



America UNITED against COVID-19

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

KEEP AMERICA SAFE

US ELECTION 2020

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

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

QUICK TAKES

- US Presidential elections: You ain't seen nothing yet **P-8**
- Implications of Donald Trump testing positive for COVID-19 **P-10**
- No End to Caste-driven Rape Culture in India **P-11**

Reliance develops RT-PCR kit that can give Covid-19 results in 2 hours



Reliance develops RT-PCR kit that can give Covid-19 results in 2 hours

NEW DELHI (TIP): Reliance Life Sciences has developed an RT-PCR kit that promises diagnosis of Covid-19 infection in about 2 hours, company sources said. At present, Covid-19 RT-PCR test, which is a real-time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) test for the qualitative detection of nucleic acid

contd on page 2

President Trump, First Lady Melania test positive for Coronavirus; World leaders wish them quick recovery

The development is likely to bring to standstill President's hectic campaign for November 3 presidential election

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald Trump said on Friday, October 2, that he and first lady Melania Trump have tested positive for the coronavirus, a development that is likely to affect his hectic election campaign just weeks before the presidential polls.

"Tonight, @FLOTUS and I tested positive for COVID-19. We will begin our quarantine and recovery process immediately. We will get through this TOGETHER!" 74-year-old Trump tweeted.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first to respond Friday, writing on Twitter: "Wishing my friend @POTUS @realDonaldTrump and @FLOTUS a quick recovery." German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Israeli Prime

contd on Page 2



President Trump and First Lady Melania have been travelling a lot in the election campaign.

A grateful Nation Remembers Father of the Nation on his 151st birth anniversary, Oct 2



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his 151st birth anniversary at Rajghat in New Delhi on Friday, October 2.

Photo / Courtesy Tribune - Mukesh Aggarwal

NEW DELHI (TIP): Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated across India on October 2 to mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's 151st birth anniversary. The occasion was marked by people honoring Mahatma Gandhi's contributions towards India's freedom struggle, while also remembering his ideals and philosophy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion at Rajghat in New Delhi on Friday, October 2. Paying tributes to the Mahatma and late PM Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth anniversary,

contd on page 32

Massive protest in Delhi against Hathras Gangrape of a Dalit Girl

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal demands strictest punishment for accused



Members of various organizations during a protest against the death of a 19-year-old Dalit woman who was allegedly gang-raped in Hathras, at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on October 2, 2020. Photo / Courtesy PTI

NEW DELHI (TIP): A massive protest erupted in Delhi on Friday, October 2 evening as hundreds of civil society activists, students, women and political leaders gathered at Jantar Mantar against the alleged gangrape of a young woman in Hathras district and the UP Government's response to it.

Wearing masks and raising slogans against the UP administration, they demanded justice for the 19-year-old victim and asked Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to resign.

The protest was to be held at India Gate initially but had to be shifted to Jantar Mantar owing to the prohibitory orders in place in the Rajpath area.

contd on page 32



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contd from page 1

President Trump, First Lady...

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson also offered support.

"Like millions of Israelis, Sara and I are thinking of President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump and wish our friends a full and speedy recovery," Netanyahu, a close Trump ally, tweeted.

"My best wishes to President Trump and the First Lady. Hope they both have a speedy recovery from coronavirus," said Johnson, who was diagnosed with the infection in late March and spent a week in a London hospital, where he received oxygen therapy.

Russian President Vladimir Putin issued a tribute to Trump, reportedly writing in a telegram: "I am confident that your vital energy, high spirits, and optimism will help you cope with the dangerous virus." The Kremlin said this week that Putin plans to be vaccinated soon against the coronavirus with an experimental Russian vaccine.

In a statement, Trump's physician Dr. Sean Conley said the president and the first lady "are both well at this time", and they plan to remain at home within the White House during their convalescence.

"Rest assured I expect the President to continue carrying out his duties without disruption while recovering," Conley added.

Trump's physician said he received confirmation of the positive tests on Thursday evening.

"The White House medical team and I will maintain a vigilant watch, and I appreciate the support provided by some of our country's greatest medical professionals and institutions," Conley said.

Trump's all engagements outside of the White House were cancelled. He was last seen in public on Thursday afternoon returning to the White House after a fundraising trip to New Jersey.

"As too many Americans have done this year, @potus & I are quarantining at home after testing positive for COVID-19. We are feeling good & I have postponed all upcoming engagements. Please be sure you are staying safe & we will all get through this together," Melania, who is 50, tweeted.

Trump's "diagnosis amounts to the most serious known health threat to a sitting American president in decades," the CNN said. "At 74 years old, Trump falls into the highest risk category for serious complications from the disease."

"His infection with the disease could prove destabilizing in an already fraught political climate, and stock market futures tumbled on news of Trump's infection," it said.

Vice-President Mike Pence said millions across America were praying for the full and swift recovery of the president and his wife.

"Karen and I send our love and prayers to our dear friends President @realDonaldTrump and @FLOTUS Melania Trump. We join millions across America praying for their full and swift recovery. God bless you President Trump & our wonderful First Lady Melania," Pence tweeted.

White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said that the strength of the entire country is with President Trump and the first lady. "America stands united. Our country stands strong. Your President will continue to put the People first!" McEnany tweeted. The White House issued a new schedule to reflect several cancelled events, including a fundraiser, and a campaign rally in Florida.

"The President hosts a phone call on COVID19 support to vulnerable seniors," said the new daily guidance from the White House.

In the middle of the election campaign, Trump has been travelling a lot in particular in the battleground States. The development is likely to bring to standstill his hectic campaign for the November 3 presidential election.

On Tuesday night, Trump and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden had their first presidential debate. The second presidential debate is scheduled for October 15, which falls immediately after the mandatory quarantine period. The third and final debate is scheduled for October 22.

During the first presidential debate, Biden attacked Trump over the handling of the coronavirus crisis and said the president lied to Americans on the COVID-19 pandemic, which has killed more than 200,000 people and infected over seven million others in the country.

Trump had mocked Biden for regularly wearing a face mask in public. "I don't wear masks like him," Trump said, referring to

the 77-year-old former vice president.

Biden, who shared the debate stage with Trump, is expected to get tested for coronavirus, CNN reported, citing a source familiar with his plans.

The channel quoted former chief of staff at the Department of Homeland Security Miles Taylor as saying that President Trump having coronavirus sparks national security concerns.

"We have to consider the possibility that this may affect, again, his ability to carry out the duties of his office. That's a big concern. It's something that this White House wasn't preparing for, in my view," Taylor said.

Trump and Melania were tested for COVID19 hours after one of their close aides, Hope Hicks, tested positive for the coronavirus.

"Hope Hicks, who has been working so hard without even taking a small break, has just tested positive for COVID-19. Terrible!" Trump said in an earlier tweet.

Hicks, 31, is the closest aid of the president to have tested positive with coronavirus. She had travelled with the president on Air Force One early this week.

Trump, in an interview to Fox News on Thursday, October 1 night, said he and the first lady spend a lot of time with her.

"She wears masks a lot. But she tested positive," Trump said.

And, late on October 2, a former senior advisor to Trump, Kellyanne Conway said she tested positive.

In a statement, Deputy White House Press Secretary Judd Deere said that the President takes the health and safety of himself and everyone who works in support of him and the American people very seriously.

Several White House staffers have tested positive with COVID-19 in recent months, including the National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien and Katie Miller, Vice President Mike Pence's press secretary. (With inputs from agencies)

Reliance develops RT-PCR kit that...

from SARS-CoV-2, takes up to 24 hours to give a diagnosis.

The sources said computational biologists at Reliance Life Sciences, a subsidiary of billionaire Mukesh Ambani-run Reliance Industries Ltd, analyzed more than 100 genomes of SARS-CoV-2 sequenced in India and designed unique RT-PCR primers for developing quantitative-Real Time PCR (RT-PCR) kit for Covid-19 detection.

RT-PCR kit is so far considered as Gold standard.

The kit, developed by scientists at Reliance Life Sciences, is named R-Green Kit (SARS COV2-real-time PCR) and has been technically validated by ICMR for satisfactory performance, the sources said.

ICMR's validation process does not approve/disapprove the kit design as well as it does not certify user-friendliness.

The sources said the kit can detect the presence of E-gene, R-gene, RdRp gene of SARS COV2 virus with Actin as an internal control. As per ICMR results, the kit shows 98.7 per cent sensitivity and 98.8 per cent specificity.

This kit is a complete indigenous development by the R&D scientists working at the firm, they said, adding one biggest advantage of this kit is that it is simple to use and uses readily available simple reagents and primers which can be synthesized in India. The diagnosis time is approximately 2 hours, they added. A separate study by Reliance Life Sciences has indicated that the death rate for Covid-19 pandemic may significantly reduce by the end of 2020.

The study showed mutation occurrence of structural and non-structural proteins of SARS-CoV-2 form more than 7,000 genome sequences of SARS-CoV-2 virus from 49 countries.

Statistical analysis showed an inverse correlation between the mutation rates of two proteins NSP6 and Surface glycoprotein (S) with the death rate, according to the study published in the Scientific Journal of Biology.

It has been predicted that mutations of these two proteins will grow constantly, while the death rate would drop below 0.5 per cent by end of 2020 in cluster I countries (India and Bangladesh).

In the study, it has been observed that the cluster II country (USA) mutation rate of NSP6 and S proteins are lower than cluster I and cluster III (Australia and NZ) countries.

Therefore, it has been proposed that in cluster II country the death rate of Covid-19 pandemic will weaken later than cluster I and III countries, the study says.

Reliance also got a US patent for genetically modified microalgae that is said to defend/delay death.

The United States Patent on September 8 issued the patent. (Source: PTI)

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Gov Murphy toes fine line in handling Covid outbreaks in 1 New Jersey township

BAYVILLE, N.J. (TIP): Eye-popping Covid-19 outbreaks in a fast-growing and heavily Orthodox New Jersey community are forcing Gov. Phil Murphy into perilous territory.

For months, the Democratic governor took relish in lambasting "knucklehead" behavior, citing individual bars, restaurants and even the infamous "Jersey Shore" house as dangerous examples of how personal behavior could detonate the state's recovery from the pandemic.

Now, faced with rapidly escalating case totals in Lakewood - an Ocean County township of more than 100,000 people that's roughly 70 percent Orthodox - Murphy is employing a softer touch to try to control the outbreaks.

Flanked by more than a dozen local officials, business and religious leaders and members of his own administration, Murphy took his regular coronavirus briefing to Ocean County on Friday, October 2, to highlight the severity of the health crisis without hammering a community that's acutely sensitive to outside attacks.

"There's no room for even a speck of blaming that community or this community for what's going on," Murphy said, echoing language he's used over the past two weeks as Lakewood's daily positivity rate has climbed into the high 20s.

"I believe with all my heart that we can achieve that balance, that we can both be factual about where the hot spots are and what we need to do to



The Murphy administration has already deployed 6,000 tests, and more contact tracers to assist in halting spread in Ocean County in the coming weeks. More aid could be forthcoming, Murphy said Friday, Oct 2.

drive them to the ground, but also defend with one thousand percent vigor every single community and their right, as long as it's responsible, to do things like worship and pursue their faith," Murphy said. "We have no tolerance for any amount, not a speck, that would creep into this finger-pointing stuff."

But while Murphy and local leaders were effusive in their praise of each other's cooperation throughout the last several weeks, the notion that "finger-pointing" was occurring still bubbled to the surface.

"Our numbers are much higher [and that] causes hate and can increase the challenge of anti-Semitism," Duvi Honig, CEO

of the Orthodox Chamber of Commerce, said near the end of Friday's briefing, "kindly" asking Murphy to take "the media" to task for singling out Lakewood's outbreaks.

"When you have an increase of testing in one location, the numbers should reflect in a way based on a certain percentage, but not based on the testing because that's false information," Honig said.

Honig's assertion that the increase in testing capacity was contributing to rapidly escalating case totals doesn't explain the community's dangerously high spot positivity rate. More than 27 percent of Lakewood's new tests came back positive on Sept. 28, compared to less than 2.5 percent for all of New Jersey.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Contact tracing has been instrumental in stopping the COVID spread: Gov Cuomo

Exposure Notification App - COVID Alert NY introduced

NEW YORK (TIP): Contact tracing has been instrumental in stopping the COVID spread, and we have worked hard over these past months to establish a nation-leading testing and tracing program, said Governor Cuomo at his daily briefing, Thursday, October 1.. Today, we are building on that effort with an



Gov Cuomo announced the State was coming up with an innovative technology-based tool - COVID Alert NY - "our official Exposure Notification App created by the New York State Department of Health in partnership with Google and Apple". - File photo

additional innovative technology-based tool - COVID Alert NY - our official Exposure Notification App created by the New York State Department of Health in partnership with Google and Apple. With COVID Alert NY, you can use your phone to receive alert notifications if you have been exposed without compromising your privacy or personal information.

The app will never track your location and is completely anonymous. Using Bluetooth technology, it can detect proximity to another phone with COVID Alert NY downloaded. The State Department of Health cannot identify who downloads the app, and does not collect your name, phone number or other personal information.

As we continue to battle the virus, this app offers another way to protect yourself and your community. The more New Yorkers who download the app, the more effective it is. Get the app today and help stop the spread while maintaining your privacy. Click here to download it directly to your iPhone. Click here to download it directly to your Android device.

Nassau Named Safest County in America

U.S. News & World Report compiled the data. Many other New York counties also made the list

NASSAU COUNTY, NY (TIP): U.S. News & World Report recently named Nassau County the safest community in America. The data was compiled as the organization was finding the healthiest communities in the country.

According to U.S. News, as part of its effort to find the healthiest communities, it looked at how safe communities were. It looked at data on crime, injuries and public safety capacity, as well as the violent crime rate, car crash fatalities, the number of public safety professionals in the population and the per capita spending on healthcare and emergency services. "A safe community is a healthy community in many ways," U.S. News wrote. "Not only are residents protected from harm, but their community has the resources needed to care for them should a crime or injury occur."

The data was compiled and created a score out of 100 points. And Nassau



Nassau County Executive Laura Curran. "We've made a commitment to community policing and building trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve, and the results are showing."

County got a perfect score. Nassau outperformed the rest of the country on all of the key metrics U.S. News was measuring.

spends \$1,148 per capita on police and fire protection - much higher than the national median of \$359. The percent of the population that are public safety professionals is almost double the national median. And the violent crime rate is 133.8 per 100,000 people, whereas the national average is 231.7 per 100,000.

"I want to thank the brave men and women of the Nassau County Police Department, law enforcement, and our first responders, who deserve the credit for Nassau being the safest community in America," said Nassau County Executive Laura Curran. "We've made a commitment to community policing and building trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve, and the results are showing. As always, we will continue to put the health and safety of Nassau residents first."

Many other New York counties were also named among the safest communities in the country: Rockland, Westchester, Richmond and Putnam counties all made the list.

Here's the full list of the safest counties in America, along with more information about them from U.S. News & World Report.

- Nassau County, New York
- Rockland County, New York
- Alexandria, Virginia
- Arlington County, Virginia
- Westchester County, New York
- Bergen County, New Jersey
- Los Alamos County, New Mexico
- San Mateo County, California
- Richmond County, New York
- Pitkin County, Colorado
- Brown County, Minnesota
- Butler County, Iowa
- Union County, New Mexico
- Val Verde County, Texas
- Dixon County, Nebraska
- Phillips County, Colorado
- Putnam County, New York
- Hudson County, New Jersey
- Buena Vista, Virginia
- Lexington, Virginia

Indian American Students Win Big at IPA Youth Essay Competition



Maher Adoni's winning essay focused on ways to improve education in India using technology and volunteers. Rohan Chalamalasetti's winning essay investigated the issue of clean drinking water in India

NEW YORK (TIP): Maher Adoni, an 11th grade student of Champaign, Illinois, and Rohan Chalamalasetti, a sixth grade student of West Des Moines, Iowa have won a youth essay competition organized by the India Philanthropy Alliance (IPA).

While Adoni was the winner among high school students, Chalamalasetti was the winner among middle school students with Adhitya Ajith of West Des Moines, Iowa and Shreeya Yarlagadda of Johnston, Iowa being runners-up in the

two categories respectively.

Rohan Chalamalasetti, a sixth grader from Moines, Iowa, and Maher Adoni, a junior from Champaign, Illinois, are winners of a youth essay competition organized by the India Philanthropy Alliance.

The results of the youth essay competition held earlier this year were announced by (IPA), a coalition of 13 US-based organizations working on humanitarian and development issues in India, Tuesday on the eve of a major online philanthropy summit.

One of the goals of the Alliance is to grow the culture of philanthropy among the Indian diaspora in the United States, according to a media release from IPA.

As a first step towards nurturing this philanthropic culture in Indian-American youth, IPA sponsored a nationwide youth essay competition focusing on issues facing India and its people, it said.

IPA asked students to discuss how philanthropy and Indian-Americans can be impactful in these fields and to describe their own work and plans.

This contest was made possible by a generous grant from the Sarva Mangal Family Trust, based in Orange County, California, the release said.

Maher Adoni's winning essay focused on ways to improve education in India using technology and volunteers.

"I am very grateful for this opportunity to share my ideas with the public and with philanthropic leaders at the Philanthropy Summit," he said. "This will motivate me to want to do more."

Rohan Chalamalasetti's winning essay investigated the issue of clean drinking water in India.

"Participating in this essay competition was a great experience and I learned a lot. I'm very excited to have this opportunity for my essay to be published and to receive feedback on my ideas," he said.

A panel of judges composed of leaders from IPA's member organizations and Mona Shah, representing the Sarva Mangal Family Trust, reviewed numerous essays submitted by middle and high school students from across the country. "It was inspiring to see how passionate these young authors were about solving issues facing India today," said Shah. "These middle and high school students had clearly given a lot of thought about how philanthropy can benefit India, and many of them are already actively engaged in helping address the issues they care about."

As part of the competition, the winners were each able to direct \$1,000 grants to the nonprofit organization of their choice, and the runners up were able to direct \$500 each.

Chalamalasetti, Yarlagadda and Ajith

all chose to support the Sehgal Foundation, based in Des Moines, Iowa. Adoni directed his grant to the American India Foundation, based in New York City.

The judges also recognized six high school finalists and two middle school finalists for their outstanding essays.

The high school finalists were Mira Bhatia of Chicago, Illinois, Rhea Chakradeo of Rutherford, New Jersey, Amit Kamma of Atlanta, Georgia, Nithya Myneni of Clive, Iowa, Bedansh Pandey of Johns Creek, Georgia, and Shreen Shavkani of Alpharetta, Georgia. The middle school finalists were Sameer Agrawal and Deetya Pai, both of Austin, Texas.

All essays written by winners, runners-up and finalists have been published on IPA's website.

The philanthropy summit was organized by Indiaspora, a member of the IPA that works to transform the Indian diaspora into meaningful impact worldwide.

IPA's member organizations are Akanksha Education Fund, American India Foundation (AIF), Arogya World, CRY America, Ekal USA, Foundation for Excellence (FFE), Indiaspora, Magic Bus USA, Pratham USA, Project ECHO, the Sehgal Foundation, Vision Spring, and WISH Foundation.

Indian American-led Sehgal Foundation receives Citizen Diplomacy Award for Helping Rural Indian Communities



MISSOURI (TIP): Indian American led Sehgal Foundation has been named one of three recipients of the US State Department's annual Citizen Diplomacy Award for its work to help the poor in rural Indian communities.

The foundation received the award recognizing individuals and organizations for their work to promote US foreign policy goals along with top recipient, Mohamed Amin Ahmed (Average Mohamed), and runner up, Tempe Sister Cities.

Sehgal Foundation partners with various organizations to create and sustain strong global connections to promote rural development in India.

"We received a record number of nominations, so picking just one winner is a huge challenge," said State Department representative, Irina Karmanova as cited by a media release.

"Sehgal Foundation stood out to us for their great work in advancing human rights and promoting women's peace and security."

(www.theindianpanorama.news)

Sikh Americans Promised Strong Support by the Biden Campaign

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Biden campaign has launched an initiative to reach out to the Sikh community in the US and vowed to address the unique challenges, including xenophobia, being faced by the minority religious group in the country.

The Biden campaign, which launched the "Sikh Americans for Biden", said it has plans for protecting Sikh-American youths in schools.

Sikh-Americans experience bullying at rates twice the national average and have reported a spike in these encounters since 2017, the campaign said in a press release on Sunday.

"The Biden campaign plans to highlight the specific plans and policies that Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has outlined in his platform to address the unique challenges that the Sikh American community faces with regards to racism, xenophobia and discrimination," it said.

Kiran Kaur Gill, a prominent civil rights activist and member of the Sikh American National Leadership Council, alleged that President Donald Trump has not only turned a blind eye to bullying and discrimination, but has also encouraged it.

The Sikh American National Leadership Council is an advisory council to the Sikh Americans for Biden.

With Biden as the US president, Sikh-



The Biden campaign, which launched the "Sikh Americans for Biden", said it has plans for protecting Sikh-American youths in schools.

Americans can feel safer in schools and on the streets, Kiran Kaur Gill said in a statement. "(Former) Vice President Biden has a track record of taking stances against hate, discrimination and bullying, and his leadership on these issues matter to our community," she said. The Biden campaign has said that if voted to power, the Biden administration would allocate additional federal funding for anti-bullying initiatives.

According to civil rights activist Valarie Kaur, "This election is unlike any other. Everything our Sikh ancestors fought for -- a world of dignity, equality, and justice -- is at stake."

"A Biden presidency would give us a chance -- to save our democracy, heal the

earth, and begin to birth a world where we 'see no stranger'. That's why I am proud to join Sikhs for Biden -- and do everything in power to get out the vote. Our lives depend on it," she said in a statement issued by the South Asians for Biden on Sunday.

Japjee Singh, an anti-bullying advocate, detailed the horrific bullying that took place at his high school in Georgia. In 2013, when he was 17-year-old, Singh was repeatedly targeted with verbal and physical harassment because of his Sikh faith. He was called a "terrorist" and fellow students used to target him for wearing turban. Singh's bullying case led to the first US Department of Justice school bullying settlement on behalf of a Sikh student.

"A lot of the systems in place prevent victims of bullying from being heard and validated. Often these victims are perceived as the aggressors; they are not. Biden is committed to change these systems, so we can provide survivors of bullying with the support that they need," Singh said.

In a joint statement, Josh Dickson, the National Faith Engagement Director for the Biden campaign, and Seema Sadanandan, a Policy Advisor for the campaign, said Biden has committed to a number of initiatives that garner strong support from the Sikh-American community. **(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)**

Indian American lawmakers introduce resolution honoring Bapu aka Mahatma Gandhi on his birthday

WASHINGTON (TIP): Six US lawmakers, including four Indian American members of the House have introduced a bipartisan resolution honoring the life of Mahatma Gandhi and his enduring legacy in the present world.

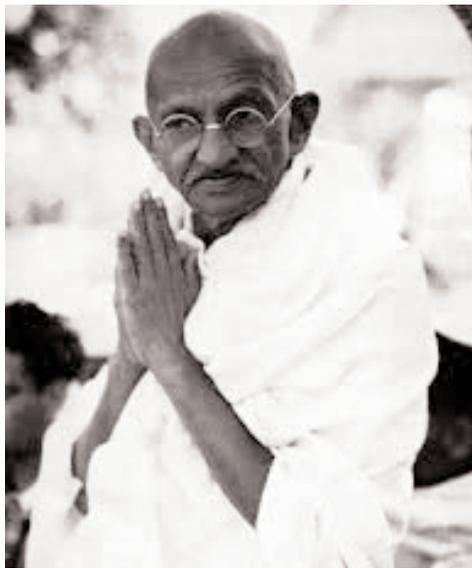
The resolution was introduced by Indian Americans Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal, and Ro Khanna (all Democrats) together with India Caucus Chairmen Brad Sherman (Democrat) and George Holding (Republican).

Celebrating the life of Mahatma Gandhi, the resolution "encourages the people of the United States to observe the International Day of Non-Violence and supports freedom of religion around the world."

It also "encourages individual and community self-improvement and civic education and recognizes that elections, democracy, and freedom are essential rights for all people."

"As we celebrate the anniversary of his birth on October 2nd, I am proud to honor Mahatma Gandhi's incredible life and enduring legacy through this bipartisan resolution," said Krishnamoorthi.

"Despite facing tremendous hardship and injustice throughout his life,



Reps Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal, and Ro Khanna (all Democrats) together with India Caucus Chairmen Brad Sherman (Democrat) and George Holding (Republican) introduced a bipartisan resolution honoring the life of Mahatma Gandhi and his enduring legacy in the present world.

Gandhi never wavered in his fight for freedom, dignity and equality for all," he said. "The example he set continues to inspire thousands of people young and old across the world today."

"His principle of non-violent protest spawned civil rights movements around the world and continues to

inspire similarly non-violent movements to this day."

"I am proud to play my part in honoring his legacy through this resolution and to encourage the people of the United States to observe the International Day of Nonviolence in his memory," said Krishnamoorthi.

"Today, as we celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, we must also honor his extraordinary life and enduring legacy of non-violence and equality" said Sherman.

"As Co-Chair of the Caucus on India and Indian Americans, I was proud to help introduce this bipartisan resolution that commemorates Gandhi's contributions towards freedom struggles across the world."

The resolution, Sherman said, "will help enshrine Gandhi's eternal message: All our activities should be centered in truth. Where there is no truth, there can be no true knowledge."

"As co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, I believe it's important, now more than ever, that we remember and celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent legacy - something that continues to inspire people around the world," said Holding.

Indian-American Puneet Ahluwalia to Run for Republican Nomination for Virginia Lt Governor



Ahluwalia, who has been active in the Republican Party politics for over two decades, also serves on the Northern Virginia Republican Business Forum

VIRGINIA (TIP): Indian American business consultant Puneet Ahluwalia is running for the Republican nomination for Lt. Governor of Virginia saying the state needs a new leadership to attract investment, jobs, growth and wealth.

"Virginia is in trouble right now, and we're running out of time as Democrats offer the same old tired promises," stated the 55-year-old resident of McLean, just outside Washington DC announcing his run.

"Virginia needs new ideas and a business environment that will attract investment, jobs, growth and wealth," wrote Delhi-born Ahluwalia in a note to his supporters.

"Virginia needs to support its hard-working and courageous police, protect 2nd Amendment rights, and stand up for law and order."

A Delhi Public School (DPS) alumnus, who immigrated to the US in 1990, Ahluwalia serves as a consultant to international businesses on client acquisition, marketing, and strategic affairs with The Livingston Group.

"I am Pro-Life, Pro-Liberty, and Pro-Virginia First. We need to reopen our schools, reopen our economy, and get our lives back together."

"I wasn't born an American, my wife and I are Americans by choice," wrote Ahluwalia. "I am not a politician; I am a proud American living the American dream."

"My first job was delivering electronics to retail stores and since then I have built businesses and created jobs and opportunities for others," he recalled.

Ahluwalia, who has been active in the Republican Party politics for over two decades, also serves on the Northern Virginia Republican Business Forum.

He accused the current Democrat leadership in the General Assembly of being "distracted by a far-left social and cultural agenda that simply doesn't serve the interests of the vast majority of Virginia citizens."

"All they do is blame (President Donald) Trump, then fade into the background. That's not leadership. It's finger-pointing. No more excuses," Ahluwalia wrote. "Progressive Democrats, who run most of our largest cities and counties, discourage job growth, deter small business start-ups, and restrict children to failing schools."

*(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Indian-Origin Issa Brothers Win Bid to Buy UK Supermarket Chain

LONDON (TIP): Indian-origin billionaire brothers Mohsin and Zuber Issa are set to acquire a majority stake in the leading UK supermarket chain Asda from its US owner Walmart after a USD 8.8-billion deal was struck as part of a consortium involving private equity firm TDR Capital.

The Issa brothers, whose parents moved to the UK from Gujarat in the 1970s, own the Euro Garages chain of petrol stations as part of their EG Group business.

The supermarket deal, valued at around 6.8-billion pounds (USD 8.8-billion), follows an auction process for Asda over several months and returns the 71-year-old supermarket company back into British ownership after 21 years, a development welcomed by UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak.

"Great to see Asda returning to majority UK ownership for the first time in two decades today," Mr. Sunak said on Twitter.

"The new owners have already committed to investing over GBP 1 billion in the next three years and increasing the proportion of UK-based suppliers. I wish them the best of luck," he said.

Announcing the deal, Walmart said



The Issa brothers, whose parents moved to the UK from Gujarat in the 1970s, own the Euro Garages chain of petrol stations as part of their EG Group business

Asda would keep its headquarters in Leeds in northern England, with chief executive Roger Burnley continuing to be in charge.

"We are very proud to be investing in Asda, an iconic British business that we have admired for many years. Asda's customer-centric philosophy focus on operational excellence and commitment to the communities in which it operates are the same values that we have built EG Group on," Mohsin and Zuber Issa said in a statement.

The brothers, born in Blackburn in north-west England, pledged support for the long-term growth of the supermarket as they praised the chain's performance during the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating the

"fundamental strength and resilience" of the business.

"We believe that our experience with EG Group, including our expertise around convenience and brand partnerships and our successful partnership with TDR Capital, can help to accelerate and execute that growth strategy.

"After a successful period as part of Walmart, we are looking forward to helping Asda build a differentiated business that will continue to serve customers brilliantly in communities across the UK," they said.

Robert Burnley welcomed the new ownership as an exciting new chapter and committed to delivering value to customers. "In a constantly changing retailing environment, our new ownership will further enhance our resilience, whilst creating significant, additional opportunities to drive growth. For Asda colleagues, a strong and growing business is important for our long-term future," said Mr. Burnley.

Walmart retains an equity investment in the business with an ongoing commercial relationship and a seat on the board. The deal, which is subject to regulatory approvals, is expected to be completed in the first half of 2021.

World leaders reignite the vision of the Beijing Platform for Action, the most transformative agenda for advancing gender equality

NEW YORK (TIP): More than 100 countries committed yesterday to concrete actions that would advance gender equality for women and girls everywhere at a virtual high-level meeting during the UN General Assembly. This gathering - under the theme "Accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls" - marked the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action - the most comprehensive roadmap for women and girls' empowerment.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action is a strong call to action for the removal of systematic and structural barriers that prevent women and girls from enjoying their human rights across social, economic, political and environmental domains, and sets out a comprehensive catalogue of policy actions to achieve the vision. However, 25 years after its adoption, global leaders recognized that the redistribution of power and resources between women and men in the public and private spheres, which is inextricably tied in with the broader goals of achieving equality for all, has not been achieved. Overall, the progress made falls far short of what States committed themselves to in 1995.

In a Political Declaration adopted during the 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in

Leaders make concrete commitments to accelerate the realization of gender equality as COVID-19 threatens to take a toll on gains made in the last few decades.



Fourth World Conference on Women Beijing, 4 to 15 September 1995

March 2020, Member States reaffirmed their political will for action. They also recognized that new challenges have emerged and identified specific means for tackling these gaps and challenges. Some of these include eliminating all discriminatory laws; breaking down structural barriers, discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes-including in the media; matching commitments to gender equality with

adequate financing; strengthening institutions to promote gender equality; harnessing the potential of technology and innovation to improve women's and girls' lives; regularly collecting, analyzing and using gender statistics; and strengthening international cooperation to implement commitments to gender equality.

The report of the UN Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of

the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, with inputs from 173 countries, flagged that commitments have not been matched by action, investments or accountability and that an approach of addressing symptoms rather than causes has led to a state of perpetual crisis.

In addition, the far-reaching social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are disproportionately affecting women around the world, from a significant rise in violence against women, including domestic violence, to women's disadvantage in labor markets, carrying the bulk of unpaid care and domestic work and an estimated increase of 9.1 per cent of the poverty rate for women. It is estimated that due to the pandemic, in 2021, 47 million additional women and girls will be pushed into extreme poverty, bringing the total to 435 million. The consequences of the pandemic threaten to undo decades of progress and many of the hard-won advances.

During the event, leaders recommitted to turn the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action into a lived reality for all women and girls.

*(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Indian-Americans for Trump Asks All to Pray for the Trumps



Asking people to pray for the Trumps, Dr. A.D. Amar, President, Indian-Americans for Trump said, "The Indian-Americans for Trump affirms that the life and wellbeing of the President is not only valuable for the USA but for the whole world for enhancing peace, economic prosperity, and family life."

Jews, Sikhs and others to pray in their temples, churches, mosques, synagogues and other places of worship for the Trumps."

The Indian-Americans for Trump has sent its wishes for a swift recovery to President Trump and has decided to intensify campaigning for his reelection.

Wear a mask and preferably use gloves.

(Based on a press release)

Indian Overseas Congress, USA condemns the rape and murder of Manisha Valmiki of Hathras, U.P.

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian Overseas Congress, USA joins millions of non-resident Indians across the globe in condemning the horrific rape and murder of Manisha Valmiki of Hathras, U.P. The barbarity and the bestiality involved in the killing show the depraved and criminal mindsets of those who perpetrated such heinous acts against a Dalit woman who is from the lowest rung of India's caste system. The ghastly way this woman was raped and murdered has indeed shaken the nation to its core and terrorized the people of conscience across the world.

The victim, who belonged to the Dalit community, was raped by four men on September 14 in the heartland state of Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district. The woman's family told local media that they found her naked, bleeding, and paralyzed with a split tongue and broken spine in a field outside her home. On Tuesday, she died two weeks later after battling severe injuries in a hospital in New Delhi.

To add insult to injury, the police barricaded her family members & locals inside the house and forcibly burned the body. The family was not allowed to see their daughter for one last time and say good-bye. As it has been said by Yogendra Yadav, "even criminals are allowed dignified cremation. Here is a rape victim being cremated by police at 2.30 AM without family members".

"Mr. Yogi Adityanath, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, it is your party which is in power. Given your supremacy within the party in U.P. and the centralized

control you exercise, you more than anyone else have to be held responsible for this terrifying state of affairs," said George Abraham, Vice-Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA. Your past statement, such as 'women not capable of being left alone and their energy should be regulated, lest it becomes worthless and destructive,' is not only despicable but misogynistic and chauvinistic.

"while you have ordered an inquiry, Mr. Chief Minister, you haven't taken any steps to cure this rape culture in your state or shown any resolve to change the social, political, and administrative conditions under which such anti-Dalit hatred is bred," said Mohinder Singh Gilzian, President of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA. Your continuing inaction in this regard will gain you the title as the Chief administrator of the notorious Rape State in India," Mr. Gilzian added.

"It is indeed the growing culture of violence emanating out of the wrong-headed sense of ultra-nationalism and majoritarian arrogance that is polarizing the communities and dividing the nation. We call upon the Modi Government to stop paying lip service with slogans like "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" and provide true leadership in bringing perpetrators of this pervasive rape and abuse of women culture across the country to justice regardless of their party affiliations and oust any government officials who remain stumbling blocks to that effort" the statement added.

GOPIO - Manhattan Chapter Launched



Inaugurating the GOPIO-Manhattan Chapter, Consul General of India in New York Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, Chief Guest, said, "It's a privilege to be able to join you all in inaugurating the GOPIO-Chapter, which will strengthen GOPIO, the NRI community and the Consulate in New York."

NEW YORK (TIP): During a solemn virtual ceremony, which was live webcast around the world, GOPIO-Manhattan Chapter was launched, with a new team led by Shivender Sofat as the President assuming charge of the GOPIO-Manhattan Chapter on Thursday, September 24th, 2020. Attended by several community and business leaders from around the New York region, Consul General of India in New York, Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, inaugurated the new Chapter.

Ambassador Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, Chief Guest, said, "It's a privilege to be able to join you all in inaugurating the GOPIO-Chapter, which will strengthen GOPIO, the NRI community and the Consulate in New York." Ambassador Jaiswal congratulated the leadership of GOPIO, which he said, "has played a stellar role in shaping Indo-US Relations. We are proud of your achievements."

Showering praises on the Indian Diaspora in the US, the Senior Diplomat from India said, the success stories of every Indian American is "a great source of strength to the people in India. GOPIO has played an important role in fostering this relationship, he said. While assuring whole-hearted support to GOPIO, he urged GOPIO to "connect with the youth both in India

and the USA."

Dr. Thomas Abraham, Chairman GOPIO International, in his introductory remarks said, "GOPIO was born in 1989 and today, it has over 100 chapters across the world, contributing to the larger community. GOPIO chapters also serve the local communities in need, by sponsoring soup kitchens and giving scholarship to needy students. During the Covid-19 period, GOPIO chapters have been making financial contributions and replenishing food items at the food pantries serving the needy. Some chapters also provided N-95 medical masks to frontline workers, he said. Summarizing the long-felt need for a GOPIO Chapter in the Business Capital of the US, Dr. Thomas Abraham said, "In Manhattan, there are a large number of Indian-American young professionals who move to the city from all over the country. Also, many parents are moving to Manhattan to be closer with their grownup children who work in New York City. We have been receiving enquiries from those who move to the city to join a GOPIO chapter and we want to make that happen."



GOPIO-Manhattan Chapter launch organizers, from top left clockwise, Dr. Thomas Abraham, Dr. Asha Samant, Shivender Sofat, MC Dr. Lisa George, Pallavi Verma Belwarrier, Sid Jain, Prof. Rajasekhar Vangapaty, Megha Bhouraskar, Braj Aggarwal, MC Bhavya Gupta and Dr. Vimal Goyle (missing Mukul Gupta)

Shivender Sofat, President, GOPIO-Manhattan, said, GOPIO was started in NYC and now we are back in action reviving the organization in the city, where 60 to 70 percent of NRIs have a connection. Describing some

of the programs GOPIO-Manhattan has envisaged, the President of the Chapter said, "Motivate our Indian Diaspora community to participate and help in local charitable and social service activities including soup kitchens and walkathons benefitting local charities; Organize seminars and symposium on subjects of interest to the Indian Diaspora community; Host elected officials from New York and India with interactive sessions; A welcome networking reception and dinner for all new students from India who join colleges and universities in New York city; and, Build an Indian American Youth and Young Professionals network and organize program for them."

GOPIO-Manhattan activities and services to be provided were explained by its board members and committee chairs including Youth Initiative Coordinator Mukul Gupta, Vice President Dr. Vimal Goyle (Supporting food pantries/soup kitchens), Executive VP Prof. Rajasekhar Vangapaty (Welcoming and Hosting Students from India) and Siddharth Jain (Reaching Out Indian American College Students). Treasurer Braj Aggarwal outlined the membership details and appealed everyone to become members. Membership form is available online at <https://forms.gle/r7qpsX3QPndNMV1dA>.

GOPIO-Manhattan's charitable and social service activities got a boost when Philanthropist Sreedhar Menon committed \$10,000 for the next two years.

Among those who attended were India's Deputy Consul General Shatrughna Sinha. Consul for community Affairs A.K. Vijayakrishnan, GOPIO Vice President Ram Gadhavi, SACSS Executive Director Sudha Acharya, GOPIO-New York President Beena Kothari, GOPIO-CT President Ashok Nichani and GOPIO Central New York President Patsy Leopald.

For more information and participation, contact GOPIO-Manhattan President Shivender Sofat, Tel: 731-988-6969, E-mail: shivisofat@gmail.com

NYS Tax Department: Online services to assist businesses-October 2020

NEW YORK (TIP): The New York State Tax department has announced online services to help businesses.

Key services and features

Account summary for businesses currently provides filing and payment history for corporation tax, sales tax, and withholding tax.

Access your account summary to view your detailed filing and payment history before you file.

Sign up for email alerts to receive certain account-specific notices electronically instead of paper mailings.

Update your business address, phone number, responsible persons (sales tax only), or other business information using our Business Tax Account Update (DTF-95) application. Other business information includes owner or officer, NAICS code (if you changed or expanded your business activity), identification number, legal name, or DBA or assumed name.

Corporation tax

New York C corporation tax returns are due on October 15, 2020, for calendar-year filers who previously requested a six-month extension to file. You can view filing information by visiting Article 9-A-Franchise tax on general business corporations.

Before you file your New York C corporation return, access your account summary to verify the balance of estimated tax payments, extension payments, and payments carried forward from a previous tax year.

You may also make corporation tax payments using your Business Online Services account. Visit CT-400, Estimated Tax for Corporations, for more information.

Withholding tax

Withholding tax Form NYS-45, Quarterly Combined Withholding, Wage Reporting, and Unemployment Insurance Return, is due on November 2, 2020. You can Web File your withholding tax return using your Business Online Services

account. Web File is FREE-no additional software needed.

Create a Business Online Services account

If you don't already have a Business Online Services account, you may create one at any time.

Watch our Business Account Creation demo to see how easy it is. The demonstration takes you step by step through the creation process. See our Business account creation checklist for more information.

Add Users to a Business Online Services account

Business Master Administrators and Users with permissions to manage other Users can add Users to each Online Services account to immediately perform services. A User may be given authorization to use all, or some, of the Online Services available.

Users can be given permissions to:

Manage other Users



Department of Taxation and Finance

Manage tax professionals
Receive electronic communications
NOTE: Only Business Master Administrators can update electronic communication preferences on behalf of a User.

Watch our Adding a User to a Business Account demo for a step-by-step demonstration of this process. Visit Administrative permissions for Business accounts for additional information.

(Based on a press Release)

US Presidential elections: You ain't seen nothing yet



By Prabhu Dayal

“It cannot be overstated that U.S. Presidential elections are always contested over a host of political, economic, and social issues on which the positions of both the Republicans and the Democrats have evolved over time. As part of its economic conservatism, the Republican Party supports lower taxes, free-market capitalism, the removal of restrictions and regulations on corporations, and restrictions on labor unions. The party is also socially conservative and supports gun-rights and traditional values with a Christian foundation, such as restrictions on abortion. In foreign policy, Republicans usually favor increased military expenditure and tough action against America's enemies. Republicans also want restrictions on immigration. The Democrats support social programs, labor unions, worker's rights and work-place safety regulations, disability rights and racial equality and reform of the criminal justice system. They also support abortion rights, LGBT rights and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented workers. In foreign policy, they favor a multilateral approach, from which America under Trump has been distancing itself.”



President Donald Trump faces a formidable challenger in Biden who is leading in all national polls

There are fewer than 35 days to go before American voters decide on November 3 whether Donald Trump remains in the White House for another four years. Given the hugely important role played by the US President on the global stage, psephologists all over the world are working overtime as they try to analyze various trends and developments which could indicate what the final outcome is likely to be. Opinion polls are the flavor of the election season.

However, experience has shown that opinion polls may give an idea of how popular a candidate is across the United States, but they are not necessarily an accurate way to predict the eventual election result.

In 2016, for example, Hillary Clinton led in most of the opinion polls and even secured more votes in the election, but she ended up losing to Trump. Thus, even winning more votes in the US Presidential election does not assure a candidate victory.

One important reason for this is that the U.S. voters do not elect the President and Vice President directly; rather, they do so indirectly through the electoral college system. The electoral college is a body of electors who are elected by the voters in each state every four years for the sole purpose of electing the President and Vice President. The number of each state's electors equals the sum of its representation in the Senate and the House of Representatives. Currently, there are 538 electors, based on 435 Representatives, 100 Senators from the fifty states and three electors from the Capital, Washington, D.C. An absolute majority of at least 270 electoral votes is required to win the election.

The three electors were given to D.C. following the Twenty-third Amendment of 1961 which states that the seat of the federal government is entitled to 'the number it would have if it were a state, but in no case more than that of the least populous state'. The seven least populous states (Alaska, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming) have three electors each; thus, Washington D.C. was also given three seats in the electoral college.

The six states with the most electors are California, (55), Texas (38), New York (29), Florida (29), Illinois (20), and Pennsylvania (20). U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa) are not entitled to any electors.

Of population, which gives states with a low population a disproportionate number of electors per capita. An electoral college member in Wyoming represents only about one-fourth the number of people as compared to an elector from California. This is one factor which explains how a Presidential candidate can secure more electors while winning lesser votes nationally. Over time, people have been migrating to the bigger states like California, Texas or New York which provide better employment opportunities, and as a result sparsely populated states are becoming increasingly over-represented in the electoral college.

In this regard, another factor which needs to be mentioned is the winner-take-all rule. In all the states except Nebraska and Maine, the party which wins the highest votes wins all of that state's electors. This gives the bigger states the ability to deliver a large number of votes as a single bloc. For example, even if the Republican Party wins 49% of the votes in Florida

- Winning more votes in the US Presidential election does not assure a candidate victory
- Biden's chances of defeating Trump look good, but there's a long way to go and things can change very quickly
- One factor which is affecting Trump's re-election prospects is his handling of the coronavirus pandemic

while the Democratic Party gets 51%, the latter will win all the 29 electoral seats from that state. This fact also distorts the relationship between votes secured and seats won nationwide.

Generally, most states always vote the same way (either always Republican or always Democrat). However, there are some states where both candidates stand a chance of winning. These are the states where the election could be won or lost, and they have come to be known as the battleground states (or swing states).

For the 2020 election, the battleground states (with their electoral numbers) are: Texas(38), Florida(29), Pennsylvania(20), Ohio(18), Michigan(16), Georgia(16), North Carolina(15), Arizona(11), Minnesota(10), Wisconsin(10), Nevada(6), Iowa(6) and New Hampshire(4). According to analysts, Texas, Ohio and Iowa are leaning towards Trump; in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina there is a toss-up; the remainder are leaning towards Biden.

It was on account of so many complexities that Hillary Clinton found herself losing the 2016 election to Trump even though she won more votes than him. It may be mentioned, though, that her lead over Trump in the opinion polls had been just 2 percentage points, while Biden leads his rival by at least 7-8 percentage points.

By that reckoning, Biden's chances of defeating Trump look good, but there's a long way to go and things can change very quickly. Betting markets are certainly not writing Trump off just yet, though seasoned analysts are less convinced about his chances of re-election. The Economist says that Biden is very likely to beat Trump, and this view is echoed by 'FiveThirtyEight', a well-known US website that does poll analysis. Not surprisingly, Trump has dismissed the opinion polls and forecasts of his defeat as biased and incompetent.

One factor which is affecting Trump's re-election prospects is his handling of the coronavirus pandemic; there is dissatisfaction among voters about the President's response. Trump declared a national emergency in March and made \$50 billion available to states to stop the spread of the virus, after which support for him rose to 55%. However, this support has been waning recently. His response to the pandemic is being increasingly questioned as the death toll rises; it has crossed 209,000 and it is feared that it may reach 230,000 by November 3, the election date.

Naturally, Trump is worried on this account and wants to show that he is taking decisive action for combating the virus. He is hopeful that 'Operation Warp Speed', his administration's vaccine initiative, can produce something soon which could swing things in his favor. Trump has repeatedly said a vaccine could be ready as soon as October.



However, the vaccine is getting mired in controversy even before it has arrived. According to U.S. media reports, the Federal Drug Administration(FDA) has been developing

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stricter guidelines for the emergency authorization of a COVID-19 vaccine which will include a requirement for a median of two months of data on clinical vaccine trial participants. In other words, the vaccine may not be available before November 3, the date of the election. Trump has dismissed this as a politically motivated move and said that if the F.D.A. does propose such a two-month trial, he may not approve it (i.e. the trial period). Trump said he wants to avoid any unnecessary delay in the release of a vaccine, adding that he has "tremendous trust" in companies working on its development.

"I don't see any reason why it should be delayed further. Because if they delay it a week or two weeks or three weeks, you know, that's a lot of lives you're talking about," he said.

The economy is typically a top voter-issue in presidential elections. Issues that are deeply personal to their everyday lives rank among the most important priorities that influence voters; their pay-cheques often figure at the top of the list of such issues.

Consequently, having a job is itself an important factor. This aspect has taken on new urgency with millions out of work because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Another issue that is gaining prominence during the build-up to the election relates to racism. Donald Trump has a history of speech and actions that have been widely viewed as racist or racially charged. Although Trump has repeatedly denied accusations of racism, he is increasingly viewed as championing white supremacy. Several studies and surveys have shown that racist attitudes and racial resentment have fueled Trump's political ascendance. Thus, matters that impact communities of color are taking center stage in the elections as non-white voters make up about one-third of the 2020 electorate.



Joe Biden's decision to nominate Senator Kamala Harris, the first Black woman and first Asian American woman as his running mate is an out-reach to colored voters as well as to women voters.

In this background, Joe Biden's decision to nominate Senator Kamala Harris, the first Black woman and first Asian American woman as his running mate is an out-reach to colored voters as well as to women voters.

It cannot be overstated that U.S. Presidential elections are always contested over a host of political, economic, and social issues on which the positions of both the Republicans and the Democrats have evolved over time. As part of its economic conservatism, the Republican Party supports lower taxes, free-market capitalism, the removal of restrictions and regulations on corporations, and restrictions on labor unions. The party is also socially conservative and supports gun-rights and traditional values with a Christian foundation, such as restrictions on abortion. In foreign policy, Republicans usually favor increased military expenditure and tough action against America's enemies. Republicans also want restrictions on immigration.

The Democrats support social programs, labor unions, worker's rights and work-place safety regulations, disability rights and racial equality and reform of the criminal justice system. They also support abortion rights, LGBT rights and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented workers. In foreign policy, they favor a multilateral approach, from which America under Trump has been distancing itself.

While the calculations involved in a U.S. Presidential election are not at all simple, present indications are that Trump faces an uphill task for getting re-elected. Interestingly, Trump is sending out signals that he will not accept defeat. In a press briefing at the White House a few days back, he refused to say whether he would support a peaceful transfer of power if he loses November's election, ignoring a precedent that every other president in American history has accepted.

As a matter of fact, a crisis is developing on account of the concerns which Trump has repeatedly voiced about postal ballots. He has claimed that the postal-ballot route will be misused by the Democrats, that it will result in voter fraud and thus cause his defeat. However,

Ellen Weintraub, commissioner of the Federal Election Commission, has responded: "There's simply no basis for the conspiracy theory that voting by mail causes fraud."

Individual states decide their own



voting rules for federal elections in the U.S. About half of the states allow any registered voter to vote by post on request. In the remaining states, you have to have a valid reason for voting by post - such as being over 65, being ill, or being away from the state you are registered to vote in.

Interestingly, President Trump himself has voted by post in the past, such as in Florida's 2020 primary election as he is a registered voter in that state but is currently living in Washington DC.

In the 2016 U.S. Presidential election, about 25% of votes were cast by post. That number is expected to rise this time due to public health concerns over coronavirus. Many states are encouraging mail-in voting, citing the need to keep voters safe from it. They want to prevent large gatherings at polling stations on election day--a justifiable approach given the prevailing situation.

Moreover, six states will hold "all-mail" ballot elections this November--California, Utah, Hawaii, Colorado, Oregon and Washington. These states will automatically send all registered voters their postal ballots, which then have to be sent back or dropped off on election day - although some in-person voting is still available in certain limited circumstances. More states could follow this route due to public health concerns over coronavirus.

Although every losing Presidential candidate in U.S. history has conceded defeat once he lost the election, Trump has refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power in such an eventuality. When a reporter asked him a direct question on this issue, he did not say yes or no; instead, he gave an insight into his thinking and said, "I've been complaining very strongly about the ballots", adding, "Mail-in ballots are very dangerous--there's tremendous fraud involved".

At a rally in Newport News, Virginia on Friday 25 September, Trump again refused to say whether he would peacefully transition out of the White House if he loses the presidential election, suggesting he would only do so if he was convinced Democrats and their presidential nominee, Joe Biden, did not cheat. "We've gotta watch this ballot scam, because they're scamming us. And then they say, 'He doesn't want to turn over [power].' Of course, I do. But it's gotta be a fair election," Trump told the crowd at the rally. Biden has said that in

this scenario he believes the military would be deployed to remove Trump from the White House!

If he loses the election, Trump may still have some cards up his sleeve. He has said that he believes that the election result could end up in the U.S. Supreme Court. Backed by his battery of attorneys, he is believed to be preparing the groundwork to undermine an election result that does not announce him as victor.

In this context, importance is being attached to Trump's selection of Judge Amy Coney Barrett, a favorite of the Republicans as a new Supreme Court Judge. She will take the place of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a liberal and a Clinton appointee who died recently. Trump has announced that he will try to obtain Senate confirmation for this appointment before Election Day. Biden and the Democrats are urging that the appointment should be made by the winner of the Nov 3 election, but the Senate, which has a Republican majority is likely to go ahead and give the confirmation. This is so because a Supreme Court judge in the U.S. serves for life, and Judge Amy Coney Barret, an avowed Conservative would significantly alter the ideological makeup of the Supreme Court for years to come and ensure that the Republican agenda is not obstructed by the Court.

For Trump, this appointment could be vital. The US Supreme Court has nine judges. After the death of Justice Ginsberg, there are three judges who are regarded as liberal, while four are conservative. The eighth is Chief Justice Roberts who has been described as having a conservative judicial philosophy but has also shown a willingness to work with the Supreme Court's liberal judges. Thus, he has come to be regarded as a swing vote on the Court and Trump cannot rely on him to give a favorable judgement if his own election case is to be decided. Thus, if Judge Barrett is elevated to the Supreme Court, there will be at least five conservative judges, if not six who may side with Trump, which explains his rush to appoint her, as also Biden's opposition to it.

To sum up, if you think that the Nov. 3 election battle has become ugly, then I would just say, "You ain't seen nothing yet".

(The author is a retired career diplomat. He can be reached at prabhu_dayal70@hotmail.com)

(Courtesy OPOYI)

Implications of Donald Trump testing positive for COVID-19



By Prabhu Dayal

Immediately after the US President announced that he and his wife Melania had tested positive for COVID-19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first world leaders to react when he tweeted: "Wishing my friend @POTUS @realDonaldTrump and @FLOTUS a quick recovery and good health".

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan also tweeted: "Wishing President Trump and First Lady Melania Trump speedy recovery from COVID-19".

The editor-in-chief of China's government-backed newspaper, the Global Times, took a less sympathetic line, suggesting that Trump only had himself to blame for contracting the disease. "President Trump and the first lady have paid the price for his gamble to play down the COVID-19," tweeted Hu Xijin.

As CNN put it, "The diagnosis amounts to the most serious known health threat to a sitting American president in decades".

Trump is not the first world leader to be infected. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson of Britain and President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil had both tested positive earlier. However, Trump is older and at higher risk than either of those men.

In fact, medical experts feel that "Trump falls into the highest risk category for serious complications from COVID-19 as he is 74 years old and obese". Coronavirus has killed more than 212,000 Americans and more than 1 million people worldwide.

In the ongoing election scenario, this news is not good at all for Trump and it will negatively affect his re-election prospects. Voters will naturally ask: If the President can't take care of his own health, how will he take care of us?

On many occasions, President Trump had made statements which showed that he had refused to take COVID-19 seriously. For months, he downplayed its severity, refusing to regularly wear a mask and rejecting the advice of the country's top medical experts.

During the recent presidential debate on September 29,

- **Medical experts say that Donald Trump falls in the highest risk category for serious complications from COVID-19 as he is 74 years old and obese**
- **A rally scheduled for October 2 in Florida has been cancelled, raising the question of whether COVID-19 will derail the president's campaign**
- **The Democrats have consistently attacked Trump for taking a cavalier approach towards COVID-19**

President Donald Trump's family members did not wear masks though attendees were told to do so. According to media reports, some members of the Trump administration who were there were also not wearing masks, while people who were there to support Biden wore masks.

During the debate, Trump mocked Joe Biden for frequently wearing masks in public. "Every time you see him, he's got a mask. He could be speaking 200 feet away from it. And he shows up with the biggest mask I've ever seen," he said. Further, he defended his decision to often appear in public without a facial covering, explaining that he wears a mask "when needed."

The Democrats have consistently attacked Trump for taking a cavalier approach towards COVID-19, and they will naturally say how right they were! Ironically, Trump told a political dinner just hours before he was diagnosed that the end of the pandemic is in sight.

As it is, Trump has been trailing in the opinion polls, and analysts also feel that Biden fared better during the presidential debate. So, at a time when the Trump campaign needed to accelerate, it will actually slow down considerably. This is not good news for Trump and the Republicans. A rally scheduled for October 2 in Florida has been cancelled, raising the question of whether COVID-19 will derail the president's campaign just 32 days before Election Day on November 3.

However, in an effort to minimize the damage, Trump's physician Sean Conley has said: "Rest assured I expect the President to continue carrying out his duties without disruption while recovering, and I will keep you updated on any future developments".

The first Presidential debate was held recently on September 29. It was widely criticized not just in the US



US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump tested positive for the coronavirus on Friday, Oct 2 - File photo

but also in the international media. In the UK, The Guardian described it as a "national humiliation", while The Times wrote that the clearest loser from the debate was America." It further said that the event "was not a debate in any meaningful sense" but rather "an ill-tempered and at times incomprehensible squabble between two angry septuagenarians who palpably loathe each other".

"Chaotic, childish, grueling" - that's how French newspaper Libération described the debate, and Le Monde termed it a "terrible storm", while also saying that the President had sought to "push his opponent off his hinges" with constant interruptions and by mocking his answers. A Russian TV channel described it as a "one and a half-hour exchange of insults".

The remaining Presidential debates are scheduled to be held on October 15 and 22 October respectively, but it is not clear now whether they will take place at all. Thus, attention in America and elsewhere will focus on the Vice-Presidential debate between Mike Pence and Kamala Harris on October 7.

Indians will watch it with interest not just because Kamala has a connection to India but also because of her meteoric rise from being the daughter of immigrant parents to a potential Vice President and perhaps even a President in the not so distant a future. As the saying goes, "Who knows what the stars foretell?"

(The author is a retired career diplomat. He can be reached at prabhu_dayal70@hotmail.com)

(Courtesy OPOYI)



By Ven Parameswaran

The first Presidential debate on September 29 was watched by 73 million people. Trump is a gambler, and not just because he owned casinos. He ran one of the biggest gambles of his life in the debate, and whether it pays off now is very uncertain. The President's ultra-aggressive performance in the first presidential debate-aggressive to the point where moderator Chris Wallace had to ask him three times to simply let challenger Joe Biden answer a question-can't have been an accident. It was an effort by a candidate behind in the polls to shake up the race by driving home his principal line of attack: that Biden is too weak to be the president of America.,

Trump chose not simply to say that his opponent is too weak, or too old, or too afraid of his party's left wing, but rather to try to demonstrate it before a worldwide audience by attacking and

Battleground States hold the Key to Victory

belittling him. The subliminal message: If you can't stand up to me, how can you stand up to the leader of China, or those perpetrating violence in the streets of Portland?

And perhaps it worked. Nobody who watched was left in any doubt about the core argument of Trump's campaign, which is in large measure about the assertion that his foe is not up to the demanding job of sitting behind the Resolute Desk.

Biden did, at times, seem taken aback by the relentless ferocity of the onslaught-and if the plan was to get the challenger to overreact by calling the president a "clown," well, that did happen at one point. This is what those who call Trump undisciplined don't entirely grasp: He is very disciplined in driving home his main message, and will do so again and again, without remorse or apology, as he did Tuesday night.

It is important to recall how Trump used almost the same technique in defeating 16 Republican candidates in

2016 and Hillary Clinton. He succeeded in burying Bush and Clinton dynasties, against all odds, including vehement opposition of the mainstream media, continuous investigations, impeachment he has won. Therefore, it is possible his strategy to defeat Biden could work.

Trump was able to impress the audience that he was for law and order and strong economy. He also took credit for appointing 200 judges and 3 Supreme Court judges in his first term (third appointment is in process).

There was little likable about the presidential persona that came across in the debate stage. Maybe that does not matter as much as it used to in politics. Trump has demonstrated that people don't have to like him to support him. A common refrain among Trump voters, in fact, is that he is rough and tough, but that they see that as part of his strength. Yes, they say, he is a bully, but he is our bully.

Trump's main strategy is to attract new voters from the uneducated working class



Trump and Biden at the first presidential debate which threw up unpresidential conduct

located in the battleground states. If so, his aggressive performance in the debate should help him achieve his goals. Rush Limbaugh, most popular talk radio host has praised Trump's debate performance. As mentioned in my previous dispatches, Trump is not appealing to the elites. If Trump knew how to get elected as President in 2016, his strategy to get reelected could succeed.

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

No End to Caste-driven Rape Culture in India

Manisha Valmiki, a Dalit is yet another victim



By George Abraham

Even as the United Nations deliberated on the concrete actions that would advance gender equality for women and girls everywhere, marking the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action - the most comprehensive roadmap for women and girls' empowerment, the world watched once again in horror another rape and murder story unraveling in India's heartland. Any civilized person would shudder at the way this 19-year old Dalit girl was terrorized by four upper caste men in the State of Uttar Pradesh in India. And one wonders why these brutal and horrific incidents continue to happen in India, especially to the Dalits and backward castes, the lower rung of the despicable caste system that is very much alive and well in India, even after seventy years of independence!

Sadly, Uttar Pradesh is the epicenter of these crimes targeted at these helpless women who were taunted and raped at will, many times, just for the simple reason that they belong to the Dalit community.

The latest victim, Manisha Valmiki, a 19-year old, was raped on September 14 in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district. The woman's family told local media that they found her naked, bleeding, and paralyzed with a split tongue and broken spine in a field outside her home. On Tuesday, September 29, she died two weeks after battling severe injuries in a hospital in New Delhi.

Has anything changed since the infamous 'Nirbhaya case'? No, the country has not learned anything from that gruesome affair in its aftermath. The barbarity and the bestiality involved in this killing once again showed the depraved and criminal mindsets of those who perpetrated such heinous acts. The ghastly way this woman was raped and murdered has indeed shaken the nation to its core and terrorized the people of conscience across the world.

To add insult to injury, the Police, who are supposed to be the guardians of fairness and justice, barricaded her family members and locals inside the house and forcibly burned her broken body. The criminal connivance of the U.P. police in siding with the perpetrators of

this heinous act has not surprised those observing the deteriorating law and order situation in U.P. The family was not allowed to see their daughter for one last time to say good-bye. As a senior journalist Yogendra Yadav has said, "even criminals are allowed dignified cremation. Here is a rape victim being cremated by police at 2.30 AM without family members"!

A senior Uttar Pradesh police officer has now said the forensic report has revealed that the victim who succumbed to her injuries was not raped. Citing a lab report, the ADG (law and order) said the cause of her death is an injury on the neck and trauma resulting due to it. It appears to be the case of the law enforcement officers becoming silent spectators for goons and henchmen for the caste-driven hierarchy where people of the lower rung do not stand a chance for justice and fairness. At the same time when we are dealing with this heartbreaking story from Hathras, there is another story from the Balrampur District of U.P., where a Dalit woman died after allegedly gang-raped by two men. At the timing of writing this article, more information on that developing story is still awaited.

The rape and hanging of two Dalit women from the Katra village in Uttar Pradesh not long ago remains fresh in our memory. The father of one of those girls who was gang-raped and brutally murdered asked the Samajwadi Party leader and member of Parliament Dharmendra Yadav a question "Why I am asked about my caste when I go to the Police? Am I not a citizen of India? It is time that this pertinent question is answered not just by a few politicians across the party lines but by the nation itself. What happened in Hathras District and Katra village are horrific crimes of brutality against women that should never have happened.

Millions of Indians everywhere must be feeling the shame of India in the news on the continuing assaults on women. However, these are more than just isolated incidents of criminal wrongdoings, emanating from an entrenched caste-driven mindset of these madmen who feel that they have the God-given right to them and are a privileged sect who can therefore get away with murder. These cases have shocked the nation for many reasons; first and foremost, it once again shows the ugly truth about the age-old caste system that is thriving in India, exploited by various political parties. Shashi Tharoor, a former Congress Minister and Member of Parliament, once was quoted as saying 'when India casts the votes in an election, it is voting the castes.' The family of these victims belong to the Dalit community, whereas the perpetrators of this heinous crime belonged to the higher castes. If one looks at history, the Dalits have been at the receiving end for centuries, being discriminated against by the higher castes with impunity, often being



A protest against an alleged gang rape of a 19-year-old Dalit girl in Uttar Pradesh state, in Bhopal, India, 01 October 2020. - Photo / Courtesy EPA

The growing culture of violence emanates from the wrong-headed sense of ultra-nationalism and majoritarian arrogance that is polarizing the communities and dividing the nation.

harassed and murdered without having a price to pay. Sadly, Uttar Pradesh is the epicenter of these crimes targeted at these helpless women who were taunted and raped at will, many times, just for the simple reason that they belong to the Dalit community.

This latest incident in Hathras has shaken us all, and though stricter laws have been passed since the Nirbhaya case, rape and abuse of women continue to occur unabated. Recent reports show that one rape is committed every 22 minutes, though, the statistics and official records would never reveal the accurate picture as many of these cases go unreported. The Government data published by the National Crimes Bureau shows that crimes against women in 2019 rose 7% over the previous year. The social stigma attached to rape often silences the victim who might be ostracized or ridiculed if they choose to go public. The law enforcement system is not geared to provide sympathetic ears; if anything, they impart fear.

The National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights states that over one-sixth of India's population, some 170 million people, live a precarious existence, shunned by much of Indian Society because of their rank as "untouchables" or Dalits - literally meaning "broken" people - at the bottom of India's caste system. Dalits are discriminated against, denied access to land and basic resources, forced to work in degrading conditions, and routinely abused at the

hands of police and dominant-caste groups that enjoy the State's protection. Among the Dalit community and its supporters and sympathizers, Dr. Ambedkar's statement resonates today more than ever; "My final words of advice to you are: educate, agitate and organize and have faith in yourself. With justice on our side, I do not see how we can lose our battle. The battle, to me, is a matter of joy. This battle is not for wealth or power; it is a battle for freedom. It is a battle for the reclamation of human personality".

Yogi Adityanath, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh who took reigns of the Government when BJP swept the State elections, has to be held responsible for this terrifying State of affairs with incendiary remarks often denigrating women once when he said, "women are not capable of being left alone and their energy should be regulated, lest it becomes worthless and destructive". These statements must be emanating from a dogma he represents that is misogynistic and chauvinistic.

The growing culture of violence emanates from the wrong-headed sense of ultra-nationalism and majoritarian arrogance that is polarizing the communities and dividing the nation. It is time for the nation to call upon the Modi Government to stop paying lip service with slogans like "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" and provide true leadership in bringing perpetrators of this pervasive rape and abuse of women culture across the country to justice regardless of their party affiliations and oust any government officials who remain stumbling blocks to that effort.

Let me ask the NRIs who live in this country in their comfort zone, "where is your moral outrage"? We are a community that gets riled up at the slightest form of discrimination or stereotyping in this country of our adoption. Will we ever show the courage to join this 'battle for freedom', as Ambedkar called it, for the sake of India?

(The author is a former Chief Technology Officer of the United Nations and the Vice-Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA)

White House aide Hope Hicks tests positive for coronavirus, Trump is Moved to Walter Reed Hospital



Hope Hicks, one of Trump's closest advisers, who traveled with him several times this week aboard Air Force One, tested positive for the coronavirus.

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Trump said Thursday, October 1 night that he and first lady Melania Trump would begin "the quarantine process" after one of his closest advisers, Hope Hicks, who traveled with him several times this week aboard Air Force One, tested positive for the coronavirus.

Hope Hicks is one of the few true insiders in the Trump family, even having Shabbat dinners (special meals in the Jewish faith) with Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner. She was also one of the few people who got to meet the Pope with Donald Trump in May 2017. Hope Hicks resigned in February 2018, one day after she testified to Congress that she occasionally told white lies on Mr. Trump's behalf.

In the interim she worked for Fox News but returned to the president's team earlier this year.

Kellyanne Conway announces she tested positive for Coronavirus

WASHINGTON (TIP): Former White House counselor Kellyanne Conway said Friday, October 2 night that she has tested positive for coronavirus, the latest major political figure to say they have Covid-19 after attending a Rose Garden event last Saturday where President Donald Trump announced his Supreme Court pick.

"Tonight, I tested positive for COVID-19. My symptoms are mild (light cough) and I'm feeling fine. I have begun a quarantine process in consultation with physicians," Conway tweeted. "As always, my heart is with everyone affected by this global pandemic."

Conway is now the fifth person who attended the event last week, where masks and social distancing were rare, known to have subsequently tested positive. President Donald Trump, first lady Melania Trump, Republican Utah Sen. Mike Lee, Republican North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis and University of Notre Dame President the Rev. John Jenkins are all confirmed to be positive for Covid-19.

Many of the guests for Trump's



Kellyanne has been one of the fiercest and the most controversial defenders of President Trump

announcement that he was nominating Judge Amy Coney Barrett arrived at the event with masks on, but as the Rose Garden event got underway, masks were virtually nonexistent.

Some of the Trump administration's top health officials, as well as other attendees, were seen not wearing masks or social distancing at the highest-profile event at the White House since the Republican National Convention in August.

Seats for guests in the White House Rose Garden also did not appear spaced apart the recommended six feet, CNN

reporters observed.

Conway also had interacted with Trump and other advisers since Saturday, CNN has reported, participating in debate prep sessions with the President on Sunday and Monday, people familiar with the matter told CNN.

Kellyanne Conway's husband, George Conway, appeared to weigh in on the news with a jab at the President.

"I can relate," he tweeted Friday night of a news story about frustrated Secret Service agents asserting that the President's actions have put them at risk of catching coronavirus.

Kellyanne Conway had announced in August that she would leave her post at the end of the month, while her husband said he was withdrawing from his work on the anti-Trump Republican group The Lincoln Project, both citing a need to focus on their family.

Her departure marked an abrupt end to her high-profile tenure at the White House, where she earned a reputation as one of the President's fiercest -- and most controversial -- defenders. (Source: CNN)

New Florida laws in effect as of October 2020

TALLAHASSEE, FL (TIP): With the calendar rolling over to October, several new laws are going into effect.

HB 205 - Unlawful Use of Uniforms, Medals, or Insignia - Prohibits certain misrepresentations concerning military service when made for specified purposes.

HB 333 - Bail Pending Appellate Review - Prohibits bail to specified offenders pending review following conviction for offense requiring sexual offender or sexual predator registration if victim was minor.

HB 387 - License Plate Fees - Providing for collection of a uniform annual use fee for a specialty license plate unless otherwise specified, etc.

HB 675 - Exposure of Sexual Organs - Increases criminal penalties for exposure of sexual organs for second or subsequent offense; authorizes warrantless arrests when law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that person has unlawfully exposes sexual organs.

HB 915 - Commercial Service Airports - Directing the Auditor General to conduct specified audits of certain airports; requiring certain members of the governing body of a large-hub commercial service airport to comply with certain financial disclosure requirements; requiring the governing body of a municipality, county, or special district that operates a commercial service airport to establish and maintain a website; requiring the governing body to post or provide links

to certain information on the website; requiring commercial service airports to comply with certain contracting requirements; requiring governing body members and employees of a commercial service airport to comply with certain ethics requirements; requiring the department to review such information and submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislature; prohibiting the expenditure of certain funds unless specified conditions are met, etc.

HB 1135 - License Plates - Authorizing election of a permanent registration period for certain vehicles if certain conditions are met; revising presale requirements for issuance of a specialty license plate; prohibiting annual use fees received by any entity from being used for certain purposes; requiring that certain documentation be on file with the department prior to the development of certain license plates, etc.

HB 7015 - OGSR/Body Camera Recordings - Removes scheduled repeal of exemption from public records requirements for body camera recordings.

HB 7019 - OGSR/Human Trafficking Victims - Removes scheduled repeal of exemption from public records requirements for certain criminal intelligence & criminal investigative information that reveal identity of certain human trafficking victims.

SB 294 - Crimes Against Veterans - Citing this act as the "Florida Veterans

Protection Act"; providing an enhanced sentence for any person who commits aggravated white collar crimes against a certain number of veterans by obtaining or attempting to obtain a specified amount of money; providing criminal penalties, etc.

SB 680 - Shark Fins - Citing this act as the "Kristin Jacobs Ocean Conservation Act"; prohibiting the import, export, and sale of shark fins in this state; providing exceptions; requiring the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to evaluate the potential economic impacts to the commercial shark fishing industry in this state; requiring the commission to review the potential impact on shark populations; requiring a report to the Legislature by a specified date; authorizing the Legislature to impose a ban on the domestic production of shark fins based upon the findings of the report, etc.

SB 1286 - Contraband in Specified Facilities - Prohibiting the introduction of certain cannabis related substances, cellular telephones and other portable communication devices, and vapor-generating electronic devices inside specified facilities of the Department of Children and Families or of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities; providing criminal penalties; prohibiting the introduction of certain cannabis related substances and vapor-generating electronic devices inside a state correctional institution, etc.

(Source: agencies)

Michigan governor says Trump testing positive should be a 'wake-up call to every single American'



"The virus doesn't care if you're rich or poor, a Republican or a Democrat, young or old. No one is immune. Not even the president," said Michigan governor Whitmer

MICHIGAN (TIP): Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D), a national co-chairwoman of Biden's campaign, said in a statement Friday, October 2, that Trump testing positive for the coronavirus should "serve as a wake-up call to every single American."

"The virus doesn't care if you're rich or poor, a Republican or a Democrat, young or old. No one is immune. Not even the president," said Whitmer, among the Democratic governors Trump criticized for moving too slowly to reopen their economies.

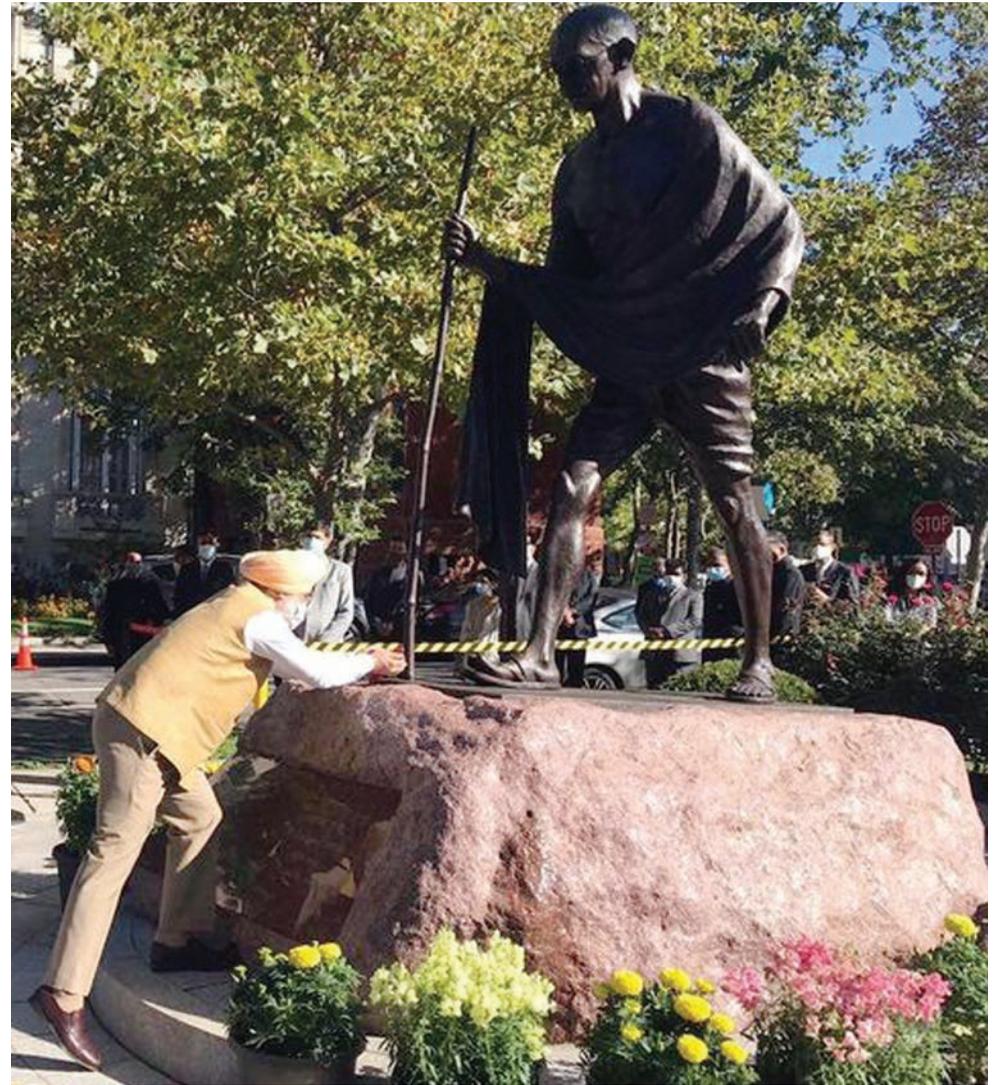
Whitmer, who was considered as a possible Biden running mate, also wished Trump and his wife a speedy recovery. "My sincere hope is that today's news will serve as a wake-up call to every single American," Whitmer said.

Indian Embassy in Washington Celebrates 151st Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

WASHINGTON (TIP): The 151st Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was celebrated at the Embassy of India, Washington, DC on October 2, 2020. In the morning, Congressman Gregory Meeks, and Ambassador of India Taranjit Singh Sandhu paid floral tributes at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Gandhi Plaza. Separately, Congressman Meeks spoke of the relevance of Gandhi's message to the world and said "Mahatma Gandhi is such a man who made a difference not only in India but around the world. It was his leadership, his thoughts, his actions that inspired Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

In the afternoon, a virtual event was organized to mark the conclusion of the 2-year long Gandhi @150 celebrations.

During the event, 17 Congresspersons from various parts of the United States delivered messages on the importance of Mahatma Gandhi's life. Ambassador Sandhu addressed the event and said: "The Mahatma Gandhi Memorial that stands tall in front of the Embassy today is a testimony to the ideals that India and the United States share, the values that we cherish." The event also featured a message from Srimati Karuna, Director of the Gandhi Centre in DC, and special performances from various artists in the US and India. On 1st October, the Embassy held a virtual Gandhi Katha session (narration of stories of Mahatma Gandhi) with Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna, which saw the participation of more than 9000 persons.



Ambassador of India to the U.S. Taranjit Singh Sandhu paying floral tributes at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Gandhi Plaza

Pelosi anticipates reaching economic relief deal with Mnuchin

WASHINGTON (TIP): House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Friday, October 2, she anticipates striking a bipartisan economic relief deal with the Trump administration, suggesting that the president's coronavirus diagnosis could speed up an agreement. She called on airlines to hold off on imminent furloughs pending a deal, a Washington Pot report says.

"This kind of changes the dynamic because here they see the reality of what we have been saying all along - this is a vicious virus," Pelosi (D-Calif.) said on MSNBC.

"I'm optimistic. I'm always optimistic," she said. "We always have to find a path - that is our responsibility to do so - and I believe that we will."

Democrats had sought a \$2.2 trillion package, while the White House's most recent offer was closer to \$1.6 trillion. Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin spoke Friday afternoon for 65 minutes and plan to continue their discussions, according to Drew Hammill, a spokesman for the House speaker.

The pace of talks - and the possibility of a deal - have picked up markedly in recent days. White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows told reporters Friday that President Trump had inquired about the status of negotiations Friday morning, shortly after the president announced his positive coronavirus test.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) sounded a positive note at a news conference in Kentucky.

"I'm trying to figure out here whether I

should predict another bill quickly or not, but the talks have speeded up in the last couple days," said McConnell, who is not directly involved in the negotiations but is regularly briefed by Mnuchin. "I think we're closer to getting an outcome."

With the talks picking up steam, Pelosi released a statement Friday calling on airlines to delay imminent furloughs of workers after payroll support included in the Cares Act expired Wednesday. Pelosi said a six-month extension of the Payroll Support Program would be included in any deal or passed as a stand-alone bill. American Airlines and United Airlines this week announced they would be furloughing a combined 32,000 employees because federal aid expired, and the travel industry remains battered by the coronavirus pandemic.

Both airlines released statements pledging to reverse the furloughs if Congress acts but urging lawmakers to move quickly.

The U.S. economy plunged sharply into a recession earlier this year when the coronavirus pandemic led many companies and employers to lay off workers and temporarily close. The economy recovered a bit during the summer, but it has shown signs of lagging in recent weeks, particularly as several large companies have announced new plans for layoffs. The emerging headwinds have helped revive talks between the White House and Democrats, but several significant issues remain unresolved.

Pelosi outlined some of them in a letter

Friday afternoon to House Democrats that pointed to unemployment insurance, money for cities and states, and tax credits for children and families as among the areas where she had yet to reach agreement with Mnuchin.

"We are expecting a response from the White House on these areas and others with more detail," Pelosi wrote. "In the meantime, we continue to work on the text to move quickly to facilitate an agreement."

In a sign that a deal could be emerging, Mnuchin told at least one Republican senator in a phone call Thursday night that the agreement with Pelosi would include a substantial amount of money for state and local governments, a provision numerous conservative Republican senators have strongly resisted, according to one person who spoke on the condition of anonymity to share details of the private conversation. The call was interpreted as designed to prepare conservatives for the White House to give more on state and local aid than they had previously expected.

A Treasury Department spokeswoman confirmed that Mnuchin spoke on the phone with GOP senators, but she would not comment on their substance.

Mnuchin and Pelosi have mostly conducted their negotiations over the phone, but they met at length in person on Wednesday. After Trump reported his positive coronavirus diagnosis early Friday, Mnuchin reported testing negative and phoned Pelosi to inform her of that result, Pelosi said.



Democrats had sought a \$2.2 trillion package, while the White House's most recent offer was closer to \$1.6 trillion. "We always have to find a path - that is our responsibility to do so - and I believe that we will", said Pelosi.

The speaker said that she had been tested Friday morning "out of an abundance of caution," and her office later announced that the result was negative.

Layoffs pile up as jobless claims remain stubbornly high

After bipartisan talks broke down in early August, prospects for any new stimulus deal before the election looked grim, despite continued high unemployment and the virus's persistent spread. But with moderates in both parties increasingly anxious over Congress's inaction, negotiations between Pelosi and Mnuchin resumed this week and appeared to be getting serious, even as House Democrats approved their own \$2.2 trillion bill late Thursday without GOP support. House lawmakers left the capital Friday after casting what were supposed to be their final votes before the election, but they could be called back to vote on a deal. Several items have been agreed to, including a new round of \$1,200 checks to individuals. Pelosi said they were nearing agreement on \$75 billion for coronavirus testing and tracing, with Democrats pushing for language ensuring a comprehensive testing strategy.

*(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)*

BJP will contest all 117 seats in Punjab in 2022 polls

Six days after the Akali Dal snapped ties with the BJP over farm laws, the saffron party's newly appointed national general secretary Tarun Chugh on Friday, Oct 2, said the party will contest all 117 seats in 2022 assembly elections in Punjab.

The state will have a BJP chief minister, said Chugh who was felicitated by the party rank and file in Amritsar after being appointed as national general secretary.

"We need to start groundwork with new energy as countdown has begun now," he added.

Bihar's Grand Alliance close to sealing deal

The Grand Alliance in Bihar, which includes the state's main opposition parties, seems to have arrived at a consensus over seat sharing ahead of the three-phase assembly elections on October 28, November 3 and 7.

The Congress is likely to fight elections from 70 of the 243 constituencies in Bihar, sources said. Lalu Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal has landed the biggest chunk of 143 seats and will accommodate Mukesh Sahani's Vikassheel Insaan Party on 10-12 of them. The Left parties have been given 28-30 seats, sources said.

India's Covid death toll crosses one lakh, 64,73,544 infected

India's COVID-19 death toll crossed one lakh and the infection tally climbed to 64,73,544, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease crossed 54 lakh pushing the recovery rate to 83.84 per cent, the Union Health Ministry said on Saturday, October 3.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 64,73,544 with 79,476 new infections being reported in a day, while the death toll climbed to 1,00,842 with the virus claiming 1,069 lives in a span of 24 hours, data updated at 8 am showed.

The total recoveries have surged to 54,27,706, while there are 9,44,996 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 14.60 per cent of the total caseload, the data showed.

The COVID-19 case fatality rate was recorded at 1.56 per cent.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16 and crossed 60 lakh on September 28.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a cumulative total of 7,78,50,403 samples have been tested up to October 2, of which 11,32,675 were tested on Friday.

For the 11th successive day, India's active COVID-19 cases remained less than 10 lakh, while the country continued to maintain its global position of having the maximum number of recovered patients, the Union Health Ministry said.

With 78,877 people having recuperated from COVID-19 in a span of 24 hours,



India's total recoveries surged to 53,52,078 pushing the recovery rate to 83.70 per cent, according to data updated at 8 am.

"The last 10 lakh recoveries were added in just 12 days. With this, India continues to maintain its global position of being the country with the maximum number of recovered COVID patients in the world," the Ministry said.

There are 9,42,217 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country

which comprises 14.74 per cent of the total caseload. Maharashtra is leading the tally among states with more than 2.5 lakh cases. Karnataka follows with more than 1 lakh cases, the ministry said.

Fourteen states and union territories, including Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh, Puducherry, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Sikkim, have less than 5,000 active cases of COVID-19, the Ministry highlighted.

AIIMS report rules out Sushant murder theories, say sources

NEW DELHI (TIP): Actor Sushant Singh Rajput was not murdered and it is a case of suicide, a team of doctors from Delhi's AIIMS has said in its opinion to CBI, sources have told NDTV, dismissing the theories of poisoning and strangling floated by the actor's family and their lawyer.

The 34-year-old movie star was found dead on June 14 in his Mumbai apartment. Though the Mumbai police, based on the autopsy, called it a suicide, wild speculation and campaigns of justice on social media and allegations from Sushant Singh Rajput's family raised doubts that became a part of an overall CBI investigation.

Sources said the AIIMS Panel has completed the examination and closed the file after giving conclusive medico-legal opinion in this case and the CBI is corroborating the report with their investigation.

The CBI is likely to continue its probe into "abetment to suicide", the charge that was originally listed by the Bihar Police, sources said.

They also said the AIIMS panel has concurred with the opinion of the Mumbai hospital that carried out the autopsy. The Mumbai hospital's autopsy had found "asphyxia due to hanging" as the cause of death.

Sources added that circumstantial evidence also suggests that it was a case



of suicide and not murder.

Sushant Singh Rajput's family and some friends had raised questions about how he died.

The Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) was tasked by the CBI to forensically examine the crime scene for any evidence of foul play in the death. "All aspects are still open in the probe, if any evidence comes to light proving otherwise, Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code (murder) will be added, but nothing has come up in 45 days of probe," the sources said.

The CBI investigation began after the family filed a case accusing the actor's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty of mentally harassing him, medicating him, exploiting him for money and playing a role in his death.

Babri demolition: LK Advani, MM Joshi among 32 accused acquitted

LUCKNOW (TIP): Almost 28 years after the demolition of the Babri Masjid, a special CBI court on Wednesday (Sept 30) acquitted all the 32 accused, including BJP leaders Lal Krishna Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Kalyan Singh, Uma Bharti, in the criminal conspiracy case, holding that there was no conclusive proof against them.

CBI judge Surendra Kumar Yadav said the demolition of the 500-year old Babri Masjid was not pre-planned and the accused were being acquitted due to lack of evidence. "They have been acquitted for lack of evidence," said defence lawyer KK Mishra.

Twenty-six out of the 32 accused were present in the special court when the judgment was pronounced while Advani, MM Joshi, Uma Bharti, Satish Pradhan, Nriyeta Gopal Das and Kalyan Singh excused themselves on grounds of health and age. Outside the court, there was heavy police deployment and barricading. Media persons were not allowed to enter the court premises in Qaiserbagh area of Lucknow.

AIMPLB secretary Zafaryab Jilani said they would appeal against the verdict in the High Court. "The judgment pronounced by the special CBI court is wrong. We will appeal in the High Court," said Jilani, who was also part of the Babri



Action Committee.

Advani said the judgement vindicated his personal and BJP's belief and commitment toward the Ram Janmabhoomi movement while Murli Manohar Joshi called it a "historic decision" by the court.

"This proves that no conspiracy was hatched for December 6 incident in Ayodhya. Our program and rallies were not part of any conspiracy. We are happy, everyone should now be excited about Ram Mandir's construction," Joshi said.

The Congress said the verdict runs counter to the 2019 Supreme Court judgment as also the "Constitutional spirit". Congress leader Randeep Surjewala said the "entire country (had) witnessed a deep-rooted political conspiracy by BJP-RSS and its leaders" to destroy the country's "communal amity and brotherhood for usurping power at any cost".

Govt to waive interest on loans up to Rs 2 crore

In a huge reprieve for borrowers, the government has told the Supreme Court that it is ready to waive interest on the repayment of loans of up to Rs 2 crore, frozen by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in a six-month moratorium granted because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The interest waiver will apply for loans taken by MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises), for educational, housing, consumer goods and auto loans and for credit card dues.

"Under pandemic conditions, the only solution is for the government to bear the burden of waiving of interest," the government has said in an affidavit submitted on Friday, adding that it will seek parliament's permission for grants to enable the move.

For the categories specified by the government, the waiver on interest will be irrespective of whether the borrower has availed of the moratorium.

But the Finance Ministry says waiving off interest on loans to every category would amount to a burden of Rs 6 lakh crore for banks. "If the banks were to bear this burden, it would necessarily wipe out a major part of their net worth, rendering most of the banks unviable and raising a very serious question mark on their survival," it says.

India, Germany to hold talks on October 6 on resumption of flights

Germany said on Friday, Oct 2, it will hold talks with India on October 6 on how to resume passenger flight operations between the two countries.

"We have received signals that India is also interested in a quick and satisfactory solution for both sides," the German Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI) told PTI.

On Tuesday, Lufthansa had announced cancellation of all "planned flights" between India and Germany from September 30 to October 20 because of an "unexpected rejection" of its flight schedule by the Indian authorities.

Air India on Thursday cancelled all 12 flights between Frankfurt and India till October 14 because Germany withdrew its permission to operate them.

In response to queries sent by the PTI, the BMVI stated it and the Indian Ministry of Civil Aviation are "confirmed to hold bilateral talks on October 6 through video conference".

"The aim is to find a solution on how to restore civil air transport between Germany and India in the spirit of the existing air transport agreement between our two countries," it added.

Amid LAC row, Modi inaugurates strategic Atal Tunnel at Rohtang

MANALI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Atal Tunnel at Rohtang in Himachal Pradesh on Saturday, October 3. Atal Tunnel, built at an altitude of 3000 meters connecting Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley, will be available to the commuters throughout the year.

The Atal Tunnel or the Atal Rohtang Tunnel will reduce the distance between Manali and Leh by 46 km and the travel time by four to five hours.

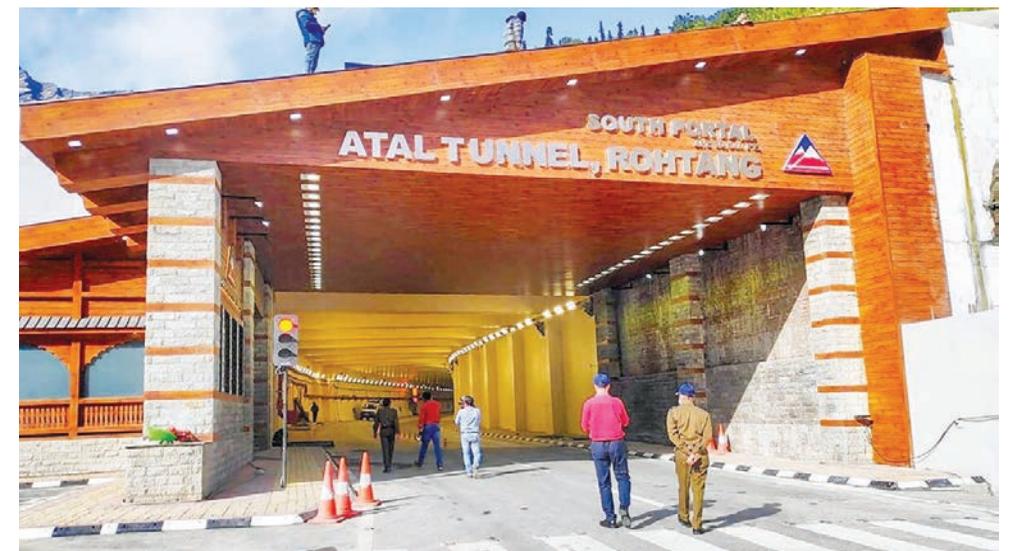
For the inauguration of the Atal Rohtang Tunnel or the Atal Tunnel, PM Narendra Modi was accompanied by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, and Army Chief General MM Naravane.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Atal Tunnel at around 10:30 am along with Rajnath Singh.

The strategically crucial tunnel, which will ensure all-weather connectivity between Manali and Leh, assumes importance on the backdrop of ongoing tensions between Indian and Chinese troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The tunnel will ensure that the route remains open and well connected throughout the year, including during winter months when heavy snowfall blocks the present route via Rohtang pass.

PRIMARY FEATURES

The Atal Tunnel is a 9.02-km-long tunnel that goes under the Rohtang Pass in the eastern Pir Panjal range on the Leh-Manali highway. Atal Rohtang Tunnel is the longest highway tunnel in the world.



The Atal Tunnel connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley, which was earlier cut off for about six months due to heavy snowfall, throughout the year.

The Atal Rohtang Tunnel will decrease the travel time by four to five hours. The tunnel also reduces the road distance between Manali and Leh by 46 km.

4,500 VEHICLES A DAY

The Atal Rohtang Tunnel is designed for traffic density of up to 3,000 cars and 1,500 trucks per day with a max pace of 80 km per hour.

IMPORTANT FACTS

The Atal Tunnel was earlier known as the Rohtang tunnel. On Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 95th birth anniversary on December 24, 2019, the central government decided to name the Rohtang tunnel as Atal Tunnel to honour former



Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The decision to construct the tunnel in Rohtang was taken in 2000 when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the prime minister.

Pentagon okays \$90 million sale of spares, support for C-130J Super Hercules aircraft to India

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Pentagon has approved India's request to buy US\$ 90 million worth of equipment, spare parts and logistical support for its fleet of C-130J Super Hercules cargo aircraft.

In its notification to the Congress, the Defence Security Cooperation Agency said the proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the US by helping to strengthen the US-India strategic relationship and improve the security of a major defence partner, which continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia region.

The items ordered by India are aircraft consumable spares and repair/return parts; ground support and equipment; Cartridge Actuated Devices/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD) fire extinguisher cartridges; flare cartridges; BBU-35/B cartridge impulse squibs.

India has also ordered for one spare AN/ALR-56M Advanced Radar Warning Receiver shipset; spare AN/ALE-47 Countermeasures Dispenser System shipset; ten Lightweight Night Vision Binocular (F5032); 10 AN/AVS-9 Night Vision Goggle (NVG)(F4949); GPS and Electronic Warfare.

It is also seeking instruments and lab equipment support; joint mission planning system; cryptographic device spares and loaders; software and software support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training and training equipment; contractor engineering, technical and logistical support, and other related elements of programme support.

According to the notification, the proposed sale ensures that the previously procured aircraft operates effectively to serve the needs of the Indian Air Force, Army and Navy transport



requirements, local and international humanitarian assistance and regional disaster relief.

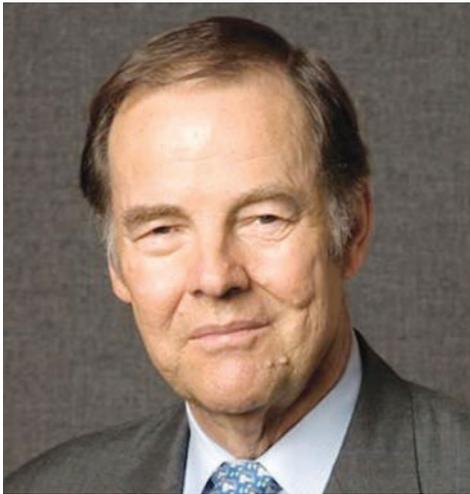
This sale of spares and services will enable the Indian Air Force to sustain a higher mission-ready status fleet, it said.

India will have no difficulty absorbing this additional sustainment support, it said, adding that the proposed sale of this equipment and support worth US\$ 90 million will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

Notification of such major sales is mandatory under the Arms Export Control Act. Lawmakers have 30 days to review the proposed sale. The sale would be executed by defence major Lockheed-Martin.

India is one of the 17 countries to whom the US has sold its C-130J Super Hercules aircraft. The Indian Air Force currently operates a fleet of five C-130J-30s. India has placed order for additional six C-130J-30s Super Hercules aircraft.

WOMEN@NJ PAC CELEBRATES SPOTLIGHT GALA @ HOME



Gov. Thomas Kean, Founder-NJPAC
Photo / Courtesy, NJPAC



Actor-Singer Brian Stokes Mitchell
Photo / Courtesy, NJPAC



NJ Gov. Phil Murphy
Photo / Courtesy, NJPAC



NJ First Lady Tammy Murphy
Photo / Courtesy, NJPAC

BY MABEL PAIS

Even before the Arts Center opened its doors, the 'Spotlight Gala' has been a way for us to celebrate the arts, and gather together the community that has made NJPAC a vital and effective anchor cultural institution." -- John Schreiber, President-CEO, NJPAC

Tony Winner Brian Stokes Mitchell stars in Women@NJPAC's

Salute to the Great American Songbook

Spotlight Gala Broadcast on NJTV - October 3, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Women @ NJPAC celebrate their 26th Annual Spotlight Gala on October 3 at 7 p.m. This is the first virtual celebration.

Brian Stokes Mitchell, Broadway's favorite leading man, will headline an inspiring celebration of American song at NJPAC's annual Spotlight Gala @ Home on October 3. The concert portion of the evening, American Songbook at NJPAC will be broadcast on NJTV and njtvonline.org at 7PM EST.

Thereafter, the celebration will be capped at 8PM by a live dance party on NJPAC's Instagram Live account (@njpac). All are invited to tune in to participate in this salute to the life-affirming power of the performing arts,

and to help NJPAC continue its work in arts education and community engagement - programming that the Arts Center has provided online throughout the pandemic.

NJPAC's Founder, Governor Tom Kean, and New Jersey's current Governor and First Lady, Phil Murphy and Tammy Snyder Murphy, will be honored with the Arts Center's Founders Award during the event.

"This year, for the first time, we can't bring the family of Arts Center friends and supporters together on our campus. But we were determined that even the pandemic wouldn't stop us from hosting 'the party of the year' and toasting the friends, allies and supporters that have kept NJPAC a vibrant home for performances, community engagement and arts education in New Jersey," says John Schreiber, President & CEO of NJPAC.

This annual spectacular is organized by Women@NJPAC, the Arts Center's longtime advocacy organization. (formerly 'The Women's Association of NJPAC').

In addition to Mitchell, the televised concert will feature a slate of stellar performers including Billy Porter, Christine Ebersole, Jessie Mueller, Valerie Simpson, Jarrod Spector and Joshua Bell, all performing classics compiled from NJTV's American Songbook at NJPAC.

After the broadcast concert, Arts Center fans are invited to join an Instagram after-party hosted by DJ KISS and DJ M.O.S., deejays to the stars best known for spinning tunes for the Academy Awards' red carpet and Governor's Ball. Surprise special guest appearances will keep the party lively.

About the Women@NJPAC

Women@NJPAC is celebrating 26 years and over \$54 million raised to support NJPAC and its programs that enrich the lives of our current and future generations of cultural citizens.

Established in 1994, and originally known as "The Women's Board of NJPAC" and later "the Women's Association (WA) of NJPAC," the organization began with only nine members. These "founding mothers" not only helped raise the funding necessary to open the Arts Center in October of 1997, they also grew their small band into a powerhouse of fundraising and "friend-raising" that today proudly numbers over 2,000 members.

For years, the WA has worked with the Arts Center to fulfill its mission to innovate, educate, collaborate, and advocate.

In addition, over the past 26 years, the Women@NJPAC has become an organization that not only supports the

work of the Arts Center, but serves as a networking venue par excellence for New Jersey women, and a funder with a particular focus on issues impacting women and girls.

Women@NJPAC annually hosts multiple events on and off the Arts Center campus, including 'A Gathering of Givers', an annual convening of women active in philanthropy, held on International Women's Day.

Past Guests have included First Lady Murphy and Andrea Jung, President and CEO of Grameen America, which provides micro-loans and financial training to women entrepreneurs who live below the federal poverty line. This event each year welcomes hundreds of women to explore ways in which they can pool resources and create significant change through giving, organizing, and activating personal and professional networks. For more information, visit njpac.org/support/women-at-njpac.

About NJPAC

To learn about NJPAC, visit njpac.org or call 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722)

Get Social! Follow NJPAC Online:

Twitter: @NJPAC

Hashtag: #NJPAC

Facebook: facebook.com/NJPAC

YouTube: NJPACtv

WIPA COMMENCES SALON SERIES

BY MABEL PAIS

Starts October 4 at 7 p.m. Livestream
Free of Charge

The Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA) kicks off the virtual Salon Series on Sunday, October 4 at 7:00 p.m. on WhartonArts.tv. Replacing cabaret-style seating on stage alongside the performers in Wharton's black box theatre, the intimate concert series continues via livestream free of charge.

Audience members are invited to watch from the comfort of home and share on social media the wine and cheese pairings of their choice while viewing. For full concert details, visit WhartonArts.org.

The Sunday evening series opens with pianist, composer, and arranger Matt King performing

selections from the Great American Songbook, jazz classics, and original compositions. A former Composition Fellowship recipient from the NJ State Council on the Arts, King has garnered awards as a semi-finalist at the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Piano Competition and winner of the Great American Jazz Piano Competition (2000). He toured extensively with the iconic group Blood, Sweat & Tears and served as music director for jazz guitarist Chuck Loeb. He has performed with symphony orchestras across the United States and appeared on 'The Today Show' and 'Good Morning America'. He can be heard at Holland's renowned North Sea Jazz Festival, the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, the Montreal Jazz Festival, and the Cape Town Jazz Festival.

About WIPA

The Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts' (WIPA) mission is to provide the highest quality performing arts education to a wide range of students in a supportive and inclusive environment, where striving for personal excellence inspires and connects those WIPA teaches to the communities we serve.

Wharton is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving over 1,200 students through a range of classes and ensembles including the 15 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, which serve 500 students in grades 3 - 12 by audition. To learn more, visit whartonarts.org

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

FILMS OF NOTE

BY MABEL PAIS

FEATURES

THE KEEPER

DIR: Marcus H. Rosenmüller | 2019 | Germany/UK | Drama | English/German | 2h



*The Keeper", Poster
Photo / Menemsha
Films/kinomarque.com*

"The focus (of the film) is on the individual responsibility of each person for his or her actions, but even more on the responsibility for his or her inaction. It is an appeal that solidarity and humanity do not happen on their own but have to be fought for." - Marcus H. Rosenmüller, Director Based on Remarkable TRUE STORY OF FORGIVENESS Winner: 10 U.S. Film Festival Audience Awards Virtual Cinemas, Live

Theatres Nationwide, October 2nd

"The Keeper" is a compelling story about a former enemy overcoming bigotry and hate to become the hero of a nation. It's a movie about forgiveness, reconciliation and courage - the courage to apologize and the courage to accept that apology. And most of all it is a movie about the courage to love.

"The Keeper," directed by Marcus H. Rosenmüller, tells the incredible true story of Bert Trautmann (David Kross), a German soldier and prisoner of war who, against a backdrop of British post-war protest and prejudice, secures the position of Goalkeeper at Manchester City, and in doing so becomes a footballing icon. His signing causes outrage to thousands of fans, many of them Jewish. But Bert receives support from an unexpected direction: Rabbi Alexander Altmann, who fled the Nazis. Bert's love for Margaret (Freya Mavor), an English woman, carries him through and he wins over even his harshest opponents by winning the 1956 FA Cup Final, playing on with a broken neck to secure victory. But fate will soon twist the knife for Bert and Margaret when their love and loyalty to each other is put to the ultimate test.

Trailer: https://youtu.be/Ok_y7FCjQik
To learn more, visit menemshafilms.com/keeper

THE INFILTRATORS

DIRS: Alex Rivera & Cristina Ibarra | 2019 | USA | Docu-Thriller | Spanish/English | 1h 30m



A scene from "The Infiltrators" - Photo / C. Ibarra/A. Rivera

"We live in a national reality in which hundreds of thousands of immigrants are being disappeared into for-profit detention centers, without trial, without attorneys representing them." - Alex Rivera: Co-Director, Co-Screenwriter

"We hope that our film inspires audiences to find visionary political solutions to the crisis of immigrant detention. It starts with seeing." - Alex Rivera, Cristina Ibarra, Co-Directors

**WINNER - Sundance Film Festival
PBS-POV Unvarnished Look at U.S. Immigration
Detention Centers From the Inside
Monday, October 5, 2020**

"The Infiltrators" tells the true story of two young immigrants who in 2012 were detained by the U.S. Border Patrol on purpose and put in a shadowy for-profit detention center in Broward County, Florida. Marco Saavedra and Viridiana "Viri" Martinez, who have protected status through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA), are members of the National Immigrant Youth Alliance, a group of radical DREAMers who are on a mission to stop deportations. And the best place to stop deportations, they believe, is in detention facilities. However, when Saavedra and Martinez attempt a daring reverse 'prison break,' things don't go according to plan. By weaving together documentary footage of the real infiltrators with re-enactments of the events inside the detention center, "The Infiltrators" tells an incredible and thrilling true story by way of a genre-defying cinematic language. To learn more, visit infiltratorsfilm.com

LOVE CHILD

DIR: Eva Mulvad | 2019 | Denmark | Farsi, Azerbaijani, Turkish, English | 1h 52m



A scene from "Love Child" - Photo / PBS/POV

"While there are many genres of documentary, the love story is uncommon." - Justine Nagan: Exec.Prod.-Exec.Dir., POV/American Documentary

**Award Winner Doc "Love Child"
Special Jury Mention - 2019 DOC NYC Film Festival
Award Winner: 2019 Chicago International Film Festival**

"Love Child", award-winning documentary is a political love story about Leila, her secret love, Sahand, and their escape from their Iranian homeland for Love and Family in spite of an uncertain future.

On a cold winter's day, a plane arrives in Istanbul with four-year-old Mani, and his parents on board. Though they seem like any other family on a trip, the little boy doesn't know that the journey is an escape, that the three of them can never return to Iran and that

the 'uncle' he is travelling with is really his biological father. With adultery punishable by death, this family could never live together in Iran, so they flee their country in search of a safe place in the West where they can build a life together. Ultimately, "Love Child" documents the triumph of love and human will over a pitiless state and a faceless bureaucracy.

THE ANTENNA

DIR/WRIT: Orçun Behram | 2020 | Turkey | Horror, Thriller | Turkish w/Eng subs | Color | 1h 55m

**VIRTUAL THEATERS: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2020
NATIONWIDE RELEASE: OCTOBER 20, 2020**

In a dystopian Turkey, the Government installs new networks throughout the country to monitor information.

The installation goes wrong in a crumbling apartment complex and Mehmet, the building intendant, will have to confront the evil entity behind the inexplicable transmissions that threaten the residents.

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/nSWR4rz7EkA>

Release Date - October 2: Virtual - Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia and more major cities

October 20: US & Canada including iTunes, Amazon, Google Play, Xbox, Vudu, Dish Network and all major cable providers.

SHORTS

MIRROR

DIR: Christina Yoon | 2020 | USA | VIRTUAL: LAAPFF 2020, OCTOBER 1-31

Christina Yoon's short "Mirror" shares the beauty pressures women face that force them to take drastic measures. A Korean immigrant with a severely scarred face visits a black market hospital in Queens to seek plastic surgery.

"Mirror" focuses on a woman with a scarred face who feels pressure from society to get plastic surgery. This eye-opening short screened at this year's New York Shorts International Film Festival, DC Asian Pacific American Film Festival and Woods Hole Film Festival. Mirror will be screening at the Oscar qualifying Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival (LAAPFF) online from October 1st at 12 pm PST to October 31st at PST.

AFTER CLASS

**DIR: Charles Xiuzhi Dong | 2020 | USA
Top Oscar Qualifying prize
Short Shorts Film Festival and Japan**

Charles Xiuzhi Dong's "After Class" is the topical live-action short film with the universal story of a poverty-stricken single mother who is willing to do whatever it takes to send her daughter to school.

Eight-year-old Su Min and her mother reside in the slum of a metropolis in China, making ends meet by cleaning toilets and picking garbage. Su Min dreams of going to school someday. Marginalized by the school registration system, her mother tries to send her daughter to school at any cost.

"After Class" has been selected to screen at the upcoming Tehran International Short Film Festival in October.

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

JUHI CHAWLA'S KIDS ARE EMBARRASSED TO SEE HER OLD ROMANTIC FILMS



Ananya shares first look test pics of 'Khaali Peeli'

Ahead of her new release Khaali Peeli, actress Ananya Panday has shared a glamorous throwback to the first look test she gave as her character, Pooja, in the film.

The actress posted snapshots of the first look on Instagram pictures and wrote: "POOJA throwback to the first look test and now the film is releasing in two days #2DaysToGo #KhaaliPeeli releasing 2nd October on @zeeplexofficial & @zee5."

In one photo, Ananya looks chic in a white top and shorts. In the other, she flaunts neon green bangles and wears a bright pink outfit.

Her fans gave a thumbs up to both the looks, with some calling her hot and others describing her as pretty. Ananya is paired with Ishaan Khatter in the film. Apart from "Khaali Peeli", the actress also has Shakun Batra's untitled film, co-starring Deepika Padukone and Siddhant Chaturvedi, besides a film opposite Vijay Deverakonda.

Juhi Chawla has played a range of roles over the years, from a battered wife (Daraar) to an up-and-coming model who wants to live big (Yes Boss). Many of her earlier films were popular with kids, but her own children, Jahnvi and Arjun, are 'very embarrassed' to watch much of her work.

In an interview, Juhi said that she tried showing Jahnvi and Arjun a few of her films, but they were not too keen on watching them. She added that her son once told her that he would not watch any romantic film of hers as he found it 'strange'.

"Actually, they are very embarrassed to see my films, especially the earlier ones. In fact, my husband (Jay Mehta) told them to watch Hum Hain Rahi Pyaar Ke saying that it's quite a cute film. Then, Arjun asked me, 'Mom is there romance in that film?' and I was like, 'yes, it is a romantic comedy.' To this he replied, 'I don't want to see your films that feature romance. It gets very strange. So, I am not going to watch any of your films.' And that's it! They don't want to watch any of my films," the actor told The Times of India. She added that her only performances they appreciated were in Main Krishna Hoon and Chalk n Duster.

Juhi made her acting debut with Sultanat in 1986 but shot to fame two years later, after the release of Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak. She has starred in a number of films, including Bol Radha Bol, Ishq, Phir Bhi Dil Hai Hindustani and My Brother Nikhil. Her most recent Bollywood release was Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga, alongside Sonam Kapoor, Anil Kapoor and Rajkumar Rao. She will be seen next in Sharmaji Namkeen.



Sonu Sood gets UNDP award for humanitarian efforts

The coronavirus pandemic has brought out some real heroes to limelight, from doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers to actors like Sonu Sood. The actor may have played a villain in most of his movies, but he turned out to be a saviour for many migrant labourers, students, and others amid pandemic.

The actor has been praised for his work on social media. According to a report, the actor has now also been conferred the prestigious SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). According to DNA, the award was presented to Sood through a virtual ceremony on Monday.

Sood expressed his gratitude as he received the award. He called it a rare honour and very special. The actor maintained his humility as he said he has done whatever little he could for his fellow countrymen without any expectations. He expressed his happiness for being recognized and awarded. Sood extended his support to the UNDP in its endeavours to achieve the Social Development Goals by 2030.



After accusing husband of assault, Poonam Pandey is back with him

Poonam Pandey had recently filed an FIR against her husband Sam Bombay for physically assaulting her, 13 days after her marriage but later retracted. Rumour has it that the whole incident was apparently staged to hype Poonam's participation in the upcoming Bigg Boss 14.

Now, Poonam has cleared the air once and for all in an interview with ETimes. The actress said that she was not going to be a part of the controversial reality show. She said, "No way. I am not going to Bigg Boss 14. I am too small for the Bigg Boss show."

Poonam, on withdrawing the case, revealed that Sam cried and begged her to take the case back. He also promised that he will never repeat his mistake and will treat her well. During her interview, Poonam said that they are trying to mend things and are back together. She also said that they are



madly in love with each other.

Poonam said, "We are back together. We both love each other too much. We are madly in love. And, which marriage does not have its ups and downs?"

Sam, who has been granted

bail, admitted that things got blown out of proportion but everything is sorted. Poonam mentioned that the newlyweds will soon be heading for Mumbai. Sam also shared a picture from their wedding on Instagram after the couple reconciled.



Scarlett Johansson's Black Widow postponed to May 2021

Walt Disney Co on Wednesday postponed the release of superhero movie Black Widow and Steven Spielberg's West Side Story until 2021, a setback to cinema operators hoping for a late-year surge in moviegoing. The films were among the biggest titles remaining on Hollywood's schedule for 2020. Black Widow was delayed by six months until May 2021 and West Side Story, a movie version of the classic Broadway musical, by a year to December 2021.

The changes follow disappointing efforts to get Americans back into movie theatres after the coronavirus pandemic shuttered cinemas worldwide in March. Theatres remain closed in Los Angeles and New York, the two largest moviegoing hubs in the United States. Big chains including AMC Entertainment and Cineworld Plc's Regal Cinemas have reopened in other U.S. cities.

JENNIFER ANISTON NEARLY QUIT ACTING AFTER ONE PARTICULARLY BAD MOVIE

Jennifer Aniston had such a terrible experience making one particular movie, that it made her reconsider her acting career.

The former Friends star said that the movie 'sucked the life out of me', though she didn't call out the project by name.

Aniston made the comments on the SmartLess podcast, which is hosted by actors Jason Bateman, Will Arnett and Sean Hayes.

"The last two years, [quitting acting] has crossed my mind, which it never did before," she said.

"It was after a job I had completed and I was like, 'Woah, that sucked the life out of me... I don't know if this is what interests me'. 'It was an unprepared project - we've all been a part of them - and you always say, 'Never again, never again, I would never back up into a start date'... And the script isn't ready."

So bad was the experience was that she mulled changing career completely to become an interior designer.

Aniston said that the project was prior to her appearing in last year's The Morning Show for Apple TV, and during the interview also praised working on the Netflix comedy Murder Mystery with Adam Sandler.

Other film's she's worked on in the past couple of years have included the comedy Office Christmas Party, which she appeared in with Bateman, Golden Raspberry nominee Mother's Day, Netflix coming-of-age comedy Dumplin', and war drama The Yellow Birds.



Gwyneth Paltrow poses in only birthday suit on 48th birthday

Actor Gwyneth Paltrow had a surprise up her sleeve as she turned 48 on September 27. The Avengers actor decided to pose "in nothing but my birthday suit" but the one who won the internet was her daughter Apple.

The actor shared a tasteful photo that looked impromptu as she posed nude in a garden. "In nothing but my birthday suit today.. thank you all so much for the birthday wishes and thank you to @goop 's insanely amazing brand new body butter for making me think I can still get my kit off," she wrote. Her fans appreciated her confidence, calling her 'gorgeous' and 'an inspiration'.

It was Apple's comments which had the internet in splits. "MOM," wrote the youngster. However, before Instagram could say 'mortified', she added "You are killing it tho."

Among others who dropped comments on the photo included Courteney Cox and Katy Perry. "Happy Birthday! What a beautiful girl you are and inspiring in so many ways," wrote the Friends actor. Katy Perry commented, "HBD GP! Love this low profile way to celebrate." Lea Michele also commented, "Happy Birthday GP!"



JOAQUIN PHOENIX IN TALKS TO SIGN \$50 MILLION DEAL FOR TWO JOKER SEQUELS

Actor Joaquin Phoenix is reportedly being offered \$50 million (Rs 367 crore) to reprise his role as Arthur Fleck in two sequels to his 2019 blockbuster, Joker. The film, directed by Todd Phillips, was originally intended to be a standalone story, but after critical and commercial success, both Phoenix and Phillips began hinting at follow-ups.

Phoenix won an Academy Award for his performance. The film racked up a total of 11 nominations at the 2020 Oscars - the most for the year - and became the first R-rated film to make more than \$1 billion worldwide, leaving Warner Bros 'shocked'.

The Mirror quoted a source as saying, "Joaquin initially felt Joker was a standalone movie. But he's changed his tune now. He says he wants to play this character again, despite the controversies that came with the release last year."



Suicide bomber kills 9 at checkpoint in south Afghanistan

KABUL (TIP): An Afghan official says at least nine people including four civilians were killed when a suicide car bomber attacked a military checkpoint in southern Afghanistan.

Omer Zwak, a spokesman for the provincial governor in Helmand, said on October 1 a small child and three security personnel were wounded in the late Wednesday night attack in Nahri Sarah district.

Zwak said civilians were in a vehicle passing by when the attacker targeted the checkpoint. Two women were among those killed.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but Taliban insurgents are in control of most part of Helmand province.

The violence comes even as Taliban leaders and Afghan government-appointed negotiators are holding historic peace talks in Qatar, a Mideast country where the Taliban set up a political office after they were toppled from power in the 2001 US-led invasion of Afghanistan. The negotiations, which started earlier this month, are meant to end the fighting and establish a roadmap for a post-war society. —AP

Sheikh Nawaf sworn in as Kuwait's new ruling emir

DUBAI (TIP): Kuwait's Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah was sworn in Wednesday as the ruling emir of the tiny oil-rich country, propelled to power by the death of his half-brother after a long career in the security services.

At age 83, Sheikh Nawaf is not expected to deviate from the diplomatic path charted by his predecessor, the late Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

But his accession touched off speculation about who will become the next crown prince in the country known for its lively elected parliament and relative independence in the neighbourhood of Gulf Arab monarchies.

The late Sheikh Sabah, 91, was set to make his final journey to Kuwait later on Wednesday, his coffin flying back from Rochester, Minnesota, home of the flagship campus of the Mayo Clinic where he had been receiving medical treatment after surgery.

Although his funeral would typically draw tens of thousands of mourning Kuwaitis and scores of foreign leaders and dignitaries, because of the coronavirus pandemic the burial will be a private service restricted to relatives, said Kuwait's state-run news agency, KUNA.

AP

Sharif playing dangerous game at India's behest: Pak PM

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has lashed out at the fiery speeches made by former premier and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, stating that he was playing a dangerous game by targeting Islamabad's powerful military establishment at the behest of India. In an interview to a private television channel, Khan accused his predecessor for creating a "huge mischief" by attacking the Pakistan Army.

"Nawaz Sharif is playing a dangerous game against Pakistan and I am 100 per cent sure that India is supporting him," he said.

"Sharif is now playing the same game that was once being played by former founder of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Altaf Hussain, who he said was also working on India's agenda. He is becoming the next Altaf Hussain," Khan said. "India's interest



was to weaken our army. India's think tanks say they want to break Pakistan. Some foolish liberals were agreeing with

the narrative of Sharif, who is creating a huge 'fitna' (mischief) by attacking the army," he added. — IANS

Myanmar election app goes offline, has been criticized over label for Rohingya

YANGON (TIP): A smartphone app produced for Myanmar's November 8 election with help from international organisations appears to have been removed from circulation and may be amended after criticism over its use of a label for Rohingya Muslims that the Rohingya view as derogatory.

The mVoter2020 app, launched on Tuesday and aimed at improving voter awareness, labels at least two candidates belonging to the Rohingya ethnic group as 'Bengali', a term that implies they are immigrants from Bangladesh and is rejected by many Rohingya.

The app was not available to download for mobile and a web version was inaccessible on Friday, bringing up an error message that read "Server is temporarily closed".

Marcus Brand, the country director of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), which is based in Stockholm and helped develop the app, said he understood it had been removed while discussions were ongoing but did not have further details.

Brand said the group was advising the removal of contentious words used to identify candidates' ethnic background.

"We are advocating the electoral authorities to remove this information from the app in order to ensure candidate security and... increase the integrity of the process," he told Reuters, adding he hoped the app would go back online soon.

The app was developed by Myanmar's Union Election Commission (UEC), with support from STEP Democracy, a European Union-funded project implemented in Myanmar by International IDEA, and the U.S.-based Asia Foundation.



Marcus Brand, the country director of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), which is based in Stockholm and helped develop the app, said he understood it had been removed while discussions were ongoing but did not have further details.

Pierre Michel, public diplomacy adviser to the EU's Myanmar mission, told Reuters the EU "should have been warned about the inclusion of discriminatory data" in the app and was "considering all options" as to how to respond.

The UEC and Asia Foundation did not

respond immediately to requests for comment.

Brand said International IDEA's role was to digitize candidate registration forms for a database and that it did not have "technical nor editorial control" over the app's content.

The UEC requires applicants to submit citizenship documents that classify them by their race and religion.

"We do not generally think that advertising the ethnic and religious identification of candidates is advisable in the Myanmar context," Brand said.

Activist group Justice for Myanmar said in a statement on Wednesday that the app risked "inflaming ethnic and religious nationalism during the election".

Aye Win, one of the Rohingya candidates, told Reuters he was informed by the UEC on Friday that he was being disqualified, although it was not clear if this was related to the app. Reuters



Covid-19 infected UK MP attended House; told to resign

An MP of the Scottish National Party who tested positive for coronavirus, attended the House of Commons on Wednesday and later travelled on public transport from London to Edinburgh faced persistent calls to resign on Friday, Oct 2.

Margaret Ferrier, MP from Rutherglen and Hamilton West, has been suspended by her party. Nicola Sturgeon, party leader and Scotland's First Minister, said she had spoken to Ferrier and asked her to step down as MP. She also faced strong criticism from speaker Lindsay Hoyle.

Ferrier's actions revived debate about everyone, irrespective of position, following law and quarantine rules after evidence emerged of former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and Stanley Johnson, father of Prime Minister Boris Johnson, not obeying such rules.

Ian Blackford, SNP leader in Westminster, said Ferrier had broken the law and should therefore reflect very carefully on whether she can continue as a Member of Parliament for her constituents.

Global COVID-19 cases top 34.4 million; 1,026,700 deaths

The overall number of global coronavirus cases has topped 34.4 million, while the deaths have increased to more than 1,026,700, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

As of Saturday, October 3, the total number of cases stood at 34,495,372 and the fatalities rose to 1,026,717, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed in its latest update.

The US is the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 7,331,241 and 208,693, respectively, according to the CSSE.

India comes in second place in terms of cases at 6,394,068, while the country's death toll soared to 99,773.

The other top 15 countries with the maximum amount of cases are Brazil (4,847,092), Russia (1,188,928), Colombia (841,531), Peru (818,297), Spain (789,932), Argentina (779,689), Mexico (753,090), South Africa (677,833), France (629,431), the UK (469,764), Chile (466,590), Iran (464,596), Iraq (372,259) Bangladesh (366,383), and Saudi Arabia (335,578), the CSSE figures showed.

Brazil currently accounts for the second highest number of fatalities at 144,680.

The countries with a death toll above 10,000 are Mexico (78,492), the UK (42,358), Italy (35,941), Peru (32,535), France (32,171), Spain (32,086), Iran (26,567), Colombia (26,397), Russia (20,981), Argentina (20,599), South Africa (16,909),

TRACKING THE VIRUS



GLOBAL

Cases	Deaths
34,495,372	1,026,717

INDIA

Cases	Deaths
64,71,645	100,896

Chile (12,867), Ecuador (11,495), Indonesia (10,972) and Belgium (10,023).

Canada reports over 2,000 new coronavirus cases

Canada reported 2,122 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Friday, October 2, of which 2,049 were diagnosed in the last 24 hours. It was the highest daily case total Canada has seen, though 2,777 cases were recorded on May 3 due to Quebec adjusting its total by more than 1,300 because of a computer issue.

However, testing has increased dramatically since then, with Canada administering 101,985 tests on Friday compared to the 29,855 on May 3.

A total of 89 deaths were also reported by health authorities across the country, of which only eight had occurred in the last 24-hours. The virus has now claimed the lives of 9,409 people in Canada, while a total of 162,490 infections have been identified across the country.

A total of 137,614 patients have since

recovered from the virus as of Friday, and over 8.9 million tests have been administered. In an update Friday, Canada's chief public health officer Dr. Theresa Tam warned of the country's continued increase in new COVID-19 cases, with Canada averaging 1,634 new cases every day over the past week.

"Accelerated epidemic growth, particularly in high-incidence areas of Quebec and Ontario, is driving the ongoing increase," said Tam at a press conference Friday. "New cases reported from these provinces account for almost 80 per cent of the national case count. More recently, we are seeing an increase in severe outcomes of COVID-19, which we're keeping a really close eye on."

Quebec announced the highest increase in COVID-19 cases among all provinces Friday, with 1,052 newly confirmed infections. The new case data, which brings Quebec's total infections to 76,273, is the highest increase in lab-confirmed infections since the province reported an additional 1,110 cases on May 1.

European nations are trying to prevent the spread of COVID-19 with tougher measures across the continent.

Spain, Poland, Finland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia all enacted new restrictions as case numbers surged across the continent.

The Netherlands, Northern Ireland, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Slovakia and Romania all saw record numbers of daily infections. Cases have also been alarmingly high in other countries, with France again recording more than 10,000 cases. In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel made an impassioned appeal for patience and discipline as numbers increased. Merkel said Germany risks undoing the gains it has made, asking citizens to care for one and other, and calling for vigilance on hygiene measures such as social-distancing and mask-wearing.

"We risk everything that we have achieved in the past few months," Merkel said in a speech to the German parliament.

Germany reported 1,798 new coronavirus infections, a tally from the public health body Robert Koch Institute showed.

The German federal statistics office, Destatis, meanwhile, said inflation fell below zero in Germany for the second time this year. Inflation dropped to minus 0.2% in September, two months after inflation was minus 0.1%. Destatis said the negative inflation rate was attributable to several things, including a reduction in value-added tax (VAT) which was introduced in July to slow the

New restrictions in Europe as cases soar



recession brought on by the pandemic.

RUSSIA: President Vladimir Putin said he intends to take the country's newly developed coronavirus vaccine before visiting his counterpart in South Korea, according to Russian state news agency TASS. The Kremlin did not say when the visit would occur. South Korean state news agency Yonhap said Putin would visit after the virus situation has further stabilized.

UK: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has warned the country must be prepared for more "sacrifices," but did not further tighten social-distancing

rules. He said the UK must maintain its policy of restricting social gatherings and imposing local lockdowns in areas with high infection rates.

In the Netherlands, Prime Minister Mark Rutte "urgently" advised people to wear masks while indoors in public places. More than 19,000 people in the Netherlands tested positive in the last week, up from nearly 13,500 a week earlier.

SPAIN: New restrictions have been announced for Madrid, with residents set to be barred from leaving the city except on essential trips. Outsiders will

also be banned from entering for non-essential trips under new measures for large municipalities with high infection rates.

Meanwhile, Ibiza has imposed new restrictions, including a ban on parties of more than five people, playgrounds being shut down and a 10 p.m. curfew for bars and restaurants. People are advised, but not mandated, to stay home for all but indispensable activities.

France: Daily case numbers have once again topped 10,000, with more than 12,000 new confirmed cases in the past 24 hours.

CZECH REPUBLIC: The Czech Republic has announced a 30-day state of emergency starting on Monday, as case numbers rise. The measure will allow the restriction of residents' freedom of assembly, and courts will be able to levy higher fines for violations of medical safety guidelines. It does not plan to lock down its borders, but gatherings will be limited to 10 people indoors and 20 people outdoors. Most secondary schools will switch to distance learning. Sporting events will have no audience, but businesses, stores and restaurants will not be affected.

Slovakia: Neighboring Slovakia has also announced a state of emergency, starting on Thursday. The obligation to wear masks outdoors will also apply if the necessary minimum distance cannot be maintained. The number of participants in large events will be limited to 50.

UK, EU to discuss post-Brexit free trade deal today

LONDON (TIP): British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will "take stock" of negotiations on a post-Brexit free trade deal on October 3, officials said.

The announcement by both sides came as they were winding up another week-long session of detailed negotiations on a rudimentary free trade agreement that should come in force once a Brexit transition period ends December 31.

Little progress has been made on such a deal since the UK left the bloc in January-end. Both sides have acknowledged that time is running out if they are to achieve an agreement before the current Brexit transition period comes to an end at the end of the year.

Johnson has said he is prepared to walk away from the negotiations if there is no agreement by the time of the next EU summit on October 15. The EU sees a deadline at the end of the month.

Complicating the trade talks further are Britain's plans to breach an international agreement it signed with the EU to regulate trade on the island of Ireland. — AP

Russia sees more than 9,000 new COVID-19 cases in a day

MOSCOW (TIP): The coronavirus outbreak in Russia continues its rapid growth, with the government reporting over 9,000 new confirmed cases on Friday but the Kremlin saying a second lockdown is not being discussed.

The 9,412 new cases reported on Friday bring the country's total to over 1.19 million and mark the highest surge since late May. Russia currently has the fourth largest caseload in the world and has so far reported over 21,000 deaths.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Friday another lockdown is currently not being discussed in the government.

At the same time in Moscow, which has been reporting over 2,000 new cases a day since Monday, officials have recommended the elderly self-isolate at home and have extended upcoming school holidays by a week.

On Thursday, Moscow's mayor also ordered employers to have 30 per cent of their staff work from home.

"I hope that this measure will be enough to curb the rise of infections, and we won't have to make more difficult decisions," Sergei Sobyenin wrote in his blog. — AP

Police increase patrolling in Australia's COVID-19 hotspot

MELBOURNE (TIP): Police in Australia's coronavirus hotspot state of Victoria stepped up patrolling on Oct 3 as hundreds of people in the city of Melbourne breached stringent lockdown restrictions and flocked to beaches on the warmest weekend in months.

Under the restrictions, nearly five million people in Melbourne, Victoria's capital, may exercise or socialise outdoors for a maximum of two hours a day, but must stay close to home. People must wear masks in public places.

But television and social media footage showed crowds, many people without masks, at some of Melbourne's beaches as temperatures soared ahead of summer in the southern hemisphere.

"A number of fines were issued to people who breached directions ... and Victoria Police will be conducting increased patrols of popular public spaces this weekend," police said in a statement.

Fines for not wearing masks reach A\$200 (\$143) and for breaching public health orders are more than A\$1,600.

Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said the behaviour of the beach-goers was "unacceptable".

"Spending time at the beach without a mask, without social distancing now, will just mean that you won't get to go to



the beach for all of summer," Andrews said at a televised briefing.

State officials said eight people had been diagnosed with the novel coronavirus in the past 24 hours and three more people died. The numbers have been going steadily down after reaching more than 700 in new daily cases at their peak in July.

Melbourne has been under a strict lockdown for months, with the measures

set to remain in place until the average number of new daily cases over a two-week window falls below five. On Saturday it was 12.

Victoria, Australia's second-most populous state accounts for 90% of national COVID-19 deaths. Australia, with 893 fatalities, has fared far better than many other developed countries. Reuters

'Goodbye, teacher': Argentina mourns after death of beloved cartoonist Quino

BUENOS AIRES (TIP): Argentines held a day of national mourning after the death of the country's beloved cartoonist "Quino", whose comic character Mafalda, an Argentine girl with shock black hair and strong political views, drew admirers around the world.

On Thursday, flags of public buildings waved at half-staff, while people on social networks said goodbye to the artist and national treasure, who will have a small, private funeral due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Personalities such as singer Ricky Martin, basketball player Manu Ginobili, politicians and artists paid tribute to Quino, the pen name of Joaquín Salvador Lavado, who died aged 88, his editor said on Wednesday.

Quino was able to use Mafalda's seeming innocence to spread scathing criticism, including of the dictatorships that plagued Latin America from the 1960s. He himself lived through military rule in Argentina.

"Few things are as sad as the fact that Quino is gone," Colombian writer Ricardo Silva Romero wrote on his Twitter account.

A niece of Quino told newspapers his hometown of Mendoza that his remains would be cremated in an intimate ceremony. With flowers and messages of gratitude, thousands of people in



Argentina and around the world paid tribute to the creator of the rebellious girl who advocated for a better world, defended human rights and questioned the abuses of power.

"Goodbye, teacher," wrote Argentine graphic comic Juan Martín "Tute" Loiseau in a strip in local newspaper La Nación. "He was a philosopher of humour and, at the same time, a 10-year-old boy. As with geniuses, they always keep talking to us, he continues to challenge us," Tute said separately in an interview with a local television channel.

PILGRIMAGE SITE

A statue of Mafalda, the girl with puffy black hair who hates soup and loves the Beatles, was decked with flowers from readers who came to pay tribute to her in the historic neighborhood of San Telmo, in the centre of Buenos Aires.

"This place is very important to us

because it is almost a pilgrimage site, there are queues of tourists every weekend," Damián Losada, a 55-year-old social worker and comedian, told Reuters Television.

The Mafalda comics, which Quino began to write in the 1960s but which transcended generations due to the universality of his ideas, were translated into 27 languages and opened the doors to international recognition.

The comic strip, which narrated the daily life and reflections of the daughter from a typical Argentine middle-class marriage, was published in the weekly Primera Plana in 1964. The character quickly became a hit and her first compilation book sold out in five days.

"In Argentina, from my generation onwards, we all learned to read by reading Mafalda," Argentine cartoonist Ricardo Siri, known as Liniers, said in an interview with Reuters last year, comparing Quino to the Beatles and Charlie Chaplin. "Mafalda is the perfect character," said Liniers, the creator of the Macanudo strip and artist for several covers of the New Yorker magazine. "Whatever she confronts from the adult world, she immediately questions it." The son of Andalusian republicans and a confessed socialist, Quino left Argentina to live in Italy in 1976, when Argentina's last military dictatorship began. AP

Madrid readies for partial lockdown, files legal challenge

MADRID (TIP): Madrid was set to go into partial lockdown on Friday night, complying with an order from the Spanish government but determined to fight it in the courts.

Measures that ban all nonessential trips in and out of the capital and nine of its suburbs — covering around 4.8 million people — were set to be enacted at 10 pm (2000 GMT).

Spain's Socialist Prime Minister, Pedro Sánchez, said there was a "critical" need to take the new steps in the European coronavirus hot spot.

But officials in Madrid, whose regional government is managed by the conservative Popular Party, balked at the order, saying it would bring chaos and further the sap the economy's health. It filed an appeal at the National Court against the new measures.

Under the national order, travelers will need to prove that they are going to or from work, to see a doctor or to conduct essential administrative or legal errands in order to leave Madrid or the town where they live.

Restaurants must close at 11 pm and shops at 10 pm, with a restriction of 50 per cent capacity.

Similar measures already apply to more than 1 million residents, and the region has limited social gatherings to a maximum of six people.

Madrid's legal challenge argues that restrictions violate regional self-rule laws.

Madrid is leading the resurgence of the virus in Spain, which has Europe's highest cumulative caseload — 770,000 since the onset of the pandemic.

The capital had a two-week infection rate of 695 cases per 100,000 residents Thursday, more than twice the national average of 274 cases and seven times the



European average, which stood at 94 per 100,000 residents last week, according to the European Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

But Madrid regional health chief Enrique Ruiz Escudero said the situation is improving, with the infection rate falling to 607 per 100,000 Friday and four consecutive days of fewer people being admitted to hospitals.

"The numbers give us reason for hope," he told a news conference.

Madrid legal chief Enrique López said authorities will comply with the order, deploying more police, even though they believe it will "create chaos".

He estimated the order will cost the Madrid economy 8 billion euros (\$9.4 billion). He did not provide details of how the amount was calculated.

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has refused to budge, saying Friday that Madrid faces "a moment of

extraordinary seriousness".

"The situation in Madrid is critical because (the region) has 33 per cent of (COVID-19) deaths," he said in Brussels, where he was attending a European Union summit.

Some passengers at Madrid's main train station, Atocha, welcomed the new steps.

"I think they need to take strong measures to control the epidemic here in Madrid," said Vicente Mira, a 62-year-old retired teacher.

Communication manager Pablo Torres, 36, wanted officials to get tough, saying the current measures are "nonsense and a sticking plaster on something that is a lot bigger problem".

It wasn't immediately clear how the new measures might affect the few tourists arriving in Madrid, but regional authorities can't ban foreign visitors unless Spain closes its borders. AP

13 killed in fire at tourist spot in north China

BEIJING (TIP): Thirteen people were killed and 15 others injured when fire broke out at a tourist site in north China's Shanxi province on Thursday, local authorities said.

The fire engulfed an exhibition hall of snow sculptures at around 1 pm at the Taitaishan scenic site in Xiaoshanyan village in Taiyuan, capital of Shanxi, the provincial government said.

All the 15 injured have been rushed to hospitals and are in stable condition. Investigation has been launched into the cause of the fire, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Millions of Chinese flocked to tourist sites as China declared an eight-day holiday on Thursday to celebrate the 71st anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Mid-Autumn Festival. PTI

Hong Kong leader cheers return of stability as police on alert after banning protest

HONG KONG (TIP): Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam cheered the city's "return to stability" during China national day celebrations on Thursday, as police vans dotted the route of a banned anti-government march by pro-democracy activists.

Protesters wanted to march against Beijing's imposition of a sweeping national security law on June 30 and demand the return of 12 Hong Kong people China arrested at sea in August on their way to self-ruled Taiwan.

Lam attended a flag raising ceremony with other senior Hong Kong and mainland officials in a centre for exhibitions surrounded by police and security barriers.

"Over the past three months, the plain truth is, and it is obvious to see, that stability has been restored to society while national security has been safeguarded, and our people can continue to enjoy their basic rights and freedoms," Lam said.

As she spoke, groups of officers in riot gear conducted stop-and-search operations along an expected marching route linking the prime shopping district of Causeway Bay with the administrative Admiralty district.

Late on Wednesday, police said they had arrested five people for inciting participation in illegal assemblies online. Local newspaper South China Morning Post reported earlier this week about 6,000 officers would be deployed on a day of heightened alert, citing unnamed sources. (Reuters)

After six months, Germany eases world travel restrictions

BERLIN (TIP): Germany lifted its blanket warning against travelling to all countries outside the European Union (EU) early on Thursday, although little is likely to change for most travellers under the new regulation.

The cautious reopening, agreed by the German cabinet three weeks ago, comes as Europe faces an uptick in Covid-19 cases, with many warning the continent is on the cusp of a second wave of the Covid pandemic.

Germany imposed a global travel warning in March, when the virus was raging in northern Italy, but lifted it for most European countries in June. In September, Berlin began reissuing warnings for regions within Europe when infections rose above the level of 50 cases per 1,00,000 people over a week.

In future, the same standard will be applied to the rest of the world. This means that provided the prevalence of



the virus is below that threshold, travellers will be able to return to Germany without going into quarantine pending a negative test.

At present, entry and exit without restrictions will only be possible in parts of Europe and Georgia.

But with more warnings being lifted in the near future, the change could prove significant for non-European tourist destinations that have traditionally received large numbers of visitors from

the EU's most populous country. Reuters

Italy to extend state of emergency till January

ROME (TIP): Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said on Thursday he would ask Parliament to extend the country's Covid-19 state of emergency to the end of January, as the government tries to avoid the surge in cases seen in other European countries. The state of emergency, due to expire in mid-October, gives greater powers to the Central government, making it easier for officials to bypass the bureaucracy that smothers much decision-making in Italy. "We will propose to Parliament to extend the state of emergency, probably to the end of January 2021," said Conte. Reuters

MAKEUP REMOVERS FOR SENSITIVE, CLEAR SKIN

Let's get real - taking off makeup isn't as fun as applying it. Many times we are too lazy to take off makeup before heading to bed and other times we just don't want to. Hence, wet wipes become our saviour.

But that still doesn't suffice when it comes to taking off makeup and gunk from the skin. It clogs pores, makes skin extremely oily and can even give rise to acne. The best way to achieve flawless skin would be to use a makeup remover and then head to bed. Makeup removers can dig a hole in your pocket since they are expensive. But we have you covered! You can make one yourself! Check out how.

DIY makeup remover with Baby shampoo

INGREDIENTS: No more tears baby shampoo, Water, Olive Oil, A clean small bottle

Method

To the clean bottle, add 1/4 spoon of olive oil, half a spoon of baby shampoo and 5 spoons water, Shake the bottle well to mix this. Dip a cotton ball into it and wipe your face clean. Shake the bottle each time before use for best results.

DIY makeup remover with Aloe Vera

INGREDIENTS: Aloe Vera gel,



Olive oil, Water, A clean bottle

Method

Fill up 3/4 of a bottle with water and aloe gel with equal proportions. To this, add 3-5 spoons of olive oil, based on the size of the bottle. To mix all the ingredients, shake well. Once the oil is mixed well with the aloe gel and water, dip a cotton pad and wipe your skin clean.

Rose Water

INGREDIENTS: Rosewater, Olive oil, Aloe Vera gel, A clean bottle

Method

Fill half the bottle with rose water, Add to this 3 spoons of Olive oil. Mix 4 spoons Aloe Vera gel in this and shake well to mix. Soak a cotton pad with the solution and wipe your skin.



By Tript Arora

CONNOISSEUR'S CHOICE



CHEESE CHILLI

Cheese Chilli is an Indian dish inspired by Chinese Cuisine. Basically it is a fusion dish. If you go to China you will not find this dish on their menu as they don't have cheese in their cuisine. Interesting fact. Maybe going by the popularity of Cheese Chilli, they're gonna add this in their Menu card. Anyway this dish is very popular with Vegetarians. Cottage Cheese cubes dipped in batter and deep fried. These deep fried cheese cubes are then stir fried with vegetables and sauces with and without gravy, topped with sesame seed and spring onions. This dish is served along with noodles and fried rice as a part of the main meal or eaten alone also as a snack. It is simple to make and lends a variety to the meal. So do try.



We Need

FOR CHEESE CUBES MARINATION: 200 gm Cottage Cheese, 1 Tbsp Ginger garlic paste, 1 Tsp Green Chilli paste, 2 Tbsp All purpose Flour (Maida), 1 Tbsp Rice Flour, 1 Tbsp Corn Flour (Arrarot), 1 Tsp Kashmiri Chilli Powder, 1 Tsp Black Pepper Powder, 1 Tsp Salt or to taste, Oil for Deep Frying

FOR GRAVY: 1 Large Green Bell Pepper, 2 Large Onions, 7 to 8 pods of Finely chopped Garlic, 1" Piece of grated Ginger, 1 Tbsp of Dark Soya Sauce, 1 Tbsp Red Chilli Sauce, 2 Tbsp of Tomato Sauce, Corn flour Slurry ie. 1 Tbsp Cornflour dissolved in half cup water, 2 Green Chillies diagonally cut into pieces, 2 Tbsp Cooking Oil, 1 Tbsp Sesame Seed for garnish.

Here We go

- Sprinkle some salt on the cheese block. Leave it for five minutes. It will release moisture. Pat dry the cheese block with a Paper Towel. This will remove extra moisture from cheese and you will get crispy Cheese Chilli.
- In the bowl add cornflour, rice flour & all purpose flour. Mix them well. Now add ginger garlic & chilli paste. Next add all the spice powder ie Kasmiri chilli powder, black pepper powder and salt. You can add red food colour if you want to give your dish a bright red colour. Make a paste of coating consistency.
- Heat oil for frying. Dip the cheese pieces in the batter and deep fry in the medium hot oil. Drain them and Keep aside.
- Cut Capsicum and onions into quarters.
- Now let us prepare the gravy. Heat a pan and put 2 Tbsp oil. Add chopped ginger and garlic. Saute for 1 min. Add quarters of Onions and capsicum. Saute till transparent.
- Add soya sauce, tomato sauce and red chilli sauce. Add green chillies. Saute for a minute. The chillies should remain crisp. You can also add spring onion greens if you like.
- Add Cornflour slurry which we have made. Saute till it starts thickening. Add fried paneer cubes to the gravy. Saute till gravy coats all the paneer pieces.
- Take out in a serving dish and sprinkle sesame seeds and onion greens. Serve hot with rice, noodles or by itself.

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Why you may have been happier with your ex than you think

A study published by the Journal of Social and Personal Relationships sought to examine how relationship satisfaction changes over time. The researchers said that they recruited over 180 people between the ages of 19 and 35 in romantic relationships to get their data. The couples shared how satisfied they were with their current relationships. A few months later, the researchers reached out to the couples to see who had broken up.

According to a statement from one of the lead authors of the study, Aidan Smyth, 26 percent of the couples had broken up after four months. Smyth says they then asked these respondents, "Four months ago, when you were still with your ex, how satisfied were you with your relationship?" Using the respondents' answers, the researchers compared the retrospective satisfaction with the level of satisfaction reported four months prior, when the couples were still intact.

The responses clearly showed that people remembered their relationships in a much more



negative light post-breakup. "After a breakup, people thought they weren't as happy in their past relationships as they had actually been. So, the former partner who was once viewed as romantic, adventurous, and spontaneous may now be remembered as too naive, reckless, and impulsive to have made things work in a long-term relationship," Smyth wrote.

The researchers hypothesized that this shift in perspective is a

coping mechanism that helps subconsciously protect people from the multitude of feelings that come with a breakup. "When a romantic partner is no longer available, a bias towards seeing him or her more critically might provide relief and mitigate regrets," Smyth wrote. Another theory the researchers posed is the possibility that exes are now seeing each other plainly without the rose-colored glasses of love.

ANTIDEPRESSANT DRUG EFFECTIVE IN TREATING 'LAZY EYE' IN ADULTS

In a new study, researchers reveal how subanesthetic ketamine, which is used for pain management and as an antidepressant in humans, is effective in treating adult amblyopia, a brain disorder commonly known as "lazy eye." The study led by researchers from the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine was published in the journal *Current Biology*. "Our study, demonstrates how a single-dose of subanesthetic ketamine reactivates adult visual cortical plasticity and promotes functional recovery of visual acuity defects resulting from amblyopia," explained Xiangmin Xu, PhD, a professor of anatomy and neurobiology and director of the Center for Neural Circuit Mapping at the UCI School of Medicine.

Subanesthetic ketamine, commonly used to treat depression and pain, evokes rapid and long-lasting antidepressant effects in human patients. There was evidence that ketamine may control how the nervous system makes structural changes in response to internal and external demands, a process called neural plasticity. But, how the drug worked remained elusive, until now. "Our research



team showed that ketamine down-regulates NRG1 expression in PV inhibitory cells, resulting in sustained cortical disinhibition to enhance cortical plasticity in the adult visual cortex," said Steven F. Grieco, PhD, a postdoctoral scholar in the Xu lab and lead author.

"Through this neural plasticity-based mechanism, ketamine mediated functional recovery from adult amblyopia." Xin Qiao, PhD, a postdoctoral staff in the Xu lab is a co-first author for the published paper. Amblyopia is a vision

disorder in which the brain fails to process inputs from one eye, favouring the other eye. The condition can result in decreased vision in the affected eye. Each year, between one and five per cent of children worldwide, are diagnosed with this condition. Fast and sustained ketamine actions show promise for therapeutic applications that rely on reactivating adult cortical plasticity. Further testing is needed to determine the full implications of this discovery.



Even low alcohol use during pregnancy bad for child's brain

Researchers have found that even low levels of alcohol consumption during pregnancy can have an impact on a child's brain development.

The study, published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, said that it is also associated with greater psychological and behavioural problems in youth including anxiety, depression and poor attention.

"Our research found that even small amounts of alcohol consumed while pregnant can have a significant impact on a child's brain development," said study lead author Briana Lees from the University of Sydney in Australia.

For the findings, the researchers investigated whether any alcohol consumption in pregnancy was related to psychological, behavioural, neural and cognitive differences in children aged nine to ten years.

With a sample of 9,719 youth, this is the largest study to investigate the impact of low-level alcohol use during pregnancy.

Low levels of drinking were considered one to two drinks per occasion with a maximum of six drinks per week. In the study, 25 per cent of children had been exposed to alcohol in utero (in the womb), 60 per cent of these children had been exposed to low-level alcohol use, and 40 per cent had been exposed to heavier levels.

Heavier exposure being three or more drinks per occasion or seven or more drinks per week.

Children who were exposed to low levels of alcohol in-utero at any time during pregnancy experienced more psychological/emotional problems (including anxiety, depression and being withdrawn) and behavioural problems (including poor attention and being impulsive) than unexposed children.

There was a 25 per cent increased likelihood of an attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) diagnosis in children who were exposed to slightly heavier levels of alcohol (approximately 36 drinks) in the first 6-7 weeks of pregnancy.

Heavier alcohol use during early pregnancy was also associated with rule-breaking behaviour and aggression, with a 30 per cent higher risk of the child being diagnosed with the oppositional defiant disorder than unexposed youth.

Cardiac arrest common in sick Covid-19 patients: Researchers

Cardiac arrest is common in critically ill patients with Covid-19 and is associated with poor survival, particularly among patients aged 80 or older, say researchers.

The findings, published in the journal *The BMJ*, could help guide end-of-life care discussions with critically ill patients with Covid-19 and their families, say the researchers.

For the study, the research team from Michigan University in the US set out to estimate the incidence, risk factors, and outcomes associated with in-hospital cardiac arrest and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in critically ill adults with Covid-19.

Their findings are based on data for 5,019 critically ill patients (aged 18 years or over) with Covid-19 admitted to intensive care units at 68 hospitals across the United States.

The results show that 701 (14 per cent) of patients had in-hospital cardiac arrest within 14 days of admission to the intensive



care unit, of whom only 400 (57 per cent) received CPR.

"Patients who had in-hospital cardiac arrest were older (average age 63 v 60 years), had more underlying health conditions (comorbidities), and were more likely to be admitted to a hospital with fewer intensive care unit beds," the study authors wrote. Importantly, this suggests that hospital resources, staffing, expertise, strain, or other factors

not captured in this study, could have had a major impact, the researchers noted.

Patients who received CPR were younger than those who did not (average age 61 v 67 years). Among those who did receive CPR, only 12 per cent (48 out of 400) survived to hospital discharge, and the only seven per cent (28 out of 400) did so with normal or mildly impaired neurological status.

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Facebook adds new features to groups amid coronavirus pandemic

Facebook is ramping up its efforts to get people to join its groups, where they can gather online to discuss specific topics, as one way to overcome isolation amid the coronavirus pandemic.

On Thursday, Oct 1, the world's largest social network unveiled new features aimed at making it easier for people to chat in groups. People who run a Facebook group will be able to host question-and-answer sessions or share a photo about a particular topic, as well as swipe through people's responses as part of a feature called Prompts. Another tool will let group administrators reject posts with certain keywords or from new members.

Facebook is also testing ways for people to find public groups on and off the social network. The company said it'll show public group discussions in the News Feed and in other places outside of Facebook such as in search results.

Facebook has been focusing more on groups as more people shift to private online spaces to share their thoughts instead of posting publicly. More than 1.8 billion people use Facebook groups every month. The rising popularity of groups, which can be public or private, has been a double-edged sword for the social network. On one hand, groups can be used to bring people together who are passionate about topics like birding, parenting or hiking. On the other hand, people have also been using groups to spread misinformation about vaccines or push far-right conspiracy theories such as QAnon.

Alexa's Auto Mode turns your phone into a 'driver-friendly' display

Amazon wants to make it safer and easier to use your phone while you're in the car. Today, it's introducing Auto Mode in the Alexa App. The feature turns your phone into a "driver-friendly" display with large touch targets and easy-to-read visuals.

Auto Mode keeps things simple with four screens: Home, Navigation, Communicate and Play. The home screen includes shortcuts to pause or play your media source, navigate to home or work and make a call.

The Navigation screen lets you create shortcuts for favorite locations, or if you ask Alexa to find someplace new, Auto Mode will display a simplified results list with only the most relevant info. The Communicate screen will make it easier to place calls or send an announcement to Alexa devices, and the Play screen will give you simple controls over your music or podcasts.

Teach your old Amazon Echo new tricks and features

Amazon announced some pretty big updates to the Alexa voice assistant at its Sept. 24 event last week. From adding more privacy settings to reducing the number of times you have to say the wake word, these features promise to make your Amazon Echo experience smoother from start to finish.

Here's how to use the new Alexa features Amazon announced. Note that some of them won't be available until later this year.

Interact with Alexa

Alexa hasn't always been known as conversational. When you constantly have to say "Alexa" for every single task -- even seconds apart -- it can be frustrating. Fortunately, the voice assistant is getting an upgrade called natural turn-taking that lets you interact with Alexa without saying the wake word every five seconds.

You'll be able to activate Alexa's conversational mode by saying "Alexa, join our conversation." Multiple people will be able to interact with the voice assistant without saying the wake word. You can even interrupt. Amazon showed an example of two people ordering a pizza, both speaking back and forth with Alexa on the size of pizza to order.

You'll soon be able to teach Alexa with a new feature called interactive teaching. If Alexa isn't sure what you're asking it to do, it will start asking you questions to learn what you want it to do.

For example, if you tell Alexa to set the living room light to wind-down mode, it'll say, "I don't know what wind-down mode is. Can you teach me?" You can then tell the voice assistant that wind-down mode means dim the lights. The next time you ask Alexa to perform the task, it will remember what to do.

Alexa can delete all voice interactions

Last year, Amazon added a setting that let you delete everything you had just said. This year, Amazon announced that you can now delete every interaction you've had with Alexa with just one command. To do so, just say "Alexa, delete everything I've ever said."



Previously, you'd have to delete all conversations with the voice assistant by going into the Alexa app privacy settings.

Alexa can help you review your privacy settings

Not sure where to find the Alexa privacy settings? Alexa can now help. Just ask, "Alexa, how do I review my privacy settings?" Alexa will then send a link to the Alexa app that says Review your privacy settings.

When you tap the link, it takes you to the Alexa Privacy page where you can make changes to your voice history, detected sounds, smart home devices, skill permissions and Alexa data.

Along with these new Alexa features, the company also previewed its new line of spherical Echo speakers, a flying drone for inside your home and kids' Echo speakers with animal designs.

For more Alexa tips, check out the six best Amazon Echo features and how to use them, five best ways to use Amazon Echo in the kitchen and creative ways to make your Alexa routines.

How to change your default search engine in Microsoft Edge to Google

There's a tough competition between Microsoft Edge and Chrome, where some people stick to Chrome as they are used to it but some of them prefer using Microsoft Edge. Keeping Bing as your default search engine gives you a decent search experience in the new Microsoft Edge which also includes direct links to Windows 10 apps, relevant suggestions from your organization if you're signed in with a work or school account, and instant answers to questions about Windows 10.

However, for people who stick to Chrome for a more convenient option, there is another interesting alternative, you can change the default search engine to Google or any other site that uses OpenSearch technology. We all are more familiar with the search engine Google and it is also mostly used across the world. But it should be noted that Microsoft Edge is better than Chrome in terms of your system's safety. Read on to know how to change your default search engine in Microsoft Edge to Google.

Here's how you can change the default search engine in Microsoft Edge to Google, follow the steps:

- Open Microsoft edge on your laptop or system.
- Click on the three dots right



on top of your screen.

- Select settings, another window will appear on your screen.
- Now, click on the Privacy, search, and services option which is on the left side under Search settings.
- Scroll down to the end of the settings page and click on the Address bar and search.
- Now, in the Search engine used in the address bar choose Google which will automatically remove Bing. Apart from Google, there are more options available, choose as per your preference.
- Now, close the window and try searching something on your system again, Bing will disappear and you will be able to search things through google just like Chrome.

1 in 4 Indians use weak passwords for online accounts

At least one in four Indians still use weak passwords for their online accounts, while more than 55 per cent change their passwords regularly, according to a new report on Wednesday.

A survey 'Digital Privacy and Password Management Habits' conducted by cybersecurity company Kaspersky also found that around 76 per cent Indians use strong passwords for all their online accounts.

On the other hand 32 per cent of the people allow browsers on the devices to save their passwords and the exactly equal number of people i.e. 32 per cent never follow this practice, the report said.

"Password management is the easiest and the most important first step that the user has control over, and by following a few basic steps, users can avoid falling prey to cybercriminals," Stephan Neumeier, Managing Director for Asia Pacific, Kaspersky, said in a statement.

The survey also showed that only 11 per cent people use one password for all their accounts, while more than half (54 per cent) use unique passwords for all their accounts.

According to the company, 78 per cent people create passwords themselves, 25 per cent of the Internet users store their passwords on a document in their devices and only 17 per cent of the people use a password manager to store all their passwords.



Pichai commits USD 1 billion to help publishers create quality news

Alphabet and Google CEO Sundar Pichai on Thursday announced its biggest USD 1 billion investment for the future of news in partnerships with news publishers that would pay them to create and curate high-quality content for quality online news experience.

Pichai launched Google News Showcase that features the editorial curation of award-winning newsrooms to give readers more insight on the stories that matter, and in the process, helps publishers develop deeper relationships with their audiences.

Burj Khalifa builder Arabtec set to fall into liquidation

Shareholders of United Arab Emirates-based Arabtec Holding PJSC voted to dissolve the debt-laden construction firm that's been grappling with mounting losses.

"After considering a number of strategic options, the shareholders of Arabtec Holding have voted to discontinue with the Group and dissolve it due to its untenable financial situation," a company spokesperson said.

Construction companies that sprung up more than a decade ago as a building bonanza swept Dubai and much of the Gulf are facing a reckoning as governments pull back on spending. Firms have struggled for years with project delays and thin profit margins -- in January, Australia's CIMIC Group took a \$1.23 billion write off on its 45% stake in BIC Contracting and exited the Middle East.

AirAsia to shut down its Japanese operations

AirAsia Group Bhd. is closing down its operations in Japan as it grapples with coronavirus-related restrictions on global travel, Nikkei reported, citing an unidentified person close to the low-cost airline.

The Malaysian group's directors met Monday and decided to wind up the Japanese venture, Nikkei said. An announcement will follow early next week, according to the report.

AirAsia in August posted its largest quarterly loss on record, and has said it wants to raise as much as 2.5 billion ringgit (\$600 million) by the end of the year to weather the pandemic.

The airline has also flagged that it's evaluating its Japanese business, which counts e-commerce group Rakuten Inc. among its investors, and a decision was imminent.

Covid-19: Inflation slump in Europe could presage more stimulus

Annual inflation in the 19-country eurozone sagged further below zero in September, bolstering expectations that the European Central Bank will add to its emergency stimulus efforts to help cushion the impact of the pandemic on the economy.

The consumer price index was down 0.3% in September, even lower than the minus 0.2% figure in August, according to new figures released Friday by the European Union statistics agency.

Excluding volatile food and fuel prices, the inflation rate was 0.2% in September, down from 0.4% in August. The so-called core inflation figure is often considered the better measure of price movements in the economy as a whole.

Low inflation is a major reason why analysts predict the ECB will add to its 1.35 trillion-euro (\$1.6 trillion) program of regular bond purchases, which push newly printed money into the financial system. The pandemic emergency purchases are credited with keeping borrowing costs down and preventing turmoil on financial markets that would have worsened the recession caused by the virus.

Frederik Ducrozet, strategist at Pictet Wealth Management, said that the



central bank's December meeting would likely be the earliest occasion to add stimulus as that is when the ECB will issue updated forecasts for growth and inflation to help form a decision.

"That said, we wouldn't completely rule out a decision at the 29 October meeting depending on macro developments and financial conditions," he wrote in an emailed research note. He said the ECB could boost its bond purchases by 500 billion euros.

The ECB's goal is to have annual

inflation of just under 2%. Economists say the pandemic is contributing to low inflation as merchants keep prices down in hopes of attracting customers amid restrictions on travel and activity.

While low inflation can benefit consumers up to a point, weak prices over a period of time can be a sign of too much slack in the economy. Weak inflation can also make it harder for indebted countries in the eurozone to improve their competitiveness compared with the other members of the currency bloc.

The recent string of low inflation figures has been attributed to one-time factors such as the late start of summer sales in France and Italy affecting the prices of clothes and shoes. But it is also being attributed to businesses like hotels and airlines, which have been among the hardest hit by the coronavirus outbreak, slashing their prices to entice buyers.

At the ECB's Sept. 10 meeting President Christine Lagarde gave little indication that more stimulus was coming but said the bank stood ready to adjust its programs if needed. The ECB, based in Frankfurt, Germany, is the chief monetary authority for the EU member countries that use the euro.

CRISIL expects bank credit to grow by up to 1% in 2020-21

The banking system's credit growth will plummet to a multi-decadal low of up to 1 per cent in FY21, domestic credit ratings agency CRISIL said on Thursday, Oct 1.

For non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), the shock will be more pronounced and assets under management (AUM) may decline by up to 3 per cent during the fiscal, impacted majorly by wholesale segment, it said.

It can be noted that non-food credit growth was at 5.5 per cent as of August 28 as compared to the year-ago period. Lenders have been undertaking targeted measures to increase the growth and are pinning hopes on festive season for growth to go up.

Generally, bank credit growth is said to be directly linked to the economic activity, which is set to contract by over 10 per cent in FY21. "Given the grim economic outlook, the banking system's credit growth will come at between 0-1 per cent in FY21. This will be a multi-decade low," the agency's senior director Somasekhar Vemuri told reporters on a call.

He said that for NBFCs, credit growth will be in negative zone and assets under management will decline by 1-3 per cent in the fiscal year. He added that from an asset quality perspective as well, NBFCs will be more impacted than the banks.

The agency said that NBFCs are likely to witness a 0.50 to 2.50 per cent surge in delinquencies this fiscal, driven largely by the small business and wholesale segments.

Reliance's Jio Platforms receives Rs 2,624 cr from Intel Capital, Qualcomm Ventures

Reliance Industries' subsidiary Jio Platforms has received subscription amount of Rs 2,624.5 crore from Intel Capital and Qualcomm Ventures, according to a regulatory filing.

The subscription amount of Rs 1,894.5 crore has come in from Intel Capital for 0.39 per cent stake in Jio Platforms, and Rs 730 crore came from Qualcomm Asia Pacific for 0.15 per cent stake.

The fund infusion by Intel Capital and Qualcomm Ventures into Jio Platforms was announced in July this year. "We hereby inform that, Jio Platforms, a subsidiary of the company, received the subscription amounts today from the following investors and allotted equity shares to them," RIL said in a late evening filing on Wednesday.

RIL had earlier said that Qualcomm Ventures' investment would deepen the ties between Qualcomm and Jio Platforms to support the



latter on its journey to rollout advanced 5G infrastructure and services for Indian customers.

Announcing Intel Capital's investment, it had said that Intel Capital invests globally in innovative companies with a focus on disruptive technology areas like cloud computing, artificial intelligence and 5G - opportunities where Jio is also innovating and investing for growth.

In all, Jio Platforms - that houses India's youngest but largest telecom firm Jio and apps - has raised about Rs 1,52,056 crore from thirteen investors, including Facebook, Google, Silver Lake, Vista

Equity Partners, General Atlantic, KKR, Mubadala, ADIA, TPG, L Catterton, Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia, Intel Capital and Qualcomm Ventures, for a total consideration of 32.9 per cent stake.

Jio Platforms is a next-generation technology platform focused on providing quality and affordable digital services across the country.

It has made significant investments across its digital ecosystem, backed by technologies spanning broadband connectivity, smart devices, cloud and edge computing, big data analytics, artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, augmented and mixed reality and blockchain.

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 5 - October 11, 2020

ARIES: Ganesha says a lot depends on biorhythms and other influences too. Astrology never compels. Plus, remember, this is a general reading and I do not have your personal chart. You look for salvation. Old wounds open their hoods. You go looking for a guru and take recourse to yantra, tantra and mantra. You take time out from work and family and may do something completely different from the norm.

TAURUS: 'Fiction gives us a second chance that life denies us,' said Paul Theroux, the novelist. Your mind is in a million places all at once. You are simply unable to be precise. You are all thought and no action. You cannot walk the talk. This is a phase of deep anguish as you are unable to activate your thoughts. It is an impotent period. There are expenses and many domestic challenges.

GEMINI: The leak in the boat is finally fixed. You are back on terra firma. The winter sun is scorching the bones and you realize that time is flying. You have to get cracking before it is too late. You get back to the business of making a living. It's a tough choice but there is no room any more for indulgences. Those in jobs work double shifts and freelancers spread their net wide. You have to make both ends meet and prepare a nest egg too.

CANCER: You are all pumped up and raring to go. In the mood you are in, you can perform miracles. Nothing is beyond you. You reach for the stars and may even touch them on tiptoe. There are awards and rewards, applause and kudos. You are the toast of your peer group. This is a fantastic time for creative folk and those in the visual arts. If you are also looking to cleanse your soul, you will succeed. You are in the quest for the holy grail. Ganesha urges you on.

LEO: Jung, the great analyst, said, 'Show me a sane man and I will cure him.' You are living out your inherent contradictions in splendor. You wear them on your sleeve and could be easily the most misunderstood person on the planet now. Your emotions are bubbling over like a volcano erupting. At home, the health of elders will be a cause of concern. Those in committed relationships take bond to new heights.

VIRGO: There is powerful intensity propelling you. Sadguru Jaggi Vasudev, today's popular mystic says, 'There is security in repetitive life patterns, but there are no possibilities, no growth.' You want to change the status quo, you want to challenge everything that has been said and said again down the ages. You want to flirt with danger, even kiss a cobra on its hood like they do in Thailand, or eat broken glass, or walk over the Niagara Falls on a tripwire.

LIBRA: 'An ant on the move does more than a dozing ox,' said Lao-tzu. You find new ways to tackle the issues on your plate. There is success, and money too. You win applause. You also spend time with social work and may help with the less fortunate. You are the toast of your neighborhood as you espouse causes common to all. You excel in group discussions, contractual negotiations and conferences.

SCORPIO: You live and love large. You make money by the bushels and spend it too. You play the field and are caught in the deep coils of amour. Nothing makes sense to you anymore but the sweet fragrance, however fleeting, of your beloved. This is a great period for those in realty and the stock market. There could be an addition to the family, possibly an adoption. At the very least, you may bring an exotic pet home. Ganesha smiles.

SAGITTARIUS: You scale new heights. There are expenses, ego drives, passions, altercations and misunderstandings. This doesn't fetch you brownie points and you will have to examine your core to see what has disrupted it so much that you flinch and retort at the slightest perceived disagreement. You play the field. Youngsters will be tough to rein in.

CAPRICORN: You are with your buddies, be it the boy gang or the girl gang or the mixed gang. It is party time and you are not one to miss out on the fun. You are also in line for a windfall, possibly an inheritance. This is a lucky period. You strike gold in the most barren spaces. Bob Marley said, 'I have no education. I have inspiration. If I was educated, I would be a damn fool.' You are inspired to take the moment to dizzy heights. Ganesha joins you.

AQUARIUS: You are in a philanthropic bent of mind. You want to serve others and there are no full stops in your yearning to do so. You want to give back to society and the stars support you in all your endeavors. I shall end with a quote from J. Krishnamurti: 'It is only when the mind is completely quiet, free of conflict - it is only then that the mind can go very far into the realms that are beyond time, thought and feeling.' Ganesha wrings his hands in thrall.

PISCES: 'A scholar who cherishes the love of comfort is not deemed to be a scholar,' said Lao-tzu. You want to be a person of renown, a person of letters, someone society can respect for his / her knowledge and erudition. But you may have a long distance to go. It is only after you emerge from the plain of struggle - like a caterpillar that becomes a butterfly - that you can delight in the prowess of true empirical knowledge.

Birthday Horoscope October 5 - October 11, 2020

OCT 5: You can help make this a happier day by not letting old friends or past experiences color your perceptions and influence your interactions with people. Let the past stay in the past.

OCT 6: You may awaken with an urge to break with routine. When others talk, listen. Some have insights to reveal. Don't be steered by another's persuasiveness.

OCT 7: Your personal magnetism is enhanced, and that can attract good things and people to you. Be

gregarious and open.

OCT 8: Ganesha says if you ask for someone's opinion, you'll probably get an earful. When it comes to getting along with others, there are no halfway measures. Some will deliver an ultimatum: "You're either with us or against us!"

OCT 9: This is a day for mixing and mingling, stepping out of your comfort zone, or advancing important objectives through social means. You might meet

someone new under usual circumstances.

OCT 10: Keep your thinking cap on straight when dealing with friends. Don't lose your head if they are losing theirs. Someone in your circle, or maybe a colleague, is jumping the gun.

OCT 11: Starting today and continuing for a month, you have a chance to hit the restart button where friends and your social life are concerned, a chance to make it livelier, more loving, and fun

MALMAS OR PURUSHOTTAM MAAS

The ongoing Hindu year has Adhik Maas, or Adhik Ashwin which is also known as Purushottam Mass or Malmas. This month is extra in the Hindu calendar to keep the solar and lunar calendars aligned. Purushottam Maas is dedicated to Lord Vishnu, it should be noted that Adhik Maas or Malmas reoccurs every 32.5 months. This year, Malmas started from September 18 and will go on till October 16th ahead of Navratri.

Malmas 2020 Dates

As mentioned earlier, Adhik Maas is variable and occurs every 32.5 months. In 2018, Adhik Jyaistha, the extra month after Jyaistha was observed from May 16 to June 13 and in 2020, the extra month after Ashwin, Adhik Ashwin started from September 18 and will go on till October 16.

Adhik Maas Significance

Adhik Maas, or Adhik Ashwin which is also known as Purushottam Mass or Malmas. This month is extra in Hindu calendar to keep the solar and lunar calendars aligned. Purushottam Maas is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. The month is also called Adhik Ashwin because it is the extra month that falls after Ashwin. The month is a time for prayer, fasting, charity and self-improvement.

The solar year is made up to 365 days and about 6 hours and the lunar year is made up to 354 days. Hence, there is a gap of 11 days, 1 hour, 31 minutes, and 12 seconds between the lunar and the solar years. However, there will be two new moons in this month and a 30 days gap between Pitru Paksha and Devi Paksha because of which Navratri will begin on October 17.

Why is Adhik Maas considered inauspicious?

Adhik Maas is also called Malimmach or Mala Maas, which means unclear month. This month is considered inauspicious and no occasion are celebrated at this time. Weddings, Business ventures, house warming parties are not conducted at this time. People try to involve themselves in prayer, fasting, charity, and self-improvement.

Know what you must donate

Reaching out to those in need and helping the one in distress in a noble deed indeed. It is believed that by doing good deeds, one can earn the fruits of his/her good Karma and also secure a place in Lord Vishnu's heavenly abode Vaikuntha after the journey on earth comes to an end. Philanthropic works can be done during any time of the year, but those who wish to do charity can do it in this ongoing Hindu month of Adhik Maas. Interestingly, the Adhik Maas (also known as Mala Maas), is dedicated to Lord Vishnu, and therefore, it is referred to as Purushottam Maas. Read on to know what you must donate as per your Zodiac sign to seek the blessings of the Almighty.

Check out the rules before donating food or essentials

- Offer help/food to the poor or needy and not to those who are well-to-do.
- Donate what you can afford and not what others give away for charity.
- Donate whole-heartedly and

Purushottam Maas is dedicated to Lord Vishnu, it should be noted that Adhik Maas or Malmas reoccurs every 32.5 months. This year, Malmas started from September 18 and will go on till October 16th ahead of Navratri.



- voluntarily.
- Donate only during the morning and not at night. Only during Yagya, marriages, Sankranti, Chandra or Surya Grahan (Lunar and Solar Eclipse), one can make donations or do charity at night.

Know what the natives of the Zodiac signs must donate

Mesha (Aries)

Natives of this Zodiac sign can donate any of these - Malpua, ghee, red cloth, banana, pomegranate, copper, moong daal and wheat. Those who are well-to-do can even donate Silver or Gold if they wish to.

Vrishabh (Taurus)

Natives of this Zodiac sign can donate any of these - White dress, malpua, mawa, sugar and banana. Those who are well-to-do can even donate Silver/Gold/Pearl/Diamond a cow or a vehicle if they can afford it.

Mithun (Gemini)

Natives of this Zodiac sign can donate any of these - Moong daal, an umbrella for God's idol, cooking oil, banana, malpua, bangles, sindoor, clothes. Those who are wealthy can donate emerald or gold.

Karka (Cancer)

Natives of this Zodiac sign can donate any of these - cooking oil, white cloth, malpua, mawa, milk, sugar and rice. Those who are wealthy can donate pearls, silver, gold or a cow.

Simha (Leo)

Natives of this Zodiac sign can donate

any of these - Red cloth, copper, brass, masoor daal, religious books, pomegranate, apples, etc. Those who are wealthy can donate silver, gold, or ruby.

Kanya (Virgo)

Natives of this Zodiac sign can donate any of these - Moong daal, cooking oil, banana, apples, funds and green grass to Gau Shala (cattle home). Those who are wealthy can donate gold.

Tula (Libra)

Natives of this Zodiac sign can donate any of these - White cloth, malpua, mawa, sugar, rice, banana etc.

Vrishchik (Scorpio)

Natives of this Zodiac sign can donate any of these - ghee, red cloth, sweet lime, pomegranate, moong daal, wheat or copper.

Dhanu (Sagittarius)

Natives of this Zodiac sign can donate any of these - Yellow cloth, Chana daal, wooden items, ghee, sesame seeds or oil, food grains, milk etc.

Makar (Capricorn) and Kumbha (Aquarius)

Natives of this Zodiac sign can donate any of these - Cooking oil, medicines, blue cloth, banana, iron or sweet lime.

Meen (Pisces)

Natives of this Zodiac sign can donate any of these - Yellow cloth, chana daal, ghee, milk, milk sweets, materials related to education.

During this month dedicated to Lord Vishnu, do good deeds, take part in philanthropic activities and take care of the elders. By doing so, you will be able to please Lord Vishnu and get his blessings.

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Oz, NZ to partially open borders

CANBERRA (TIP): Australia and New Zealand on Friday announced a partial opening of their borders to travel between the neighboring countries.

Passengers will be able to fly to the Australian cities of Sydney and Darwin without going into quarantine from October 16 if they have spent at least two weeks in parts of New Zealand that are not considered to be a Covid-19 hot spot, Transport Minister Michael McCormack said. But New Zealand will continue to insist on travellers from Australia going into hotel quarantine for two weeks on arrival. "We want to open up Australia to the world," McCormack said. "This is the first part of it."

The two countries separated by the Tasman Sea have long said the return of international travel would begin with a so-called Trans-Tasman Bubble. Australian authorities have concluded that New Zealand posed a low risk of COVID-19 transmission to Australia, McCormack said. — AP



contd from page 1

A grateful Nation Remembers Father of the Nation on his 151st birth anniversary, Oct 2

Congress Party Chief Sonia Gandhi said the Congress was holding protests in solidarity with farmers who were following the path shown by Mahatma Gandhi.

She said the Father of the Nation was the leading sympathizer of the cause of farmers and workers.

Born on October 2, 1869, in Gujarat's Porbandar, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi went on to become the 'Father of the Nation' as he led India's freedom movement against the British Empire while firmly sticking to his ideals of non-violence.

He led the Dandi Salt March in 1930 and launched the Quit India Movement in 1942. He also pioneered the philosophy of 'Satyagraha', a form of nonviolent resistance which he used in South Africa and during India's freedom movement.

His journey from a lawyer in South Africa to the leader of a nation and a global icon of non-violence have inspired millions across the world.

On June 15, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly declared October 2 as the International Day of Non-Violence, calling upon nations to inculcate his message of non-violence.

According to a statement by the UN, the resolution reaffirms "the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence" and the desire "to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence".

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Central government launched the Swachh Bharat mission in 2014 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti to make India open-defecation free and raise awareness about sanitation practices.

At a rally in Bihar's Champaran, the Prime Minister called the campaign 'Satyagraha se Swachhagrah', referencing Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran Satyagraha launched on April 10, 1916. (With inputs from OPOYI)

Massive protest in Delhi against Hathras Gangrape of a Dalit Girl

The protest site had been barricaded by the police to restrict the movement of protesters, an official said.

Besides ground force, senior police officers and paramilitary personnel had been deployed manage the crowd.

Several political leaders, including from the Aam Aadmi Party and the Left, joined the protest.

Most of them said they were outraged over the way UP Police cremated the body of the victim, who died at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital, a fortnight after she was allegedly raped by four upper-caste men.

The woman's family has alleged that the police forced them to conduct the last rites in the dead of the night. But local police officers have said the cremation was carried out "as per the wishes of the family".

"What is happening in UP is goondaraj," lawyer-activist Prashant Bhushan said.

"The police have surrounded the village, are not allowing opposition leaders and mediapersons to enter it and have taken away the mobile phones of the family members of the victim."

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who joined the protest for the first time since he became chief minister for the third time, said this is a fight for justice for the victim's family.

"There should be no politics over this issue. Such a crime should not have happened in any state of the country. No matter where it happens, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, or any city, Bangalore, Kolkata, or Delhi, the victim will always be one of India's daughters," he said while addressing the protesters.

Kejriwal said the entire country wants that the accused should get the strictest punishment.

"Few people feel that attempts are being made to shield the accused. That should not happen. They should get strict punishment. The family needs help and sympathy. The family should not be troubled," he added.

Kejriwal was joined by party MLAs Atishi and Somnath Bharti and AAP functionary Durgesh Pathak and minister Rajender Pal Gautam at the protest, attended by civil society activists, students, women and members of various political organisations.

"Media and the BJP are repeatedly asking why the people are protesting against the Hathras rape case. Lakhs of people gathered at India Gate to demand justice for Nirbhaya, while there were many rape incidents even before Nirbhaya and even after Nirbhaya," AAP's chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said.

"The reason that the people have joined today in huge numbers is that in this rape case of Hathras, every officer of the administration, whether it was SHO, DM, DSP, ADG, or chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, everybody is trying to save the accused starting right from September 14 till today," he added.

His views were echoed by Delhi WCD Minister Rajender Pal Gautam.

"The atrocities against Dalit did not stop in Hathras, they again happened in Bhadohi, Azamgarh, Baghpat and Bulandshahar. Dalits are facing atrocities every 13 minutes. It seems like Dalits are not treated as humans in this country. In the Hathras case, police tried to destroy evidence by cremating the victim's body and the

family is held captive and their phones have been snatched," he said.

Bollywood actor Swara Bhasker, Bhim Army chief Chandrasekhar Azad, and Left leaders Prakash Karat and Sitaram Yechury also attended the protest.

Swaraj India leader Yogendra Yadav said the Hathras incident "brings out the complete breakdown of anything called rule of law".

"It's not just that a rape happened, or that she was killed which is worse. There is a political patronage right from the beginning... The Uttar Pradesh administration is out there to ensure that this news doesn't come out."

Yadav alleged that the family was denied even a decent cremation for the victim, which even criminals are entitled to.

Calling what happened a "shutdown of democracy", he said, "The UP government has no basis to exist anymore".

Azad demanded that a fast-track court be set up to hear the case daily.

"The culprits should be punished as soon as possible so that others get scared before committing such crimes. We will go to Hathras and till the time the matter doesn't come to Delhi, there is no chance of getting justice," he said.

Bhasker said people from different groups have gathered at Jantar Mantar, which shows how enraged people are. "It is time we start fighting against the rape epidemic. Today, we are standing against it here and we have to win," she added.

Left leaders questioned the silence of the Central Government over the issue.

"The silence of the central government and the top leadership of the BJP on such a heinous crime and the UP government's response thereafter speaks volumes about the authoritarian and anti-democratic 'chehra', 'chaal', 'charitra', and 'chintan' of the ruling party," Yechury said.

"The Uttar Pradesh government has no right to stay in power. Our demand is that justice should be served," he said.

Karat said the lawlessness in Uttar Pradesh is "a caste code in operation, not the Constitution of India".

"We fought for the primacy of rape victim's statement in law, but now, they have brought a false report to save the criminals, saying there was no rape. I want to ask Modiji. Is this your culture? Your UP government has put the family under house arrest. You are punishing them and not the government responsible for her death," she said.

"Is it your culture not to allow people to console the grieving family? Shame on you Modiji. Your government denied her proper medical attention, your government did not allow her family to give her a dignified funeral, and now, you are denying them solace. The UP chief minister should be sacked," Karat added. (With inputs from PTI)

KARNATAKA: A BOUNTY OF HISTORY AND NATURE

The geography and landscape of Karnataka is such that it serves as an ideal destination for diverse and enthralling tourist locations and landmarks. Located in the midst of Western Ghats, Deccan Plateau and Kannad Coast, Karnataka is home to various forests, beaches, waterfalls, coffee plantations, lakes and all the bounties of nature.

The state also boasts of historically significant monuments and structures that attract visitors from far and beyond.

Also culturally diverse and ancient, Karnataka has a historic past and rich heritage for the travelers to explore.

Bangalore - The City of Diverse Existence

Topping the list for the right reasons in the capital city, Bangalore. Bangalore is the most cosmopolitan city in India. It is a melting pot that is home to people from different backgrounds, cultures and skills. It is the hub of Information Technology that houses a huge number of Software, Hardware and telecom companies that provide services to clients around the world.

Also called the garden city, the key attractions in Bangalore are Bannerghatta Park, Lalbag Garden, Tipu Sultan Palace, Wonder La Theme park, Aerospace Museum and VidhanaSoudha to name a few.

The pleasant weather throughout the year makes this city a prime summer vacation destination.

The best way to travel to this city is either by train to Bangalore Railway station or by air to Bengaluru International airport.

Bandipur National Park - In Harmony with Nature

Get as close as you can to natural wildlife in Bandipur National Park. Perfect haven for animal lovers who want to get engrossed in the sights and sounds of the forest.

Do not miss the Tiger Reserve and the Bird Sanctuary of the national park. The rich fauna and flora in the reserve will leave you asking for more. It is a perfect choice for a day picnic. Some of the wildlife you can spot here are elephants, the spotted deer, antelopes.

This attraction is about 80 km from the Mysore railway station and about 220 km from the airport.

Coorg - Queer but Captivating

Coorg is one of the pristine, less crowded hill stations. Its natural and lush greenery contributes to its scenic beauty. It is an ideal summer getaway.

Coorg is bestowed with aromatic coffee plantations, breathtaking waterfalls, green mountains, and stunning views. Another unique attraction of Coorg is the Tibetan Monastery.

Tourists have plenty of options for trekking along coffee estates, along river side and mountain scenic paths. There is a local market for any kind of shopping needs.

Coorg is about 106 km from Mangalore rail station and about 250 km from the airport.

Hampi - An Architectural Marvel

Hampi is one of the world's heritage sites as declared by UNESCO. Situated on the banks of Tungabhadra, the place is home to historical ruins and remains of the Vijayanagar kingdom. Rocks and stone carvings are proof of the skill and



mastery of the artisans of the old era. It is the perfect tourist place for the history enthusiast.

There are such 500 magnificent structures in Hampi, each of which has a story of its own.

The Hubli airport is the nearest to Hampi, about 74 km.

Mysore - City of Old World Charm

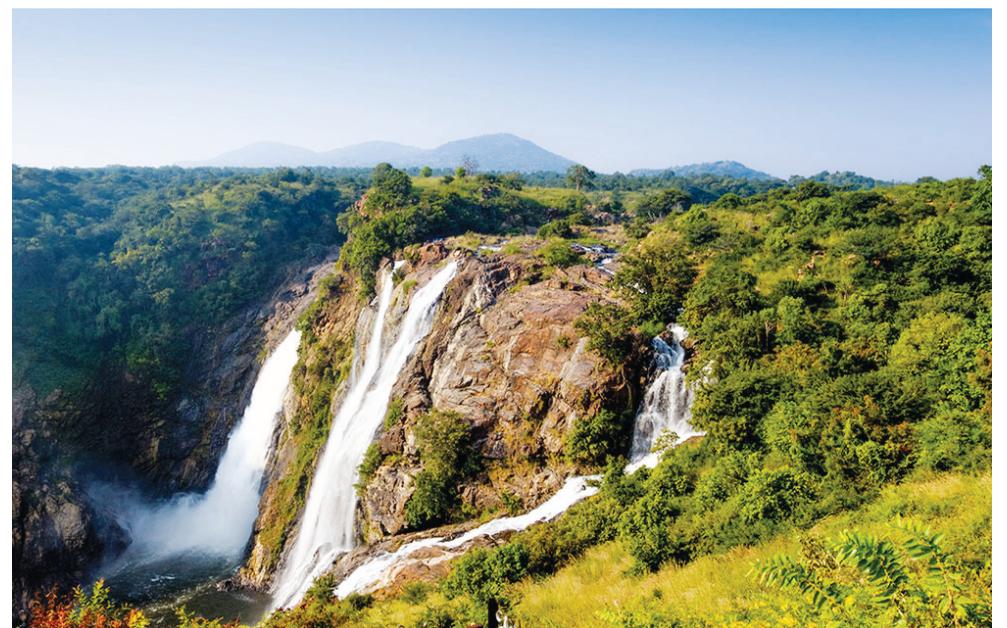
Mysore is one of the oldest cities and second biggest in Karnataka. It was the erstwhile city of the Mysore kings who ruled the state for 100's of years up until the 20th century.

Mysore is one of the very few cities who has managed to maintain its old world charm. There are plenty of impressive palaces, museums, temples and imposing heritage structures to marvel in Mysore. The alluring Brindavan Gardens are also one of the major attractions of Mysore. The Bangalore airport is about 184 km from Mysore.

Shivanasamudra Falls - Nature's Fury and Peace

Shivanasamudra water falls, located in the Mandya district of Karnataka is a splendid sight to see especially in the monsoon months. This is a segmented fall, with streams running parallel to each other called Gaganachukki and Bharachukki. The gorge is very deep and swimming is not permitted but tourists can enjoy bathing in the part where the force of water is lower.

Bangalore airport is about 175 km and Mysore station is about 80km from the Shivanasamudra falls





Halep punishes Anisimova; Thiem eases past Ruud

Top seed Simona Halep extracted brutal revenge on American teenager Amanda Anisimova with a 6-0 6-1 victory to move ominously into the fourth round of the French Open. Anisimova caused a huge upset last year when she comfortably beat Romanian Halep, then the defending champion, in the quarterfinals, but could not reproduce that form as she received a 54-minute claycourt lesson.

Halep was in typically miserly mood, making only seven unforced errors and waiting for the 19-year-old Anisimova to make mistakes, of which she made 32.

Third seed Dominic Thiem was not at his best but still had enough firepower to see off Norway's Casper Ruud with a 6-4 6-3 6-1 win and march into the fourth round.

US Open champion Thiem struggled with his serve in the opening set, facing six break points, but improved as the match progressed under the closed roof.

Claycourt master Rafael Nadal powered his way into the fourth round with a merciless 6-1 6-4 6-0 demolition of Italian Stefano Travaglia. The second seed will next meet American Sebastian Korda. Nadal encountered little resistance, hitting 28 winners and saying stars started to align in Paris.

Robert Lewandowski wins UEFA Player of the Year award

Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski won the UEFA men's Player of the Year award on Thursday, ahead of Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne and Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.

The Polish forward scored 15 goals on the way to Bayern Munich's sixth Champions League title, hitting the target in every match before the final except a group game against Tottenham Hotspur when he was rested.

He also fired 34 goals in 31 Bundesliga matches and six in five German Cup games, helping Bayern win both competitions. The German champions' manager Hansi Flick won UEFA's coach of the year of the award.

Pernille Harder, who played for Wolfsburg last season and is now with Chelsea, won the Women's Player of the Year award for the second time.

IPL 2020: SRH secure impressive win over CSK

Every so often in the IPL, talented young players seize the stage and bring notice of their incredible ability to a worldwide audience. Sunrisers Hyderabad had two such players bursting through in a seven-run win against Chennai Super Kings. Priyam Garg hit a sparkling half-century in just his second innings for the Sunrisers, while Abhishek Sharma also made his highest score for the franchise to drive them to a competitive 164 for 5.

That nearly wasn't enough in a dramatic finish as Super Kings mounted a furious late assault. The drama heightened with Bhuvneshwar Kumar going off clutching his thigh after one ball of his final over - the 19th of the innings - to have David Warner throwing the ball to the third youngster in the Sunrisers line-up. Abdul Samad had bowled only seven overs in his entire T20 career before this game and was in the XI primarily due to his batting, but ended up finishing his full quota. His final over went for 20 runs, but the Sunrisers bowlers, including Samad himself, had done enough before that to squeeze out a win. Super Kings finished on 157 for 5, for a third defeat in a row, which hasn't happened to them since 2014.

That they couldn't get over the line despite coming so close was down largely to Garg and Sharma. Garg had walked in when Warner was caught by Faf du Plessis completing an in-and-out boundary catch at long-on. Next ball, Kane Williamson was run out in a mix-up which left the normally unflappable New Zealand captain fuming. But Garg,



Priyam Garg and Abhishek Sharma put together a 77-run partnership.

calmly shrugged that off to unleash some death-overs carnage in smashing 51* off 26. Sharma (31 off 24) had been the one to inject initial momentum when both players - barely out of their teens - had the task of dragging the Sunrisers to a good total with their top four of Jonny Bairstow, Warner, Manish Pandey and Williamson all dismissed in the first 11 overs. The two added 77 in just seven overs even as Super Kings' fielding wilted, conceding dropped catches and overthrows aplenty. It was also the first half-century stand by players aged 20 or less in the history of the IPL.

Sunrisers' bowlers kept things tight - Rashid Khan bowling four overs for just 12 runs - and their initial good work went a long way in clinching victory even though the last four overs went for 70

runs.

Bairstow was bowled by a banana inswinger from Deepak Chahar in the first over, while Warner never got out of second gear. Pandey, a sedate starter normally, came out swinging to keep the Sunrisers' heads above water. But he fell when looking good, and the Warner-Williamson double-strike meant the team was 69 for 4 in 11 overs.

Super Kings had made several changes to their XI. Ambati Rayudu and Dwayne Bravo were both fit and included, as was Shardul Thakur, while M Vijay, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Josh Hazlewood sat out. That combination gave them greater depth in batting as well as bowling. MS Dhoni used his seamers up front in rotation, with only two overs of spin in the first 11 overs.

Ronaldo's Juventus gets Messi's Barcelona in Champions League group stage

Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi will face each other in the Champions League group stage for the first time.

Messi's Barcelona was drawn from the pot of second-seeded teams on Thursday into the group where Ronaldo's Juventus was already placed as a top seed. The group was later completed by Dynamo Kyiv and Ferencváros.

The 35-year-old Ronaldo and the 33-year-old Messi had a nine-year rivalry in the Spanish league when the Portugal star was with Real Madrid. However, they could never face each other so early in the Champions League then because clubs from the same country are separated in the draw.

They did meet in the 2009 final, when Messi scored as Barcelona beat Ronaldo's Manchester United 2-0.

Juventus and Barcelona were paired in the group stage of the 2017-18 season - Ronaldo's last in Madrid when he helped Real win a fourth Champions League title in five seasons. Messi scored twice in a 3-0 home win over Juventus, before the teams drew 0-0 in Italy.

The stellar clash of superstars still left space for intriguing draws in the other seven groups.

Defending champion Bayern Munich was grouped with Atlético Madrid, Salzburg and Lokomotiv Moscow.

Paris Saint-Germain, the beaten finalist last season, was reunited with Manchester United - which it lost to in the round of 16 in 2019 - and Leipzig, which it beat in this year's semifinals. Newcomer Istanbul Basaksehir is also in that group.

Liverpool, the 2019 champion, is top-seeded in a group of teams with reputations for playing open attacking soccer - Ajax, Atalanta and Midtjylland of Denmark, another Champions League debutant.

Six-time European champion Liverpool and four-time winner Ajax have met only once before in the competition, in 1966. Ajax eliminated Liverpool from the European Cup second round



after a 5-1 first leg win in Amsterdam.

Real Madrid, the record 13-time champion, heads a group with storied European histories including Shakhtar Donetsk, Inter Milan and Borussia Mönchengladbach.

Sevilla and Chelsea, winners of the past two Europa League titles, will play two more Champions League newcomers, Krasnodar and Rennes.

Manchester City, seeking its first title, was second-seeded in a group with two former winners, Porto and Marseille, plus Olympiakos.

Zenit St Petersburg, top-seeded as Russian league champion, will play Borussia Dortmund, Lazio and Club Brugge.

The UEFA will publish a full match schedule on Friday. The group stage starts on October 20 and is scheduled to run through December 9.

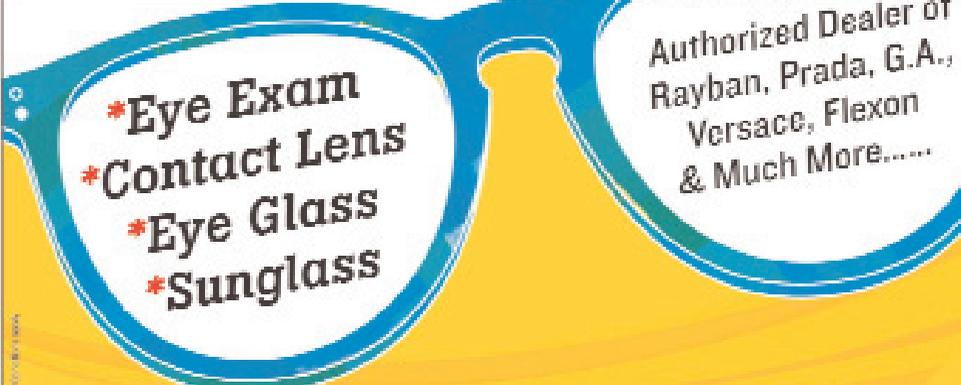
Games can be made up until January 28 if any are postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

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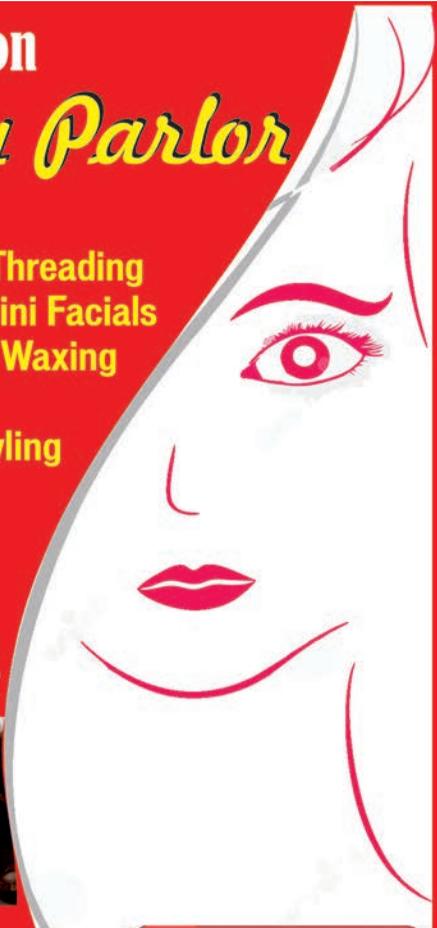
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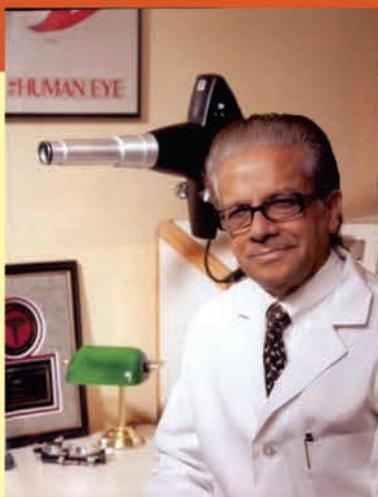
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DR. V.K. RAJU
MD, FRCS, FACS
Founder and
president of the Eye
Foundation of America



The Eye Foundation of America,
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