakh

NEW DELHI (TIP): India on Thursday, October 15, called on China to work for complete disengagement at friction points on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), while rejecting Beijing's contention that infrastructure development and troop deployments by New Delhi were the root causes of tensions at the border.

External affairs minister S Jaishankar, participating in the Bloomberg India Economic Forum online, made it clear that New Delhi wasn't to blame for the standoff in the Ladakh sector that has entered its sixth month. Acknowledging the gravity of the situation, he pointed out India and China had built their relationship and expanded cooperation over the past 30 years "predicated on peace and tranquillity along the border".

"If that underlying peace and tranquillity is disturbed, if the agreements which the two sides signed are not honoured, then clearly that is the primary cause of the disruption," Jaishankar said. He added: "If you disturb the foundation of this relationship, you cannot be impervious to the fact that it will have consequences...that problem...was not created on our side."

China's foreign ministry had on Monday cited India's infrastructure development and troop deployments as the root causes of tensions. It also said India should refrain from actions that could escalate the situation.

The external affairs ministry also



External affairs minister S Jaishankar

dismissed China's stance on not recognising Arunachal Pradesh state and the Union Territory of Ladakh, saying both regions are an integral part of India and Beijing has no locus standi to comment on such internal matters.

The remarks by external affairs ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava reflected the stalemate in efforts to end the Ladakh standoff, and the lack of progress in disengagement of troops at friction points after several rounds of diplomatic and military talks.

Srivastava said India was creating infrastructure that improved the lives of its people. "The government gives careful and specific attention to improvement of infrastructure for the development of border areas in order to facilitate economic development of these areas, as also to meet India's strategic and security requirements," he said. *Source: HT*

PM Modi, Shah likely to hold 15-20 rallies in poll-bound Bihar

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to address an election rally at Aarah in Bihar either on October 23 or 24, sources said. It is expected he may hold around 12 rallies with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the face of the NDA, they added. Leaders said BJP candidates have asked for four more rallies of the Prime Minister for which a final decision of the PMO is awaited. Apart from the Prime Minister, Union Home Minister Amit Shah is also likely to hold "15 to 20" rallies in the three-phased elections.

Exit poll ban applies to astrologers, analysts

When there is a ban on exit polls, prediction of poll results in the media by astrologers, tarot readers and analysts is a violation of the electoral law, the Election Commission said on Thursday, Oct 15.

The EC's advisory, re-issued ahead of the three-phase elections in Bihar beginning later this month, asked the media, both electronic and print, to "refrain" from airing and publishing such programmes during the prohibited period to ensure free, fair and transparent polls.

The advisory was first issued on March 30, 2017 in which the poll watchdog cited Section 126A of the Representation of the People Act.

Kerala gold smuggling case accused linked to Dawood: NIA

In a major development in the Kerala gold smuggling case, the NIA has found links between one of the accused and India's most wanted underworld don Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar and his gang.

The National Investigation Agency probe has revealed that one of the accused visited Tanzania, where the 1993 Mumbai accused has vast networks, to launch his diamond business and to smuggle firearms.

The submissions were made by the anti-terror probe agency in a Special NIA court here on Wednesday.

"KT Ramees and M Sharafuddin visited Tanzania on several occasions and met one of Dawood's close aide Feroze 'Oasis' and discussed ways to smuggle firearms into the country," an NIA official related to the probe told IANS. The official said that Ramees visited Tanzania first in 2016 to start a diamond business there. He then also smuggled one kilo gold from Tanzania to the UAE in 2017.

Ramees was caught with 13 smuggled revolvers at the Kozhikode airport in November 2019.

TRP probe: Freeze on rating news channels for 8-12 weeks

NEW DELHI (TIP): Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC), the industry body that measures Television Rating Points (TRPs), has suspended the publication of weekly individual ratings of news channels for "eight to 12 weeks", days after Mumbai Police began investigating a "racket" of fraudulent manipulation of TRPs.

Five persons, including two former employees of Hansa, the agency that calculates the ratings for BARC, have been arrested. At least three channels — Arnab Goswami's Republic, Box Cinemas, and Fakt Marathi — are allegedly involved in the racket, according to police.

In a statement, BARC said that "[i]n the light of the recent developments, BARC Board has proposed that its Technical Committee (Tech Comm) review and augment the current standards of measuring and reporting the data of niche genres, to improve their statistical robustness and to significantly hamper the potential attempts of infiltrating the panel homes".

This exercise, BARC said, would cover "all Hindi, Regional, English News and Business News channels with immediate effect" — and that it would "cease publishing the weekly individual ratings for all news channels during the exercise". The process is "expected to take around 8-12 weeks including validation and testing under the supervision of BARC's Tech Comm", the statement said.

TRPs are a measure of TV-watching



behaviour, and one of the main things advertisers look at while choosing channels. News Broadcasters' Association (NBA), the representative body of private news channels, welcomed the BARC announcement, and said it should use the period to "completely overhaul its systems and restore the credibility of the information it collects about What India Watches".

The BARC statement quoted its board chairman Punit Goenka as saying: "Given the most recent developments, the BARC Board was of the opinion that a pause was necessitated to enable the industry and BARC to work closely to review its already stringent protocols and further augment them to enable the industry to focus on collaborating for growth and well-natured competitiveness".

GST COMPENSATION

Govt softens stand, to borrow for states

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Union finance ministry on Thursday, Oct 15, said that the Rs 1.1 lakh crore estimated shortfall in Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation cess will be borrowed by the central government and "passed on to the states as a back-to-back loan", allaying concern of states that they would have to pay higher interest rates if they approach the market individually.

The Centre's move, detailed in a statement from the finance ministry, is likely to put to rest, for now, the controversy over the compensation cess shortfall that had caused a major split in the GST Council, with no consensus being reached after three meetings. It also keeps the concept of fiscal federalism, the core of GST, alive.

The finance ministry statement added that the borrowing would "not have any impact on the fiscal deficit of the Government of India" and "be reflected as capital receipts of the state government as part of the financing of the respective fiscal deficits".

As a result, this borrowing doesn't go into what is called general government borrowings (the debt of the Centre and the states).

"It appears that the loan is treated as capital receipts of the state governments, which will have some positive impact on state finances, but we need to see the fine print," said the finance minister of one of the dissenting states, requesting anonymity.

The minister said it is prudent for the government to borrow the entire amount to get a better rate, but there are other concerns — the Centre should have borrowed the entire shortfall and repay from the compensation cess fund as the financial position of most of the states.

Farooq Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti, other J&K political parties team up for restoration of Article 370

NEW DELHI (TIP): The key political leaders of Jammu and Kashmir, including National Conference patriarch Farooq Abdullah, his arch-rival Mehbooba Mufti of the People's Democratic Party and Sajjad Lone, came together on October 15 evening to fight for the restoration of Article 370 and resolution of Kashmir. The freshly minted "People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration" comes more than a year after the Centre ended the special status of Jammu and Kashmir granted under the constitution and bifurcated the state into two Union Territories.

Most of the political leaders in Kashmir Valley have been in custody for long — it was part of the preventive measures against backlash taken by the Centre last August, a day before making the huge announcement in parliament.

Abdullah, 82, was released in March, days before the countrywide lockdown was announced. Mehbooba Mufti was released on Tuesday.

"Our battle is a constitutional battle, we want the Government of India to return to the people of the state the rights they held before 5th August 2019," Abdullah said. "We shall struggle for restoration of what was snatched from



Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh," he added.

Abdullah also said the alliance seeks a dialogue between all stakeholders for resolution of Kashmir.

The National Conference chief had convened the meeting at his home to chalk out the future course of action on "Gupkar Declaration" with regard to the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Gupkar Declaration was signed on August 4, 2019, after an all-party meeting at the Gupkar Road residence of

Abdullah. It marked a resolution of attending regional parties and the Congress to protect Jammu and Kashmir's special constitutional status and fight against any move to dilute it.

Two days later, the Centre ended the special status of the state granted under the Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcated it into two Union Territories.

This August, the political parties had met again, and vowed to fight for restoration of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

MORE OCTOBER FILMS FOR OUR TIMES

BY MABEL PAIS

How to Fix a Primary - Inside An Outsider Campaign In Key Battleground State

DIR: Brittany Huckabee | 2020 | USA | Eng | 1h 30m | World Premiere

"It's a campaign story, but it's NOT blue versus red - it's grassroots versus the establishment." - Brittany Huckabee, Director

Power, Money, Future of Democratic Party
Features CNN contributor ABDUL EL-SAYED, Expert on COVID-19



"How To Fix A Primary, Poster - Photo / Gravitas Ventures

Release: October 20, 2020

Now available for pre-order on iTunes / Apple TV

"How to Fix a Primary" by Brittany Huckabee provides rare inside access to a touchstone campaign in a movement that is gaining momentum as progressive candidates challenge the political system and establishment across the U.S.

A CNN expert on COVID-19. But Abdul El-Sayed had a previous life. "How to Fix a Primary" (official selection of the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival) follows the young doctor as he takes on Michigan's political establishment in a bid to become the first Muslim governor in U.S. history. The film follows Abdul and his underdog team in this battleground state as they hustle to gain endorsements from Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (both featured in the film) while confronting Islamophobia and a system that seems rigged against them.

"In following El-Sayed's year-long journey to the 2018 gubernatorial primary, filmmaker Brittany Huckabee captures the tumultuous pace of a campaign that can turn with a single strategic move. It's a campaign story, but it's not blue versus red - it's grassroots versus the establishment. This is a story not of one person's political dream, but of a tenacious movement that will not be put down easily," said 'Full Frame Documentary Film Festival.'

"How To Fix A Primary" will be released on October 20, 2020 - just two weeks before the 2020 presidential election - across all on demand (TVOD) platforms. The film will simultaneously have a DVD and Blu-ray disc release. It is currently available for pre-order at iTunes / Apple TV

WATCH THE TRAILER: youtu.be/qZjFNbm6qWw
To learn more, visit fullframefest.org/film/how-to-fix-a-primary

FIRST VOTE - Asian American Voters in Battleground States

DIR/PROD/CIN/CO-EDIT: Yi Chen | 2020 | USA | Eng & Mandarin-Chinese w/Eng subs | 1h

"Must-watch for anyone who cares about the upcoming election"- Documentary Magazine
"A film alone can't solve the challenge, but my hope is the film will start a dialogue, offer new insights and perspectives, and have meaningful impact as the United States through profound demographic changes. - Yi Chen, Director



First Vote, Poster - Photo / C35 Films

"First Vote" is a character-driven verité documentary with unparalleled access to a diverse cross section of politically engaged Chinese American voters: a gun-toting Tea Party-favorite candidate courting GOP votes in the South; a podcaster in Ohio who became a citizen in order to vote for Trump; a long-haired journalist confronting Chinese Americans for Trump after moving to a battleground state; and a University of North Carolina professor teaching about race and racism in the US. The film weaves their stories of first-time voting and electoral organizing from the presidential election of 2016 to the 2018 midterms, and explores the intersection of immigration, voting rights and racial justice.

Until 1952, federal law barred immigrants of Asian descent from becoming U.S. citizens and voting. Today, Asian Americans are the fastest growing population in the United States. More than 11 million Asian

Americans will be able to vote in 2020. Directed by Yi Chen, a Chinese immigrant and first-time voter herself, First Vote is a rare long form look at the diverse Asian American electorate. To learn more, visit firstvotefilm.com

Facebook: [@firstvotefilm](https://www.facebook.com/firstvotefilm) Instagram: [@firstvotefilm](https://www.instagram.com/firstvotefilm) Twitter: [@firstvotefilm](https://twitter.com/firstvotefilm)

A THOUSAND CUTS - When Democracy is Attacked the First Casualty IS the Truth

DIR/WRIT/PROD: Ramona S. Diaz | 2020 | USA/Philippines | 1h 38m | Eng & Tagalog w/English Subtitles | World Premiere

"A gripping film about a remarkable journalist."
WINNER - Best Documentary - 2020 DocEdge
AFI FEST Documentary Roundtable
PBS Distribution, Frontline|PBS and Concordia Studio
Playing Nationwide: Theaters and Virtual Cinemas
ROUNDTABLE: OCTOBER 17, 2020



A scene from "A Thousand Cuts" Photo / PBS Distribution, Et Al

The film "A THOUSAND CUTS" by director Ramona S. Diaz is a powerful look at the Philippine government's attacks on the free press, and journalist Maria Ressa's determined attempt to hold those in power accountable and fight back against misinformation and attacks on press freedom. Ressa, a 2018 TIME Magazine Person of the Year, has long warned of the threat, misinformation and the role social media can play in altering our elections.

The tactics used in countries like the Philippines are first tested abroad before implemented in the U.S. and other nations. As we approach our own election, the threat of misinformation and the undermining of our free press become more and more relevant.

The film world premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and was named an official selection at SXSW, Full Frame, HotDocs, SFFF, LAAPFF, and AFI DOCS. It is currently playing at Virtual Cinemas nationwide. To learn more, visit athousandcuts.film

Facebook: [AThousandCutsFilm](https://www.facebook.com/AThousandCutsFilm)
Instagram: [_athousandcuts](https://www.instagram.com/_athousandcuts)
Twitter: [_athousandcuts](https://twitter.com/_athousandcuts)

Director Ramona S. Diaz will participate in the 2020 AFI FEST DOC ROUNDTABLE. Diaz will join other leading directors behind some of the most talked about and acclaimed documentaries of the year. The roundtable will take place virtually on Saturday, October 17th at 1PM PST. Complete details are available at <https://fest.afi.com/2020/movies/doc-roundtable-5/>

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

FILMS/FILM FEST OF NOTE

BY MABEL PAIS

BELLY OF THE BEAST - ABUSES OF WOMEN IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

DIR: Erika Cohn | 2020 | USA | Eng | 2h 2m

"I have the power to change lives with the awareness of what happened to me." - Kelli Dillon, Survivor: Domestic & State Violence, Commissioner: City of Los Angeles, Co-Chair of Empowerment Congress SouthEast, And Executive Director of The Non-Profit 'Back To The Basics.'

"Oscar Contender - Best Doc Feature and Best Original Song"- Variety Magazine



Women Prisoner handcuffed to gurney
Photo / bellyofthebeast.com

RELEASE: Virtual Theaters Around US
OCTOBER 16, 2020

"Belly of the Beast" presents a decade long, infuriating contemporary legal drama invoking the weight of the historic stain and legacy of eugenics.

When an unlikely duo discovers a pattern of illegal sterilizations in women's prisons, they wage a near impossible battle against the Department of corrections. Filmed over seven years with extraordinary access and intimate accounts from currently and formerly incarcerated people, Belly of the Beast exposes modern-day eugenics and reproductive injustice in California prisons.

The pastoral farmlands surrounding the Central California Women's Facility, the world's largest women's prison, help conceal the reproductive and human rights violations transpiring inside its walls. A courageous woman who was involuntarily sterilized at the facility, teams up with a radical lawyer to stop these violations. They spearhead investigations that uncover a series of statewide crimes, primarily targeting women of color, from inadequate access to healthcare to sexual assault to illegal sterilization.

Together, with a team of tenacious heroines, both in and out of prison, they take to the courtroom to fight for reparations. But no one believes them. As additional damning evidence is uncovered by the Center for Investigative Reporting, a media frenzy and series of hearings provide hope for some semblance of justice. Yet, doctors and prison officials contend that the procedures were in each person's best interest and of an overall social benefit. Invoking the weight of the historic stain and legacy of eugenics, "Belly of the Beast" presents a decade long, infuriating contemporary legal drama.

Official Film Website & Social Media
bellyofthebeastfilm.com
facebook.com/bellyofthebeastfilm
twitter.com/BOTBFilm
instagram.com/bellyofthebeastfilm/

LOS HERMANOS - The Brothers - Together & Apart

DIRS: Marcia Jarmel, Ken Schneider | 2020 | USA | Eng & Spanish w/English subs | 1h 24m | World Premiere

"The compelling tale of a family disrupted by geopolitics." - Peter Keough, The Boston Globe

Guest Appearances by
MAESTRO JOSHUA BELL and Grammy-winning HARLEM QUARTET



Brothers, (left) Aldo (pianist) & (right) Ilmar (violinist)
Photo / PatchWorks Films-Marcia Jarmel

WORLD PREMIERE: TOP FILM FESTIVALS NATIONWIDE
OCTOBER 2020

LOS HERMANOS / THE BROTHERS" is a nuanced, intensely moving view of nations long estranged, through the lens of music and family.

Ilmar and Aldo López-Gavilán are virtuoso Afro-Cuban musician brothers, born in Havana in the 70s. At 14, Ilmar outgrew his island teachers and was sent to the U.S.S.R. to study violin. He never lived in Cuba again, ultimately landing as a working chamber violinist in the U.S. Younger brother Aldo grew up mentored by Cuba's impressive jazz and classical pianists, his extraordinary talent achieving renown on the island, but stymied elsewhere by the 60-year-old U.S. embargo. Though they see each other when family finances and visa restrictions allow, they've never had a chance to collaborate musically-something they've longed for all their lives.

Tracking their parallel lives, poignant reunion, and momentous first performances together on stages across the U.S., LOS HERMANOS / THE BROTHERS is a nuanced, intensely moving view of nations long estranged, through the lens of music and family.

Featuring an electrifying, genre-bending score, composed by Cuban Aldo López-Gavilán, performed with his American brother, Ilmar, and with guest appearances by maestro Joshua Bell and the Grammy-winning Harlem Quartet. To learn more, visit hermanosbrothersfilm.info

OFFICIAL WEBSITE & SOCIAL PAGES

www.hermanosbrothersfilm.info

twitter.com/@hermanosbrofilm

www.instagram.com/hermanosbrothersfilm/

www.facebook.com/hermanosbrothersfilm

NAPLES INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (NIFF)

"While we will, of course, miss the buzz of gathering together in a theater as the lights go down, we are excited to be able to offer our audience virtual access to a slate of films that will touch, move, and inspire. With a handful of films set to screen in the Norris Garden and a

schedule of virtual screenings complete with filmmaker Q&As, we believe our audience will enjoy this year's festival as much as any year." - Shannon Franklin, Festival Producer

12TH EDITION

October 22-25, 2020

Outdoor Screenings in the Artis-Naples Norris Garden
Opening Night: Award-winning "The Donut King" by Alice Gu
Closing Night: Festival Favorite "Banksy Most Wanted" by Aurélie Rouvier and Seamus Haley

Competition Titles:

Hannah Black and Megan Petersen's DROUGHT,
David Gutnik's MATERNA, Lanie Zipoy's THE SUBJECT,
Brian Morrison's BASTARD'S ROAD,
Ondi Timoner's COMING CLEAN,
Darby Duffin and Adam Jones FISH & MEN
Artis-Naples's lineup for the 12th Annual Naples



A scene from "The Donut King" -
Photo / Courtesy artisnaples.org/niff & WildWorksPR.com

International Film Festival (NIFF) to be held October 22-25, 2020 features hybrid: virtual and in-person events,

NIFF's gala selections will feature documentaries, opening with Alice Gu's award-winning documentary "THE DONUT KING", and closing with Aurélie Rouvier and Seamus Haley's festival favorite "BANKSY MOST WANTED". Both screenings will be outdoors on a large screen in the Norris Garden on the Artis?Naples Kimberly K. Querrery and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus.

In addition to the opening and closing nights, two other in-person screenings will take place in Norris Garden: a "NIFF Shorts Showcase" of exciting selections from this year's shorts programs that will screen on Friday, October 23 and Casimir Nozkowski's romantic dramedy "THE OUTSIDE STORY", starring "Star Trek: Discovery's" Sonequa Martin-Green that screens on Saturday, October 24, both at 7:30PM.

The virtual festival will include 66 films (13 narrative features, 12 documentary features, 41 short films) from 16 countries. All films will be available to be screened over four days through an online video-on-demand portal, available to film fans throughout the state of Florida, and some films available worldwide. To enhance the film festival experience, patrons will be able to see select filmmakers participate in virtual TalkBack Q&A sessions to discuss their films, including live streamed events where audience members will be able to ask questions of the filmmakers.

Artis Naples CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen said, "We are proud to be able to bring these wonderful films to our cinema-loving community here in Naples and South Florida as well as introduce those throughout the rest of the state and even the world to our NIFF world. This diverse lineup of films will provide entertainment and inspiration for our community. The Naples International Film Festival is an important part of our cultural offerings each season and we are thrilled to be able to share these films."

Films in the Naples International Film Festival's competition categories will be vying for \$5,000 in prizes, including the Audience Awards for Best Narrative Feature, Best Documentary Feature and Best Short. For the third year in a row, there will also be juried awards in the Narrative and Documentary Features categories.

To learn more about the Festival, visit niff.eventive.org

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

RHEA CHAKRABORTY TO SUE RUMOUR MONGERS AND MEDIA FOR DEFAMATION

Rhea Chakraborty will take legal action against rumour mongers and the media for spreading false information and defaming her in connection with Sushant Singh Rajput's death case. A statement issued by Rhea Chakraborty's lawyer, Satish Maneshinde, said that a list of people will be forwarded to the CBI who made false claims on TV and electronic media.

The statement read, "We will be forwarding a list of people to CBI who made fake and false claims on TV and Electronic Media, including carrying mobile recording and fake stories on SSR case with particular reference to Rhea Chakraborty to go after them and record their statements. We will request CBI to take legal proceedings against them for misleading the investigations. -- Adv Satish Maneshinde (sic)."

Rhea has now written a letter to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officer Nupur Prasad, requesting them to take action against her neighbour, who claimed in a few TV interviews that she saw Sushant Singh Rajput and Rhea together on June 13.

"I was Interrogated for more than 5 days by the CBI in connection with the death of Sushant Singh Rajput. During the investigation, several media channels carried false and bogus stories without any material to substantiate these patently false and fabricated claims in order to achieve their own ends.

"I say that one such person, Mrs Dimple Thawani, made patently false and bogus allegations against me knowing them to be false, to mislead the investigation in the above case. The allegation was that the late Sushant Singh Rajput had dropped me to my residence in his car on the 13th of June 2020, which is utterly false.



Neha Kakkar hints at her wedding in new post

Neha Kakkar and Rohanpreet Singh's relationship has become the buzz of the town. The two confirmed that they are together recently and also professed their love for each other on social media. While fans are going gaga over their adorable posts with each other, Neha took to Instagram hinting at her wedding in her latest post.

The sensational singer shared a series of photographs in a beautiful traditional attire and mentioned having a lockdown wedding in the caption. She cheekily added how it will cut costs. She wrote, "Aaja Chal Vyah Karwaiye Lock Down Wich Katt Hone Kharche" This is my favourite line from #DiamondDaChalla Song. Which line is Your fav? #NehuDaVyah (sic)."

Neha Kakkar and her beau Rohanpreet Singh made their relationship Insta-official by sharing the same picture on Instagram.

Aditya Narayan to tie the knot with Shweta Agarwal

Singer-actor Aditya Narayan is all set to tie the knot with his longtime girlfriend Shweta Agarwal. Aditya and Shweta, who shared screen space in Shaapit, will get hitched by the end of this year.

Aditya told Times of India that he is happy to "have found my soulmate in her."

He said, "I met Shweta on the sets of Shaapit and we hit it off instantly. Slowly and gradually, I realised I was head-over-heels in love and started pursuing her. Initially, she wanted to be 'just friends', because we were both very young

and needed to focus on our careers. Like every relationship, we have seen a lot of ups-and-downs over the last 10 years. Marriage is just a formality between us now, which hopefully should also happen by November or December. My parents know Shweta and like her a lot. I am happy that I have found my soulmate in her."

The singer added that he felt like this year "is the right time to take the plunge."

On the work front, Aditya Narayan will be back as the host of the upcoming season of reality show Indian Idol, which will be judged by Neha Kakkar, Vishal Dadlani and Himesh Reshammiya.



Amrita Rao and husband RJ Anmol expecting their first child

Amrita Rao and her husband RJ Anmol have joined the list of celebrities who will be welcoming a new member to their family soon. A picture of Amrita is doing the rounds on social media in which she can be seen flaunting her baby bump. Going by the photo, the couple will welcome the baby in a few months.

Though Amrita Rao and Anmol haven't made the announcement yet, they were spotted outside a doctor's clinic recently. Amrita made no attempts to hide her pregnancy.

Amrita and Anmol tied the knot in 2016 in an intimate ceremony. A source close to the actress told TOI said, "She is loving this phase of her life. While people may not be aware of her pregnancy, those close to the couple are in the know. Anmol and she are both private people and they like to keep things low-key."

Talking about their secret wedding, Amrita Rao had told



news agency IANS, "It's been seven years of a blissful relationship and I'm the luckiest to find a soulmate in my life partner. We had a very small (wedding) ceremony with our immediate family members only."

On the work front, Amrita

Rao was last seen in 2019 film Thackeray. Nawazuddin Siddiqui played the lead role of Bal Thackeray. Amrita played Bal Thackeray's wife Meena in the film. RJ Anmol, meanwhile, currently hosts Colors TV's live music show Jammin.



Kate Beckinsale becomes baby loss ambassador

Kate Beckinsale has been named as an ambassador for a baby loss charity. The 47-year-old actress recently revealed that she lost a baby when she was 20 weeks pregnant following the news that Chrissy Teigen and John Legend had lost their child. Now, Kate has signed up to be the face of the leading baby loss and grief support charity, The Mariposa Trust.

Founder and CEO Zoe Clark-Coates said in a statement: "Baby loss is a huge issue, not only in the UK, but globally with an estimated 38,000,000 losses each year.

"Sadly, many of these people have little or no access to support, and often suffer in silence, feeling isolated and alone. The Mariposa Trust ... is dedicated to providing innovative support options, as well as campaigning for better support and much more, and we are honoured that Kate has chosen to become part of our charity family and work with us to raise awareness of this subject."

GAL GADOT: BEING A MOM IS THE 'PROJECT OF MY LIFE'

Gal Gadot says being a mother is the "project of her life". The 'Wonder Woman' star - who has Maya, three, and Alma, eight, with her husband Yaron Varsano - feels "very connected" to her children and always speaks to them about how they are feeling.

She said: "Being a mom is the best thing I've ever done, the project of my life. I'm all types of moms. It depends what days you're asking.

"I'm very connected to them and I'm very warm, and I make sure to keep the channels of communication open and we always talk about feelings and stuff like that. And then sometimes I let go and don't interrupt them because I've learned when you're too involved you can actually create problems."

And Gal admits she struggles with mom guilt but she is trying to be the "best" mom she can be for her two daughters.

She added: "I can be hysterical at times. I can be goofy. We laugh a lot. I can have a lot of patience, but then when I lose it, it's not great.

"I think that every mom can relate to this, that once you have a baby, you get a huge sack of guilt, which is something that I'm dealing with all the time. But I realised I can only try and be the best version of a mom that I can be. So I just try to do my best and give them everything that I can."

Gal admitted she never thought she'd become an actress when she was younger as she was always encouraged to go to university and get a degree.



Brad Pitt sued for \$100,000 by woman who claims he discussed 'getting married' to her

A woman from Texas, US has sued actor Brad Pitt for \$100,000 for allegedly duping her of money and making false promises of marriage. Kelli Christina says Brad got in contact with her two years ago about raising money for some charity events and their 'relationship got personal' too. She says they even discussed getting married. The entire episode appears to be a case of catfishing.

In his reply to the court, Brad has denied ever being in contact with Kelli. He says he never asked her for payments, nor did he authorize anyone to do so on his behalf.

As per Kelli's lawsuit, she sent the actor \$40,000 over a period of two years with the promise of him making appearances at fundraiser events. He did not show up at any. She decided to sue him but his team told her that she is mistaken about their 'correspondence'. She still went ahead with her lawsuit, reports TMZ.

Brad is currently also fighting a divorce case with his estranged wife, Angelina Jolie. He is demanding equal custody of their kids. "Brad is asking for 50/50 custody to be put in place and stay in place," a source told ETOnline. "Angelina wants to be fair when it comes to custody. She is very structured with the children. Brad has high hopes [they can] try to make it work because of the importance of co-parenting."



ALLY BROOKE: I USED TO FORCE MYSELF TO BE HAPPY

Ally Brooke forced herself "to be happy" whilst in Fifth Harmony. The 27-year-old singer rose to fame as a part of the 'Work From Home' hitmakers - which also included Normani, Dinah Jane, Lauren Jauregui, and former member Camila Cabello - before the group decided to go on an indefinite hiatus in 2018.

And now, Ally has said she wasn't always as happy as she seemed during the height of the group's success, because she used to force herself to "go out and smile" because fans expected her to be "their sunshine".

She explained: "I felt my world was out of control. I did not have control nor anybody really encouraging me to be myself, to be happy, to be mentally healthy.

"The fans would call me their sunshine and I felt it was my duty and my responsibility - no matter what happened - to go out and smile. I tried to be that for a very long time but it took a toll behind the scenes when the lights would go off."



Indian origin Amritpal Sachdeva develops the World's First Business Card Sharing App

Chairman of the British Sikh Association Lord Rami Ranger CBE Launches the App named "Zozter"

**NIRPAL SINGH SHERGILL
IN LONDON**

LONDON (TIP): Lord Rami Ranger CBE launched "Zozter-the pioneering Business Card Sharing App". The concept has been developed by a long-standing employee of Lord Ranger's company, Sun Mark Ltd, Mr Amritpal Sachdeva, fondly known as Lucky. Mr. Sachdeva had started his working life at Sun Mark Ltd and progressed up the ranks to become the Distribution Manager, having worked at Sun Mark for over 18 years.

Lord Ranger CBE, at the launch event, said to the local media, "I am very proud to see how Lucky has developed his business acumen and customer service skills whilst at Sun Mark and I am very impressed with his Zozter App. The pioneering Zozter App developed by Lucky provides solutions in today's



Lord Rami Ranger CBE, Chairman of the British Sikh Association with Mr Amritpal Sachdeva (Lucky), Founder of the Zozter - Photo / Courtesy Zozter

digital world. It is reducing the need to use paper and to carry business cards to help the environment. It is challenging to manage so many business cards which one gets daily when going about the

businesses. It is child's play to store the information, all the information one needs to run an effective business. The app helps you network with like-minded professionals and also helps you find

suitable employment and business opportunities."

Lucky said, "I owe all my success to Lord Ranger who has been my guiding light and mentor and who has made me what I am today. I am proud to have created the start-up Zozter; it is the world's first online social card sharing application based on the idea of enhancing the sharing of business cards and services to a global community, it is the next level in marketing and business networking".

Zozter's unique features allow it to be used on all platforms. It is a digital business card holder for your old business cards. The mission is to create a global community to help facilitate business networking and to help both employers and employees connect in a seamless way.

For further information, visit: www.zozter.com

Indian American attorney Ronak Desai named 'rising star' by National Law Journal



Desai is a longtime Indian American community leader who has fast emerged as an influential next-generation practitioner and scholar in the legal and foreign policy fields.

WASHINGTON (TIP): The National Law Journal has recognized prominent Indian American attorney Ronak Desai as one of its DC "Rising Stars." The award recognizes the region's 40 most promising lawyers age 40 and younger, "who have wielded influence in their practice areas in the D.C. area and beyond," and is conferred upon "innovators who develop unique practice niches, secure wins for clients, and demonstrate strong leadership qualities."

Selected from hundreds of nominees, Desai's impactful work in the white collar, anticorruption, India, and congressional investigations spaces along with his "sustained pro bono work and commitment to public service," earned his inclusion on the coveted list.

Desai is a longtime Indian American community leader who has fast emerged as an influential next-generation practitioner and scholar in the legal and foreign policy fields. In addition to his private sector work at some of the

country's most exclusive law firms, Desai also spent two years as counsel to the U.S. Congress. In 2014, Representative Elijah Cummings appointed Desai as legal counsel to the high-profile House Select Committee on Benghazi. The pioneering congressman passed away in October 2019.

Although his Capitol Hill tenure concluded shortly before the 2016 presidential election, Desai continues to serve as an informal advisor to several members of Congress and other high-ranking decision-makers on law and foreign policy issues. "There are few folks, particularly at his age, who have the expertise and insights Ronak has and it something we continue to rely on all the time" one member noted.

Following his government service, Desai returned to private practice. He is currently an attorney at the elite Los Angeles-based law firm of Paul Hastings LLP. The firm's roster includes such white-collar luminaries as Robert Luskin, Kwame Manley, and Matt Herrington. With 22 offices around the world, the firm generated over \$1.2 billion in revenue last year. Paul Hastings consistently ranks among the top 10 on The American Lawyer's "A-List" of law firms.

Desai named Herrington as one of his greatest mentors in legal practice in his interview with the NLJ, along with DC Circuit Chief Judge Sri Srinivasan, and former U.S. Ambassador to India Richard Verma.

"Ronak is an outstanding lawyer who combines a razor-sharp legal mind with a natural affability. [He] is respected by clients and adversaries in equal measure," Herrington said to media.

The view was echoed by opposing counsel Desai has worked with on Capitol Hill, who said Desai was "deeply

respected by both sides of the aisle for not just for his high-caliber work and brilliance, but also for his reputation as someone you can trust and work with even in this highly partisan environment."

Desai's clients similarly heaped praise on him, with one calling him the "gold standard." Another stated that "no matter how complex the [case] becomes, [Ronak] handles it with unparalleled skill, grace, and sophistication," adding that every client should want Desai "firmly on their side."

Kwame Manley, a former federal prosecutor and Global Chair of Paul Hastings' award-winning White-Collar Defense practice, said "Ronak is a superstar. He has achieved tremendous success for his clients so early in his career. We are excited about his continued excellence at [the firm]."

Desai's award from NLJ comes less than a year after he received the "Rising Star" award from DC's South Asian Bar Association (SABA). The honor recognizes "a talented individual within...the community, who...has been practicing for fewer than 10 years, and has achieved prominence and distinction in their respective field while demonstrating a strong commitment... to the South Asian community."

Cook County Circuit Court Judge Sanjay Tailor told the American Bazaar, "whether it's assisting clients with the minefields of India's regulatory environment, navigating the complexities of Congressional investigations, or bringing media and public pressure to bear on the Sureshbhai Patel case, Ronak does it all and does it with customary aplomb." He noted that "there are few who are able to successfully employ their skills [in the service of so many] on such a wide

breadth of issues. His portfolio is endless."

Several other Indian Americans were also named members of this year's "NLJ DC Rising Stars" class. They include: Sandeep Nandivada, a government contracts attorney at Morrison and Foerster; Kapil Pandit, an investment management attorney at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld; and Alka Pradhan, an eminent international humanitarian law and human rights attorney with the Guantanamo Bay Military Commissions Defense Organization.

Pradhan is one of the country's most respected lawyers in this realm and was the subject a glowing New York Times Magazine profile feature spotlighting her work in December 2017.

Pradhan and Desai both overlapped during their undergraduate studies at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where Desai was elected Phi Beta Kappa. Originally hailing from Orange County, California, Desai earned joint public policy and law degrees (M.P.P./J.D.) from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and Harvard Law School, from which he graduated magna cum laude and received the Dean's Scholar Prize.

Outside his legal practice at Paul Hastings, Desai is an associate at the Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute at Harvard University, a Law and Security Fellow at New America, and an Asia 21 Leader at the Asia Society. He also serves as pro bono General Counsel and board director to the Partnership for a Secure America (PSA), a foreign policy think tank that promotes bipartisanship on Capitol Hill.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Global coronavirus cases top 38.9 million, 1,099,629 deaths

Singapore and Hong Kong agree on bilateral travel bubble

Singapore and Hong Kong have agreed on a bilateral air travel bubble, which will exempt travellers from the mandatory quarantine upon arrival, as the rate of coronavirus infection declines in both regional aviation hubs.

To avail the flights, travellers will have to test negative in the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for COVID-19, Singapore's Ministry of Transport (MOT) on Thursday, Oct 15.

Travellers under the bubble will not be subject to mandatory quarantining, the MOT release said, adding that there will be no restrictions on travel purposes and no need for a controlled itinerary.

The air travel bubble will have dedicated flights, separate from local travel.

The MOT said the bubble can be "scaled by adjusting the number of dedicated flights upwards or downwards, or even suspended, in line with the latest developments and COVID-19 situation in the two cities".

"Both our cities have low incidence of COVID-19 cases and have put in place robust mechanisms to manage and control COVID-19," said Transport Minister Ong Ye Kung.

"This has given us the confidence to mutually and progressively open our borders to each other," Channel News Asia quoted the minister as saying.

The overall number of global coronavirus cases has topped 38.9 million, while the deaths have soared to more than 1,099,629 on Friday, October 16.

The US is the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 7,977,097 and 217,754, respectively, according to the CSSE.

India comes in second place in terms of cases at 7,307,097, while the country's death toll soared to 111,266.

The other top 15 countries with the maximum amount of cases are Brazil (5,169,386), Russia (1,346,380), Argentina (949,063), Colombia (936,982), Spain (921,374), Peru (856,951), France (850,997), Mexico (834,910), South Africa (698,184), the UK (676,455), Iran (517,835), Chile (486,496), Iraq (416,802), Bangladesh (384,559), and Italy (381,602), the CSSE figures showed.

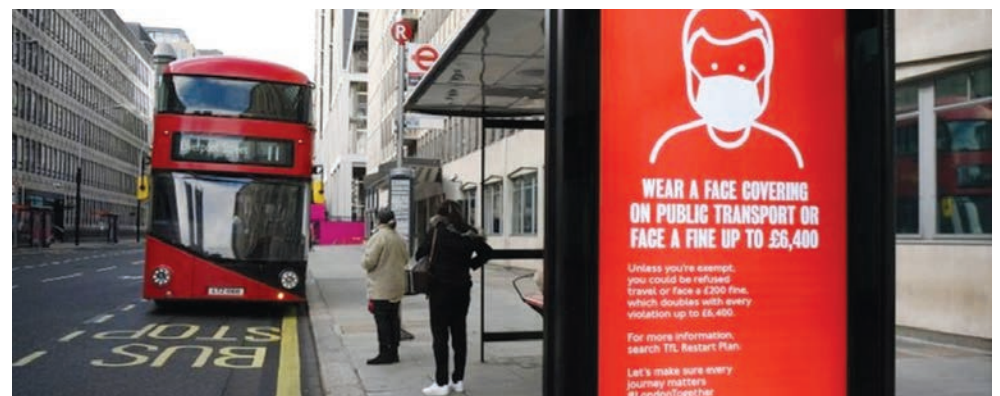
Brazil currently accounts for the second highest number of fatalities at 152,460. The countries with a death toll above 10,000 are Mexico (85,285), the UK (43,383), Italy (36,372), Spain (33,553), Peru (33,512), France (33,146), Iran (29,605), Colombia (28,457), Argentina (25,342), Russia (23,350), South Africa (18,309), Chile (13,434), Ecuador (12,306), Indonesia (12,268), Belgium (10,278) and Iraq (10,086).

Fresh restrictions in Europe as Covid cases rise

Fears rose on Thursday, Oct 15, that Europe is running out of chances to

TRACKING THE VIRUS

GLOBAL		INDIA	
Cases	38,947,137	Deaths	1,099,629
Cases	7,307,097	Deaths	1,11,266



control its Covid outbreak, as infections hit record daily highs in Germany, the Czech Republic, Italy and Poland. France slapped a 9 pm curfew on many of its biggest cities and Londoners faced new travel restrictions as governments imposed increasingly tough measures.

The Czech Republic, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, France and Britain are among the countries causing particular concern. The head of the World Health Organisation's Europe

office urged governments to be "uncompromising" in controlling the virus.

"These measures are meant to keep us all ahead of the curve and to flatten its course," Dr Hans Kluge said, while wearing a mask. Kluge cited epidemiological models that suggested if 95% of people wear masks and follow other social distancing measures, Europe could avoid about 281,000 deaths by February.

GENEVA/ZURICH (TIP): The World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday, Oct 14, warned against any complacency in the coronavirus death rate, saying with the increasing number of cases, mortality would also rise.

New cases are hitting 100,000 daily in Europe. Nearly 20,000 infections were reported in Britain, while Italy, Switzerland and Russia were among nations with record case numbers.

While deaths globally have fallen to around 5,000 per day from April's peak exceeding 7,500, WHO Chief Scientist Soumya Swaminathan said caseloads were rising in intensive care units.

"Mortality increases always lag behind increasing cases by a couple of weeks," Swaminathan said during a WHO social media event. "We shouldn't be complacent that death rates are coming down."

More than 38 million people have been reported infected globally and 1.1 million have died.

Despite the global push for a COVID-19 vaccine, with dozens in clinical trials and hopes for initial inoculations this year, Swaminathan reiterated that speedy, mass shots were unlikely.

Two candidates, from Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca's U.S. trial, are paused on safety concerns, while manufacturing billions of doses of an eventual successful vaccine will be a colossal challenge demanding hard decisions about who gets inoculated first.

"Most people agree, it's starting with health care workers, and front-line workers, but even there, you need to

Healthy young people may have to wait for Covid vaccine till 2022: WHO



define which of them are at highest risk, and then the elderly, and so on," Swaminathan said.

"A healthy young person might have to wait until 2022." The WHO has said letting infection spread in hopes of achieving "herd immunity" is unethical and would cause unnecessary deaths. It urges hand-washing, social distancing, masks and -- when unavoidable, limited and targeted restrictions on movements -- to control disease spread.

"People talk about herd immunity. We should only talk about it in the context of a vaccine," Swaminathan said. "You need to vaccinate at least 70% of people ... to really break transmission."

WB approves \$12bn for Covid vaccines

The World Bank has approved USD 12 billion in financing to help developing countries buy and distribute Covid-19

vaccines, tests, and treatments, aiming to support the vaccination of up to 1 billion people.

The USD 12 billion "envelop" is part of a wider World Bank Group package of up to USD 160 billion to help developing countries fight the Covid -19 pandemic, the bank said in a statement late Tuesday.

The World Bank said its Covid emergency response programmes were already reaching 111 countries. Citizens in developing countries also need access to safe and effective Covid vaccines, it said.

"We are extending and expanding our fast-track approach to address the Covid emergency so that developing countries have fair and equal access to vaccines," said bank's president David Malpass in the statement.

"Access to safe and effective vaccines and strengthened delivery systems is key to alter the course of the pandemic and help countries experiencing catastrophic economic and fiscal impacts move toward a resilient recovery," he said.

The International Finance Corporation, the private sector lending arm of the World Bank is investing in vaccine manufacturers through a \$4 billion Global Health Platform, the statement said.

UK fines British Airways for failures in 2018 data hack

LONDON (TIP): Britain's information commissioner has fined British Airways 20 million pounds (\$25 million) for failing to protect personal data for some 4,00,000 customers, the largest fine the agency has ever issued.

The ICO said in a statement on Friday that the airline was processing personal data without adequate security measures. It also noted that it did not detect a 2018 cyber attack for two months.

Information Commissioner Elizabeth Denham said says BA's "failure to act was unacceptable and affected hundreds of thousands of people, which may have caused some anxiety and distress as a result".

Under the European Union's General Data Protection Rules imposed in 2018, organisations face fines of up to 20 million euros (\$23 million) or 4% of annual global turnover — whichever is greater — for the most serious violations. — AP

Biggest World War Two bomb found in Poland explodes while being defused

WARSAW (TIP): The biggest World War Two bomb ever found in Poland exploded under water on Tuesday as navy divers tried to defuse it.

More than 750 people had been evacuated from the area near the Piast Canal outside the town of Swinoujscie where the Tallboy bomb used by Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) was found.

It weighed nearly 5,400 kg, including 2,400 kg of explosive.

"The deflagration process turned into detonation. The object can be considered as neutralised, it will not pose any more threat," Second-Lieutenant Grzegorz Lewandowski, the spokesman of the 8th Coastal Defense Flotilla, was quoted as saying by state-run news agency PAP.

"All mine divers were outside the danger zone." Swinoujscie contains a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal but a spokesman for the town's mayor told PAP no one was injured and no infrastructure had been damaged.

The Piast Canal connects the Baltic Sea with the Oder River on Poland's border with Germany. The bomb was dropped by the RAF in 1945 in an attack on the German cruiser Lutzow. Reuters

It's time to prepare for no-trade deal Brexit: UK PM Johnson

LONDON (TIP): Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Friday it was now time to prepare for a no-trade deal Brexit in 10 weeks as the European Union had refused to negotiate seriously, adding that unless Brussels changed course there would be no agreement.

A tumultuous "no deal" finale to the United Kingdom's five-year Brexit crisis would sow chaos through the delicate supply chains that stretch across Britain, the EU and beyond - just as the economic hit from the coronavirus pandemic worsens.

At what was supposed to be the "Brexit summit" on Thursday, the EU delivered an ultimatum: it said it was concerned by a lack of progress and called on London to yield on key sticking points or see a rupture of ties with the bloc from Jan. 1.

"I have concluded that we should get ready for January 1 with arrangements that are more like Australia's based on simple principles of global free trade," Johnson said.

"With high hearts and with complete confidence, we will prepare to embrace the alternative and we will prosper mightily as an independent free trading nation, controlling and setting our own laws," he added.

Johnson's remarks, which follow an EU demand that London make further concessions, may push Brexit towards chaos, though he still left open the possibility that the EU could change course and offer Britain a better deal.

"Unless there is a fundamental change of approach, we're going to go for the Australia solution. And we should do it with great confidence," he said.

Asked if he was walking away from talks, Johnson said: "If there's a fundamental change of approach, of course we always willing to listen, but it didn't seem particularly encouraging from the summit in Brussels."

In Brussels, an EU official and a diplomat told Reuters the bloc was still preparing for more trade talks in Britain next week.

"He didn't say they will leave the negotiating table. So it's all just rhetoric. He didn't say they won't keep on talking. So they will," the diplomat said.

The EU official said bloc's EU's Brexit



negotiating team was "already packing for an intense week in London", adding: "On the whole Australia deal/Canada deal revival...it's just not serious."

STERLING PLUNGES

Sterling dropped sharply after Johnson's remarks that businesses, hauliers and travellers should get ready for a clean break from Europe.

At 1101 GMT, the pound was down 0.1% against the dollar at \$1.2882, having been up at \$1.2962 before Johnson spoke. It was down 0.2% versus the euro.

Britain formally left the EU on Jan. 31 this year, but a transition period, which ends on Dec. 31, means it remains in the EU single market and customs union.

The two sides have been haggling over a deal that would govern trade in everything from car parts and salmon to Camembert and medicines when that informal membership ends.

"NO DEAL" ON WTO TERMS

A so-called "Australia deal" means that the United Kingdom would trade on World Trade Organization terms: as a third country like Australia, tariffs would be imposed under WTO rules.

"It's becoming clear the EU don't want to do the type of Canada deal that we originally asked for," Johnson said. "It does seem curious that after 45 years of our membership they can offer Canada

terms they won't offer us."

EU officials have said Britain, with the world's 6th largest economy and geographically next door to Europe, poses a much bigger competitive challenge than distant Canada and so cannot be offered a similar accord.

Johnson had repeatedly asserted that his preference is for a deal but that Britain could make a success of a no-deal scenario, which would throw \$900 billion in annual bilateral trade into uncertainty and could snarl the border, turning the southeastern county of Kent into a vast truck park.

The EU's 27 members, whose combined \$18.4 trillion economy dwarfs the United Kingdom's \$3 trillion economy, say a deal is still possible but that Johnson must give ground.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Europe's most powerful leader, said after the summit that compromise would be needed for a deal.

"In some areas, things have progressed well. In others, much work remains to be done. We have asked the United Kingdom to remain open to compromise, so that an agreement can be reached," Merkel said.

"This of course means that we, too, will need to make compromises. Each side has its red lines," she said, adding that the top EU objectives were to safeguard peace in Ireland and protect the bloc's single market. Reuters

North Korea's nuclear, missile programmes 'serious threat' to security

WASHINGTON (TIP): US Defence Secretary Mark Esper on Wednesday said North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes pose a global threat, after Pyongyang's unveiling of previously unseen intercontinental ballistic missiles at a predawn military parade.

The appearance of a new intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) during a weekend parade in North Korea captivated many Western analysts. But officials in South Korea were far more concerned by the display of new multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) and fast, maneuverable short-range missiles that

would be ideal for striking targets in the South. Speaking before the start of a meeting with South Korean Defence Minister Suh Wook at the Pentagon, Esper said: "We agree that North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs remain a serious threat to the security and stability of the region and the world."

"The United States remains committed to the security of the Republic of Korea," Esper said. He added, however, that South Korea and the United States must find a more equitable way of sharing defence costs so it "doesn't fall unequally on the American taxpayers." US President Donald

Trump, who has touted his relationship with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, has repeatedly said Seoul should pay for a larger share of the cost of US military forces deployed in the South. Some 28,500 American troops are deployed in South Korea, in what is seen as a deterrent to Pyongyang that also sends a message to China about US influence and capability in Asia. Separately, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, citing a lack of ICBM tests by Pyongyang last year, told reporters on Wednesday there was a reduced risk to the United States from North Korea due to Trump's policy of engagement. AP

Racial tensions rise in South Africa over farm killing

SENEKAL (SOUTH AFRICA) (TIP):

A tense standoff between white farmers and Black activists gripped the South African town of Senekal Friday, as two men accused of killing a white farm manager were to appear in court.

More than 100 police patrolled the area in front of the courthouse in the Free State province and used barbed wire to separate the rival groups.

Sekwetjie Mahlamba and Sekola Matlaletsa were to appear in the court on charges of killing Brendin Horner, 21, on October 1.

About 250 white farmers gathered to protest the killing, charging that police do not adequately protect white farmers. In an earlier court hearing last week, a group of white farmers stormed the court and burned a police vehicle.

The country's leftist opposition party, the Economic Freedom Fighters, mobilized about 1,000 of its supporters to challenge the white farmers in front of the court.

They sang songs and shouted slogans calling for South Africa's land to be returned to Black residents. Many were dressed in the EFF party's red uniforms and berets.

EFF leader Julius Malema came to Senekal on Friday was expected to speak to his supporters after the court hearing.

While most white farmers and organisations representing them have called for farm killings to be made a priority crime, the government insists



that white farmers are not being targeted, saying the violence is a result of South Africa's relatively high crime rate.

South Africa has one of the highest crime statistics in the world, with a murder rate of just over 58 deaths a day.

The country's official crime statistics indicate there were 49 farm killings in the 2019/2020 financial year.

President Cyril Ramaphosa, in his weekly letter to the nation Monday, condemned Horner's killing, but said the farm killings were part of the bigger crime problem.

"Those people who think that farm attacks affect just a small part of our

population are wrong. The farming community is an integral part of our economy," wrote Ramaphosa.

The Senekal murder has also raised the controversial issue of land ownership in the country.

A great deal of South Africa's best farmland is owned by white farmers, as a result of the eviction of Black farmers when the country was ruled by a white minority.

Although South Africa now has majority rule, land ownership remains a contentious issue, with parties like the EFF urging the government to seize white-owned land without compensation and return it to Black families. AP

Race hate crimes spike in England, religious crimes down

LONDON (TIP): Racially aggravated attacks registered a spike in hate crimes recorded in England and Wales in 2019-2020 even as religious hate crimes showed a downward trend, according to official UK Home Office statistics released on Tuesday. There were 105,090 hate crimes recorded in the past year, which marks an increase of 8 per cent on the previous year, with race hate crimes rising by around 4,000. "As in previous years, the majority of hate crimes were race hate crimes, accounting for around three-quarters of offences (72 per cent or 76,070 offences). These increased by 6 per cent between 2018/19 and 2019/20," notes the Home Office report. "Religious hate crimes fell by five per cent (to 6,822 offences), down from a peak of 7,203 in the previous year. This was the first fall in religious hate crimes since 2012-13," it said. In 2019-20, where the perceived religion of the victim was recorded, 50 per cent of religious hate crime offences were targeted against Muslims (3,089 offences), with the next most commonly targeted group being Jewish people, who were targeted in 19 per cent of religious hate crimes (1,205 offences). PTI

French police shoot dead man who slit teacher's throat

PARIS (TIP): French police on Friday shot dead a man who minutes earlier had killed a middle school teacher by slitting his throat in the street in a suburb of Paris, police said on Friday.

France's anti-terror prosecutor said it was investigating the attack, which took place in Conflans Sainte-Honorine, a suburb north-west of Paris.

The suspected attacker was spotted by a police patrol while carrying a knife a short distance from the scene of the attack.

The police shot the suspect dead, according to a police spokesman.

A police source said that witnesses had heard the attacker shout "Allah Akbar", or "God is Great". The police spokesman said that information was being checked.

Another police source also said the victim had been decapitated in the attack, but this was not confirmed.

France has over the past several years seen a series of violent attacks carried out by Islamist militants.

Late last month, a man who emigrated to France from Pakistan used a meat cleaver to attack and wound two people outside the former offices of satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo. Reuters

Vatican trial for sex abuse in pope's youth seminary opens

VATICAN CITY (TIP): A trial opened on Wednesday in the Vatican's criminal tribunal for two priests, one accused of sexually abusing an altar boy in the Vatican's youth seminary and the other of covering it up.

The charges read aloud in the courtroom marked the first time the Vatican had publicly detailed its case against the two men, one of whom was himself a young seminarian at the time of the alleged abuse, 2007-2012, while the other was the then-seminary rector.

The case concerns the closed world of the St. Pius X youth seminary, a palazzo inside the Vatican walls just across the street from where Pope Francis lives and the criminal tribunal itself.

The seminary, which is run by a Como, Italy-based religious association, serves as a residence for boys aged 12 to 18, who serve as altar boys at papal Masses in St. Peter's Basilica.

According to the indictment, the Rev. Gabriele Martinelli, 28, is accused of abusing his authority as a more senior seminarian to force the victim into "carnal acts" of sodomy and masturbation, using violence and threats.

The former seminary rector, the Rev.



Enrico Radice, is charged with having helped Martinelli avoid investigators by telling the Como bishop that the victim's allegations were baseless and telling Vatican prosecutors that he knew of no sexual misconduct in the seminary.

Neither Martinelli nor Radice have responded publicly to the accusations. The next hearing was scheduled for October 27, when both defendants are

expected to take the stand.

The charges suggested that Radice's alleged cover-up went beyond what was previously known and put into question Martinelli's very ordination.

Prosecutors say Radice not only helped Martinelli evade investigators in the years prior to becoming a priest, but also falsified a letter from the Como bishop announcing Martinelli's imminent ordination. AP

WASHING HAIR AFTER COLORING: ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

Experimenting with your hair color can be a fun way to shake up your look or get through a downtrodden period of style. While it's much cheaper than a new wardrobe, it's still an investment and you'll want to make sure the amazing color lasts for as long as possible. Washing your hair is often framed as the main cause of color fading, but it turns out the secret to washing your hair after dyeing isn't when - it's just that.

"A lot of people believe that it takes a few days for the color to set in your hair after you dye it - that's really just a myth," said Sydney Palmer, hair color specialist at Estetica Salon & Spa in St. Paul, MN. "Hair color is not setting in any more than it is when you wait to wash it off."

Jade Kromer, hair color specialist at Juut Salon Spa in Minneapolis, MN, agrees. "Wash your hair right after you dye it, that's really not the problem," she told POPSUGAR. "Focus more on the products you use than the time between shampoos."

It's less about getting the dye set in your hair than about preventing it from leaching out. Each strand of hair is surrounded by the cuticle, which traps the color. Washing your hair, especially in hot water, is at risk of opening your cuticles and bleeding the paint out. Palmer recommended washing colored hair in cooler water: "This will keep your



hair cuticle closed and your hair color trapped in the strands of hair. Warm water makes the cuticles more likely to open and let the color out, which is why the color fades so quickly."

If a cold shower doesn't sound appealing to you, you can also wash your hair less frequently and try to avoid steaming hot water. If you choose a so-called "fashion color" for your hair, e.g. B. bright pink, orange or purple, Kromer recommends washing only once a week and using dry shampoo in the meantime. These colors typically

require hair bleaching, which makes the cuticles more porous and therefore more likely to leak color in the shower.

If all you have is highlights or lowlights instead of full hair color, you can be a little more casual about the water temperature, Palmer said. Less pigment in the hair means the water temperature is less important. In addition to the number of times you wash your hair and the temperature, what you wash it with can make a huge difference in how long your color lasts.

Beauty tips for busy women

Here are some beauty tips that can slash minutes off your routine, but still leave you feeling satisfactorily.

CLEAN SKIN

With a cleaner and healthier skin, you will find little need for too much makeup. So, start your day with a thorough face wash; keep your skin-cleansing products within reach on your sink, so you don't forget.

USE A MULTI-PURPOSE MOISTURIZER

With a lotion that carries a SPF of 30 and contains antioxidants, you can achieve a threefold function of a moisturizer, sunscreen and anti-aging cream. The antioxidants in the lotion have an anti-aging and skin tightening benefits.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR TANGLES

Wrestling with knots and tangles in your hair when you're hard pressed for time can be frustrating, not to mention, destructive to your hair strands.

To save time, run a large-toothed comb through your tresses when you're conditioning them.

DON'T BLOW-DRY AFTER A SHOWER

Don't blow-dry your hair immediately after stepping out of a shower. Instead, wrap your hair up in a towel, and get started on your make-up.

Once your hair is about 80% dry, you can use the blow-dryer to set and style your hair.



NO TIME TO BLOW-DRY?

Simply run anti-frizz serum or cream through your tresses, and braid them. Get on with the rest of your routine. When your hair is completely dry, you'll be left with naturally wavy, yet manageable tresses, that you can leave down or wrap into a ponytail.

SWAP YOUR ROUTINE UP

Do your eyes before your face, that is, before you apply your foundation. That way, you won't lose precious time cleaning or rubbing off any eye-makeup mishaps from your face after you've made it up.



By Tript Arora

CONNOISSEUR'S CHOICE



HEALTHY VERMICELLI PULAO

This recipe contains fibre from vegetables and carbs from vermicelli. I cook it in Coconut oil with curry leaves added to it. Both the ingredients have health benefits. It is easy to prepare so makes breakfast quickly. A good option for students and working people who have less time in the morning. You can roast thr vermicelli in advance and keep it in an airtight container. It will be good for 2 to 3 months.

The vegetables you can chop in a chopper. It reduces the chopping time. So next time do try this Savoury Vermicelli for your breakfast.

We need

- 1 Cup Vermicelli
- 1 small Capsicum
- 2 medium sized tomatoes chopped
- 6 to 8 Beans chopped
- 1 small Carrot chopped
- 1 Tsp Mustard Seeds
- 2 to 3 Red whole Chillies
- 9 to 10 Curry Patta
- Salt to taste
- 2 Tbsp Coconut Oil (oil of your choice)

Here We go

- Dry roast the vermicelli in a non stick pan till it is slightly pink. Keep aside
- In the same pan heat coconut oil. When heated add Mustard seeds, curry leaves and broken red whole chillies.
- When they are roasted add all the vegetables and saute till transparent. Add salt. After adding salt the vegetables will release water, when the water has almost dried up then add roasted vermicelli. Saute for two min.
- Now add water to the pan. It should be twice the amount of Vermicelli ie. 2 cups. Stir the whole dish so that everything mixes well. Cover it with the lid and put the flame on low.
- Let it simmer for ten minutes. Open the lid and it is ready to be served.

Preparation Time 20 min

Serves : 3

Tips:

Don't stir after covering the lid. Let it simmer. After 10 minutes it will be ready.



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ANTIBIOTICS CAN BE AS EFFECTIVE AS SURGERY IN SOME APPENDICITIS CASES

What do you do when you have an appendicitis attack? If your first thought is an appendectomy, you're in good company. It's been the standard treatment for a long time.

But it's not always the only option.

Antibiotics can eliminate or delay the need for appendectomy, at least in some cases, according to research published in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM).

It's not a new treatment. But preliminary outcome results from the largest clinical trial to date on the subject give doctors and their patients more to consider.

The Comparison of the Outcomes of Antibiotic Drugs and Appendectomy (CODA) trial involved 1,552 appendicitis patients in 25 hospitals across 14 states.

Participants in the nonblinded, noninferiority trial were randomized to have an appendectomy or get a 10-day course of antibiotics first.

Antibiotics were administered intravenously for at least 24 hours before switching to oral medication.

The primary outcome was a 30-day health status. Secondary outcomes included appendectomy for those in the antibiotics group



and complications through 90 days.

Of those who had antibiotic treatment, 30 percent ended up having an appendectomy within 90 days. The risk for complications and appendectomy was higher for people with an appendicolith, which is a calcified deposit in the appendix.

Those in the antibiotics group returned to the emergency room

more often. But overall time in the hospital was similar between the two groups. People treated with antibiotics missed less time from work or school.

All in all, antibiotic treatment was found to be noninferior to appendectomy.

Additional results of the CODA trial will be shared over the next 2 years.

As you get older, you need to drink more water

As you get older, you need to drink more water. That's the advice from a new study published in The Journal of Physiology.

The researchers from the University of Ottawa point out that hydration is key in regulating body temperature and helping fight off a host of other health problems.

The researchers said that dehydration doesn't reduce heat loss or increase body temperature in older adults during exercise as it does in younger people, which may seem on the surface like a beneficial response.

But that means that when older people exercise, their bodies don't adjust the rate of sweat loss to prevent further dehydration.

This results in greater strain on the heart, evidenced by a more pronounced increase in heart rate compared to younger men.

The study featured older men, although the results pointed to all older adults as those affected.

The researchers added that "until recently, however, our understanding of the effects of



dehydration on body temperature regulation came primarily from studies conducted on young adults."

"This is an interesting study, as it delivers new insights into fundamental age-related changes to our physiology," Dr. Scott A. Kaiser, a geriatrician at Providence Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica, California, told Healthline.

"While changes in the regulation of body heat, sweating, hydration,

and thirst that tend to occur with age are well established, this study probes deeply into the specific changes of underlying mechanisms. In particular, changes in response to dehydration and heat with exercise," he explained.

"It's quite remarkable that, at this point in time, we are still learning such fundamental things about the way our bodies change with age," Kaiser added.



Why you need vitamin C for immunity this season

Vitamin C is a powerful antioxidant that can strengthen your body's natural defences. Antioxidants are molecules that boost the immune system by protecting cells from harmful molecules called free radicals. When these free radicals gather, they can endorse a state known as oxidative stress, which has been linked to many chronic diseases. Studies show that consuming more vitamin C can increase your blood antioxidant levels by up to 30 per cent, which helps the body's natural fortifications fight inflammation.

Restoring Immunity

One of the main reasons people take vitamin C supplements is to boost or restore their immunity.

- It helps encourage the production of white blood cells known as lymphocytes and phagocytes, which help protect the body against infections.
- Vitamin C helps white blood cells function more efficiently while shielding them from damage by potentially harmful molecules, such as free radicals.
- Studies have also shown that vitamin C may shorten healing time for wounds.
- Low vitamin C levels have been linked to poor health outcomes. People who have pneumonia tend to have lower vitamin C levels, and vitamin C supplementations have been shown to curtail the recovery time.

Vitamin C for your skin

As far as your skin is concerned, vitamin C is a potent antioxidant that can neutralise free radicals. It is an essential part of the skin's defense mechanism. It's vigorously transported to the skin, where it acts as an antioxidant and helps reinforce the skin's barrier. But, its skin-saving benefits aren't limited to its antioxidant properties. It has plenty of other skin-healing properties that make it worthy of a permanent place in your medicine cabinet. For one, it's highly acidic, when used topically and the skin is triggered to heal itself by accelerating the production of collagen and elastin.

One of the easiest ways of increasing your immunity against infections is enhancing vitamin C intake. Vitamin C is a water-soluble vitamin that must be obtained from the diet or supplements.

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Scientists record top speed of sound at 36 km/second

The fastest possible speed of sound has been recorded for the first time which is about 36 km per second.

The result is around twice as fast as the speed of sound in diamond, the hardest known material in the world, said the researchers from the Queen Mary University of London, the University of Cambridge and the Institute for High-Pressure Physics in Troitsk, Moscow.

Sound waves can travel through different mediums, such as air or water, and move at different speeds depending on what they're travelling through.

For example, they move through solids much faster than they would through liquids or gases, which is why we are able to hear an approaching train much faster if you listen to the sound propagating in the rail tracks rather than through the air.

Einstein's theory of special relativity sets the absolute speed limit at which a wave can travel which is the speed of light and is equal to about 300,000 km per second.

However, it was not known to date whether sound waves also have an upper-speed limit when travelling through solids or liquids.

Moon once shared magnetic field with Earth, protecting atmosphere

The Moon played a huge role in the evolution of life on Earth as a new study suggests that our natural satellite once had a magnetic field that helped shield our home planet from harmful solar radiation during a critical early time.

The shared magnetic field situation, with Earth and Moon's magnetospheres joined, could have persisted from 4.1 to 3.5 billion years ago, according to the NASA-led study published in the journal Science Advances.

"The Moon seems to have presented a substantial protective barrier against the solar wind for the Earth, which was critical to Earth's ability to maintain its atmosphere during this time," said Jim Green, NASA's chief scientist and lead author of the new study.

Robot dolphin can replace captive animals at theme parks

darting around the pool as a group of swimmers stands in the shallow end, the dolphin looks much like those that jump through hoops and perform acrobatics at theme parks. But this marine creature is a robot.

"When I first saw the dolphin, I thought it could be real," said a woman who swam with the remote-controlled creature.

Edge Innovations, a US engineering company with an animatronic and special effects division in California, designed the dolphin, which starts at \$3 million to \$5 million.

It hopes that life-like animatronics used in Hollywood movies could one day entertain crowds at theme parks, instead of wild animals held in captivity. Swimmers could dive with robotic great white sharks or even reptiles that filled Jurassic-era seas millions of years ago.

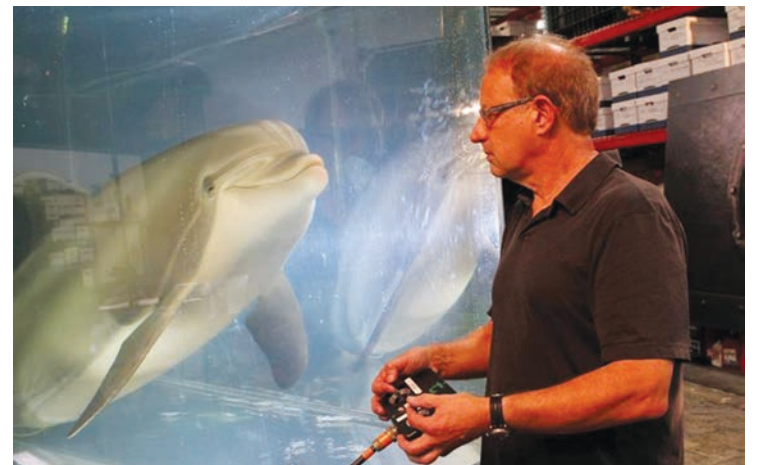
"There are like 3,000 dolphins currently in captivity being used to generate several billions of dollars just for dolphin experiences. And so there's obviously an appetite to love and learn about dolphins," said Edge Innovations founder and CEO Walt Conti.

"And so we want to use that appetite and offer kind of different ways to fall in love with the dolphin." Animatronics may bring back audiences turned off by parks using live animals, said Conti.

Some 20 European countries have already banned or limited the presence of wild animals in circuses.

At Edge's Hayward, California headquarters, its 550-pound (250-kg), 8-and-a-half-foot (2.5-meter) animatronic dolphin with skin made from medical-grade silicone headlined a program for schools in partnership with TeachKind, part of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

Edge also made the aquatic creatures used in Hollywood



Walt Conti, founder and CEO of Edge Innovations, uses a handheld controller to move an animatronic dolphin in a tank at the company's warehouse in Fremont, California, US, on September 30, 2020.

blockbusters "Free Willy," "Deep Blue Sea" and "Anaconda." "The idea of this pilot is really to create a kind of "Sesame Street" under water," said Roger Holzberg, creative director for Edge's animatronic program.

"Those characters taught a generation how to feel about different kinds of aspects of humankind in ways that had never been imagined before. And that's what we dream of with this project."

Apple enters 5G race with new iPhone 12 range

Apple Inc on Tuesday, October 13, launched its next-generation iPhone 12, with faster 5G connectivity that the California company hopes will spur consumers to trade in their old phones and keep its sales booming through the end of the year.

The core of the line-up, the iPhone 12 with a 6.1-inch display, will sell for \$799, while a 'Mini' version with a 5.4-inch screen will be slightly cheaper at \$699. A 'Pro' version with three cameras and a new 3-D 'lidar' sensor starts at \$999, with the largest 'Pro Max' starting at \$1,099 and going up to \$1,399.

The new products will test whether Apple can ride a wave of consumer excitement around 5G wireless data networks, whose speediest variants outstrip their predecessors' data rates multiple times over.

But whether iPhone buyers see a dramatic speed boost will depend heavily on where they are and which carrier they use - what Bob O'Donnell, head of TECHanalysis Research, called "lots of little niggly details that get in the way of delivering on the promise of 5G."

He said Apple may be setting some customers up for disappointment when phones ship but offer only modest speed increases until carriers build out networks.

"I don't feel like Apple clarified that as much as they could have," O'Donnell said.

Apple said all iPhone 12 models



Apple CEO Tim Cook poses with the all-new iPhone 12 Pro at Apple Park in Cupertino, California, U.S.

in the United States will support millimetre-wave 5G, the fastest variant of the technology, as well as lower-frequency bands.

Outside of the United States, however, iPhones will lack millimetre wave compatibility, even in countries like Australia and South Korea where carriers are planning to roll out versions of the millimetre-wave technology. Like some cheaper Android devices, iPhone 12 models in those countries will only support lower-frequency versions of 5G.

Apple said it had tested 5G on more than 800 carriers in 30 regions globally. Verizon Communications Inc CEO Hans Vestberg appeared on Apple's live stream presentation to announce that the phones would work with the U.S. carrier's 'ultrawideband' 5G network, designed to alleviate bottlenecks in major cities like New York and Los Angeles, as well as in crowded areas like NFL stadiums.

IIT Madras researchers develop anti-bacterial, biodegradable food wrapping material

Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras have developed a food wrapping material which is not only anti-bacterial but also biodegradable.

According to the team which has also filed a patent for the wrapper, their product can tackle two major problems - prevent packaged food contamination by bacteria as well as reduce the plastic waste generated in the environment when disposing of the wrappers.

"Our idea was to design a food wrap that will address two major issues—solid waste and food contamination during storage due to bacterial growth. We have developed a biodegradable wrapping material with in-built anti-bacterial activity to prevent bacterial growth in stored food. The anti-bacterial compound should be safe for consumption as it is approved by the authorities and does not cause any toxicity," said Mukesh Doble, Professor, IIT's Department of Biotechnology.

"The wrapping material we have developed also degrades at various environmental conditions with the rate of degradation varying from 4 to 98 per cent in 21 days. The wrapping material degraded rapidly in moist conditions when compared to dry ones. Hence, our wrapper is eco-friendly and can play a major role in plastic waste reduction," he added.

The films developed by researchers were made with polymeric blends containing starch, polyvinyl alcohol, cyclic beta glycans (CBG). The composition was optimised to achieve the best film with a smooth texture, flexibility, uniform thickness and good clarity.





Virgin Atlantic to start flights to Manchester from Mumbai, Delhi

British premier carrier Virgin Atlantic on Thursday announced launch of flight services from India to Manchester, which has a sizable population of Indian origin people, starting December 20.

Virgin Atlantic is delighted to announce it will be launching services from Delhi and Mumbai to Manchester as the airline ramps up flying from its home in the north of England, a release said.

Flying three times a week from Mumbai to Manchester, beginning in December, and twice weekly from Delhi, starting in January, these new services will go on sale from October 20 and will complement the airline's existing services from Mumbai and Delhi to London Heathrow, it said.

The airline will operate one of its newest and fuel efficient aircraft, the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, on these new routes, the release added.

Erstwhile carrier Jet Airways used to fly to Manchester, the UK's third-largest airport by passenger volume, connecting Mumbai with the northwest city of England. However, since its collapse in April 2019, the destination remains untapped from India.

Zomato raises \$52 million from US-based Kora Investments

Foodtech unicorn Zomato has raised \$52 million from US-based Kora Investments, continuing efforts to bolster its cash reserves at a time when the food delivery sector is rebounding from the ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The capital was raised as part of an ongoing round that is expected to raise as much as \$600 million. It has seen Zomato raise more than \$270 million so far this year. In September, Zomato closed a \$62 million funding from MacRitchie Investments, a unit of Singapore's Temasek, and an additional \$103 million from US-based hedge fund Tiger Global.

Kora is expected to make a follow-up investment of a larger amount in Zomato in the coming months, said a person aware of the talks. The person did not disclose the size of the next investment. Zomato's current fundraising strategy is to woo more hedge funds for possible investments. Its plan on going public is making it an attractive proposition for these funds since they see faster exits.

Asian stocks under pressure, dollar in demand amid resurgent virus fears

Asian stocks came under pressure on Friday, October 16, as investors sought safe havens, such as the U.S. dollar, fearing that a resurgence in coronavirus cases and a lack of additional U.S. fiscal stimulus would hobble the world economy.

U.S. President Donald Trump's offer on Thursday to raise the size of a fiscal stimulus package to win the support of Republicans and Democrats helped narrow Wall Street losses, though many investors still believe a deal is unlikely before the Nov. 3 election.

"There's a bit of worry there and also at what we're seeing in America and in Europe regarding the virus and how it seems to be taking hold pretty significantly again," said Grant Williamson, investment adviser at Hamilton Hindin Greene in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Stocks struggled to make gains in early Asian trade with Australia's S&P/ASX 200 down 0.02% and Japan's Nikkei 225 futures adding just 0.06%. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index futures rose 0.36%. E-mini futures for the S&P 500 rose 0.04%.

Australia and New Zealand investors were likely to "take a breather" on Friday, especially after New Zealand equities



climbed 6% during October, Williamson said.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.07%, the S&P 500 0.15% and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 0.47%.

An unexpected rise in U.S. weekly jobless claims figures added to worries about a sputtering world economy, especially in the face of a spike in COVID-19 cases in Europe.

Safe-haven demand due to signs of a stalling U.S. economy drove the dollar index <=USD> 0.398% higher after touching a two-week high of 93.91, while the Japanese yen strengthened 0.08%

versus the greenback at 105.38 per dollar.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan closed 0.04% lower.

The euro <EUR=> was down 0.01% to \$1.1705, while a firmer U.S. dollar dragged on sterling <GBP=>, which was last trading at \$1.2902, down 0.09% on the day.

Spot gold was little changed at \$1,908.07 an ounce.

Focus in Asia swings to Canada-China relations after Canada ordered a national security review of Shandong Gold Mining Co Ltd's bid to acquire a gold mine in the Canadian Arctic. It is the latest sign of pushback faced by China's state miners.

In Europe, London will enter a tighter COVID-19 lockdown from midnight on Friday as Prime Minister Boris Johnson seeks to tackle a swiftly accelerating second coronavirus wave.

"The market's on again off again love affair with an impending stimulus torrent masks the fact that investor uncertainty is bristling ahead of an expected choppy period in terms of headline risk, including Brexit, the U.S. election, and perhaps the most horrifying troubles of all, the second wave of the coronavirus that could trigger more intense lockdown worries," said Stephen Innes, global chief market strategist at AxiCorp.

China raises \$6 billion as US investors overlook political tensions

China has raised \$6 billion in a dollar bond issue that was offered to US investors for the first time, according to a term-sheet reviewed by Reuters, just weeks before the November 3 election.

The deal, the fifth foreign currency denominated bond since China reinstated its offshore issuance programme in 2017, attracted an orderbook of \$27.2 billion, the term-sheet showed.

China has carried out four dollar deals and one euro deal in the past three years.

The pricing was set at US Treasuries plus 25 basis points for the \$1.25 billion three-year tranche, 30 basis points for the \$2.25 billion 5-year tranche, 50 basis points for the \$2 billion 10-year tranche and 80 basis points for the \$500 million 30-year tranche, the term-sheet showed.

It was the first time China has offered a bond deal to US-based investors who were most active in the longer-dated tranches of the transaction.

US investors, primarily fund managers, were the largest buyers of that bond, picking up 47% of the \$500 million sold, according to the term-sheet.

The rising tensions between Washington and Beijing did not deter US-based investors from participating in the deal, according to one source with direct knowledge of the matter.

The source could not be named because he was not authorised to speak to media.

"We did not see the geopolitical situation scaring people away," he said.

The deal was finalised on Wednesday as signs emerged the political stand-off between the US and China showed no signs of easing.

The US State Department has submitted a proposal for the Trump administration to add China's Ant Group to a trade blacklist, according to two people familiar with the matter, before the financial technology firm is slated to go public in Shanghai and Hong Kong.

World experiencing deepest recessions since Great Depression: World Bank

The world is experiencing one of the deepest recessions since the Great Depression in the 1930s owing to the novel coronavirus, World Bank President David Malpass has said, terming the Covid pandemic a "catastrophic event" for many developing and the poorest countries. He said given the extent of the economic contraction, there was a rising risk of disruptive debt crises in countries.

So that has got a lot of focus here at the meetings, Malpass told the media on Wednesday at the start of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

"The recession has been deep, one of the deepest since the Great Depression. And for many developing countries, and for the people in the poorest countries, it is truly a depression, a catastrophic event. It is continuing to add to the ranks of those in extreme poverty," he said.

That is the focus of this meeting and the focus of their actions, he said, adding the World Bank was building as big a growth programme for countries as they can in this fiscal year.

Responding to a question, Malpass said that the world was currently experiencing a K-shaped recovery.

That means the advanced economies have been able to provide support, especially for their financial markets and for people that have jobs that can be done by working from home. But people that are in the informal economy have lost their jobs, and are depending on social protection programmes, he said.



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 October 19 - October 25, 2020

ARIES: Ganesha says you stretch yourself in all directions. You reach out to people and they will respond favorably. Your plate is full to overflowing with events and activities. Family and loved ones expect much from you in this phase. Work takes a back seat and you quite like - and do justice to all the socializing. You find cracks developing in some new - found love and this disturbs you. You find solace in quieter - retreats and may visit a spa or place for healing for rejuvenation and treatment.

TAURUS: People continue to be an integral area of your life. But you need to be objective and dispassionate and re-evaluate and re-asses your life and your attitudes. This can get disconcerting and irritating to you and the persons involved. Your mind wonders and you are unable to stick to anything for any length of time. You are not particularly disturbed by it, but there is no advantage in being a rolling stone.

GEMINI: A space lot is on your mind and they will all not be happy thoughts. Your income and finances are on the upswing despite your lack of interest in work - related activities, thanks to some inheritance issue that has been decided in your favor. There is the need to work towards building greater accord and harmony in the home. Discussions with friends / co - workers / partners or like - minded people may give you fresh ideas.

CANCER: You try hard to get back on firm ground. Luck is with you and so you haven't lost out on new opportunities. You are back to solid work with new ventures / projects in place, or in the pipeline but there is a hard slog ahead and you are not sure if you'll be able to cope. You like the good life and spend a lot on luxuries. But, at another level, this could be the platform to launch yourself in a big way when the time comes. It is just that you are not motivated enough.

LEO: The tide is thankfully turning slowly in your favor. You are now brimming with energy, zeal and direction and firing away on all cylinders. You will be up to your neck in various activities and just about managing breathe. You will be perhaps pushed into corners but you cope well and come out trumps. You are gripped by ambition and look at re-organizing your resources and putting them to the best possible use. Money matters acquire a vital edge and will call you for careful planning.

VIRGO: Romance is in the air! This is a favorable period and you manage to handle your life well. There is harmony in our dealing and disturbing affairs are easily settled. Legal issues come to the fore and require your attention. Health may also need some care. You also begin to look at the money angle more seriously and think of cutting down on extravagances. You need money for new ventures and look for loans to fund them.

LIBRA:- Ganesha says, you rise to the challenges of hard work and career advancement and initiate several projects that stretch your imagination, capabilities and initiate several projects that stretch your imagination, capabilities and skills. But, despite it all, you are in a thoughtful mood and tend to get depressed for no particular reason. You are fascinated by the human mind and the behavior patterns of the people you meet. You take time off to lend a helping hand and even mentor and counsel others.

SCORPIO:- There is a new focus and thrust and you are assured of success in your ventures. Work increases and you have no time to party; even the meetings with friends and loved ones will be taken up by work pressures. But this is definitely money well spent because you will earn the dividends later on. There will also be more time for the family and in the future for the frivolities of life.

SAGITTARIUS: Work is progressing well and there is also travel thrown in. You are determined to sustain the growth that you have achieved and to even up the tempo. I must add here that in life one always loses a bit when one gains something else and there is no escape from this cardinal principle which is why it is necessary to know what you really want from life. Right now, you are on a work phase and you are losing out on quality time with family and friends which irks you.

CAPRICORN: Thankfully, you slow down a bit now and make the correct decisions. There is more sanity in your dealings and you stretch to meet more people. You show interest in higher studies, spirituality and faith. You turn to religion and look for answers. You look for a grip on life and spend time with family and friends. It is a welcome break from the smoldering intensity of the last month.

AQUARIUS: You find yourself isolated; in-fact, your need for privacy leads you to long periods of solitude during which you don't even tell your loved ones where you are, which is quite difficult for them to cope with or accept. But you need this 'me' time in which you probe deep questions about life and death and your purpose on this planet in the particular circumstances you are in. You travel to holy places and are on pilgrimage, seeking answers.

PISCES: You are back on terra - firma with many disturbing psychological questions seemingly answered. You are cheerful and warm, tolerant and more accepting of yourself, others and situations which earlier infuriated you know end. As a result, there is joy in all your interactions. You are a softer and a more rounded person now and you look at life from a different prism and perspective. You finally realize that it all depends on the outlook perspective on has.

Birthday Horoscope October 19 - October 25, 2020

OCT 19: Ganesha says wishes will be fulfilled. Friendship, money and love, children and hobbies all come together for you. Give yourself to others also is the astro message.

OCT 20: Despite being misunderstood and reviled, make excellent headway, receive sudden and probably secret help, get funds, have love, and are on your way to happiness.

OCT 21: Ganesha says, this formation leads to expenses and a danger of being cheated or at least misled. It would be best not to take the easy way out

but to get at the truth. Journey and ceremony make you happy.

OCT 22: It favors very particularly lawyers, musicians, architects, pharmacists, film stars and directors and producers, copywriters and visualizers, wholesale merchants, agriculturists and scientists. It means childbirth, financial augmentation and the luck of the draw.

OCT 23: Excellent for money, journey, ceremony, publicity, marriage, long-distance connections and collaborations. In short, your efforts will bear fruit

(pun intended).

OCT 24: This moon helps you to grow, evolve, be tenacious and have the drive to succeed. Many of you will be marking new beginnings, following the policy of "run till done" or getting it done completely. You will set high standards and love will claim you.

OCT 25: THERE is nothing you cannot achieve. Be imaginative, bold and take chances. At least that's what this solar-scopical reading does say. Financially it is a sizzling year. Romantically, it is an ecstatic year. Be happy.

SHARAD NAVRATRI: THE NINE-DAY FESTIVAL

In this festival, people worship different avatars of Goddess Durga. This year, Navratri starts from October 17 and ends on October 25. The Indian Panorama wishes its readers Happy Navratri

Navratri is one of India's most significant festivals that is celebrated with full fervour and enthusiasm. It is a 9-day long festival. In this festival, people worship different avatars of Goddess Durga during the nine days of Navratri. This festival is celebrated four times in a year- Chaitra Navratri, Magha Gupt Navratri, Sharad Navratri and Asadha Gupt Navratri but only two of them Chaitra Navratri and Sharad Navratri are celebrated widely.

The meaning of Navratri is nine-night and this time it will be observed from October 17 and will last till October 25th. On October 25/26, Dussehra will be celebrated. During Navratri, people worship nine forms of Goddess Durga namely Shailputri, Brahmacharini, Chandraghanta, Kushmanda, Skanda Mata, Katyayani, Kalaratri, Mahagauri, and Siddhidatri.

Importance

The Sharad Navratri is celebrated to commemorate Goddess Durga. She is known as the face of the power of women or Shakti. During the festivities of Navratri, devotees worship nine avatars of Durga. The festivities begin with Ghatasthapna. During the nine days, devotees observe fast and spend the day reading holy mantras dedicated to Goddess Durga.

According to Drikpanchang, this year, Ashtami Tithi begins at 06:57 am on Oct 23, 2020, and ends at 06:58 am on Oct 24, 2020. Sandhi Puja Muhurat is from 06:34 am to 07:22 am.

Sharad Navratri 2020 calendar:

- October 17, Day 1 – Pratipada, Ghatasthapana, Shailputri Puja
- October 18, Day 2 – Dwitiya, Chandra Darshana, Brahmacharini Puja
- October 19, Day 3 – Tritiya, Sindoor Tritiya, Chandraghanta Puja
- October 20, Day 4 – Chaturthi, Kushmanda Puja, Vinayaka Chaturthi, Upang Lalita Vrat
- October 21, Day 5 – Panchami, Skandamata Puja, Saraswati Avahan
- October 22, Day 6 – Shashthi, Katyayani Puja, Saraswati Puja
- October 23, Day 7 – Saptami, Kalaratri Puja
- October 24, Day 8 – Ashtami, Durga Ashtami, Mahagauri Puja, Sandhi Puja, Maha Navami
- October 25, Day 9 – Navami, Ayudha Puja, Navami Homa, Navratri Parana, Vijayadashami
- October 26, Day 10 – Dashami, Durga Visarjan

Performing rituals of Navratri is the most significant way of experiencing the essence of this Hindu festival. In the auspicious and awe-inspiring occasion, divine love pervades through all devotees who emerge more courageous and wiser through the nine-day rigor. In the vein of all vedic traditions, Navratri customs help to inculcate spiritual habits. Hence, prayers, chants, 'bhajans' and reading of important religious texts make up a significant portion of this festival. Devotees pay obeisance to this feminine divine energy that is believed to maintain the balance of the universe.

Navratri is one of the most anticipated festivals in India with social and spiritual connotations. Navratri Hindu festival is spread out



over nine consecutive days in the Chaitra and Ashwin months to consecrate the divine aspects of Ma Shakti as Goddess Durga, Goddess Lakshmi and Goddess Saraswati. The festival is associated with their symbolic connotation as epitome of courage, wealth and skill respectively.

Broadly, on the first three days, devotees venerate Goddess Durga as she represents power in its divine form that removes negativity and proclivity towards immoral behavior. She is, invoked as Kumari, Parvati and Kali which are aspects of Ma Durga and represent her adolescence-to-maturity stage. During the next three days, Goddess Lakshmi blessings for material and spiritual prosperity are sought with puja and powerful mantra chantings. Over the next three days, Goddess Saraswati is invoked to seek blessings for erudition and skills in the arts. The devotee puts books and musical instruments near the deity to acquire true knowledge and wisdom to see him/her through this life and beyond. The ninth day of 'Mahanavami', the concluding day of Navratri puja, is considered an auspicious day for conducting pujas such as 'Aparajita' puja and 'Kanya Puja'. The tenth day celebrates the momentous events associated with Lord Rama as well as Ma Durga, who killed the demon 'Mahisasura'.

Customs & Rituals of Navratri

Customs of Navratri which stand out prominently in terms of strict observance include the following:

On the very first day, barley or 'jowar' seeds are sown in a decorated clay pot and by the tenth day, the tender shoots are distributed among the devotees. A photograph or an idol of the eight-armed Goddess seated on a lion, along with the 'yantra' is installed.

'Kalash Sthapna' is done which involves installing a water pot or 'kalash', sprinkled with holy water and filled with mango leaves and coconut.

The morning 'puja' is performed after a bath, and the day-long fast is broken

after doing the evening puja.

During the puja, 'shankh' is blown, fresh flowers, 'doob' or sacred grass, 'paan' and fruits are offered to the deity, chapters from the sacred 'Durga Saptshati' and 'Chandipath' are recited, followed by 'arti' and prasad distribution.

A very significant ritual is performing 'Kanya Puja' on 'Ashtami' and 'Navami', which involves worshipping nine young girls, in pre-puberty stage, representing the nine forms of goddess Durga. Each girl is treated to a meal comprising puri, sweet bread, halwa, a sweet dish, made of semolina and Bengal gram curry. After washing their feet, the devotees break their fast.

Ayudha or Astra Puja is held on the eighth/ninth day. Tools, vehicles and equipments are worshipped on this day.

Among some communities, it is also considered an auspicious time to initiate learning for children by invoking Goddess Saraswati. Hence, Lalita-puja and Saraswati-puja is done ritualistically to start formal education of children.

A Garba performance precedes 'aarti' conducted in honor of Maa Durga.

Fasting or 'vrat' from sunrise till sunset is undertaken for night days.

In the Navratri Hindu festival, the devotee should observe abstinence and austerity.

On the eight day, a 'yagna' is performed with offerings of ghee and til for mental and spiritual cleansing.

Lemon or bhasma or ash is used for cleaning substances for 'abhishek'.

In Gujarat, a garbh-deep or a lamp is lit within an earthen pot with several perforations representing the union of body and soul.

Customs of Navratri

Since all the nine days are dedicated to different incarnations of Ma Durga, it is customary to wear colors that symbolize the qualities of the deity. The first day venerates Shailputri Devi who embodies aspects of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. On this day, red clothes are worn. The second day is dedicated to Brahmacharini Devi who represents a life of abstinence. Wearing blue colored clothes is considered auspicious on this day. On the third day, Chandraghanta Devi, the bestower of glory and beauty, is invoked. On the fourth day, Kushmanda Devi is worshipped and yellow is the color to honor her. The fifth day is in honor of Skandmata Devi. Grey is the color to be worn on the sixth day and is dedicated to Katyayani Devi, while orange is the color for protection symbolized by Kalratri Devi on the seventh day. On the eighth day, pink clothes are worn to honor Mahagauri Devi. The ninth day is dedicated to Siddhidatri Devi, whose blessings earn devotees all 'siddhis'.

On all these nine days, devotees should meditate on the different forms of Ma Durga and seek her grace.

Some of the Navratri customs carry a lot of significance for married women. This Navratri Hindu festival sees heavy involvement of married women who seek blessings of prosperity and a long married life. Some of the customs of Navratri include showing complete devotion through actions such as doing 'bhajans' and 'japa', eating vegetarian food and staying away from negative influences to be able to soak in the wisdom and inner strength gained thus.

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Consulate General of India, Houston

**Public Notice Regarding Change in
Outsourcing Service Provider
Cox & Kings (CKGS) ceases operations;
VFS Global will be the new service
provider**

HOUSTON (TIP): The Indian Consulate at Houston has issued the following press release to the effect that Cox & Kings Global Services (CKGS), the existing service provider located at 1001 Texas Avenue, Houston TX 77002 for providing outsourcing services for Visa, OCI, Renunciation, Passport and Global Entry Program (GEP) (Website: in.ckgs.us) will shut down its operations at close of business (1600 hours Central Standard Time) on Wednesday, 14 October, 2020.

The new service provider is VFS Global, likely to start operations from November 2. In the interim, October 19 onwards, the Consulate will provide direct limited services only in emergencies. Applicants residing in the states of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado and Nebraska, covered by the Consulate General of India, Houston.

" In this context, the following may kindly be noted:-

- (i) Applicants can only submit applications on the CKGS website before the above deadline.
- (ii) Applicants must ensure that their documents are shipped to CKGS with suitable pre-paid return envelopes in a manner to ensure it reaches CKGS by 1600 hours Central Standard Time on Friday, 16 October 2020.
- (iii) Any applications received after 1600 hours Central Standard Time on Friday, 16 October 2020 will be returned to the applicants without processing.
- (iv) Applicants must ensure that they receive back the processed documentation from CKGS as it will not be possible for CKGS or the Consulate to take care of any returned envelopes. The responsibility is that of the applicant.

With effect from 19 October 2020 and till M/s VFS Global - the new outsource service provider takes over operations (expected from 02 November 2020), the Consulate will provide direct limited services only in emergencies. Applicants residing in the states of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado and Nebraska, covered by the Consulate General of India, Houston, are advised to follow the instructions given below to avail emergency services:

- (i) **VISA:** Emergency visa to the eligible categories allowed to travel to India as per the advisories issued from time to time by the Government of India. Visa applicants are requested to send an email to: 'visa.houston@mea.gov.in' requesting for emergency visa. On receipt of the documentation checklist, applicants are requested to carefully go through the requirements relating to the different categories of visa before submitting their applications. The Consulate may request additional documentation in certain cases.
- (ii) **PASSPORT:** For emergency passport services, applicants are requested to send an email to: 'passport.houston@mea.gov.in' explaining the reason. Only after approval from the Consulate, the application process must be initiated by the applicant.
- (iii) **OCI:** All OCI services will remain suspended till the new service provider takes over.
- (iv) **MISCELLANEOUS CONSULAR SERVICES:** Request for Miscellaneous Services (Attestation, Power of Attorney, Police Clearance Certificates etc.) can be sent to the Consulate through regular Post/Mail. For procedure related to these services please visit: <https://cgihouston.gov.in/pages/Mjk>

The contact details of VFS Global, service fees details, their operational hours, etc. will be published on the website of CGI, Houston in due course.

Helplines: In case of any further query or assistance please contact the following helplines:

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Signs of Quarantine Fatigue and what to do

Back in March, the world looked a lot different than it does now. Millions of workers were abruptly pushed into remote work and had to learn a "new normal" as they tried to adjust to their new situations. Working remotely, coupled with government restrictions to isolate people to slow the coronavirus spread, has led many people to develop a condition referred to as quarantine fatigue.

What is quarantine fatigue?

Four months ago, the phrase "quarantine fatigue" would have probably sounded like a weird concept out of a medical thriller story. Unfortunately, today, it's a very real issue affecting many people. A person afflicted with this condition feels "done" with isolating and restricting themselves from socialization. They have become emotionally depleted during this extended period of time being isolated from others. Living the same schedule, day after day, is also a contributor to someone developing this condition.

Quarantine fatigue doesn't impact everyone the same way, but emotional stress is at the center of this condition. It could stem from a loss of income, isolated work conditions, or a lack of human companionship.

Quarantine fatigue can emerge in different ways, including an inability to engage in normal activities as they did pre-pandemic. Feelings of loneliness and a disconnect from the outside world tend to occur. Common symptoms quarantine fatigue is present include:

- Experiencing increased irritability
- Suffering anxiety
- Feeling tense
- Insomnia or oversleeping
- Eating too little or too much
- Having a lack of motivation
- Experiencing reduced productivity
- Losing focus and concentration
- Having social withdrawal

Quarantine fatigue symptoms can evolve into escalated conditions, including depression. The Society for Human Resource Management recently conducted a survey and found the coronavirus pandemic is taking a toll on the mental well-being of workers. The survey, comprised of 1,099 employees, found between 22 percent and 35 percent of U.S. workers have experienced symptoms of depression since the pandemic started.

Techniques to help cope with quarantine fatigue Many people initially enjoyed the "break" from routine work schedules, but after months of quarantine, the appeal is lost as feelings of enjoyment start to turn into ones of helplessness. For those afflicted, it begins to feel as if this pandemic will never end. If you think you are suffering the effects of quarantine fatigue, try the following techniques to help combat these feelings.

- Practice relaxation techniques such as meditation, yoga, walks in nature, or anything else that gives you a sense of calmness and happiness. Achieving mindlessness is a great coping technique.
- If anxiety increases, try to focus on deep breathing exercises as a relief mechanism.
- Focus on positivity in ways that bring joy. Try watching comedy movies, reading uplifting books, or listening to fun podcasts and favorite music.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Queens County District Attorney Melinda Katz warns of scams

QUEENS, NY (TIP): In a letter to the editor of The Indian Panorama, Queens County District Attorney Melinda Katz has warned of scams and recommended steps to protect against the machinations of the scamsters.

Here is the text of the DA's letter.

"October is National Crime Prevention Month. The ongoing pandemic has significantly increased our reliance on technology. More people are doing business on-line. With many schools closed to in-person learning, teens and preteens are spending more time on their phones exploring the internet. And social media is as popular as ever.

Unfortunately, online scammers and predators have taken note and are using manipulative tactics to prey on consumers. My office has seen an increase in the number of online scams regarding personal finances, as well as complaints about improper behavior towards teenagers and preteens on the internet.

There are simple steps you can take to safeguard yourself and your loved ones, some of which are outlined below:

- o Be wary of any emails requesting money and do not open attachments from unfamiliar senders.



"My office has seen an increase in the number of online scams regarding personal finances, as well as complaints about improper behavior towards teenagers and preteens on the internet", said Melinda Katz

- o Never agree to payment of services or goods with a gift card not issued by that company.
- o Do not provide your personal identifying information (credit card, bank info, etc.) via email.
- o Make sure your social media accounts have privacy settings.

For Parents:

- o Establish clear guidelines, including time limits for screen use and consequences for inappropriate behavior.
- o Set some ground rules on what types of sites kids can visit and apps they can download.
- o Consider "blackout" periods that require disconnection.
- o Know the platforms. Online enticement happens across all platforms, so be aware of the sites, games, and apps your children frequent. Ask them to show you how they use them.

If you think that you or a loved one may have been a victim of a cybercrime or a scam, don't hesitate to reach out to my office at 718-286-6000."

DESERT SAFARI IN JAISALMER: EXPERIENCE THE THRILL

A lot of sunshine and a never ending sleek stretch of a sand is what makes the desert of Jaisalmer an ideal allure for travel enthusiasts. And what better way to enjoy the beauty than a desert safari in Jaisalmer – the golden city. From strolling the sand dunes to enjoying the sight of traditionally adorned camels, there are many things to do in Jaisalmer that make it is an ideal place to be included in a trip to Rajasthan.

Vibrant nights make the heart and soul of desert safari camp in Jaisalmer. Wherein you throb to the tune of local music and bask in the glory of the moments. These nights are epitomized by folk dance, traditional music, and the grand Rajasthani Thali – that's how the safari lures you!

How to reach Jaisalmer

BY AIR: Jaisalmer airport is 5 km from the city and is well connected with Delhi, Jaipur, and Jodhpur

BY TRAIN: Jaisalmer railway station is 2 km from the city

BY ROAD: Inter-state buses run from Jaipur to Jaisalmer frequently. There are no direct buses from Delhi to Jaisalmer. Delhi to Jaisalmer via Jaipur is close to 800 km.

Camel safari: Enjoy your ride on the ship of the desert

Comprising all major attractions in the desert, the camel safari in Jaisalmer is the most sought after activity as you plan for a desert safari in the dunes of the 'golden city'. Sit on the back of a camel holding on to its hump as it takes you on a bumpy ride across the Thar.

The ride takes you to the remote areas of the desert and presents you the best of flora and fauna. Also, you come across various settlements where the indigenous residents of the place live. Explore the wide riches of the desert and enjoy the picturesque sunset, which makes it certain that camel safari is the best desert safari in Jaisalmer.

If you are a quickie, embark on a short camel safari in Jaisalmer and explore the beautiful dunes of Sam Desert. Soon after the ride, be prepared to behold one of the most beautiful sunsets behind the dunes. Head to the camp in the evening, and get a grand traditional welcome with aarti-tika and dhols. Enjoy the welcome drink along with the Rajasthani folk dance and music at your preferred desert safari camp in Jaisalmer.

Attractions of the camel safari in Jaisalmer: Catch the gorgeous view of sunrise, Kuldhara- an abandoned village, the desert wildlife, oasis, and magical sunset

Time taken: A complete full day ride takes around 5-6 hours, which is usually spread across two sessions of camel safari, one in the morning and the other one in the evening. Afternoon burns like a furnace, therefore, people often take rest during the afternoon by the oasis.

Jeep safari: A ride along the gusty wind



The most popular activity after camel safari in Jaisalmer, jeep safari takes you across the unexplored beauty of the Thar Desert with much ease and comfort. Jeeps, as compared to camels are swift and make for a fun ride along the glittering sand dunes. The fact that jeep safari is the most popular activity amid most of the tourists headed for desert safari camp in Jaisalmer, speaks a lot about it.

Usually, the jeeps used for the safari are 4x4, with an open top. Mostly it begins with a visit to the Fossil Park or Desert National Park followed by a pit stop at Sam Sand Dunes and finally taking the visitors to Padholi Sanctuary while covering the best that the desert has to offer.

Attractions of jeep safari in Jaisalmer: Fossil Park or Desert National Park, Sam Sand Dunes, Padholi Sanctuary, spend a night in one of the households of Padholi village. They are still untouched by the outside influence.

Tips for desert safari

- Carry a hat, cap or turban along with sunscreen and sunglasses
- Cover yourself up properly with long-sleeve shirt, long trousers, sneakers or boots
- Remember, the sun turns hostile in desert region
- Keep your camera's battery fully-charged, you will find plenty of amazing shots to capture
- Don't forget to keep a torch, towel, toilet paper, and medical kit with you
- During the winter season, must carry warm clothes for the night hours



Denmark beat England

Christian Eriksen's penalty on his 100th appearance for Denmark earned his side a 1-0 win over England in their Nations League clash at Wembley on Wednesday as the hosts played more than half the game with 10 men.

Former Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Eriksen powered his spot-kick past Jordan Pickford in the 35th minute, a couple of minutes after England centre-back Harry Maguire had received a red card for a second booking.

Defeat ended a run of nine successive home wins for England, who beat top-ranked Belgium on Sunday, while Denmark, who have lost just two of their last 40 international matches, celebrated their first victory over England at Wembley since 1983.

To rub salt into the home wounds Reece James, England's best player on his full debut, was also shown a red card after the final whistle for confronting referee Jesus Gil Manzano.

France beat Croatia

France stretched their unbeaten run against Croatia to eight games after a late goal by Kylian Mbappe gave the world champions a 2-1 win. The result left France second in the group on 10 points from four games, behind Portugal on goal difference after the European champions brushed aside Sweden 3-0.



Srikanth sails into Denmark Open quarters

Back in action after a seven-month long coronavirus-forced break, ace Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth stormed into the quarterfinals of the Denmark Open with a straight-game win over Jason Anthony Ho-Shue, on Thursday, Oct 15. The fifth seed Indian took 33 minutes to beat his Canadian opponent 21-15 21-14 in the men's singles second round match of the Super 750 tournament, the only event happening this year in Badminton World Federation's calendar.

The BWF was forced to cancel multiple tournaments and postpone the Asia leg and the World Tour Final to January next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Srikanth, a former world No. 1 and currently ranked 14th, will next face the winner of the other second round match between second seed Tien Chen Chou of Chinese Taipei and Ireland's Nhat Nguyen.

The other surviving Indian in the competition, Lakshya Sen will be up against local challenger Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus in his second round later in the day.

IPL 2020

Rahul, Gayle fifties guide KXIP to 8-wicket win

SHARJAH (TIP): K L Rahul played a captain's knock and Chris Gayle fired in his first game since January as Kings XI Punjab finally ended their five-match losing streak with an eight-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bangalore in an IPL match on Thursday, October 15.

Chasing 172 in a must-win game, the in-form opening pair of Rahul (61 not off 49) and Mayank Agarwal (45 off 25) got off to a flying start before Gayle (53 off 45) joined his skipper in the middle to get KXIP close to the finishing line.

Needing seven off the final two overs with nine wickets in hand, KXIP somehow managed to take the game to the last ball with Nicholas Pooran finally hitting the winning six.

Both Rahul and Gayle smashed five sixes each, rendering the opposition attack helpless.

Batting first, skipper Virat Kohli top-scored with 48 off 39 balls in his 200th game for RCB before Chris Morris' 25 off 8 in the death overs took the team to 171 for six.

It was a rare all-round effort from KXIP who had failed to close out games earlier in the competition.

Mohammad Shami (2/45) conceded 24 runs in the final over that spoiled his figures after he got rid of Kohli and AB de Villiers but overall it was a much improved bowling effort by KXIP especially in the death overs.

Leg spinner M Ashwin struck twice and pacer Chris Jordan took his first wicket of the tournament.

The run chase was supposed to be straightforward after Agarwal took the opposition to the cleaners in the powerplay before Rahul took over. As usual, the 41-



year-old Gayle, batting at three, took his time early on before going ballistic.

Earlier, KXIP conceded only 25 runs from over 16-19 before Morris and Isuru Udana hammered Shami for three sixes.

Rahul experimented by opening the bowling with Glenn Maxwell (0/28 in 4 overs). He was slog swept by his Australian teammate and close friend Aaron Finch on the final ball.

Other opener Devdutt Padikkal (18) also went for his shots with his best hit of the night being the whip off Shami that went for a six over deep square leg.

However, both Padikkal and Finch could not build on their starts. Padikkal was foxed by a slower one from left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh to be caught at cover, while Finch missed a fast leg-break from M Ashwin, leaving RCB at 62 for two in the seventh over.

With Kohli looking good at the other end, AB de Villiers was expected to come in at his usual number four spot but with two leg-spinners in operation, left-handed batsman Washington Sundar was sent ahead of the South African.

The move did not work as he struggled to 13 off 14 balls.

KXIP, whose bowling has been the weakest link, did rather well from 11-14 overs conceding just 20 runs to put pressure on the opposition.

RCB needed to move on and southpaw Shivam Dube provided the timely strike, dispatching Ravi Bishnoi to consecutive sixes to amass 19 runs from the over.

Following Dube's dismissal in the 15th over, De Villiers finally joined Kohli for the late assault, which was eventually provided by Morris.

New Zealand's oldest surviving Test cricketer John Reid dies at 92

AUCKLAND (TIP): New Zealand's oldest surviving Test cricketer and former captain John Reid has died here at the age of 92, the country's cricket board said on Wednesday, Oct 14.

Reid, regarded as one of the world's best all-rounders during his heyday in the fifties and early sixties, captained New Zealand in 34 Tests including, most notably, the country's first three victories.

"He was, and will remain, a household name in this country, having helped pave the way for everything that has come in his wake," New Zealand Cricket chief executive David White said in a statement offering his tributes.

The NZC release, however, did not specify the cause of Reid's death. "Our thoughts and respect are with his family at this time: wife Norli; children Alison, Richard and Ann, and all his grand-children," White said.

Born in Auckland, and educated in Wellington, Reid played 246 first-class games and scored 16128 runs at 41.35, including 39 centuries, while taking 466 wickets at 22.60.

A hard-hitting right batsman and a seam bowler, he played 58 Tests after making his debut as a 19-year-old in 1949, scoring 3428 runs at 33.28, while taking 85 wickets at 33.35.



Neymar goes past Ronaldo to become 2nd highest goal-scorer for Brazil

Neymar has surpassed Ronaldo to become the second-highest goal scorer for Brazil. Neymar scored hat-trick against Peru in the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qualifier which helped Brazil register a 4-2 win on Tuesday, Oct 13, evening. He has now taken his international tally to 64 in 104 games, two more than Ronaldo who had scored 62 goals in 98 matches for Brazil. Legendary striker Pele leads the chart with 77 goals for Brazil.

In August, legendary Brazil goalkeeper Taffarel had termed Neymar as a superstar. In an interview to FIFA.com, he had said of the Paris Saint Germain striker: "A great player. He plays the game in a beautiful way. He's an incredible dribbler, sets up goals, scores fantastic goals." "He's very important for us. We really hope he can be at his best and help Brazil win another World Cup. He's a superstar," Taffarel added.



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- * 300 thousand + eye surgeries
- * 25 thousand + on children

This work by the Eye Foundation of America team started in 1977 and has spread from India to 21 different countries. Additionally, EFA Focuses on teaching and training of health professionals who receive the Foundation's support at every level.

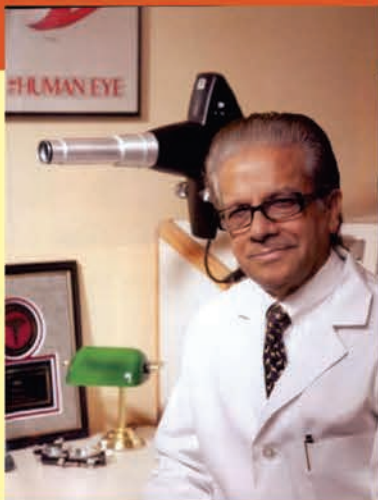
<https://youtube/B23VvUaloN4><https://youtube/KICzqLQe2VE>

Be a part of the movement.
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" There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." - **Nelson Mandela**

" You be the change you want to see." **M.K. Gandhi**

DR. V.K. RAJU
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