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The Indian Panorama will bring out a **SPECIAL EDITION** on the occasion of Deepavali on Friday, November 13, Articles and advertisements for the special edition may please be submitted by **November 7, 2020.**

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2020 US presidential election to be most expensive in history; expected to cost \$14 billion

Biden's campaign brought in record-breaking USD 938 million through October 14, while Trump raised USD 596 million

NEW YORK (TIP): The 2020 Presidential election is turning out to be the most expensive election in history and twice as expensive as the previous presidential election cycle, with the total cost of the election expected to reach an unprecedented USD 14 billion, a research group said.

The Center for Responsive Politics said that an "extraordinary influx" of political donations in the final months - driven by a Supreme Court battle and closely watched races for the White House and Senate - pushed total spending in the election past the previously estimated 11 billion dollars figure.

The Center said that the 2020 election will cost USD 14 billion, shattering spending records. **contd on Page 2**



Money is not the issue for either candidate in the US Presidential Election 2020 ; winning is File photo

India, U.S. ink landmark defense pact

Pact takes Indo-US defense ties to the next level



The 2+2 dialogue. US Defense Secretary Mark Esper, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, India's Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and India's External Minister S. Jaishankar make a joint statement in New Delhi

NEW DELHI (TIP): India and the U.S. on October 27 inked a landmark defense agreement that will allow sharing of high-end military technology, classified satellite data, and critical information between the two countries. The signing of the long-negotiated Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) during the third edition **contd on page 2**

U.S. coronavirus cases cross nine million: a Reuters report says

NEW YORK (TIP): U.S. coronavirus cases crossed the 9 million mark on Friday, October 30, rising by 1 million in two weeks as the world's worst-affected country faces a resurgence in the pandemic just ahead of elections, Reuters says.

Cases are rising faster than ever before. The previous record for 1 million new cases was during a surge in infection in July and August - when it took 16 days. Now the country has recorded over 1 million cases in 14 days with no sign of the outbreak slowing. **contd on page 2**



Covid testing Photo / Courtesy MIT Technology Review



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2020 US presidential election...

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden will be the first candidate in history to raise USD 1 billion from donors.

His campaign brought in a record-breaking USD 938 million through October 14, riding Democrats' enthusiasm to defeat Trump.

President Donald Trump raised USD 596 million, which would be a strong fundraising effort if not for Biden's immense haul.

"Even amid a pandemic, everyone is giving more in 2020, from ordinary individuals making small donations to billionaires cutting eight-figure checks to super PACs.

Women are smashing donation records, and Americans are increasingly donating to candidates who aren't running for office in their state," it said in a statement.

The 2020 election is more than twice as expensive as the runner up, the 2016 election.

This year's election will see more spending than the previous two presidential election cycles combined, said the Center for Responsive Politics, a nonpartisan, independent and nonprofit research group that tracks money in US politics and its effect on elections and public policy.

"Donors poured record amounts of money into the 2018 midterms, and 2020 appears to be a continuation of that trend - but magnified," said Sheila Krumholz, executive director of the Center for Responsive Politics.

"Ten years ago, a billion-dollar presidential candidate would have been difficult to imagine. This cycle, we're likely to see two," Krumholz said.

The group said that the massive numbers are headlined by unprecedented spending in the presidential contest, which is expected to see USD 6.6 billion in total spending alone, up from around USD 2.4 billion in the 2016 race.

Spending by deep-pocketed national groups is also driving the total cost of election higher. In the month of October alone, outside spending by super PACs and other big-money groups totaled nearly USD 1.2 billion.

These groups are spending far more to boost Biden than help Trump, further aiding the Democrats cash-flush campaign.

Driven by their supporters' strong opposition to Trump, Democrats are continuing their fundraising prowess that helped them dominate the money race in the 2018 election cycle.

"Their money machine is more powerful than ever in 2020," the Center said.

Democratic candidates and groups have spent USD 5.5 billion compared to Republicans' USD 3.8 billion, the Center said noting that Democrats have never had a financial advantage this large.

Both parties raised more than ever from small donors, but Democrats came out on top, having raised nearly USD 1.7 billion from bite-sized donors, compared to USD 1 billion for Republicans.

Overall, small donors account for 22 per cent of the money raised in the 2020 cycle. These individual donors giving USD 200 or less only accounted for 15 per cent of money raised in the 2016 election.

The pandemic also forced candidates to forgo in-person fundraisers with wealthy donors. Campaigns have increasingly relied on virtual fundraising using texts and emails, a strategy that works better when Americans are more engaged in politics, it said.

Political groups have spent over USD 1 billion this year to advertise on platforms like Facebook and Google, according to OpenSecrets' online ads database.

Democrats are also raising more in large part because women are giving more.

More than 1.5 million women have donated to federal committees, accounting for 44 per cent of all donors, up from 37 per cent in 2016.

In the 2020 election, women have given USD 2.5 billion through mid-October, up from USD 1.3 billion throughout the entire 2016 election.

According to the Center's research, women are more likely to be Democratic donors.

In the 2020 election, women giving over USD 200 have donated nearly USD 1.3 billion to Democrats and roughly USD 570 million to Republicans.

Several industries have flipped over to Democrats' side

under Trump's presidency, including the well-funded miscellaneous finance and securities and investment industries.

Real estate is one of the few major industries to stay in Republicans' corner during the Trump era, giving slightly more to GOP committees than Democrats, it said. (Source: PTI)

India, U.S. ink landmark defense...

of the '2+2' dialogue between the two strategic partners also signals further boosting of bilateral defense and military ties.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defense Minister Rajnath Singh held the talks with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper. Both sides were assisted by their top military and security officials.

The United States will support the Indian people defend sovereignty and liberty against threats, Secretary of State Michael Pompeo said, following the conclusion of the pact, which comes in the backdrop of India's tense border standoff with China in eastern Ladakh. Pompeo also attacked the Chinese Communist Party and said it is not a friend of rule of law and democracy.

The inking of the BECA completes the finalization of four key pacts that were identified as crucial to significantly expand the strategic ties between the two countries.

The General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) was signed by the two countries in 2002. The GSOMIA provides for specific measures to ensure security standards for safeguarding critical information shared by the U.S. with India.

The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), inked in 2016, allows the militaries of the two countries to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies and also provide for deeper cooperation.

In 2018, India and the U.S. signed another pact called COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement), which provides for interoperability between the two militaries and enables sale of high end technology from the U.S. to India.

About BECA, officials said the agreement will give India access to classified geo-spatial data as well as critical information having significant military applications from the U.S. (Agencies)

U.S. coronavirus cases cross nine...

On Thursday, October 30, the United States reported a record 91,254 new cases. On average, over 77,000 cases are being reported every day in the last seven days, double the level seen two months ago. Hospitalizations of COVID-19 patients are hitting records in 21 out of 50 states. Deaths are also trending higher and have reached nearly 230,000.

For every 10,000 people in the United States, over 272 coronavirus cases have been reported and about seven people have died, according to a Reuters analysis. In Europe there have been 127 cases and four deaths per 10,000 residents.

Texas has surpassed California as the worst-affected state in the United States, with Florida in third place.

More than a half million lives could be lost to COVID-19 across the United States by the end of February, according to researchers at the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME).

U.S. President Donald Trump, who is seeking a second term has been saying for weeks that the country is "rounding the turn," even as new cases and hospitalizations soar.

The United States performed 7.7 million coronavirus tests last week, of which 6.3% came back positive, compared with 5.4% the prior week, according to data from The COVID Tracking Project, a volunteer-run effort to track the outbreak.

South Dakota led the nation with the highest positive test rate at 40%, followed by Idaho at 34% and Wyoming at 29%. A total of 14 states had a positive test rate of over 10%.

According to a Reuters analysis, the South region comprises nearly 44% of all the cases in the United States, with nearly 4 million cases in the region alone, followed by the Midwest, West and Northeast. (Source: Reuters)

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Indian Americans Murthy and Chetty are among Joe Biden's Core Advisors



Dr Vivek Murthy, a former US Surgeon General and Harvard economist Raj Chetty are among Joe Biden's core advisors

NEW YORK (TIP): Two prominent Indian Americans are among Democratic Presidential nominee Joe Biden's "core advisors" who have been guiding him on issues ranging from the coronavirus pandemic, economic recovery to foreign policy and climate change, a media report said.

Biden, "plotting an ambitious presidency that would begin amid twin health and economic crises, is leaning on veteran advisers with high-level governmental experience rather than outsiders and ideological rivals to help guide him on subjects including the coronavirus pandemic and the country's diminished standing in the world," a report in The New York Times said.

Among those advising him on the pandemic are Dr Vivek Murthy, former US Surgeon General who was appointed by President Barack Obama and Harvard economist Raj Chetty is among those who have briefed Biden on economic issues, the report said.

Murthy and former head of the Food and Drug Administration David Kessler were among those present on a conference call convened by the Biden campaign when it learned that two people who had travelled with Senator Kamala Harris had tested positive for the coronavirus.

"Biden has spoken often of his briefings with experts, and Dr Murthy and Dr Kessler have been two of the most prominent medical figures whose counsel Biden has sought during the public health crisis," the NYT report said. The NYT report quoted Kessler as saying that in the early days of the pandemic, he and Murthy would brief Biden "every day, or four times a week." "We would send in 80- to 90-page documents, take him through the epidemic from epidemiology, therapeutics, vaccines, testing. Staff would join, originally by phone but they soon shifted to Zoom," Kessler said, according to the NYT report.

"The docs," as Biden calls Kessler and Murthy, also "pore over research and data on the virus and consult with modelers, vaccinologists and other experts so they can provide Biden with projections about the coming months."

The report added that Biden has signaled that the government's top infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci will have a prominent role in a Biden administration.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

8 Indian Origin Winners in British Columbia Assembly Polls

OTTAWA (TIP): Eight Indo-Canadians, including a Sikh, have won elections in Canada's British Columbia province as the ruling New Democratic Party (NDP) returned to power with a majority in the snap polls.

The NDP led by Jagmeet Singh, the first Indo-Canadian to lead a major federal party in Canada, increased its 41-seat minority into a 55-seat majority in the 87-member assembly, according to preliminary results on Saturday October 24 night, which did not include more than 500,000 mail-in ballots.

It is the largest NDP victory in British Columbia history, the Vancouver Sun newspaper reported.

"While we wait for that final count to happen, I want to assure people that I'm going to keep the focus right where it belongs, on helping people get through this pandemic and making sure that they have the services that they need," Premier John Horgan, who had called a snap election during the COVID-19 pandemic, said while addressing a victory rally in Vancouver.

Aman Singh, a Sikh, defeated Jas Johal of the opposition Liberal Party in Richmond-Queensborough.

"Thank you to the amazing residents of Richmond-Queensborough who I was able to connect with during this campaign. It has been a true honor to stand before you & hear about the issues impacting you & your families. I'm grateful to the team of volunteers who helped our team effort," Mr Singh tweeted.

Other prominent Indo-Canadian winners are Deputy Speaker Raj Chouhan, Labor Minister Harry Bains, Jagrup Brar and Ravi Kahlon. All are from the ruling party.

Three Indo-Canadian women - former

THE WINNERS...



RACHNA SINGH
Surrey-Grain Timbers



HARRY BAINS
Surrey-Newton



RAJ CHOUHAN
Burnaby-Edmonds



JAGRUP BRAR
Surrey-Fleetwood



RAVI KAHLON
Delta North



AMAN SINGH
Richmond-Queensborough



JINNY SIMS
Surrey-Panorama



NIKI SHARMA
Vancouver-Hastings

Aman Singh, Raj Chouhan, Harry Bains, Jagrup Brar, Ravi Kahlon, Jinny Sims, Niki Sharma and Rachna Singh have won in British Columbia province in Canada

minister Jinny Sims, Niki Sharma and Rachna Singh - all from the ruling NDP - emerged winners in the polls.

"I thank you to all the volunteers & everyone who have worked so hard to make my campaign possible. Thank you for your support, phone calls, donations & all the kind messages. I have met so many local residents - listening to many stories & learning about what matters to you," tweeted Mr Chouhan, who secured victory in the Burnaby-Edmonds constituency.

Bains, who won from Surrey Newton, also thanked people for his victory in the elections.

"So incredibly grateful, humbled, and honored - thank you to the amazing constituents of Surrey-Newton for trusting me to be your MLA and to all of

my friends & family for their unwavering support - we'll keep BC moving forward for everyone!" he tweeted.

Sims, who served as minister of citizens services in Horgan's government but resigned in October 2019, defeated her fellow Punjabi Dr Gulzar Cheema. Sims, who emigrated to England from Punjab at the age of nine, and her husband moved to Canada in 1975.

"Congratulations and thank you to all who ran for office and to all who voted. Special shout out to all our volunteers. My heartfelt thanks to my constituents in SurreyPanorama," she tweeted.

NDP leaders Kahlon and Brar won from Delta North and Surrey-Fleetwood constituency, respectively.

Indian Americans believe Joe Biden, Kamala Harris have best Understanding of Community



Joe Biden and his running mate Senator Kamala Harris have the best understanding of the Indian-American community, the leaders supporting the two Democratic candidates believe.

President Donald Trump as a "foe" who criticizes India on the world stage. With less than four to go for the November 3 presidential election, Indian Americans on Friday asserted that Biden, first as a US Senator and thereafter as the vice president, has a strong track record of helping the community.

Trump, a Republican, is being challenged by Biden in the US presidential election.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-Origin MR Rangaswami gets Canada-India Business Council's 'Global Service Award'

WASHINGTON (TIP): Indiaspora's Founder, MR Rangaswami, has been recognized by the Canada-India Business Council with its new 2020 'Global Service Award' for launching Indiaspora and connecting the Indian diaspora globally.

The award was presented virtually on Thursday as part of the Canada-India Business Council's virtual Diwali Awards from 5 pm - 6 pm EDT, according to media release.

The inaugural award is given to an individual who demonstrates excellence, and a record of exceptional service for the betterment of others.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



MR Rangaswami has been recognized by the Canada-India Business Council with its new 2020 'Global Service Award' for launching Indiaspora and connecting the Indian diaspora globally.

Indian American Ishana Kumar wins top award for researching 'Imaginary Colors'

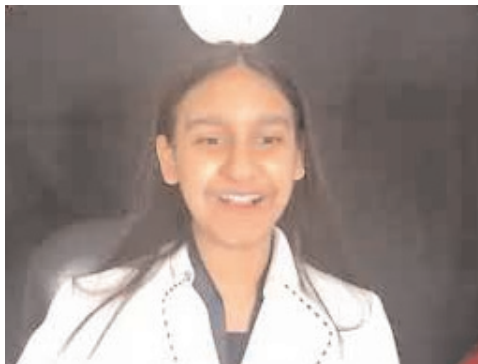
NEW YORK (TIP): Ishana Kumar, a 12-year-old Indian American student, has won a prestigious award in science for a project that could lead to better understanding of eye disease and cognitive processing.

The 7th grader from Chappaqua, New York, takes home the \$25,000 top prize in the Broadcom MASTERS (Math, Applied Science, Technology, and Engineering for Rising Stars), a program of the Society for Science & the Public, NPR reported.

She was among 30 finalists from middle schools across the country recognized by the Society for their groundbreaking innovations.

Kumar's project explores whether it's possible to change someone's perceptions of imaginary colors. She was inspired by playing with Benham's top, a spinning disk with black and white patterns that causes people to see different colors.

"I wanted to see if I could sort of change the way we perceive these colors



Kumar's project explores whether it's possible to change someone's perceptions of imaginary colors

through something called retinal fatigue," Kumar stated.

Keeping her testing sample small - 10 friends and neighbors - due to covid-19 restrictions, she had her subjects first look at the spinning top, then look at bright colored lights, and finally look again at the top.

"Let's say I'm looking at a bright red object," Kumar said explaining the process. "I stare at it for a very, very long

time. And then I look at a white sheet of paper. I'll actually see the shape of the red object but it won't be red. It will be green."

"And the reason this happens is because certain cells in our eyes called cones, the red cones, they detect or sort of perceive the color red. They trigger and trigger and trigger when looking at this red object." "But they get so tired that the green cones, which sort of detect green, temporarily take over," Kumar said. "And I wanted to see, if I could temporarily saturate someone's eyes, would this change our perception of imaginary colors."

Kumar discovered that it is possible. She told NPR she'd like to apply her research to a larger sampling size and upgrade to a lab where the light can be controlled.

For this competition, she did all her testing in her garage at home. And she has a longer-range goal as well. She wants to keep doing research so she can one day help Alzheimer's patients.

Indian American Entrepreneur Honored with Utah Governor's Lifetime Achievement Medal



Dr Dinesh C Patel has been honored with Utah Governor's Lifetime Achievement Medal for Science and Technology for his contribution in the field of biotechnology and pharmaceuticals

WASHINGTON (TIP): Eminent Indian American entrepreneur Dr Dinesh C Patel has been honored with Utah Governor's Lifetime Achievement Medal for Science and Technology for his contribution in the field of biotechnology and pharmaceuticals.

Considered the father of biotechnology and pharmaceuticals in the Rocky Mountain region, Dr Patel has been instrumental in creating, driving and growing Utah's science and technology community into the rich landscape, according to a statement issued on Wednesday.

The Governor's Medal for Science and Technology has been awarded to deserving recipients since 1987 as a symbol of recognition to those who have provided distinguished service to the state in the fields of science and technology.

It has been nearly 40 years since Patel came to Utah. His innovations and hard work brought financial success and improved the lives of thousands across the globe.

Patel founded TheraTech Inc., in 1985 serving as president and CEO. He led the company in a successful initial public offering in 1992, and successful acquisition in 1999 when Watson Pharmaceuticals, Inc. purchased the company for over USD 350 million.

Post TheraTech, Patel founded Salus Therapeutics, a biotechnology company that developed anti-sense pharmaceuticals. Genta Inc, acquired Salus in 2003 for USD 30 million.

He continued to start and grow companies in the state, founding and cofounding other successful ventures, including a family investment firm, Patel Family Investments, which has a current portfolio of over 25 early-stage companies and 12 private equity/venture funds.

Patel has received distinguished honors locally and across the globe for his leadership, mentorship and contributions to the scientific communities including the State of Utah's Governor's Medal for Science and Technology Award - Industry Category in 1996.

Indian American director's documentary trails 'bogus pathway to America'



Indians pay huge sums chasing the American dream, says Namrata Singh Gujral

NEW YORK (TIP): America may seem like a beacon for the poor, but many Indians pay \$50,000 to \$75,000 per person for what turns out to be a bogus pathway to America, according to a new documentary about illegal immigration.

"What you find with those suffering truly abject poverty is they are thinking about their next meal, their next possible money - much more pressing things," Indian American director Namrata Singh Gujral told the media in an interview.

"They aren't thinking about America at all," said Singh, director of "America's Forgotten," who began researching the subject after listening to a Democratic presidential primary debate in June 2019.

Asked whether their plans would provide free health care for life for undocumented immigrants, all of the candidates, including eventual nominee Joe Biden and his vice-presidential choice, Kamala Harris raised their hands.

Gujral, herself a successful immigrant, told the media she was angered by what she saw as the Democrats' encouragement of illegal immigration.

When she started looking into the thousands of Indian businesses, many unregistered, purporting to offer easy access into the US, she saw the Democratic debate as a selling point.

"The unscrupulous coyotes urging people to immigrate illegally from India literally have a clip of that debate moment on their iPhones," she said.

"Free American health care? For the rest of your life? Who doesn't want that?" Nevertheless, as an immigrant herself, Gujral insists she did not approach "America's Forgotten" intending to make a documentary about the negative impact of illegal immigration. Instead, that was what she learned in the process.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Anika Chebrolu crowned America's Top Young Scientist for discovering potential Covid-19 cure

WASHINGTON, DC (TIP): A brilliant 14-year-old Indian American girl has been crowned America's Top Young Scientist of the year for her research to develop a novel antiviral drug to combat the spread

of Covid-19. Anika Chebrolu of Frisco, Texas, earned first place in the highly competitive Young Scientist Challenge, an annual science competition for middle school students organized by 3M in partnership with Discovery Education.

The budding scientist, an eighth-grader at Nelson Middle School at the time of entering the contest, used in-silico methodology for drug discovery to find a molecule that can selectively bind to the spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in an attempt to find a cure for the Covid-19 pandemic.

For her commendable efforts to find this lead compound that can be a potential drug for the effective treatment of the deadly coronavirus disease, she was conferred with the title of 'America's Top Young Scientist', awarded the grand prize of \$25,000 dollars, bestowed with the 'Improving Lives Award', and gifted with a special destination trip. In third place was another Indian American teen, Laasya Acharya, 12, of Mason, Ohio. A seventh-grader at Mason Middle School, Laasya developed a solution that will enable farmers to detect diseased and unhealthy crops thereby reducing food wastage during the harvesting phase.

Interestingly, this year, of the ten finalists, seven were of Indian descent: Rithvik Ijju, 13, of Englewood, Colorado; Ekansh Mittal, 13, of Beaverton, Oregon; Harsha Pillarisetti, 13, of San Ramon, California; Samhita Pokkunuri, 12, of Old Bridge, New Jersey; Samvrit Rao, 12, of Ashburn, Virginia; Anika; and Laasya. Among these Indian-origin kids, four hail from Telugu-speaking families: Anika; Samhita; Harsha; and Samvrit.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Chebrolu of Frisco, Texas, earned first place in the highly competitive Young Scientist Challenge, an annual science competition for middle school students organized by 3M in partnership with Discovery Education.

Wooing Bihar's voters with free vaccine, jobs



By Saba Naqvi

"Since its impressive victory in the 2019 General Election, the BJP has not been able to repeat the performance in the states that had elections subsequently. It formed the government with a regional party in Haryana, it lost an ally and a chance to share power in Maharashtra, and was squarely defeated in Delhi. Most relevant to Bihar, however, would be the defeat of the ruling BJP in December 2019 in Jharkhand (that was carved out of Bihar) to the alliance of the JMM-Congress-RJD."

The Bihar verdict will answer several questions, such as the PM's ratings and whether parties birthed in the Mandal era still have the capacity to bounce back and remain relevant in the face of the money, might and machinery that the BJP now throws into every election.



Major players - PM Modi, Nitish Kumar, Chirag Paswan, Jitan Ram Manjhi, Tejashwi Yadav, Rahul Gandhi

It's a reflection on the deep cynicism with which most political parties approach elections that India's pre-eminent party, the BJP, has offered free COVID-19 vaccine for all the people of Bihar in its manifesto for the poll-bound state.

A state with endemic poverty, hunger and unemployment, besides one of the worst public health systems in the country, is now being promised a vaccine that is yet to come into existence. One could say that it's a give-them-cake-if-they-don't-have-bread statement in the context of Bihar, besides being blatantly cynical since all Indians should be offered a vaccine (if and when it comes into existence), not just those in states that are having elections.

But the truth is that there is unlikely to be a revolution in Bihar, although there is growing excitement about the RJD's CM face, the 30-year-old Tejashwi Yadav. Some trends have also become clear by now. First, anti-incumbency appears to be directed at Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and not the BJP's national leadership per se. There is a disconnect between governance issues and the persona of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has actually presided over a shrinking economy, civil unrest and poor decisions, such as announcing the most stringent lockdown in the world at four hours' notice.

The attempt through the BJP's social media army and a pliant television media to disconnect the PM from all the troubles in the earthly realm appears to have succeeded and this election result will show us to what extent. So, at this point, within the ruling NDA, the BJP seems better poised to win more seats than the JD (U) does.

The post-election game in Bihar, therefore, remains open if Nitish falters badly. In that event, one should not rule out the possibility of the BJP seeking to form a government on its own and even

absorbing members of the JD(U) minus Nitish. If the JD (U) performs way below its alliance partner, the question of chief ministership would naturally open up again. The BJP's Deputy Chief Minister in Bihar, Sushil Modi, is too closely associated with Nitish and in the event of a jolt, a CM face would come from another faction of the national party's state unit that has been arguing and strategizing for the party going it alone.

The cat's paw in the BJP's strategy in Bihar is clearly LJP's Chirag Paswan, who, too, is drawing decent crowds. It is only after the first phase of voting is over on October 28 that it will become clear whether the BJP-RSS's formidable cadre and election machinery is transferring support to the LJP or the JD(U) (the Paswan-led party has put up candidates against Nitish Kumar, but not the BJP). Nitish Kumar's desperation was on display at the rallies addressed by PM Modi, where the three-term Chief Minister clearly seemed dependent on the individual he once so fiercely opposed. Nitish has clearly bent the knee for now and the feedback after the first phase of voting will determine his strategies for the second and third phases that follow on November 3 and 7 (results will be declared on November 10). He is facing a challenge both outside and inside the NDA.

But the equations within the NDA are part of the story in Bihar. The other is the growing momentum to the campaign of Tejashwi Yadav. Lalu Prasad Yadav's son has, at the very least, arrived as a campaigner in this election and it is quite likely that the RJD could end this election with the largest vote share among parties, although it is debatable whether they could convert all the support into seats as the other side appears to have better coordination and resources. Plus, it is not clear whether the RJD's partner, the Congress, will have a good strike rate on its seats (the

Congress has been given 70 seats while the RJD has 144 seats and the Left parties contest on 29).

From being written off as a non-starter in the beginning of the election process, Tejashwi is actually being able to set the agenda. His promise of giving 10 lakh government jobs as soon as he is elected CM, undoubtedly, struck a chord in a state with a young population and the most depressing figures of unemployment. The BJP first responded by asking where Tejashwi would get the resources to fulfil such a promise and then announced in its manifesto that it would generate 'employment' for 19 lakh people. The party with more resources than any other player in the field was being reactive.

Since its impressive victory in the 2019 General Election, the BJP has not been able to repeat the performance in the states that had elections subsequently. It formed the government with a regional party in Haryana, it lost an ally and a chance to share power in Maharashtra, and was squarely defeated in Delhi. Most relevant to Bihar, however, would be the defeat of the ruling BJP in December 2019 in Jharkhand (that was carved out of Bihar) to the alliance of the JMM-Congress-RJD.

There is, however, an argument that the lockdown, the huge shrinking of the Indian economy and the COVID-19 scare have disabled other parties, while the BJP may have become comparatively stronger and more authoritarian in the past year.

The Bihar verdict will answer several questions, such as the PM's ratings and whether parties birthed in the Mandal era still have the capacity to bounce back and remain relevant in the face of the money, might and machinery that the BJP now throws into every election.

(The author is a Senior Journalist)

(Source: The Hindu)

Bihar polls: What is at stake for Modi in first election after Covid-19?

The Bihar election is the first test for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party since the Covid-19 pandemic struck. A strict nationwide lockdown has resulted in the country's worst economic downturn in decades and both unemployment and virus infections have soared. India trails only the U.S. as the nation with the most highest case tally.

Why does Bihar matter so much?

The state is one of the country's poorest and lags on most development indicators, but its massive population makes it politically significant. With some 104 million people -- the entire population of Egypt -- it accounts for 40 seats in the 545-member lower house of federal parliament giving it outsize national influence.

The state is currently ruled by a coalition that includes Modi's BJP and the election will be the first political test of how voters view his handling of the pandemic and the economic crisis and joblessness it has spawned.

A substantial win would also help Modi's administration to wrest more seats in the upper house of parliament where it lacks a majority, making it easier to push through legislation for its economic reforms. A straight defeat or even a significant reduction in seats would dent Modi's larger-than-life image and may also have implications for other state elections that will follow.

What's the campaign focusing on?

The promise of creating millions of new jobs is the top campaign plank of every major player in the election.

A lack of employment has been a perennial problem in the state -- its unemployment rate was 10.2%, almost twice that of the entire country, according to the 2018-19 Periodic Labour Force Survey. This has pushed a large part of its workforce to migrate to other states.

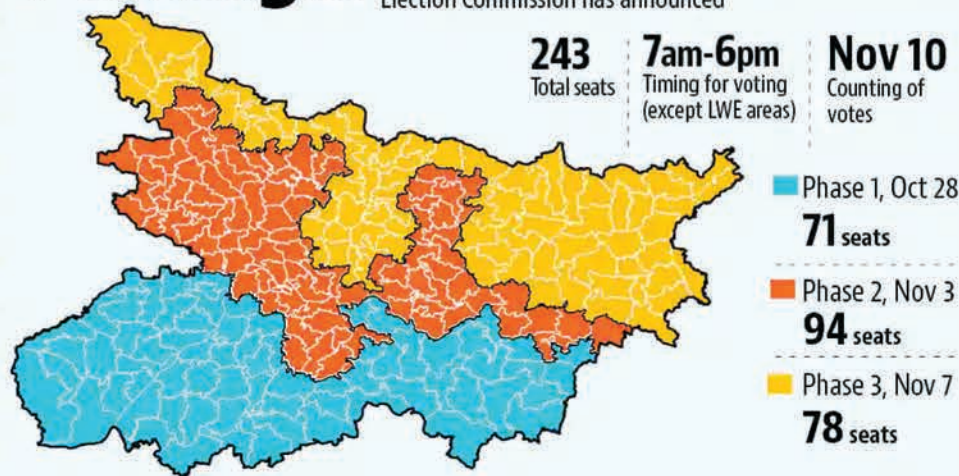
The strict lockdown forced some 1.5 million of the state's migrant workers to return to their villages as jobs vanished overnight. Visuals of the poorest workers trekking thousands of miles on foot and on bicycles were some of the most harrowing images of the pandemic in India.

While some migrants have returned to their jobs in big cities, many are still looking for employment in their towns and villages.

How are they dealing with the pandemic?

Poll bugle

Voting for the Bihar assembly elections will be held in three phases on October 28, November 3 and November 7, the Election Commission has announced



WINNER IN THE 2015 ELECTIONS

Phase in 2020 elections	BJP	JD(U)	RJD	INC	Others
Phase 1 seats	13	18	27	9	4
Phase 2 seats	20	30	33	7	4
Phase 3 seats	20	23	20	11	4

*The RJD, JD(U) and Congress contested as an alliance in 2015. The JD(U) later broke away to join the NDA



India's public health infrastructure is bare-bones even in some of its wealthiest states and Bihar is one of its poorest, with growing virus numbers hitting its government-run hospitals hard.

Bihar accounts for 212,355 of India's 7.94 million confirmed cases, making it the 11th worst hit out of the country's 28 states.

Even though a successful coronavirus vaccine is yet to emerge, Modi's party has already made free immunizations for the people of Bihar a campaign promise, kicking up a political row with opposition parties asking why the state was singled out for special attention ahead of other provinces.

Still, the pandemic appeared to have made no visible difference to campaigning itself. Most people in the thousands-strong crowds that gathered at major rallies appeared to not be

masked and there was no social distancing.

Guidelines issued by the independent Election Commission -- from capping the number of people involved in door-to-door campaigning and warning politicians against flouting Covid-19 protocols -- had little impact.

Who are main players?

Bihar's incumbent Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, leader of the Janata Dal (United) party, is seeking a fourth straight term and his first after he partnered with the BJP. A junior partner in the ruling alliance, the BJP is banking on Modi's appeal and hoping to emerge as the single largest party in the state.

The two main challengers are young leaders with serious political lineages. Tejashwi Yadav, 30, of the Rashtriya Janata Dal is the main face of a coalition

Phase 1 sees 54% turnout

The first of the three-phase Bihar Assembly election in 71 constituencies across 16 districts ended peacefully on Wednesday, October 28, amid reports of clashes between supporters of two parties in Shahpur, Kaimur and Gaya, and electronic voting machines (EVM) not working properly in some places.

According to the Election Commission's (EC) Voter Turnout App, the provisional polling was 54.26% that was updated till 10 p.m. Nearly 2.15 crore eligible voters exercised their franchise, marginally lower than in 2015.

The second phase of polling for 94 seats will be held on November 3, while the third one will be on November 7 for 78 seats. Counting of votes will be done on November 10.

that includes the Congress party. Yadav is the son of former longtime Bihar chief minister Lalu Prasad and draws support from a loyal bank of voters.

The other important player is Chirag Paswan, the actor-turned-politician, who heads the Lok Janashakti Party after the death of his father, federal lawmaker Ram Vilas Paswan. Paswan, 37, once part of ruling alliance, snapped ties with the Janata Dal (United) just ahead of elections. He may acquire more importance should the BJP emerge stronger and want to shake off its old alliance with Kumar.

How's Modi doing in Bihar?

Modi is the main face of the ruling coalition in Bihar and a great deal depends on his enduring popularity among voters. The prime minister pledged billion of rupees of development projects from bridges to rail lines to sewage treatment plants for the state just ahead of election.

Modi's flagship federal programs providing toilets, cooking gas and houses to the poor have also caught the attention of voters. Still, the anti-incumbency of Kumar's 15-year-long rule is expected to play a significant role.

What could be the result?

Indian opinion and exit polls have a reputation for inaccuracy when it comes to predicting voter behavior. A recent poll gives the ruling coalition a winning edge and results will be out on Nov. 10.

Source: Bloomberg

34% candidates in second phase Bihar elections face criminal cases: ADR report

About 34% of 1,463 candidates in the second phase of the Bihar Assembly election have declared criminal cases against themselves, according to a report by poll rights group Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

About 27% or 389 candidates have declared serious criminal cases against themselves, it said. Serious criminal cases are non-bailable offences with over five years of imprisonment.

As many as 502 or 34% candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves. A total of 495 or nearly 34% have given their financial assets worth crores of rupees while three candidates have declared zero assets, the report said.

According to the report, 36 (64%) out of 56 candidates analysed from the RJD have declared criminal cases against themselves and 28 (50%) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

About 29 (63%) out of 46 candidates analysed from the BJP have declared criminal cases against themselves and 20 (44%) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits, the report said. The report said that about 28 (54%) out of 52 candidates analysed from the LJP have declared criminal cases against themselves and 24 (46%) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

About 14 (58%) out of 24 candidates

analysed from the Congress, 16 (49%) out of 33 candidates analysed from the BSP and 20 (47%) out of 43 candidates analysed from the JD(U) have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits. Fourteen (42%) out of 33 candidates analysed from the BSP, 10 (42%) out of 24 candidates analysed from the Congress and 15 (35%) out of 43 candidates analysed from the JD(U) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits, the report said.

AS I SEE IT



By Prabhjot Paul Singh

Will Justin Trudeau also ride Corona waves to the majority?

Return of Corona pandemic notwithstanding, Canada has witnessed a series of elections, including elections to provincial assemblies of New Brunswick, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan besides two by-elections to House of Commons. Not only that, it has been during the Corona pandemic that both the Conservatives and the Green Party elected their new leaders.

Elections of Liberal candidates from both Toronto Centre and York Centre in the just concluded by-elections have not put an end to speculations of early federal election as the minority Liberal Government may have been drawing inspiration from provincial minority governments of both New Brunswick and British Columbia that have now returned with majority mandates.

Though results of by-elections were on expected lines, yet the verdict of the electors of Toronto Centre must have warned cockles of hearts of the Liberal leadership. The seat fell vacant after former Finance Minister Bill Morneau quit following the We scam.

And among the candidates in the fray were Anammie Paul, the newly elected leader of the Green Party. She, however, did not succeed in finding her way to the House of Commons. She is the first leader of African origin to head a national party in Canada and the second immigrant after Jagmeet Singh of NDP, who happened to be the first Indo-Canadian, to be elected President of a national party in Canada. Jagmeet resigned his Ontario Provincial Assembly seat and contested by-election from a British Columbia riding to get into the House of Commons.

Ms Paul will have to wait now to get into the House of Commons as the national leader of the Green Party.

In a recent message to all party workers and sympathizers, the Liberal party said that it was excited to

Elections of Liberal candidates from both Toronto Centre and York Centre in the just concluded by-elections have not put an end to speculations of early federal election as the minority Liberal Government may have been drawing inspiration from provincial minority governments of both New Brunswick and British Columbia that have now returned with majority mandates.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and New Democrat Leader Jagmeet Singh - File photo

congratulate and welcome extraordinary community leaders Marci Len and Ya'ara Saks as its newest Liberal Members of Parliament in which he said that

Though the Liberals managed to get the verdict of the House in approving throne speech last week, yet uncertainty over federal elections being brought forward remains intact.

The speculations were further strengthened by the recent message of NDP leader Jagmeet Singh to party workers. He wrote: "I want to be talking about improving long-term care, taxing the super wealthy to pay for the pandemic recovery, moving forward on pharmacare and childcare - things that actually matter to everyday Canadians.

"Instead, we keep getting thrown into this election speculation.

"If the Prime Minister wants an election, he should just come out and say so - and explain to Canadians why. We are not going to be used as an excuse or a cover. We're going to continue doing the work we need to do, but we've also got to get ready, Prabhjot, because this isn't going away," wrote Jagmeet Singh

The Liberal message to its party workers, however, talks of pulling Canada out of the Corona pandemic crisis. It says: "Over the past few weeks, Marci Len Ya'ara Saks and hundreds of dedicated volunteers have been hard at work connecting with Canadians in York Centre and Toronto Centre about the Liberal team's plan to keep Canadians safe and supported, and to build back better with bold action on health, the economy, the environment, and equality.

By-election results send a strong

message that Canadians support the work that Justin Trudeau and our Liberal team are doing to keep Canada moving forward. These were also unprecedented campaigns that reached out to the community in so many innovative and virtual new ways, and it's the hope and hard work of our volunteers that makes all of our progress possible for Canadians.

"Marci and Ya'ara will both bring their strong voices and long records of community leadership to Parliament and join the Liberal team in our work to build a future that is healthier and safer; greener, more competitive, more fair, and more inclusive for all Canadians.

"But with so much at stake for Canadians, we can't slow down for a moment. Erin O'Toole and the Conservative Party are stepping up their efforts to stop the progress we're making for Canadians, and even to bring down our Liberal government. Now more than ever, we need to keep working together to build a better, stronger, and more inclusive Canada," the message said.

On the other hand, Jagmeet Singh further said that the Prime Minister wanted to go to an election simply because he doesn't like a committee. That shows how disconnected the Liberals are from what people are going through.

"It has never been my goal to force an election. It has always been my goal to fight for people. People need our help. That's what we're focused on.

"These political games don't change that - but they do raise the stakes in everything we do. We have to be ready for an election. It could still happen anytime," Jagmeet Singh concluded.

(The author is Executive Editor at PTC TV)

GUEST COMMENT

Raking up Ayodhya

BJP needs to prioritize revival of jobs in Bihar

The invocation of Ram Mandir by PM Narendra Modi during his election rallies in Bihar on Wednesday, even as the first phase of polling was in progress, indicates how desperately the BJP is clutching at straws. The temple lost its worth as a vote-catcher once the Supreme Court cleared the decks last year for its construction. It's undoubtedly a non-issue in a state grappling with the Covid-19 pandemic and crippling job losses. No less irrelevant to Bihar is the abrogation of Article 370, which has been raked up by UP CM Yogi Adityanath and other party leaders in their recent speeches in the state. The fact that Union

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, no less, promised free Covid-19 vaccine on priority for Bihar residents shows the BJP's failure to gauge the massive impact of reverse migration, triggered by the nationwide lockdown.

Bihar was among the states that bore the brunt of the lockdown. According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the state's unemployment rate was a staggering 46 per cent in April-May this year. Though it fell to 11.9 per cent in September, still higher than the national figure of 6.7 per cent for the corresponding period, the CMIE has cautioned that

such a drop is misleading as the labor participation rate and the employment rate are going down as well. The stark reality is that only one out of every three adult Biharis is employed.

Reviving livelihoods in a time-bound manner should take precedence over other matters. The promise made by the Mahagathbandhan's CM face Tejashwi Yadav to sanction 10 lakh government jobs has prompted the BJP to announce - almost as an afterthought - the creation of 19 lakh employment opportunities. However, the party - which has shared power with the JD(U) for the past three years - needs to explain first why 4.5 lakh government jobs are still vacant in the state, as claimed by Tejashwi. The BJP doesn't seem to have learnt much from the stinging losses in the pre-Covid polls in Delhi and Jharkhand, where local issues resonated with the voters.

(Tribune, India)

The India-U.S. defense partnership is deepening



By Rakesh Sood

The optics around the 2+2 Dialogue in Delhi are defining - the defense ties between the two countries have come of age

The signing, last week, of the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) providing for the sharing of geospatial data is the last of the foundational agreements. The first, General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), relating to security of each other's military information was signed in 2002. The Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government signed the End Use Monitoring Agreement (EUMA) in 2009.

The India-United States defense partnership received a major boost earlier this week with the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper for the third round of the 2+2 Dialogue with their Indian counterparts, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defense Minister Rajnath Singh. The joint statement spells out the highlights but the optics are what define the visit. At a time when most ministerial engagements and even summits are taking place virtually, the significance of two senior U.S. officials travelling to Delhi a week before the U.S. goes to the polls conveys an unambiguous political message - the defense partnership has come of age.

A long road

It has been a long process, with many ups and downs since the first modest steps were taken with the end of the Cold War three decades ago. The 1991 Kicklighter proposals (Lt. Gen. Claude Kicklighter was the Army commander at the U.S. Pacific Command) suggested establishing contacts between the three Services to promote exchanges and explore areas of cooperation. An Agreed Minute on Defense Cooperation was concluded in 1995 instituting a dialogue at the Defense Secretary level together with the setting up of a Technology Group.

The end of the Cold War had helped create this opening but the overhang of the nuclear issue continued to cast a shadow on the talks. There was little appreciation of each other's threat perceptions and the differences came to a head when India undertook a series of nuclear tests in 1998. The U.S. responded angrily by imposing a whole slew of economic sanctions and leading the international condemnation campaign.

An intensive engagement followed with 18 rounds of talks between the then External Affairs Minister, the late Jaswant Singh, and then U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott spanning two years that helped bring about a shift in perceptions. Sanctions were gradually lifted and in 2005, a 10-year Framework for Defense Relationship established, followed by a Joint Declaration on Defense Cooperation in 2013. The Framework agreement was renewed in 2015 for another decade.

The Framework laid out an institutional mechanism for areas of cooperation including joint exercises, intelligence exchanges, joint training for multinational operations including disaster relief and humanitarian assistance, technology transfer and a sharing of non-proliferation best practices. Initial movement was slow; it gathered momentum once the nuclear hurdle was

overcome in 2008 with the India-U.S. civil nuclear deal.

There were other factors at play too. Equally important was the progressive opening up of the Indian economy that was registering an impressive annual growth rate of over 7%. Bilateral trade in goods and services was \$20 billion in 2000 and exceeded \$140 billion in 2018. The four million-strong Indian diaspora in the U.S. has come of political age and its impact can be seen in the bipartisan composition of the India Caucus (in the House) and the Senate Friends of India group. From less than \$400 million of defense acquisitions till 2005, the U.S. has since signed defense contracts of \$18 billion.

A bipartisan consensus

A bipartisan consensus supporting the steady growth in India-U.S. ties in both New Delhi and Washington has been a critical supporting factor. The first baby steps in the form of the Kicklighter proposals came in 1991 from the Bush administration (Republican) when P.V. Narasimha Rao led a Congress coalition. Following the nuclear tests, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee (Bharatiya Janata Party) welcomed President Bill Clinton (Democrat) to Delhi. The visit, taking place after 22 years - the previous one being U.S. President Jimmy Carter's visit in 1978 - marked a shift from "estranged democracies" to "natural allies". A Congress coalition led by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh carried the process forward with a Republican Bush administration. Heavy political lifting was needed to conclude the historic nuclear deal in 2008, removing the biggest legacy obstacle.

The biggest push has come from Prime Minister Narendra Modi overcoming the "hesitations of history" and taking forward the relationship, first with a Democratic Obama administration by announcing a Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region in 2015, followed by elevating the India-U.S. Strategic and Commercial Dialogue (launched in 2009 and the first round held in 2010) into the 2+2 dialogue in 2018 with the (Republican) Trump administration reflecting the 'Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership'. Mr Modi is not constrained (at least on the strategic side) unlike Dr. Singh during his second term who faced opposition within his party, had a Defense Minister who preferred to shy away from any decision, and often had to prod a reluctant bureaucracy.

The signing, last week, of the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) providing for the sharing of geospatial data is the last of the foundational agreements. The first, General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), relating to security of each other's military information was signed in 2002. The Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government signed the End Use Monitoring Agreement (EUMA) in 2009 but then dragged its feet on the others on the grounds that it would jeopardize India's strategic autonomy. However, it was apparent that as military exercises with the U.S. expanded, both in scale and complexity, and U.S. military platforms were inducted, not signing these agreements was perceived as an obstacle to strengthening cooperation. Nearly 60 countries have signed BECA. In 2016, Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) relating to exchange of logistics support had been concluded, followed by Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) in 2018 permitting encryption standards of communication systems. More than 100 countries have signed these agreements with the U.S. Equivalent agreements on logistics and mutual security of military communication have also been signed with France but



India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Mark Esper at the 3rd 2+2 Dialogue in New Delhi

without the political fuss.

Breaking away from 'labels'

Developing the habit of working together has been a long process of building mutual respect and trust while accepting differences. The U.S. is used to dealing with allies (invariably junior partners in a U.S.-dominated alliance structure) and adversaries. India falls into neither category. Therefore, engaging as equal partners has been a learning experience for both India and the U.S. Recognizing this, the U.S. categorized India as "a Major Defense Partner" in 2016, a position unique to India that was formalized in the National Defense Authorization Act (2017) authorizing the Secretaries of State and Defense to take necessary measures. It has helped that India also joined the export control regimes (Australia Group, Missile Technology Control Regime and Wassenaar Arrangement) and has practices consistent with the Nuclear Suppliers Group where its membership was blocked by China spuriously linking it to Pakistan. In 2018, India was placed in Category I of the Strategic Trade Authorization, easing exports of sensitive technologies.

In every relationship, there is a push factor and a pull factor; an alignment of the two is called the convergence of interests. An idea matures when the timing is right. After all, the Quad (Australia, India, Japan and the U.S.) was first mooted in 2007 but after one meeting, it petered out till its re-emergence now. Alongside the ministerial meeting in Tokyo earlier this month, India was invited for the first time to also attend the Five Eyes (a signals intelligence grouping set up in 1941 consisting of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the U.S.) meeting.

The policy debate in India is often caught up in 'labels'. When Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru described non-alignment as the guiding principle of Indian foreign policy, it was designed to expand India's diplomatic space. Yet, in 1971, when the Cold War directly impinged on India's national security, a non-aligned India balanced the threat by signing the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation between the Government of India and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. However, during the 1970s and 1980s, it was often hijacked by the Non-aligned Movement tying up policy in ideological knots. Such became the hold of the label that even after the Cold War, India defined strategic autonomy as Non-alignment 2.0! The Indian strategic community needs to appreciate that policies cannot become prisoners of labels. Ultimately, the policy objective has to enhance India's strategic space and capability. That is the real symbolism of the in-person meeting in Delhi.

(The author is a former diplomat and presently Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation)

(Source: The Hindu)

Indian Diaspora and the U.S. Election 2020



By George Abraham

When Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States in January 2009, it was widely believed it to be a new dawn for America. As the first black President of the country, voted in by a sizable number of white voters gave new hope to millions for a more peaceful and prosperous America in a newly realigned political landscape. However, we have witnessed a story of deteriorating race relations and a strong emergence of identity politics that has resulted in further polarization in the body politic. America ceased to be a melting pot. Ethnic politics mixed up with race and gender relations started to inflame passions on both sides of the aisle, often preventing the country from reaching any consensus on pressing economic and social issues.

There is little doubt that Donald Trump cashed in on this division and disenchantment of the electorate, especially the white voters, and won the presidency in 2016. It was a historic victory that stunned the "political class" in the U.S. and globalists around the world. However, there was more to his victory than a voter dissatisfaction with the outgoing Democratic Administration. Undoubtedly, Trump's election is also viewed as a rebuke of technocratic policies, increased centralization of power in Washington, and unchecked immigration policies that were heavily favored by Democrats. It was an acrimonious campaign, vitriolic in tune, that brought shame and scorn upon the candidacies of Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton - one was described as Misogynist, Xenophobe, Sexist and Racist and the other as deeply Corrupt and Untrustworthy.

Much has changed in terms of politics in 2020, and the U.S. today is a more deeply divided country where 'peaceful demonstrations' are no longer peaceful and advocates of a new generation of leaders demanding transformational changes that would have been simply unthinkable just a few years ago. Nobody knows yet whether this is a passing phenomenon or whether America is truly ready for upending an economic and political system that has been the envy of the world and attracted millions of people from impoverished lands to make their dream come true.

Asian Indians, as we are referred to here, account for roughly a little over one percent of the population in the U.S. It is one of the most successful immigrant groups that have called America their home. The median income of an Indian household is higher than any other ethnic group's in the country. There is no doubt that so-called 'arranged marriages' might have helped those income levels with two professional households that are quite common within the community.

The importance of the Indian American vote in this upcoming election is another point of debate among election enthusiasts. Most Indian Americans live in major cities and states such as New York, New Jersey, California, Illinois, and Texas. Most of these States are solidly Blue States, and the Asian Indian votes will have little or no impact other than adding on to the popular vote totals.



The Trump-Modi friendship does not appear to be an important yardstick in the Indian American electorate's decision-making process. - File photo

Moreover, it is believed that there are about half a million or more undocumented Indian Citizens who have either overstayed their visas or came across the Mexican border with the help of 'Coyotes'. All these groups constitute part of the growing Indian Diaspora in the U.S.

Although the Indian Americans are mostly conservative in their social outlook and not necessarily cleansed of their caste affiliations or prejudicial minds, they tend to favor the Democratic party, which is very liberal and left-leaning when it comes to policies and governance. There may be several factors associated with such an attitude. The Democratic party is viewed positively by the community regarding issues such as Immigration and Social Benefits. The party is also perceived as a better guardian of minority rights and civil rights of all its citizens. The H1B visa holders, not a voting bloc yet but supported by the rest of the Diaspora, are looking for a more favorable response for obtaining permanent residency from a Democratic leadership than a Republican one. It is much more about self-preservation than principles or value judgment.

However, the second-generation Indians have been more open-minded and progressive in their lifestyles and their philosophy regarding issues of integration and assimilation to the culture and traditions of their native land. They tend to embrace the

Democratic Party's values and its platform that is characterized as a big tent: the ideas of inclusion, equality, and equity. The younger women in this new generation also support Women's Rights, including the right to abortion and equal pay for equal work. Also, many seem to have justifiable apprehensions on the possible rise of the Far-Right movements that could threaten their safety and their children's economic stability.

Therefore, there is little or no surprise that as the recent poll indicates that around 70% of the Asian Indians may cast their votes in favor of the Biden/Harris ticket. The addition of Kamala Harris to the ticket, an Asian Indian, though she prefers to call herself 'black American' for political reasons, seems to have boosted the Diaspora's support to the Democratic ticket. Many perceive Ms. Harris's rise to the ticket for the second most powerful position in the United States as a vindication of their faith in the Democratic party and its acceptance of them as an integral part of the society.

Donald Trump is not a stranger when dealing with Indians, and his business undertakings in Pune and Gurgaon are clear evidence of that existing bond. During the 2016 election, there was a surge of support for him from the Indian Community spearheaded by Shalabh (Shalli) Kumar, who raised campaign funds and arranged a large gathering in New Jersey in honor of him. However, he seems to have withdrawn from the scene,

but several groups associated with Sangh Parivar organizations are battling for Trump's re-election. The idea of ultra-nationalism promoted by Trump and Modi appeared to have unified this minority segment of the Diaspora that may cast their vote for Donald Trump on November 3rd. Then again, there are independent-minded voters who may vote for Trump solely based on policy decisions on issues such as lower taxes, less regulations, law and order, less aggressive foreign policy and unnecessary foreign interventions resulting in costly wars.

Indian Diaspora in the U.S. is a diverse community representing different regions, languages, cultures, and faith. According to the latest statistics, 51 percent of the Diaspora consists of Hindus, and the rest includes Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, and other faiths. Therefore, the effort by some Hindu Organizations in U.S. that are in the tank for Prime Minister Modi to paint a monolithic view of the Indian Diaspora for the election purposes to the American public is not only disingenuous but grossly misleading. The Trump-Modi friendship does not appear to be an important yardstick in the Indian American electorate's decision-making process.

The importance of the Indian American vote in this upcoming election is another point of debate among election enthusiasts. Most Indian Americans live in major cities and states such as New York, New Jersey, California, Illinois, and Texas. Most of these States are solidly Blue States, and the Asian Indian votes will have little or no impact other than adding on to the popular vote totals. Texas may remain in the Republican column this time around, although it may trend more towards Democratic Party in future elections as Demographics change. The participation record of the Indian American voter in the past elections has been spotty. Otherwise, possibilities abound in States like Pennsylvania and Michigan.

However, the more significant aspect of this election cycle is that a record number of Asian Indian candidates are running for elections nationwide. It is quite noteworthy that the community has essentially become an integral and visible part of the American political arena in the short span of a few decades.

(The author is a former Chief Technology Officer of the United Nations)

US Election 2020- What the Polls Say

Results may not be available on November 3 ; Validating and counting of ballots may delay the results



By Ven Parameswaran

US Election 2020 is being described as an unusual election dominated by a disruptive COVID-19. The raging pandemic made the traditional campaigning in the form of huge public meetings nearly impossible. Novel ways to reach out to the voters were discovered, adding them to the list of radio, television and print media. Pandemic, notwithstanding, it is believed this election may have the highest percentage of voting in a hundred years- a record. It surely speaks of the enthusiasm and involvement of the American people in what appears to be "mother of all elections".

The Indian Panorama has been during the last couple of weeks, bringing to the readers opinions of well informed and scholarly analysts of US election. They kept readers informed about the various trends and turns in the fortune of both the Republicans and the Democrats. Four days to the final day of polling now, and we decided to bring to the readers the wisdom of pollsters. Let readers form their own impression of what the end result could be. -EDITOR

Major Polls predict Biden Win. However, Trafalgar Poll predicts Trump will be re-elected
Gallup Poll reported that it asked the question "Are you better off today than four years ago?" and 56% answered "YES".

The Trafalgar Group Poll of Georgia claims that it is the only poll that correctly predicted that Trump would win 2016 against Hillary Clinton. It was able to do it by closely polling the battleground States of Michigan and Wisconsin. It is again predicting that Trump will be reelected defeating Joe Biden, former Vice President.

	BIDEN	TRUMP
National	49.4	49.6
Nevada	49.4	47.1
Florida	46.9	49.6
Michigan	46.6	49.1
Minnesota	48.0	44.8
Wisconsin	47.5	47.1
Pennsylvania	48.4	47.6

I am giving below the statistics of all other major polls to enable the readers to predict the election.

	BIDEN	TRUMP	ADVANTAGE
REAL CLEAR POLITICS AVERAGE	51.3	43.5	Biden +7.8
CNN	5442	Biden+12	
NYT/Siena	50	41	Biden+9
NBC/WSJ	53	42	Biden+11
ABC/Wash Post	55	43	Biden+12
Fox News	53	43	Biden+10
IBD/TIPP (Raghavan Mayur)	51	44	Biden+7
Reuters/Ipsos	52	42	Biden+10
USA Today/Suffolk	52	44	Biden+8

The margin of error for all these polls range from 2 to 3.6%. RCP Average mentioned above is based on 30 different polls. I have given the statistics of major polls only.

RAGHAVAN MAYUR, DIRECTOR, INVESTORS BUSINESS DAILY (IBD) claims he also predicted that Trump would be the winner. For reasons not known to me, the mainstream media failed to inform the public about IBD or Trafalgar Polls. Raghavan Mayur has the potential to become most successful and outstanding in market research and polling.

GALLUP POLL:

The Gallup Poll is a very independent poll not affiliated with any major print or TV medium. Although the Gallup did not predict the 2016 election correctly, it has had a better batting record than all other polls. The Gallup poll asked the voters in a survey : ARE YOU BETTER OFF TODAY THAN FOUR YEARS AGO ? (this question was asked by President Reagan during his debate) 56% of AMERICANS SAID THEY ARE BETTER OFF. If so, even though President's job approval is in mid 40's, Gallup survey could have an impact on the voters.



In full rage like the pandemic- Trump and Biden

2020 U.S. Presidential Election is the most important historically speaking. Because of Coronavirus the Mail-In Voting was allowed. As of October 29, 2020 82 million have already voted. On an average, because of early physical voting and mailin voting, 10 million a day vote. At this rate by the election day on Tuesday, November 3rd, 120 million would have voted. In 2016, I think 130 million voted. The turnout has been heaviest so far. On the election day next week one would expect massive turnout to vote physically and I estimate at least another 50 million. Thus, it is possible in all 170 million eligible voters would have voted. I have been in the USA for the past 66 years and have not seen such a heavy turnout.

It is mentioned in the media that the Republicans generally prefer to vote physically. If so, majority of voters on the Election Day would be Republicans.

Because more than 50% have already voted, there is no need to poll the LIKELY VOTERS. In the past, the poll on LIKELY VOTERS would give some kind of indication for whom they are going to vote. Inasmuch as majority has already voted, it is possible to find out who voted for whom. It is, therefore, possible that we may be able to know who has won even before the date of the election, November 3rd.

I am sure on the election day, the pollsters and the TV networks will conduct Exit poll as usual.

If the majority of voters on the Election Day is Republicans, the Exit polls will be misleading.

BATTLEGROUNDS STATES WILL ULTIMATELY DECIDE WHO HAS WON THE ELECTION:

No Republican has won the Presidency without winning Ohio and Florida. Based on the polling available today it is possible Trump could win these states. He won Ohio by 8 points in 2016 and has been leading in the polls. The Latinos are the largest minority, not the Blacks. There is a large Latino population in Florida, Texas and Arizona. It has been reported that there is a big turnout of Latinos in Florida and Arizona. If so, Trump is most likely to win these States.

Michael Moore(Democrat), movie director from Hollywood living in Detroit, Michigan, predicted that Trump would win in 2016. This morning, he is again predicting Trump would be winning Michigan and the election. Third quarter GDP grew by 33%. Auto companies in Michigan have been working three shifts manufacturing cars, trucks, and other vehicles to capacity. The economists have pointed out that this contributed significantly to the phenomenal GDP

growth. The media mentioned that majority of Michigan autoworkers were likely to vote for Trump.

Trump is most likely to win Pennsylvania because Biden's position on oil and gas industry announced during the second Presidential debate has disappointed the voters. Oil and gas industry is a major source of employment in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Ohio, Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. It is mentioned that Trump would gain because jobs are more important than party loyalties. It is therefore possible and probable that Trump would carry Pennsylvania by a razor thin margin as in 2016 (he gained by 44000 votes).

If Trump wins Florida, Georgia and North Carolina, and Ohio, he needs to win only Michigan or Pennsylvania or Wisconsin to capture 270 electoral votes, assuming he wins Arizona. In 2016 he won by 306 electoral votes.

IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT THIS ELECTION

I must conclude by saying that it is impossible to predict this election because as in 2016, it is going to be very close in the battleground states of FL, NC, MI, WI, MN, PA, AZ. Just because Trafalgar was right in 2016, we cannot go by that. But, I have more faith in what the Americans answered to the Gallup poll: "WE ARE BETTER OFF TODAY THAN FOUR YEARS AGO." I am also awaiting the latest poll from Gallup before the election. The Gallup poll has been the most reliable indicator of Presidential election for several years.

VALIDATING AND COUNTING THE BALLOTS:

This is going to be laborious in spite of modern technology. One has to verify the Signatures from the Mail-in and Absentee ballots. Many states require that the mails containing the ballots must be date stamped by the post office as of Nov.3 or before. But some states are allowing one week's time to receive the ballots. If so, there is scope to change the ballots after the election creating room for fraud. President Trump has already raised this issue.

Republicans have majority in the legislatures of Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, though their governors are Democrats. If there are discrepancies, the final arbiter is the Legislature. The legislature has the authority to decide the outcome of the election. In 2000, the Supreme Court decided George W Bush won the election against Al Gore in Florida by a margin of a very small number of votes.

Hillary Clinton has stated publicly that Vice President Joe Biden should never concede to Trump under any circumstances. If so, the matter may go finally to the Supreme Court if either party challenges. Therefore, more important than the election is the validating and counting of the ballots. Normally, American voters know who has won on the election night. I do not think it is going to be possible this year because the election in battleground states will be very close and razor thin. Usually, the Associated Press takes the lead in announcing the results. What can they do this year if they have no information as to who has won.

Let us all pray that Americans will demonstrate respect for law and refrain from holding demonstrations and riots on the streets.

(Ven Parameswaran immigrated to the USA in 1954. He is Chairman, Asian American Republican Committee (founded 1988). Lives in Scarsdale, NY. Email: vpwaren@gmail.com)

OCI Card Renewal date extended to June 30, 2021



NEW YORK (TIP): The Government of India has decided to grant further extension in time till June 30, 2021 to get the

OCI cards re-issued in accordance with the following guidelines which have been in force since 2005, according to a press release issued by the Consulate General of India at New York .

An OCI card is required to be re-issued each time a new passport is acquired by the cardholder up to the age of 20 years.

An OCI card is required to be re-issued once on acquiring a new passport after completing 50 years of age.

Legislator Lafazan, County Executive Curran, LICAB Commemorate National Bullying Prevention Month



MINEOLA, NY (TIP): On Wednesday, Oct. 28, Nassau County Legislator Joshua Lafazan (Woodbury) joined Nassau County Executive Laura Curran (left) and Long Island Coalition Against Bullying Founder & Executive Director Joe Salamone (center) outside the Theodore Roosevelt Executive & Legislative Building to recognize National Bullying Prevention Month by lighting the dome and pillars of the Legislature building.

"We are so honored to one again commemorate October as Anti-Bullying month across Long Island and especially here in Nassau County with our third annual dome lighting. We thank County Executive Curran and Legislator Lafazan for their continuing support for our children," Joseph Salamone, Founder and Executive Director of LICAB, said. "While COVID-19 has created many impacts to our students, as it has to all of us throughout this year, one thing it did not do is remove bullying as an issue they face."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Queens Borough President Lee's Initiative to Expand Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners

**More than Doubles Current 26 SANE Nurses dedicated to Queens
Adds 10 More Language Proficiencies of SANE Nurses Across 7 Queens Hospitals**

QUEENS, NY(TIP): Acting Queens Borough President Sharon Lee announced, October 29, an initiative to expand the number, language proficiencies and breadth of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) nurses across Queens hospitals. With this initiative to enhance the accessibility of the critical, sensitive care and expertise sexual assault survivors need, there will be at least 54 SANE nurses covering 14 languages across seven of the borough's nine hospitals by September 2021.

"Specialized, sensitive forensic care can make all the difference in the immediate aftermath of rape and/or sexual assault, not just in the ultimate pursuit of justice but in the survivor's own agency and power," said Borough President LEE. "It is our intent with this initiative to more than double the number of SANE nurses dedicated to Queens by this time next year, and to



Acting President of Queens Borough Sharon Lee's initiative will add be at least 54 SANE nurses covering 14 languages across seven of the borough's nine hospitals by September 2021.

especially expand the multi-lingual pool of SANE nurses here in the World's

Borough. Queens thanks our committed partners in this shared mission to enhance the accessibility of this specialized expertise to care for and strengthen the Borough of Families."

The initiative will more than double the current 26 specialized SANE nurses - registered nurses specifically trained to provide comprehensive medical forensic care for survivors of sexual assault or abuse - who work exclusively across just four Queens hospitals, only some of whom speak Spanish, Chinese and/or Korean.

The initiative will further expand the language accessibility of Queens' SANE nurses by training nurses proficient or fluent in the following languages in addition to English: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Greek, Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Hindi, Korean, Nepali, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Urdu.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

NEVAKAR ANNOUNCES FDA APPROVAL FOR EPHEDRINE SULFATE INJECTION AS READY-TO-USE VIALS



BRIDGEWATER, NJ (TIP): Nevakar Inc., a biopharmaceutical company developing multiple assets in the ophthalmic and injectable areas, announced , October 22, that it has received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to market Ephedrine Sulfate Injection in a ready-to-use 50mg/10 ml single use vial presentation. Under an exclusive licensing agreement with Endo International's (NASDAQ: ENDP) subsidiary, Endo Ventures Limited, Par Pharmaceuticals' Sterile Products division will launch and distribute the product. This is the first approval under the previously announced collaboration between Nevakar and Endo for the development of five differentiated, sterile injectable products in the U.S. and Canada. Under the terms of the agreement, Nevakar has responsibility to develop and obtain FDA approval for these products and Par Pharmaceuticals' Sterile Products division will launch and distribute the products.

"We are pleased to have received approval for this convenient, patent pending, ready-to-use form of a frequently used treatment for clinically important hypotension during anesthesia. We value our strong partnership with Endo, a respected pharmaceutical company with a significant and growing presence in sterile and critical care products as we pursue our mission to develop innovative pharmaceutical products that improve patient care and quality of life," stated Navneet Puri, Ph.D., Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Nevakar.

About Nevakar Inc.

Nevakar Inc. is growing as a fully integrated biopharmaceutical company with an extensive portfolio of products in the ophthalmic and injectable areas. Founded in 2015, and headquartered in Bridgewater New Jersey, the Company is focused on developing and commercializing innovative products to address unmet medical needs, thereby improving patient care and quality of life. Nevakar utilizes the 505(b)(2) regulatory pathway, along with its proven expertise in the development of novel and proprietary sterile pharmaceutical products to identify, develop, and obtain regulatory approval for its products. Additional information is available at www.nevakar.com.

The Indian American Action Group Launched

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American Action Group" (IAAG), a bipartisan movement was launched, October 13, by a group of prominent Indian Americans. These individuals have achieved positions of leadership across a broad range of professions, have served their communities selflessly and have been champions of change. Based on U.S. Census statistics, the Indian American community has grown over 100 percent in the last decade, continuously outpacing every other ethnic group along socio-economic dimensions. Yet, we lack a strong voice to achieve outcomes that matter to the four million strong Indian American community.

The Indian American Action Group has three primary objectives it seeks to accomplish:

Ensure that the voices of the Indian American community are represented at all levels of the government. To further this, we aim to provide support to Indian American political candidates at the federal, state, and local levels by fund raising, get out to vote campaigns and provide strategic and tactical assistance. We will also promote and support non-Indian American, visionary, progressive and inclusive leaders who have proven their commitment to the values and interest of the Indian American community. IAAG recognizes that great democracies depend on new and bold ideas and our future political leaders that need our support today.

We recognize that two of the world's greatest democracies share a lot in common, but it must first begin with a focus on people-centric and people-driven relations between the two governments.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Kamala Harris seeks creation of national police registry with records of misconduct

Calls for creating national standards on use of force, decriminalizing marijuana and expunging criminal records of people convicted of marijuana offences

WASHINGTON (TIP): Democratic vice-presidential candidate Kamala Harris has sought the creation of a national registry of police officers with records of misconduct, amidst the ongoing protest following the shooting of a black man by police officers in Philadelphia earlier this week.

Police said Walter Wallace Jr, 27, was wielding a knife and ignored orders to drop the weapon before officers fired shots Monday afternoon. But his parents said that officers knew their son was in a mental health crisis.

Responding to a question over the issue after her rallies in Arizona on Wednesday, Harris said she has discussed and supports creating a national registry of police officers with records of misconduct.

Harris, 56, also called for creating national standards on use of force, decriminalizing marijuana and expunging the criminal records of people convicted of marijuana offences,



Democratic Vice Presidential candidate Kamala Harris seeks creation of national police registry with records of misconduct
File photo

according to a report.

The death of Wallace has triggered protests after the incident.

About 500 people had gathered at a West Philadelphia park Tuesday night and began marching through the neighborhood, chanting. There were sporadic reports of arrests in other areas.

Answering further to questions on the

protests against police brutality and particularly the killing of Wallace and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden's call for a new commission on policing, Harris said that it is not another commission.

"Part of the reason that people are marching in the streets is that there has not been the level of attention, especially recently over the last few years, that is necessary from the president of the United States. And Joe's committed to that," she said.

On Friday, Harris is scheduled to travel to Texas, making her the first Democratic vice-presidential nominee in decades to campaign during elections.

"We're talking to people everywhere and there's no area that's off limits because people in all these areas have so much at stake in this election," she said.

Harris met with a group of a couple dozen Black community leaders at The Van Buren, a music venue in downtown Phoenix. (Source: PTI)

Trump slams his 'favorite' Fox News for covering Obama's campaign



The Hill Newspaper on Tuesday reported that the president has for months had a love-hate public relationship with Fox News

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald Trump Tuesday, October 27, slammed his "favorite" Fox News channel for broadcasting live his predecessor Barack Obama's poll campaign for his opponent and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden.

"Fox (News) puts him on all the time and they put sleepy Joe on all the time and what they should do is they should show the picture of sleepy Joe yesterday when he rushed to Pennsylvania because he saw that I had 25,000 people at each event," Trump told reporters at the White House.

"When he rushed to Pennsylvania and he did a statement and he got lost in a fog. They should show that," he said as he expressed disappointment over the election coverage of the Democratic presidential candidate.

"They should show the picture where he (Biden) called me George. He thought I was George. I guess he's talking about George Bush, but he thought I was George and they should show that," he said.

"Fox is very disappointing. But Fox puts on this-this would not have happened with Roger Ailes, I can tell you that," Trump said.

The Hill Newspaper on Tuesday reported that the president has for months had a love-hate public relationship with Fox News. He watches the network regularly, tweeting clips from its shows and responding to programming in real, it said.



FBI warns ransomware assault threatens US health care system

Assault could lead to data theft and disruption of health care services

BOSTON (TIP): The FBI and two federal agencies say cyber criminals are unleashing a major ransomware assault against the US healthcare system, according to an AP report.

Independent security experts say it has already hobbled at least four US hospitals this month, and could potentially impact hundreds more.

In a joint alert, the FBI and two federal agencies say they have credible information of an imminent cybercrime threat to US hospitals and health care providers.

They say malicious groups are targeting the sector with ransomware that could lead to data theft and disruption of health care services.

The attacks do not appear to have any connection to the US presidential election.

AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson resume US coronavirus vaccine clinical trials

NEW YORK (TIP): Drugmakers AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson said they were resuming late-stage COVID-19 coronavirus vaccine trials in the U.S. after no links were found between the illnesses contracted by trial participants and the vaccine candidates.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave AstraZeneca the go-ahead after the company had on Sept. 6 paused its clinical trials for AZD1222, the vaccine it is developing jointly with the University of Oxford.

A British volunteer had developed a neurological disorder, prompting the trial's temporary halt while "independent regulators" looked for possible causes. The trial had already resumed in some other countries.

"We should be reassured by the care taken by independent regulators to protect the public and ensure the vaccine is safe before it is approved for



use," said AstraZeneca CEO Pascal Soriot.

Pausing on Oct. 12 after a volunteer's "serious medical event," Johnson & Johnson has also resumed its vaccine clinical trials following consultation with the FDA.

"There are many possible factors that could have caused the event. Based on the information gathered to date and the input of independent experts, the Company has found no evidence that the vaccine candidate caused the event," the company said in a statement.

The Global Beat Foundation of USA organized online discussion on the impact of US Presidential elections on South Asian communities

DR. ZAFAR IQBAL IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Global Beat Foundation of USA (TGBF) organized an online discussion on US Presidential elections on 18th October 2020. Using Zoom technology and Facebook, the overall discussion centered on the possible impact of the election on South Asian communities in the US and in South-Asia.

The overall impression of the panelists comprising South Asian scholars, social activists, and journalists was that in Pakistan national politics seems to have pushed US elections out of focus while in India President Trump dominates the narrative as PM Modi's friend. The participants at this debate also noted most Americans were not even discussing foreign policy issues this

election season. John Lennon, a veteran Journalist with vast experience as an international reporter at the Voice of America, observed that the Presidential election 2020 is the most contentious election in his adult life. He apprised the audience of the prevailing issues facing the nation and their possible impact on the election.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Keshubhai Patel, Guj ex-CM, dead

Former Gujarat CM Keshubhai Patel, who played a key role in strengthening the BJP in the state, died here on Thursday after a prolonged illness. Patel (92), who recovered from Covid infection recently, died of cardiac arrest. He was the CM in 1995 and 1998-2001.

Fake call centre duping US citizens busted

Ten persons, including a few women, were arrested for allegedly operating a fake call centre from Nalasopara in Maharashtra's Palghar district and extorting money from US citizens by posing as officials. Officials of the Mira Bhayandar and Vasai-Virar (MBVV) police commissionerate raided the fake call centre on Tuesday night, he said.

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's COVID-19 caseload surpassed the 80-lakh mark on Thursday, October 29, with 49,881 new cases while the recoveries have surged to 73.15 lakh, pushing the national recovery rate to 90.99 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 80,40,203 and the death toll climbed to 1,20,527 with the novel coronavirus virus claiming 517 lives in a span of 24 hours in the country, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The COVID-19 case fatality rate has further declined to 1.49 per cent.

There are 6,03,687 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 7.5 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 10,65,63,440 samples have been tested up to October 28 with 10,75,760 samples being tested on Wednesday, Oct 28.

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, 60 lakh on September 28 and crossed 70 lakh on October 11.

The 517 new fatalities include 91 from Maharashtra, 60 from West Bengal, 55 each from Chhattisgarh and Karnataka, 40 from Delhi, 35 from



Tamil Nadu and 27 from Kerala.

A total of 1,20,527 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 43,554 from Maharashtra followed by 11,046 from Karnataka, 11,018 from Tamil Nadu, 6,958 from Uttar Pradesh, 6,643 from Andhra Pradesh, 6,664 from West Bengal, 6,396 from Delhi, 4,158 from Punjab and 3,701 from Gujarat.

The Health Ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the Ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

DGCA extends suspension of international commercial flights till November 30

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on October 27, extended the suspension of international commercial flights till November 30, 2020, even as COVID-19 cases have seen a re-surge in Europe.

"In partial modification of circular dated 26-06-2020, the competent authority has further extended the validity of circular issued on the subject cited above regarding Scheduled International commercial passenger services to/from India till 2359 hrs IST of 30th November 2020," a notification from the industry regulator said.

However, the DGCA stated that the above restrictions will not apply to international all-cargo operations and flights specially approved by it. Also, the aviation regulator stated that international scheduled flights may be allowed on selected routes by the "competent authority" on case to case basis.

While domestic flights resumed on May 25, the government has kept a check on international operations.

India has put in place air travel bubble arrangement with 18 countries. Under these, airlines from each of the countries are allowed to operate a specific number of flights to India every week. Similarly, Indian airlines have the right to operate to cities in these 18 countries.

Apart from these, repatriation flights continue to function under the Vande Bharat Mission. As on October 27, over 20 lakh Indians have flown back home.

Fresh concerns over international travel has been raised with another wave of infections in the US and European countries. The new wave has come even as winter looms, with experts unsure how the virus will behave in the cold season.

(Source: Moneycontrol News)



India stresses Security Council to list terror entities involved in violence against women

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): India has underscored the need for the UN Security Council to effectively integrate women, peace and security considerations into the sanctions regimes, including by listing terrorist entities involved in violence against women in armed conflicts.

"Violence against women and girls perpetrated by terrorists deserves our strong condemnation. Such women-targeted violence distorts the very basis on which civilised societies rest," India said in a statement to the Security Council open debate on Women, Peace and Security on Thursday.

India said advancing democratic structures and rule of law in post-conflict situations is instrumental in addressing the inequalities faced by women and to ensure their full and meaningful participation for peaceful and inclusive development.

"It is also important that the Council strives to effectively integrate WPS (Women, Peace and Security) considerations into sanctions regimes, including by listing terrorist entities involved in violence against women in armed conflicts," India said.

India noted that conflict and humanitarian crises already hold women and girls back from progress.

"The further burdening of the health



care and the economic fall-out of COVID-19 threatens to put women and girls in war-torn, fragile and humanitarian contexts at even higher risk," the country said.

India said that through the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, the Member States are committed to implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda by increasing the number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping.

However, despite UN efforts, women form only 5.4 per cent of the military and 15.1 per cent of police in peacekeeping operations.

India reiterated its commitment to work for meaningful participation of women in peace and security issues, saying its experience of mainstreaming women's leadership and political participation will continue to inspire its actions.

Govt brings new law to tackle NCR air crisis

The Union government issued an ordinance and put in place a new anti-pollution agency with sweeping powers spanning five north Indian states where it will monitor and act against sources of dirty air, armed with the ability to lay down rules, set emission standards, and hand out fines of up to Rs 1 crore or send violators to prison for up to five years.

The ordinance, issued by the ministry of law and justice as per its commitment to Supreme Court, sets up what will be an 18-member Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) for the National Capital Region (NCR). Its members will be drawn from Union ministries, NGOs and administrations from each of the five NCR or NCR-adjacent states: Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Decision to re-open Kartarpur Corridor will be as per Covid-19 protocol

Head of the Guru Nanak Jayanti the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday, Oct 29, said that a decision to re-open the Kartarpur Corridor will be taken as per the coronavirus protocol.

Speaking at the weekly virtual briefing, Anurag Srivastava, MEA Spokesperson, said that the Kartarpur Corridor was closed due to Covid-19 protocol and it will re-opened only after consultation with all the concerned authorities.

Mayawati suspends 7 MLAs, says will back even BJP to defeat SP

Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati on Thursday, Oct 29, suspended seven legislators who opposed the nomination of her candidate Ramji Gautam for election to the Rajya Sabha, and vowed that BSP MLAs would support any other dispensation, including the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), to ensure the defeat of the Samajwadi Party (SP) in upcoming elections to Uttar Pradesh's upper house.

At a virtual press conference in New Delhi, Mayawati said the party suspended the seven MLAs for alleged anti-party activities.

The seven MLAs — Chaudhary Aslam Ali, Hakim Lal Bind, Mohammad Mujtaba Siddiqui, Aslam Raini, Sushma Patel, Hargovind Bhargava and Bandana Singh — had betrayed the party for the lure of money and election tickets offered by the SP, the BSP supremo alleged.

Pak Army chief's 'legs were shaking' as Qureshi said India would attack if Abhinandan not freed: PML-N leader

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa was perspiring and his "legs were shaking" as Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said during a meeting that if Indian Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman was not released, India would attack Pakistan "at 9 PM", a top Opposition leader has said, recalling the tension in Islamabad after India bombed a terror training camp in Pakistan.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Sardar Ayaz Sadiq recounted the tension within the Pakistan government in February last year while speaking to Dunya News during a programme on Wednesday, October 28.

Sadiq, who was the Speaker of the National Assembly during the PML-N government, made a similar statement earlier on Wednesday in Parliament that Foreign Minister Qureshi had said in an important meeting that if Varthaman was not released, India would attack Pakistan "at 9 PM that night" and "for God's sake we should let him go".

The 37-year-old IAF pilot was captured by the Pakistani Army on February 27 after his MiG-21 Bison jet was shot down in a dogfight with Pakistani jets during aerial combat.

In the early hours of February 26, 2019, the IAF jets bombed the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terror camps in Balakot in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of Pakistan and avenged the Pulwama terrorist attack that claimed the lives of 40 CRPF personnel.

Before his jet was hit, Varthaman downed an F-16 fighter of Pakistan. He was released on the night of March 1 by Pakistan.

Sadiq further claimed that the Foreign Minister had said this in a meeting between parliamentary leaders, including those of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and PML-N, and Army chief General Bajwa whose "legs were shaking and he was perspiring," the report said.

He said this without mentioning the date of the meeting.

Sadiq said that he tries not to make any personal attacks but "when those in power refer to us as thieves or "Modi ka yaar" (Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pal), we will have to respond".

(Source: PTI)

Pak minister admits Pulwama terror role

Pakistani Minister Fawad Chaudhry sparked a controversy on Thursday, Oct 29, when he admitted the country's role in the Pulwama terror attack, bragging on the floor of parliament that it (Pakistan) had entered India and beaten it on its own soil.



Chaudhry, who holds the science and technology portfolio in Prime Minister Imran Khan's Cabinet and was formerly the country's information minister, made the remarks in the National Assembly while responding to comments by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) lawmaker Ayaz Sadiq, who contended foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was shaken at the possibility of an Indian attack to free Indian pilot Abhinandan Varthaman, who was shot down in a dogfight amid the standoff in February last year.

"The confidence with which he [Sadiq] said such things, that Shah Mahmood Qureshi's legs were shaking because India was about to attack. Hum ne Hindustan ko ghus ke mara hai (We went inside India and hit them)," Chaudhry said, speaking in Urdu.

"And our success in Pulwama, that was the success of this nation under Imran Khan's leadership," he added.

Fare limits to remain in place for another three months: Puri

NEW DELHI (TIP): The upper and lower limits on domestic airfares will remain in place for another three months post November 24, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Thursday, October 29.

The ministry had on May 21 placed these limits through seven bands, classified on the basis of flight duration, till August 24. Later, it was extended till November 24.

Puri said if the scheduled domestic flights reach pre-COVID levels by the end of the year, he will have no hesitation in removing the fare limits at that time.

"We are extending the price bands for another three months," he said at a press conference.

"Even though we are extending it by three months, if by the time we reach the end of the year, and if we find that there is a very appreciable movement in the situation and we are reaching pre-COVID levels, I would absolutely have no hesitation if my colleagues (aviation ministry officials) want us to not utilize the price band for the full three months period," Puri added.

Domestic passenger services resumed on May 25 after nearly two months of suspension to combat the coronavirus outbreak.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had on May 21 announced seven bands of ticket pricing



Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced at a press conference the decision to extend the price bands for another three months.

with lower and upper fare limits based on flight duration.

The first such band consists of flights that are of less than 40 minutes duration.

The lower and the upper fare limits for the first band is Rs 2,000 and Rs 6,000, respectively.

The subsequent bands are for flights with durations of 40-60 minutes, 60-90 minutes, 90-120 minutes, 120-150 minutes, 150-180 minutes and 180-210 minutes.

The lower and upper limits for these bands are: Rs 2,500-Rs 7,500; Rs 3,000-Rs 9,000; Rs 3,500-Rs 10,000; Rs 4,500-Rs 13,000; Rs 5,500-Rs 15,700 and Rs 6,500-Rs 18,600, respectively, the DGCA said.

(Source: PTI)

India names 18 Pak-based individuals as designated terrorists under UAPA

NEW DELHI (TIP): India has declared 18 more Pakistan-based individuals as designated terrorists under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967, for their involvement in the acts of terrorism on the Indian soil at different periods of time.

The list issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) here today includes the name of Sajid Mir, who was one of the main players in the Mumbai 26/11 attack, and has been described as a Pakistan based LeT's top commander.

The other prominent names among those designated as terrorists include India's most wanted terrorist Dawood Ibrahim's right-hand man, Chhota Shakeel, and the Bhatkal brothers of the Indian Mujahideen.

The MHA in a statement said: "These individuals are involved in various acts of terrorism from across the border and have been relentless in their nefarious efforts of destabilising the country."

Sajid Mir, also known as Sajid Majeed, Ibrahim Shah, Wasi, Khali and Muhammad Waseem, is the top LeT commander and was one of the main planners of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack. Yusuf Muzammil, also known as Ahmad Bhai, Yousuf Muzammil Butt and Hurreira Bhai, is the commander of LeT operations in Jammu & Kashmir and accused in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack.

CELEBRATE DIWALI: RENEWAL & GROWTH

BY MABEL PAIS

"Although we'll miss audiences in our theater, we plan to create the same excitement for audiences at home as they learn to create delicious Indian foods, explore Diwali's customs, and discover Indian traditional, folk, and Bollywood dance moves, and have their own dance party at home!"- Ellen Kodadek, Exec. & Artistic Dir., FTH

**FLUSHING TOWN HALL'S 6TH ANNUAL DIWALI FEST
FREE VIRTUAL EVENT
ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 AT 7 P.M.**

Diwali, "The Festival Of Lights" will be celebrated at Flushing Town Hall (FTH) on Saturday, November 7 with its sixth annual Diwali Festival - reimagined as a FREE virtual event. Audiences can watch the event on Zoom starting at 7:00 PM at us02web.zoom.us/j/83474221283

This FREE virtual event features Basement Bhangra's DJ Rekha, dance lessons with Abha Roy, Bollywood fusion dance team Rutgers Tamasha, and cooking workshops with Nupur Arora, at flushingtownhall.org/diwali-festival

"Diwali is a festive time of gift-giving, charity and sharing in feasts with loved ones," said Ellen Kodadek, Executive and Artistic Director of Flushing Town Hall. "We are very pleased to move our annual Diwali event online while we follow health and safety guidelines for indoor venues."

Diwali, or Deepavali, comes from the Sanskrit word meaning "row of lights." It is a day of solidarity, where the soft light of diyas - or oil-wick candles - illuminate streets and homes, banishing the darkness of ignorance and suffering. Diwali began as a part of an ancient harvest festival, which celebrated the fertility of the earth and prosperity of the new harvest. Though Diwali has taken on a significant meaning in Hinduism, in India, it is still celebrated by all groups regardless of religious affiliation as a time of renewal and growth.

Program

The virtual celebration mixes live and pre-recorded



DJ Rekha



Dance with Abha Roy



Cook with Nupur Arora
Nupur Arora



Bollywood Fusion Dance team "Rutgers Tamasha"

content and opens with footage of a home traditionally decorated for Diwali and an explanation of the holiday and traditional foods.

Next Nupur Arora, owner of Queens Curry Kitchen, will demonstrate mouth-watering authentic Indian dishes with ingredients that you can find at your local grocer, including Aloo Gobhi (spiced potato and cauliflower), tikka masala sauce for chicken or tofu, and Ginger chai tea.

Then move the furniture and get ready to move as master Indian dancer Abha B. Roy and the Srijan Dance Center show you traditional, folk and Bollywood dance moves. This is followed by a three-minute, fun-filled set with Rutgers Tamasha performing a choreographed

piece entitled "Riot Maari," blending a variety of dance forms starting with hip-hop, transitioning to their roots of traditional Bollywood dance, and then ending with classical Southie moves! The piece has been choreographed by Bhaavi Patel and Aarushi Bhardwaj. Now that you are energized, keep moving as DJ Rekha spins the music for a 30-minute Bhangra dance party.

The free event runs 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM on Zoom

starting at 7:00 PM at us02web.zoom.us/j/83474221283

Artists

To get to know the amazing artists: Abha Roy, DJ Rekha, Nupur Arora & Rutgers Tamasha, visit flushingtownhall.org/diwali-festival

Donations

Audiences can support these amazing artists and Flushing Town Hall by making a donation - and receive some fantastic gifts. For more information on various levels of donation and the artists, visit flushingtownhall.org/diwali-festival

About Flushing Town Hall

Flushing Town Hall (FTH), a Smithsonian affiliate, is a not-for-profit organization presenting multi-disciplinary global arts that engage and educate the global communities of Queens and New York City, in order to foster mutual appreciation. As advocates of arts equity since 1979, FTH supports local, immigrant, national, and international artists, developing partnerships and collaborations that enhance its efforts.

To learn more about FTH, visit flushingtownhall.org or call (718) 463-7700 x222

HALLOWEEN MAGIC with JUSTIN WILLMAN

BY MABEL PAIS

"Filled with magic tricks that will amaze, delight, and shock you in a way that's sure to have your face sore from smiling." - Decider

**BRAND NEW SHOW FOR HALLOWEEN!
MORE TRICKS & TREATS!
SPOOKY, FUN-FILLED!
Saturday, October 31 @ 7PM
LIVE on Zoom!**



Justin Willman

Photo / justinwillman.com

For the HALLOWEEN weekend Justin has created an ALL-NEW show packed with more tricks and treats than you can imagine. Plus, there will be a COSTUME CONTEST, so dress appropriately. It's going to be a spooky and fun-filled event that your whole family will enjoy.

MAGIC FOR HUMANS AT HOME with JUSTIN WILLMAN is an interactive hour of magic, comedy, and unexpected surprises delivered directly into your living room. Justin is a regular on the Tonight Show, Ellen, and Comedy Central, and is the star of the hit Netflix series Magic for Humans. Now he invites you and your friends to join him (on Zoom) for this unique and intimate all-ages experiment.

Each ticket allows viewing on one device, so you can choose to enjoy the show solo or share the fun with the entire family. During the performance Justin will be able to see, hear and interact with the audience in real time,

making this a truly unique experience. Capacity is limited so get your tickets today before they're gone!

HOW IT WORKS:

Download Zoom in advance of the event. Why not go ahead and do it now? zoom.us

The day before the event, you'll receive an email with the login information for the actual performance.

Join the event when the "doors" to the waiting room open 30 minutes before start time. You'll be checked in.

You will be allowed entry once the performance is ready to begin. Your video will be live, but your microphone will be muted to begin. You may be unmuted at times throughout the show to interact with Justin.

Enjoy the show!

Get Social! Follow NJPAC Online:

Website: njpac.org/ or 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722)

Twitter: @NJPAC

Hashtag: #NJPAC

Facebook: facebook.com/NJPAC

YouTube: NJPACTv

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

FILMS FOR OUR TIMES

BY MABEL PAIS

SLAY THE DRAGON - EVERYONE'S VOTE COUNTS

DIRS: Barak Goodman & Chris Durrance | 2019 | USA | Doc
I Eng | 1h 41m | World Premiere



A scene from "Slay The Dragon" -
Photo / Courtesy Magnolia Pictures

"The most important political film of the year, and it may prove to be one of the key political films of the decade. - Variety

SLAY THE DRAGON" shines a light on "gerrymandering" in combination with high-tech advances, and follows a handful of citizens' groups, outraged by what they see as an attack on the core democratic principle that every person's vote should count equally, as they battle party operatives and an entrenched political establishment to fix a broken system.

'Gerrymandering,' which has been around ever since Elbridge Gerry, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. As Governor of Massachusetts (1810-1812), Gerry approved a redistricting plan for the state senate that gave the political advantage to Republicans.

'Gerrymandering' is the practice of redrawing electoral maps to serve the party in power. It has been around for centuries. Over the years, it has been used by both ruling parties. But in today's hyperpartisan political environment it has been taken to unprecedented extremes, fueled by the elimination of corporate campaign contribution limits and the availability of vast amounts of personal information via high-tech advances.

After the 2008 election, a secretive, well-funded partisan initiative poured money into state legislative races in key swing states to gain control of their redistricting processes and used high-tech analytics to dramatically skew voting maps based on demographic data. The result is one of the greatest electoral manipulations in U.S. history, one that poses a fundamental threat to our democracy and exacerbates the already polarized atmosphere in Congress and state houses across the country.

The effects of this audacious plan have continued to bear fruit through the 2018 midterms. But voters, fed up with cynical efforts to sidestep the will of the majority, have begun fighting back. In one example, a grassroots movement led by a young woman with no political experience founded "Voters Not Politicians," gathered hundreds of thousands of signatures to put an anti-gerrymandering initiative on the ballot in Michigan. To learn more, visit slaythedragonfilm.com

Watch the trailer <https://www.axios.com/first-look-slay-the-dragon-trailer-1553566285-db97a8f4-ac31-4323-8a30-4fe8a6b>

Following a recent virtual screening of the film, Suresh Venkatasubramanian, professor: School of Computing, University of Utah, spoke about "tech advances and anti-democratic processes" as they relate to gerrymandering and voting.

As a scholar of data science, the professor is specifically interested in the "social ramifications of automated decision making" and also sits on the board of ACLU Utah.

Nationwide, why does only 60% of the voting-eligible population cast their ballot?

Using various Social Media this process has already begun and can become more subtle over time. Via social media these "teams" micro-target specific communities in specific areas discouraging them to vote by spreading disinformation. It has already begun.

Besides Redistricting and Eligibility to Vote, there are three stages in the voting process: Voter Selection, Voter Persuasion, How to Vote. His presentation opens our eyes as to where we might be 10 years into the future: it could only get worse, if we don't remain vigilant to assaults on our right to vote.

What is the solution? Independent redistricting teams, NOT either of the ruling parties involved. **EVERYONE'S VOTE COUNTS.**

THE BIG SCARY 'S' WORD

DIR: DIR/PROD: Yael Bridge | 2020 | USA | Doc | Eng | 1h 25m | World Premiere

"Capitalism is not meant to solve climate change. Capitalism's goal is to generate and consolidate wealth for the owners of capital." - Kshama Sawant, Seattle City Council Member

To me, democratic socialism is the value that, in a modern, moral and wealthy society, no person in America should be too poor to live."-

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, U.S. Congresswoman

"In recent years, millions of Americans have voted for socialist politicians, and polls consistently show a majority of millennials prefer socialism over capitalism." - Yael Bridge, Director-Producer



A scene from "The Big Scary 'S' Word"
- Photo / Courtesy IDA

THE BIG SCARY 'S' WORD " explores the rich history of the American socialist movement and journeys with the people striving to build a socialist future today. With inequality growing, a climate catastrophe looming, and right-wing extremism ascending around the world, many Americans are wondering whether capitalism is to blame. But what is the alternative? Socialism is plagued by conflicting definitions. Is it dictatorship or democracy? Norway or Venezuela? Reform or revolution? This film explores where American socialism has been, why and how it was suppressed, and imagines what a renewed American socialism might look like, directly from today's leading left thinkers and socialists. A former Marine and a public school teacher in two different states find themselves broke and unable to sustain their livelihoods through their jobs. Swept along with the energy of the 2016 Sanders presidency and the murmurs of a state-wide teacher strike, both turn to socialism, a once-fringe ideology, to tackle problems larger than themselves. To learn more, visit socialismmovie.com Watch the trailer: vimeo.com/462031314

BATTLEGROUND

DIR: Hemal Trivedi & Jonah Markowitz | 2020 | USA | Eng | Doc | 56m

"We hope that 'Battleground' will inspire viewers to a greater awareness of their own power as citizens, to become more informed and more engaged, and to take an active role in the political process that is the bedrock of our

democracy." -Pennsylvania: Epicenter of American Ideological Divide

TWO OPPONENTS JOIN HANDS TO INDICT THE SYSTEM A LOOK BEYOND PARTY LINES STREAMING AT WORLDCHANNEL.ORG & AIRING ON PUBLIC TV STATIONS NATIONWIDE

BATTLEGROUND" is an intimate look at our current political divide, as seen through the eyes of two grassroots activists in the pivotal county of Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania. Tom Carroll is a Trump delegate, and a Tea Party Chairman. Greg Edwards is a Black pastor, and a progressive leader supported by Bernie Sanders. When their paths collide, we realize that they have much more in common than meets the eye.

"Over the course of three years of filming we came to realize that their primary struggle was not against each other, but against the political machines that control their respective parties. "Battleground" is an antidote to the media echo chamber effect, which is marked by passion, but often devoid of understanding." - Filmmakers Trivedi & Markowitz

Watch the trailer: <https://youtu.be/9WPuv3hrv4>

Official website: battlegroundfilm.com

Facebook: facebook.com/battlegroundfilm

Twitter: twitter.com/battlegrounddoc

Instagram: instagram.com/battlegroundfilm/

How to Fix a Primary

Inside An Outsider Campaign In Key Battleground State DIR: Brittany Huckabee | 2020 | USA | Eng | 1h 30m | World Premiere

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

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



How To Fix A Primary" poster
Photo / Courtesy Gravitas Ventures.

HOW TO FIX A PRIMARY" by Brittany Huckabee provides rare inside access to a touchstone campaign in a movement that is gaining momentum as progressive candidates challenge the political system and establishment across the U.S. A CNN expert on COVID-19. But Abdul El-Sayed had a previous life. "How to Fix a Primary" (official selection of the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival) follows the young doctor as he takes on Michigan's political establishment in a bid to become the first Muslim governor in U.S. history. The film follows Abdul and his underdog team in this battleground state as they hustle to gain endorsements from Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (both featured in the film) while confronting Islamophobia and a system that seems rigged against them.

WATCH THE TRAILER: youtu.be/qZjFNbm6qWw

To learn more, visit fullframefest.org/film/how-to-fix-a-primary

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



Tiger Shroff to return with Baaghi 4 & Heropanti 2

Tiger Shroff fans, rejoice! The actor, along with producer Sajid Nadiadwala, on Wednesday announced the next installments of Heropanti and Baaghi. Heropanti 2 and Baaghi 4 will see Tiger returning in his action avatar.

Tiger made his Bollywood debut with Heropanti in 2014. Now, after six years, the team is planning its next installment. According to the makers, Heropanti 2 will be the first film that Tiger will start shooting post the lockdown. It is expected to go on floors in December 2020.

On the other hand, Baaghi 4 is being planned as the biggest film in the franchise. Director Ahmed Khan will also return to helm the fourth part.

As per the makers, both the movies will be shot across 25 countries.

JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ GIFTS HER STAFF MEMBER A CAR AS DUSSHERA GIFT

Actor Jacqueline Fernandez has gifted a car to a member of her staff. She was spotted in Mumbai, handing him the keys of his new car and also performing a puja with him.

The video shows Jacqueline in a traffic cop's costume. She is asked to step back as her staff member breaks a coconut on the road, next to the new car. Others around them cheer as the coconut spills water in first stroke.

Jacqueline also shared a picture from the sets of the movie on Instagram. "How was everyone's Sunday?? Fun project coming up soon! #myhappyplace," she wrote along with a picture in which she is also seen holding a coffee mug. The Kick actor also shared a few Instagram stories of her getting ready for the upcoming project.

Recently, she extended gratitude to her fans as her follower count on Instagram hit the 46 million mark. She shared three nearly-topless pictures in which she was seen holding a bunch of yellow and pink roses against herself. "Love you, thank you," she wrote in the caption of one of the pictures.

Jacqueline will be seen in Kick 2 with Salman Khan and in Cirkus with Ranveer Singh. She also has Bhoot Police with Saif Ali Khan, Yam Gautam and Arjun Kapoor. She also has a film with John Abraham called Attack. Her podcast Feels Good with Amanda Cerny was also released recently.



Dharmendra to team up with sons for Apne 2

It was around 13 years ago when veteran actor Dharmendra collaborated with his sons Sunny and Bobby Deol for the movie Apne. The 2007 sports drama also featured Katrina Kaif, Shilpa Shetty, and Kirron Kher in the lead roles. The movie performed well at the box office and received positive reviews. And now, according to a report by TOI, the Deol family is teaming up again for Apne's sequel after almost a decade. Yes, you absolutely heard it right!

Apne 2 will be directed by Anil Sharma who had also helmed its prequel. He has reportedly also locked the movie's script. Apart from that, the makers are yet to decide the balance cast for the same. It is said that the movie will go on floors in either March or April 2021. As per the reports, the shooting schedule will take place in Mumbai and London. For the unversed, Dharmendra played the role of an ex-boxer in the 2007 drama.

The veteran actor made a guest appearance in the 2020 movie Shimla Mirchi featuring his wife Hema Malini, Rakul Preet Singh, and Rajkumar Rao in the lead roles.



Shraddha Kapoor signs Bollywood's newest Naagin for three-film series

Shraddha Kapoor has signed a three-film series based on the shape-shifting nagin. The actress, who has starred in films like Baaghi 3, Chhichhore and Stree, will be stepping into the role of a nagin.

The film, called 'Nagin', will be directed by Vishal Furia and produced by Nikhil Dwivedi under the banner of Saffron Broadcast & Media Ltd. The date of the release is yet to be decided.

Previously, actresses like Vyjayanthimala, Reena Roy, Rekha and Sridevi have played the role of a shapeshifting serpent on screen. Sridevi's role as an ichhadhaari nagin in Nagina and Nigahen boosted her stardom. On television, the Ekta Kapoor produced Naagin series is extremely popular with prominent TV actresses playing the role of a naagin in various seasons.

Shraddha shares, "It's an absolute delight for me to play a nagin on screen. I have



grown up watching, admiring and idolising Sridevi ma'am's Nagina and Nigahen and always wanted to play a similar role rooted

in Indian traditional folklore. It's like playing an iconic character, which has always been so fascinating for the audience."



Halle Berry to start shooting for Moonfall

Hollywood star Halle Berry is set to begin filming for Roland Emmerich's next disaster thriller Moonfall. The Oscar winner took to Instagram on Sunday to share the update.

Berry, 54, will essay the role of a NASA astronaut-turned-administrator whose previous space mission holds a clue about an impending catastrophe.

"Officially out of #Quarantine – ready to get to work! #Moonfall here I come!" she captioned a selfie.

Moonfall follows the aftermath of when the moon is knocked from its orbit by a mysterious force and is on a collision course with Earth.

Life hangs in the balance and with just weeks to go before impact, a ragtag team is sent on a near impossible mission to land on the lunar surface and save humanity.

Patrick Wilson, Stanley Tucci, Josh Gad, and John Bradley also round the cast of Moonfall.

WHY KATIE HOLMES WAS REPLACED IN THE DARK KNIGHT

A massive uptick in critical and commercial success wasn't the only difference between Batman Begins and its sequel, The Dark Knight. An important supporting actor, Katie Holmes, didn't return for the second film, and was replaced by Maggie Gyllenhaal.

In 2005's Batman Begins, Holmes' character, Rachel Dawes, played a significant role in Bruce Wayne's life. Director Christopher Nolan admitted that he was quite upset that Holmes didn't return.

Nolan told Business Insider in 2016, "Katie wasn't available for the role, which I wasn't very happy about, but these things happen, and I was very, very fortunate that Maggie was able to take it over."

Gyllenhaal even reached out to Holmes to seek her blessings before taking on the role. Rachel Dawes, as fans would remember, is murdered by Heath Ledger's Joker in The Dark Knight.

Holmes said in an interview to Business Insider that she didn't regret not returning for the Oscar-winning film, which many consider among the best comic book movies ever made. "You know, I really enjoyed working on the first one and I wish I could have worked with Chris Nolan again and I hope to work with him again," Holmes said. "It was a decision that I made at that time and it was right for me at that moment, so I don't have any regrets. I think that Maggie did a wonderful job. But I really hope that I get to work with Chris some day."



Priyanka Chopra and Celine Dion to star in Text For You

Global icon Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Outlander star Sam Heughan and celebrated singer Celine Dion are teaming up for a romantic drama, to be bankrolled by Screen Gems.

Priyanka Chopra shared the news on social media. She tweeted, "So excited to kick start this amazing movie with such incredible people! Jim Strouse, Sam Heughan, Celine Dion. It's my honour. Let's gooooo!"

Tentatively called Text For You, the movie will be directed by Jim Strouse. Inspired by the 2016 German hit SMS Fur Dich, the narrative revolves around a woman who, after the death of her fiancé, starts sending texts to his old cell. However, as fate would have it, the number had been reassigned to another gentleman experiencing the same kind of heartbreak. They end up meeting but cannot seem to stop thinking about the past. In the English adaptation, the music of Celine Dion helps them forge a deeper bond. On the work front, Priyanka Chopra was last seen in the 2019 movie The Sky is Pink. The actor has We Can Be Heroes, The Matrix 4 and The White Tiger in her kitty.



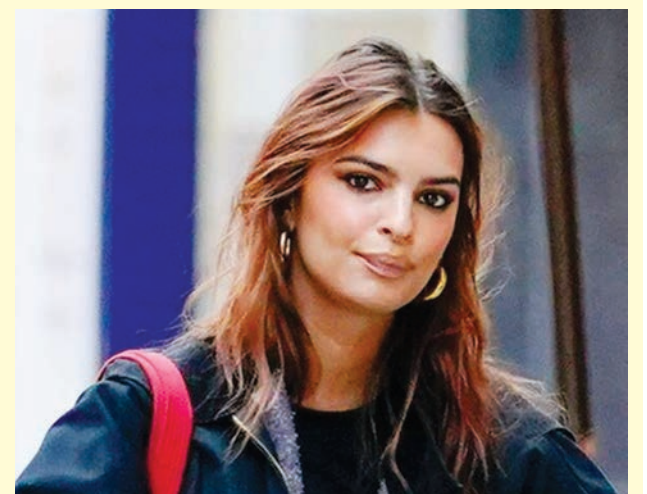
EMILY RATAJKOWSKI PREGNANT WITH FIRST CHILD

Supermodel-actor Emily Ratajkowski is expecting her first child with actor and producer Sebastian Bear-McClard.

The Gone Girl star made the announcement in an essay for Vogue magazine on Monday. Ratajkowski, who didn't disclose when she was due, said she doesn't want to reveal her baby's sex.

"When my husband and I tell friends that I'm pregnant, their first question after 'Congratulations' is almost always 'Do you know what you want?' We like to respond that we won't know the gender until our child is 18 and that they'll let us know then," she wrote.

This is a "wondrous and terrifying concept, one that renders the couple both helpless and humbled," Ratajkowski said.



Tens of thousands of Muslims protest over Macron remarks after killings in France

Marches, rallies in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Palestinian areas; Bangladesh protesters call Macron 'world's biggest terrorist'; police tear-gas Pakistanis marching to French embassy; thousands of Palestinians rally in Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza; condemnations of France dominate Friday prayers in Somalia

ISLAMABAD/DHAKA (TIP): Tens of thousands of Muslims protested in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Palestinian territories on Friday after killings in a French church prompted a vow from President Emmanuel Macron to stand firm against attacks on French values and freedom of belief.

French Interior Minister Gerald Damarnin said France, the home to Europe's largest Muslim community and hit by a string of militant attacks in recent years, was engaged in a war against Islamist ideology and more attacks were likely.

In Pakistan, police briefly fired tear gas at protesters who broke through security blockades in Islamabad in a failed attempt to demonstrate at the French Embassy against the printing in France of images depicting the Prophet Mohammad.

Protests and gatherings marking the occasion were also held in the Pakistani cities of Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar.

In Bangladesh, tens of thousands marched through Dhaka, the capital, chanting "Boycott French products" and carrying banners calling Macron "the world's biggest terrorist".

"Macron is leading Islamophobia," said Dhaka demonstrator Akramul Haq. "He doesn't know the power of Islam. The Muslim world will not let this go in



vain. We'll rise and stand in solidarity against him," he added.

Some Bangladeshi demonstrators also burned effigies of Macron and carried cut-outs of the president with a garland of shoes around his neck, a severe insult according to Islam.

a Muslim-majority district of India's financial hub Mumbai, some 100 posters showing Macron with a boot on his face and calling him a "demon" were pasted on pavements and roads.

In Lebanon, security forces fired tear gas to drive back some 300 protesters including supporters of a local Sunni Islamist party who marched from a mosque in the capital Beirut to the official residence of the French ambassador.

Thousands of Palestinian worshippers rallied after Friday prayers at Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam, in Jerusalem's walled Old City to condemn the republication of

Mohammad caricatures in France. "A nation whose leader is Mohammad will not be defeated," protesters chanted.

"We hold the French president responsible for acts of chaos and violence that are taking place in France because of his comments against Islam and against Muslims," said Ikrima Sabri, the preacher who delivered the sermon at al Aqsa.

In Ramallah, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Palestinians trampled on a large French flag and burned other French flags.

In Gaza, ruled by Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas, hundreds of Palestinians took part in anti-France rallies, chanting: "With our souls and blood we will redeem the Prophet."

Thousands in Somalia turned up for Friday prayers in mosques where sermons were dominated by curses and condemnation of Macron and his government.

Abdirahman Hussein Mohamed, a shopkeeper in the capital Mogadishu, set aside all French products including face wash, perfumes and other cosmetics with a large sign, "NOT FOR SALE".

"I will never sell those products...as long as France does not apologise. France insulted our Prophet," Mohamed told Reuters. (Reuters)

Muslims have 'right to kill millions of French', says Malaysian ex-PM; Twitter deletes tweet

MALAYSIA (TIP): Twitter has removed former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's controversial tweet glorifying violence even though France is demanding suspension of his account on the social media platform.

The former Malaysian PM sparked an uproar when he said on Thursday that Muslims have a "right to be angry and to kill millions of French people".

Twitter has removed the tweet saying that it violates the platform's rules. Earlier, Twitter allowed the tweet to stay "in the public interest".

France's junior digital affairs minister Cedric O on Thursday night said he had a word with Twitter's Managing Director in France and called for the immediate suspension of Mahathir's official account.

"If not, Twitter would be an accomplice to murder," the minister said on social media platform. IANS

China setting up world's highest-altitude data centre in Tibet

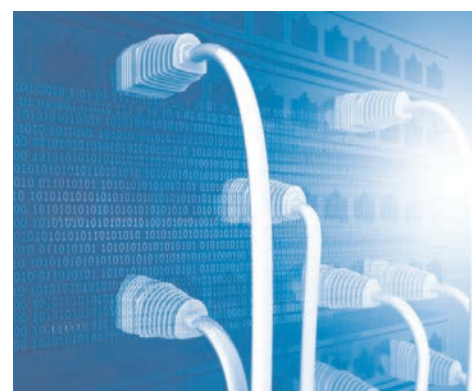
BEIJING/LHASA (TIBET) (TIP): China is building the world's highest-altitude cloud computing data centre in Tibet that will meet the data storage needs of the country and South Asian nations like Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan, official media reported On Thursday.

The data centre is situated in a high-tech zone of the Tibetan regional capital city of Lhasa and located at an altitude of around 3,656 metres, making it the highest-altitude data centre in the world, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

With a total planned investment of 11.8 billion yuan (over USD 1.80 billion), the project will provide services in areas such as video rendering, autonomous driving, distance-learning data backup, among others, according to its Lhasa-based operator, the Ningsuan Technology Group.

It is expected to provide those services to major Chinese provinces and cities, as well as Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and part of Southeast Asia, said the company.

The first phase of the project is



expected to be put into operation in 2021, said the report.

After the completion of phase one, the data centre will have 10,000 machine cabinets and an annual revenue of 1.5 billion yuan (about USD 223.5 million), meeting the data storage needs of key clients in the country and in South Asia.

Wang Jun, Ningsuan's vice president and chief marketing officer, said as Lhasa pushes forward with the construction of a regional bureau for stepping up international communications services, Tibet will become a big-data industrial base. PTI

Pakistan PM acquitted in 2014 Parliament House attack case



ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was acquitted by an

anti-terrorism court on Thursday in the 2014 Parliament attack case but other senior ministers, including Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, were summoned on November 12 for the indictment.

Anti-Terrorism Court Judge Raja Jawad Abbas Hassan, however, halted proceedings against President Arif Alvi due to the presidential immunity granted to him.

On August 31, 2014, workers of the now ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT) tried to enter Parliament and go towards the Prime Minister's House and clashed with police.

The police had invoked sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act against Khan and other PTI leaders, according to a report in the Dawn newspaper. — PTI

Infections reported among Sputnik V trial volunteers

There have been instances of infection among volunteers of Sputnik V trials, the world's first registered vaccine against COVID-19 virus, according to a top official of the developer of the Russian vaccine, said a media report.

This is the reason why the developer of the vaccine, the Gamaleya National Research Center for Epidemiology and Microbiology of the Russian Healthcare Ministry, is considering the possibility of disclosing the data on who among the volunteers were administered the vaccine, before summing up the results of the study, Russian news agency TASS reported on Wednesday.

Earlier, Deputy Research Director of the Gamaleya National Research Center, and Associate Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Denis Logunov, reported that trial participants will find out whether they received the vaccine or the placebo only after the end of tests.

The center's director Alexander Gintsburg reported that the last group of volunteers out of the total of 40,000 may be inoculated by the end of January 2021.

"...Apparently, there are (coronavirus) infections (among the post-registration trials participants). At some point in mid-November the provisional results will be summed up, then we will find out the difference between the placebo and the test samples," Gintsburg was quoted as saying to TASS.

Global COVID cases nearing 45 million: Johns Hopkins

The overall number of global coronavirus cases was nearing the 45 million mark, while the deaths have surged to 1,179,270, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

As of Friday (Oct 30) morning, the total caseload and death toll stood at 44,908,477 and 1,179,278, respectively, 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 8,943,577 and 228,636, respectively, according to the CSSE.

India comes in second place in terms of cases at 8,040,203, while the country's death toll soared to 120,527.

The other top 15 countries with the maximum amount of cases are Brazil (5,468,270), Russia (1,570,446), France (1,327,852), Spain (1,160,083), Argentina (1,143,800), Colombia (1,048,055), the UK (968,456), Mexico (906,863), Peru (894,928), South Africa (721,770), Italy (616,595), Iran (596,941), Chile (507,050), Germany (498,354) and Iraq (467,755), the CSSE figures showed.

Brazil currently accounts for the second highest number of fatalities at 158,456.

The countries with a death toll above 10,000 are Mexico (90,309), the UK (46,045), Italy (38,122), France (36,058), Spain (35,639), Peru (34,31), Iran (34,113), Colombia (30,926), Argentina (30,442), Russia (27,111), South Africa

TRACKING THE VIRUS

GLOBAL

Cases **44,908,477** | Deaths **1,179,278**

INDIA

Cases **8,040,203** | Deaths **1,20,527**



(19,164), Chile (14,118), Indonesia (11,170), Iraq (10,815), Germany (10,305), (13,701), Ecuador (12,622), Belgium Canada (10,122) and Turkey (10,099).

American biotechnology company Moderna announced that it was preparing for the global launch of its COVID-19 vaccine candidate.

"We are actively preparing for the launch of mRNA-1273 and we have signed a number of supply agreements with governments around the world," Xinhua news agency quoted Moderna CEO Stephane Bancel as saying in a statement on Thursday, October 29.

In addition to the Phase 3 study of the COVID-19 vaccine mRNA-1273, which is fully enrolled, Moderna now has four programs in Phase 2 studies, according to Bancel.

"Moderna is committed to the highest data quality standards and rigorous scientific research as we continue to work with regulators to advance mRNA-1273," he said.

On October 22, the Phase 3 study of mRNA-1273 completed enrollment of 30,000 participants with approximately 37 per cent of participants from diverse communities.

The Phase 1 interim analysis of the vaccine, published in The New England Journal of Medicine on July 14, showed that mRNA-1273 was generally well-tolerated across all age groups and induced rapid and strong immune responses against SARS-CoV-2.

France to return to nationwide lockdown amid COVID-19 2nd wave

France will go into national lockdown starting from Friday to stem the second wave of the coronavirus epidemic, President Emmanuel Macron announced.

Moderna prepares global launch of COVID-19 vaccine



"The virus is circulating at a speed that not even the most pessimistic forecasts had anticipated," said Macron in a televised address to the nation on Wednesday, Xinhua news agency reported. "Like all our neighbours, we are at the same point, overwhelmed by a

second wave which will undoubtedly be harder and more deadly than the first."

To contain the spread of the virus, the president ordered the nation to go back into a national lockdown, like in mid-March when COVID-19 patients in the first wave of the epidemic overwhelmed

hospitals.

For the new lockdown, the only authorized out-of-home trips will be "to go to work, to a medical appointment, to provide assistance, to go shopping or to take the air," said Macron.

The restrictive measures would affect universities, libraries, bars, cafes, restaurants, gyms, etc. Public gatherings are banned and cultural ceremonies and conferences are suspended, according to the president.

But unlike the first lockdown, nurseries, primary schools and middle schools will remain open, said the president, arguing that "our children would not be lastingly deprived of education, of contact with the school system."

And public services, factories, farms and constructions will continue their activities "in strict compliance with health protocols," said the president. Visits to nursing homes will also be allowed.

Detailed measures of the new lockdown will be announced by the government on Thursday.

Starting from Thursday midnight, the measures will be applied nationwide until at least early December. The government will meet in two weeks to consult on whether adjustments are necessary, Macron said.

Police overpower man threatening officers with knives in Paris: Police

PARIS (TIP): Police overpowered a man in the French capital Paris on Friday when he threatened officers with two knives after they challenged him, a police source said.

The officers intervened after police received a call reporting that a man armed with a knife was knocking on his neighbour's door in a southwestern district of the city.

The officers confronted the man in the courtyard of the building and used a Taser and rubber bullets to overpower him, the source said.

No one else was hurt.

The incident took place a day after three people were killed in a knife attack in the southeastern city of Nice. The motive for this incident was not immediately clear. Reuters

Eight killed in Turkey earthquake measuring 6.6

ISTANBUL (TIP): A strong earthquake struck on Friday in the Aegean Sea between the Turkish coast and the Greek island of Samos, collapsing buildings in the city of Izmir in western Turkey, and officials said at least six people were killed and scores were injured.

A small tsunami struck the Seferisar district of Izmir, said Haluk Ozener, director of the Istanbul-based Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute. At least four people were slightly injured on Samos, where a tsunami warning was issued.

Six people were killed in Izmir, Turkey's third-largest city, including one who drowned, and 202 were injured, according to Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, or AFAD.

Izmir Gov. Yavuz Selim Kosger said at least 70 people had been rescued from the wreckage. He said four buildings were destroyed and more than 10 collapsed, while others also were damaged.

Search and rescue efforts were continuing in at least 12 buildings, AFAD said.

Turkish media showed wreckage of a multiple-story building, with people climbing it to start rescue efforts. Smoke rose from several spots.

Videos on Twitter showed flooding in the Seferhisar district, and Turkish officials and broadcasters called on people to stay off the streets after reports of traffic congestion.

Health Minister Fahrettin Koca tweeted that 38 ambulances, two ambulance helicopters and 35 medical rescue teams were working in the city of Izmir. (Agencies)

Activists converge on Warsaw for 'biggest' protests against abortion ruling

WARSAW (TIP): Protesters converged on Warsaw from across Poland on October 30 for what police said would likely be the biggest demonstrations yet against a court ruling that amounted to a near-total ban on abortion.

Tens of thousands of activists have mounted daily rallies, marching through cities and disrupting church services in the predominantly Catholic country since last week's Constitutional Court decision.

"We expect these to be the biggest protests since the verdict," Warsaw police spokesman Sylwester Marczak said, adding: "Considering how big they can be, we always use the support of the police from other garrisons."

Military police began erecting barriers near the parliament and in other parts of the capital.

Protest group Strajk Kobiet (Women's Strike) said on its Facebook page demonstrators would gather in three locations in the city centre from 1600 GMT. The movement's leader, Marta Lempart, told activists to report any attacks and to resist any attempt to prosecute or fine them for taking part. "We are doing nothing wrong by protesting and going out on the streets," she told a news conference.

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said this week the rallies could help the coronavirus to spread. Last week the government banned gatherings of more than five people, saying it was part of its efforts against COVID-19.

Demonstrations, mostly peaceful, have turned into an outpouring of anger against the ruling nationalist Law and



Justice (PiS) party, with protesters blaming it and the powerful Roman Catholic Church for the ruling.

FIVE CHARGED

Five women have been charged with organising an illegal protest in the town of Police, where some 850 people gathered on Thursday, regional police spokeswoman Alicja Sledziona said on Friday.

The court decision on Thursday last week outlawed abortions due to foetal defects, ending the most common of the few legal grounds left for abortion in Poland and setting the country further apart from the European mainstream.

After it goes into effect, women will only be able to terminate a pregnancy legally in the case of rape, incest or a threat to their health.

The Catholic Church has said that while it opposes abortion, it did not push the government or the court to increase restrictions. It called for people to talk and refrain from violence this week, but declined to comment further on Friday.

Catholic anti-abortion group Ordo Iuris on Friday reiterated its support for the court ruling and opposition to the protesters, and called for calm.

"As an institute, we must condemn any violence, no matter in which way it is perpetrated. Nothing justifies hurting another person even in the face of such social unrest," spokesman Maciej Grajewski said.

On Friday, the number of daily new infections in Poland hit an all-time high of 21,629. The overall death toll rose to 5,351. Reuters

UK's Labour Party suspends former leader Jeremy Corbyn in antisemitism row

LONDON (TIP): The UK's Opposition Labour Party on Thursday suspended former leader Jeremy Corbyn from its ranks after a report by the country's human rights watchdog held the party "responsible for unlawful acts of harassment and discrimination" during his time in charge.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), which had launched an investigation into antisemitism within the party following a string of complaints, found that Labour had broken the law in its failure to handle antisemitism, or anti-Jewish, complaints and there were "serious failings" by its leadership at the time.

However, in his reaction to the report, Corbyn said the number of complaints made during his tenure were "dramatically overstated".

"One antisemite is one too many, but the scale of the problem was also dramatically overstated for political reasons by our opponents inside and outside the party, as well as by much of the media. That combination hurt Jewish people and must never be repeated," said Corbyn, in



reference to the report.

A Labour Party spokesperson issued a statement soon after to announce that Corbyn had been suspended from the party.

"In light of his comments made today and his failure to retract them subsequently, the Labour Party has suspended Jeremy Corbyn pending investigation. He has also had the whip removed from the Parliamentary Labour Party," the spokesperson said.

In his reaction to the EHRC report, current Opposition leader Keir Starmer had indicated that a denial stance to the

report would not be tolerated, without any specific references to Corbyn.

Starmer said: "And if – after all the pain, all the grief, and all the evidence in this report, there are still those who think there's no problem with antisemitism in the Labour Party. That it's all exaggerated, or a factional attack.

"Then, frankly, you are part of the problem too. And you should be nowhere near the Labour Party either." Earlier, the EHRC had served the Labour Party with an unlawful act notice after an investigation into antisemitism by the Equality and Human Rights Commission found it responsible for unlawful acts of harassment and discrimination.

Its investigation, launched in May last year, identified serious failings in the party leadership in addressing antisemitism and an inadequate process for handling antisemitism complaints. The party was found responsible for three breaches of the UK's Equality Act (2010) relating to political interference in antisemitism complaints; failure to provide adequate training to those handling antisemitism complaints; and harassment. PTI

Chinese Communist Party's key conclave approves Xi's Vision 2035

BEIJING (TIP): China's ruling Communist Party on Thursday concluded its key annual conclave during which it approved the 14th Five-Year Plan and Vision 2035, a long-term development plan which observers say hints at the continuation of President Xi Jinping in power for the next 15 years.

The four-day plenary session of the Communist Party of China (CPC) heard and discussed a work report delivered by Xi on behalf of the Politburo of the CPC Central Committee, an official communique said on Thursday.

The session also adopted the CPC proposals for the formulation of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035.

The session was attended by 198 members of the CPC Central Committee and 166 alternate members of the CPC Central Committee, official media reported.

While the 14th Five-Year plan envisages massive overhaul of the country's domestic market to boost consumption in order to reduce China's reliance on shrinking exports markets, the Vision 2035 visualises a long-term plan, reflecting the vision of President Xi.

The Vision 2035 plan prompted speculation that Xi intends to essentially be "president-for-life".

The aim of Vision 2035, says Benjamin Hillman, a professor at the Australian National University, is to "set goalposts for China's progress towards achieving high-income status (being a fully developed nation) by 2049".

Yet the "very idea of a 2035 manifesto has also prompted speculation that Xi intends to lead China through this period, becoming, essentially, president-for-life", he told the BBC.

Xi, 67, has emerged as the CPC's most powerful leader after its founder Mao Zedong, holding the posts of CPC General Secretary, head of the military besides the Presidency with prospects of a life-long tenure.

A constitutional amendment in 2018 has removed the two five-year term limit



for the President, which would enable Xi to continue in power. His second term as the President is due to end in 2022.

Since he took over power in 2012, Xi firmly established his stamp of authority, doing away with the past system of collective leadership.

All CPC meetings, including the plenum, are held in tight secrecy and the proceedings of such meetings other than the official handouts were rarely publicised.

Though the main agenda of the meeting was stated to be the next Five-Year Plan, the plenum was expected to review the political situation as the conclave took place days ahead of the November 3 US presidential election.

China, where the coronavirus emerged in December last year at Wuhan, figured prominently in poll campaigns of both President Donald Trump, a Republican, and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden.

While China's ties with the US deteriorated to historic low, both Trump and Biden were expected to follow tough hardline policies towards Beijing.

China is also battling an adverse image as COVID-19 spread all over the world, killing more than a million people.

The country also faced a tough international situation after it passed a controversial National Security Law this year for Hong Kong amidst massive opposition from the local people and the

international community, virtually taking over the security of the Special Administration Region for the first time since it was transferred to China by Britain in 1997.

The meeting is also being held in the backdrop of the stalemate in the border standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh, which had affected the relations between the two neighbouring countries.

The CPC communique said China would accelerate the modernisation of national defence and the military, which is key to Xi's vision of China's emergence as a major global power.

It calls for integrated efforts to build a prosperous country and a strong military.

The country's national defence capabilities and economic strength should be strengthened at the same time, it said. It said China would nurture a strong domestic market and establish a new development pattern.

The country will ensure smooth domestic circulation and let domestic and international circulations reinforce each other, spurring consumption in an all-round way and expanding investment, the document said.

It said that China would integrate the strategy of expanding domestic demand with deepening supply-side structural reform, and create new demand through innovation and high-quality supply. PTI



Zimbabweans turn to sex work amid economic crisis and COVID-19

MUTARE (ZIMBABWE) (TIP): Dressed in a miniskirt and blouse, Esther Kamupunga stood in semi-darkness waiting for men looking for sex -- the latest Zimbabwean to lose her job in a deepening economic crisis, worsened by the new coronavirus.

When the first COVID-19 case was detected in March, Zimbabwe rapidly went into lockdown, and the 24-year-old single mother and waitress was laid off in the eastern city of Mutare.

"Life was better until the advent of this coronavirus. Our business came to a standstill due to lockdown ... unfortunately I was one of the people who were retrenched," she said, shielding her face from passing car headlights. "I have two children. I could not watch them going to bed without eating anything. I had no option but to follow some friends to this shopping centre," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation, declining to publish her real name.

The southern African nation is experiencing its worst economic crisis in a decade, with crippling hyperinflation, unemployment, strikes by public workers and shortages of food, medicine and foreign currency.

Sex workers and charities providing them with health care services said the number of women selling sex has increased, particularly young girls facing hunger at home.

"We have a lot of cases coming to us of girls who were now engaged in transactional sex because of the increase in the household poverty," said Beatrice Savadye, director of Roots Africa, a local charity supporting young people.

Savadye said she received 350 reports of children having sex in exchange for money or gifts from March to June -- double the previous year -- in Mazowe, a mining town 40 km north of Harare. Her charity has been giving food parcels to hungry families.

Ordinary Zimbabweans say life is difficult, with inflation above 700%, rocketing prices for basic goods, electricity and petrol, and lagging salaries - prompting teachers to refuse to return to work without a pay rise last month. "Hunger drives us into sex trade," said Hazel Zemura, who has sold sex for a decade and works for Women Against All Forms of Discrimination, which runs health programmes for sex workers.

(Thomson Reuters Foundation)

Europe to send modules, astronauts to NASA Moon station

BERLIN (TIP): The European Space Agency says it has agreed to provide several modules for NASA's planned outpost around the Moon, in return for a chance to send European astronauts to the lunar orbiter. ESA said Tuesday that its director-general, Jan Woerner, signed a deal with NASA chief Jim Bridenstine to provide "essential elements" for the mini space station, known as Artemis Gateway. ESA said this includes the main habitat for astronauts visiting the lunar outpost, and a module that provides communications and refueling capability along with a window for the crew to observe the moon. The agency said it will receive "three flight opportunities for European astronauts to travel to and work on the Gateway" as part of the agreement. NASA aims to use the Gateway as a staging post for missions to the Moon and eventually to Mars. AP

59 bodies found in clandestine graves in Mexico's Guanajuato state

MEXICO CITY (TIP): The remains of 59 bodies have been discovered in clandestine graves in a region of central Mexico that has suffered some of the highest levels of drug violence in recent years, national authorities said on Wednesday.

The grim discovery was made in the Salvatierra municipality of Guanajuato state, where the homicide rate has surged amid a raging turf war between rival drug cartels.

At least 10 of the corpses were women and most of the bodies belonged to very young people, even teenagers, according to Karla Quintana, head of Mexico's National Search Commission. Alarm raised by relatives of missing persons led to the largest discovery of clandestine graves in Guanajuato, she told a press conference on Wednesday afternoon. "We have more possible positive developments, with which we will continue working here until we have finished the job," she said. (Reuters)

HOW TO LOOK YOUR BEST THIS KARWA CHAETH

Every woman desires to be dressed up as stunning as she could. There are various customs involved in this day that includes an array of delicious food, the sargi from mother-in-law, various gifts and the whole mood of festivity make the day an occasion to remember and cherish for the whole year. No doubt every woman wants to look their best even though they fast from dawn to dusk. There are quite a few ways to get stunning complexion on this auspicious day without getting tired. Read on to know more about how to look gorgeous on your Karva Chauth.

Choose Your Couture & Carefully Accessorize It

Women generally wear traditional outfits for this occasion and, therefore, choose the color of your outfit as per your choice. Traditional ethnic outfits look the best in the hues of reds, maroon, pink, green or blue with golden or silver fine work on them. After the outfit, next comes the accessories as traditional wear is totally dull without them. If you are going for chunky earrings, go subtle on the neck or vice versa as it will prevent you from looking overboard. Do not forget to add bangles which are a must have for this occasion.

Herbal Skin Brightening Masks

Homemade remedies for skin brightening includes lemon which acts as an herbal bleach, tomato to remove tan and turmeric to add a glow to the skin. This will enhance your skin on this big day and you won't have to use heavy makeup for your skin. Herbal remedies are the best and their effect on the skin is remarkable.

Hairstyle

Every Indian woman is blessed with long cascading hair. Always use a conditioner and leave in serum after hair wash to have the manageable and frizz free hair. If you have long hair, go for stylish braids like a broad fishtail, regular French braid from the top section of the hair to add volume, side braid, waterfall braid layer, etc. With medium hair, you can also try various bun hairstyles which look awesome with traditional outfits. You can also try the puff in the front portion of the crown area, create a messy bun and decorate it with subtle hair accessories. Do not forget to set the hairstyle with a spray which will keep the styling intact throughout the whole day.

Hands & Feet

In the whole chaos of choosing outfits and makeup, we often forget to take care of our hands and feet which are extremely important. Women apply mehendi on her hands and sometimes on the feet for this occasion. So make sure that the



skin on hands and feet is not dry otherwise it will end up looking ugly. Moisturize your hands and feet properly by massaging with olive or almond oil. Follow it by a good rinse and apply hand cream and a foot cream to get rid of cracked heels. For a quick rescue of cracked heels, apply a thick foot butter or petroleum jelly on the previous night and wear your socks. You will wake up with soft and supple feet. Also, make sure your nails are manicured properly. Always choose a red, maroon or golden nail lacquer or nail art for this special occasion.

Eye Makeup

When you fast for the whole day, naturally you will get tired and the eyes often look droopy and cause dark circles. In that case, apply ice packs to the eyes prior to the application of eye makeup, which will not only reduce the puffiness but also brighten the eye area. Apply a brightening concealer around the eyes to lighten the skin. Choose colors like olive green, golden, bronze or copper, for eye makeup which looks great with traditional wear. Blend them flawlessly and highlight the brow bone. Do not forget to apply the kohl, thick line or simply smudge it on the lower and upper lash line as the look will be incomplete without it. Apply mascara to make your lashes stand out and add a definition to the eye makeup.

Face Makeup

Karva Chauth is a day-long celebration and therefore always apply a primer as a base to make your makeup long lasting and to control the oil secretion easily. While choosing foundation avoid wearing heavy makeup and opt for light to medium coverage foundation which blends smoothly and is light weight. Use a good concealer to hide the blemishes and you wouldn't need a heavy coverage of a foundation. Apply a blush only after you are finished with eye and lip makeup to know the coverage you require. Apply a subtle highlighter on the top of the cheekbones to brighten the skin. Add a bindi to your forehead to complete the traditional look.

Lip Makeup

Nothing beats a red lip color with a traditional outfit. Apply a layer of lip butter or petroleum jelly overnight and scrub your lips in the morning to get rid of dry flakes and pigmentation. Firstly, choose a red lip color that matches your skin tone. For example, if you have cool undertones go for neutral bright red or tomato red and if you have olive skin tone go for orange based red which will brighten up the skin and opt for a deeper red for dark complexions. Always line your lips with a similar shade of lip pencil and then apply the lip color. Blot and apply the color again to make it long lasting.



By Tript Arora

CONNOISSEUR'S CHOICE



CHANA DAL KABAB

Chana dal kebabs (split chickpeas kebabs) are healthy and flavourful as they have goodness of veggies combined with proteins of lentils. These are perfect as starters. Do include them in your next dinner party. You can prepare them in advance and keep in the refrigerator in an airtight container. These stay Good for four to five days in the freezer Compartment. These are my dear hubby's favorite starters. Most of the time he helps me in cooking them. This recipe was on my blog list for such a long time. But somehow got delayed. It is a simple recipe and anyone can try their hands on it.

We Need

- 200 gm Chana Dal
- 2 Boiled Potatoes
- 3 Slices Bread.
- ½ Cup Finely Chopped Carrot
- ½ Cup Finely Chopped Beans
- 1 Onion finely Chopped
- 2 Green Chillies Finely Chopped
- 2 Tbsp Coriander leaves finely Chopped
- 1 Tbsp Mango Powder (Amchoor)
- 1 Tsp Freshly grounded Black Pepper powder
- 1 Tbsp Red Chilli Powder
- 1 Tbsp Dhania Powder
- 1 Tbsp Anardana Powder
- 1 Tbsp Salt. Or to taste
- Oil for frying.

Let us start

- Soak Chana Dal overnight in water. Next day drain the water and grind the Chana dal finely adding a little water.
- Grate boiled potatoes and add to the ground dal.
- Also grind bread slices in a mixer.
- In a mixing bowl add ground Chana dal, potatoes, bread and all the powder spices.
- Also add chopped carrot, beans, onions, green chillies and coriander leaves.
- Mix everything together and it will form a dough.
- Take small balls and roll them between palms of your hands giving it a cylindrical shape. You can also shape them like a tikki.
- Heat oil in a pan and deep fry these kebabs. Keep the oil on medium heat. If you fry at high temperature it will be burnt from outside. At medium heat the kebabs will be well cooked from inside and crisp from outside.
- Drain them on a tissue and serve hot with green chutney and tomato ketchup.



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HIGH INTAKE OF VITAMINS A, E AND D LINKED TO FEWER RESPIRATORY ISSUES

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, researchers, including one of Indian-origin, have found that high intake of vitamins A, E, and D may be linked to fewer respiratory complaints in adults.

Nutrition has a key role in cutting the risk of several infections, although exactly how it boosts immunity is complex and not fully understood, the study, published in the journal the BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health, reported.

"Micronutrient deficiencies are often overlooked as a key contributor to the burden of malnutrition and poor health, presenting an additional layer of challenge during the Covid-19 pandemic," said study author Sumantra Ray from Imperial College London in the UK.

The researchers wanted to explore whether the intake of these vitamins from both diet and supplements might be linked to the prevalence of respiratory complaints in a nationally representative sample of UK adults.

They drew on information provided by 6,115 adult participants in the 2008-2016 National Diet and Nutrition Survey Rolling Programme (NDNS RP) who had completed three or more days of



diet diaries. Respiratory complaints were reported by the participants and had not been diagnosed by a clinician.

They were broadly defined, and included both infectious and non-infectious conditions, such as colds, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and asthma.

The researchers looked at dietary intake only and that from diet and supplements, accounting for potentially influential factors, such as age, sex, weight (BMI), smoking, household income and total energy

intake. In all, there were 33 cases of respiratory complaints. These respondents were generally older and less likely to say they regularly took vitamins A, E, C or D supplements.

There was no obvious association between BMI and vitamin intake, or between BMI and respiratory complaints.

But vitamin A and E intake from both diet and supplements was associated with a lower prevalence of respiratory complaints in UK adults.



Young smokers three times more likely to die prematurely

Current smokers faced nearly three times the risk of premature death from cardiovascular disease compared with people who never smoked, with the risk being higher among those who began smoking during childhood, say researchers.

"It was surprising to see how consistent these findings were with our earlier research and with other studies from around the world both in terms of the substantial risks associated with smoking and with the health benefits of quitting smoking," said lead study author Blake Thomson from the University of Oxford in the UK.

The age at which a person begins smoking is an important factor, and those who start smoking at a young age are at especially high risk of dying prematurely, the study, published in the Journal of the American Heart Association, reported.

However, quitting can substantially reduce that risk, especially for those who quit at younger ages. Getting people to quit smoking remains one of the greatest health priorities globally.

Using data collected between 1997 and 2014, from the annual US National Health Interview Survey, researchers examined the medical histories, lifestyle habits and demographics of smokers and non-smokers.

The study included 390,929 adults, aged 25 to 74 years, 56 per cent female. Occasional smokers were excluded from the study. Current smokers were grouped by the age at which they began smoking.

During the follow-up period, 4,479 people died before the age of 75 from heart disease or stroke.

After adjusting for potential confounding variables, such as age, education, alcohol consumption, region and race, researchers found 58 per cent were never smokers, 23 per cent were ex-smokers, and 19 per cent were current smokers.

Among current smokers, two per cent had started smoking before age 10, and 19 per cent began smoking between ages 10 and 14.

Those who quit smoking by the age of 40 reduced their excess risk of premature death from cardiovascular disease by about 90 per cent.

Quitting smoking at any age offered benefits, and the earlier a person quit, the better, according to the findings.

High-fat keto diets can prevent, reverse heart failure: Study

Heart problems? A special diet might help as researchers have found that the popular and controversial ketogenic diet could completely prevent, or even reverse heart failure caused by a metabolic process.

For the findings, published in the journal Nature Metabolism, the research team looked at a metabolic process that seems to be turned down in failing human hearts.

"In an animal model, drastic heart failure in mice was bypassed by switching to high fat or 'ketogenic' diets, which could completely prevent, or even reverse the heart failure," said study author Kyle S McCommis from the Saint Louis University in the US.

"Thus, these studies suggest that consumption of higher fat and lower carbohydrate diets may be a nutritional therapeutic intervention to treat heart failure," McCommis added.

According to the researchers, the heart's myocardium requires



vast amounts of chemical energy stored in nutrients to fuel cardiac contraction.

To maintain this high metabolic capacity, the heart is flexible and can adapt to altered metabolic fuel supplies during diverse developmental, nutritional, or physiologic conditions.

Impaired flexibility, however, is associated with cardiac dysfunction in conditions including diabetes and heart

failure.

The mitochondrial pyruvate carrier (MPC) complex, composed of MPC1 and MPC2, is required for pyruvate import into the mitochondria.

This study demonstrated that MPC expression is decreased in failing human and mouse hearts, and that genetic deletion of the MPC in mice leads to cardiac remodelling and dysfunction.

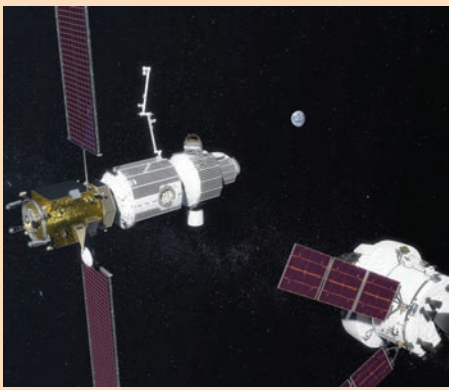
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Europe to send modules, astronauts to NASA Moon station

The European Space Agency says it has agreed to provide several modules for NASA's planned outpost around the Moon, in return for a chance to send European astronauts to the lunar orbiter.

ESA said that its director-general, Jan Woerner, signed a deal with NASA chief Jim Bridenstine to provide "essential elements" for the mini space station, known as Artemis Gateway.

ESA said this includes the main habitat for astronauts visiting the lunar outpost, and a module that provides communications and refueling capability along with a window for the crew to observe the moon.

Samsung working on foldable smartphones with pop-up camera

Samsung is reportedly working on a foldable smartphone with a pop-up camera that would be the company's first phone with this camera mechanism.

The smartphone maker filed the patent with the WIPO (World Intellectual Property Office).

It clearly describes a foldable phone featuring a pop-up mechanism inside one of the two halves of the device, reports SamMobile. Some sketches depict a Galaxy Z Fold device with a pop-up camera that raises from the half of the phone that has the cover display.

Others reveal a foldable device that conceals its pop-up camera module inside the other half.

Google to make product packaging plastic-free

Google has pledged to make its product packaging 100 per cent plastic-free and completely recyclable by 2025.

Currently, the back housing (or the back cover) of the recently launched Pixel 5 is made with 100 per cent recycled aluminium, Google said in a statement on Monday.

"We'll continue to keep all shipping of Made by Google hardware to and from our direct customers 100 per cent carbon neutral," it said.

Facebook's Workplace brings new features on its platform

Enterprise social platform Workplace from Facebook said that it has brought in a number of user-friendly updates to enable faster connectivity, accessibility, and better post creation to further ease user experience.

Workplace has kept its commitment to updating and introducing varied employee engagement tool kits on a monthly basis, the platform said in a statement.

As part of its latest updates, Workplace's 'Dark Mode' changes the background from white to black.

Even for iOS users, the platform will respect the dark mode setting of your mobile phone. If users device is set to Dark Mode, the Workplace Chat iOS app will automatically be set to Dark Mode too.

In addition to Dark Mode, the platform also plans to introduce improved focus management, easier keyboard navigation, and support for screen readers.

The initiation of new features like 'Areas' -- mapping to customise the experience with frontline workers into groups based on criteria such as geography, department -- will aid and empower managers their team's access to Workplace and enable custom pop-up notices based on the area.

Also, the unique video conferencing feature at Workplace ensures live editing which can be customised by adding filters especially for virtual events.

"The latest updates will enable better user access especially with the new dark mode which was conceptualised to help minimise screen glare, especially for use in low light conditions," Abhijit Sonagara, Founder, Digital Marketing Company—Adosphere, said in a statement.

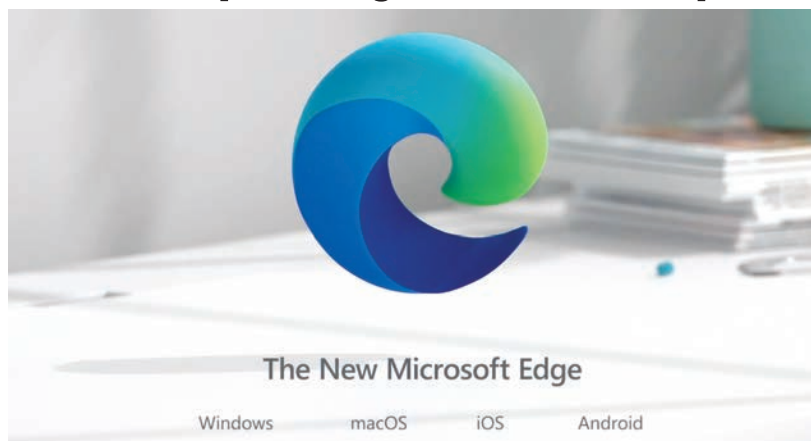


The Diversity & Inclusion feature will help companies build an inclusive Workplace community through groups, surveys among other features.

Earlier in September, Workplace introduced a series of updates for employees working from the dwellings to upgrade themselves for communication, community building, recognition, and transparency.

It also initiated the Live Town Hall guide which would enable companies to host events especially in the times of remote working which would keep them connected with the top executives and policies of the company.

Microsoft Edge to become blazing fast after an upcoming Windows 10 update



Microsoft is testing a new feature called the 'start-up boost' that could help increase the speed at which Edge launches from the Windows 10 desktop or taskbar.

This speed boost will be achieved by activating select Microsoft Edge processes, as TechRadar explained, when a Windows 10 machine is powered on. With some of these processes already running in the background, "using up minimal computing resources", the browser will be in a "state of readiness that should improve launch times".

This start-up boost feature is available as an option in Edge version 88 already. Edge version 88 was recently released to the Microsoft developer channel but a stable build of this version is not expected to be rolled out till mid-January.

Early users can activate the start-up boost via Edge settings and admins will be able to put in a blanket policy for all devices that

are running the compatible version of the browser.

The latest Windows 10 update makes the Edge browser more tightly integrated into the operating system. This makes it faster, sure, but it also means that it's impossible to uninstall the browser following traditional methods. This could frustrate some users who do not want to use Edge, but on the other hand, it paves the way for improvements like the start-up boost.

As per the Microsoft Q&A, the start-up boost will be available to all Windows 10 users but Microsoft might withdraw it from some devices that "do not see expected positive impact". Microsoft has also warned that since they are in the "process of experimenting with the feature, so it may be a little while before you see it in your respective channel and build".

Over the last few months, Microsoft has been quite upfront about its ambitions for Edge which is now the company's flagship browser.

Apple stepping up efforts to build a Google Search alternative

Apple is reportedly fast-tracking the development of a search engine to take on Google Search. Although there has been speculation for some time now that the Cupertino company is building a Google Search alternative, the latest report is based on the enhanced search functionality offered on iOS 14 and iPadOS 14, which doesn't require Google support to answer user queries. Apple had earlier this year also posted job openings for search engineers in an indication that it was moving forward with a native search engine. Additionally, the US antitrust lawsuit against Google threatens the payment Apple receives every year from Google for letting it be the default search engine on iPhones and iPads.

According to a report by Financial Times, Apple's move to bring standalone Web searching capabilities to iOS 14 and iPadOS 14 is a "growing evidence" that the Tim Cook-led team is all set to take on Google with its own search engine. The latest software updates allow users to start searching for Web results by swiping down the search box on the home screen. This brings direct links to the websites instead of showing results from Google.

Apple didn't give much emphasis to the new addition at the time of announcing the new iOS and iPadOS versions at its virtual WWDC 2020 conference in June. However, its website detailing the features of the new software updates does carry a dedicated search section with some details.



Fiscal deficit hits 115% of Budget target up to September

The government's fiscal deficit rose to Rs 9.14 lakh crore, about 114.8% of the annual Budget Estimate, during the first six months of the current financial year, mainly on account of poor revenue realisation.

The revenue realisation during the current fiscal suffered on account of the lockdown imposed by the government to check the spread of coronavirus pandemic.

In absolute terms, the deficit was Rs 9,13,993 crore, as per the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

Core sector output shrinks 0.8% in September

Contracting for the seventh consecutive month, the output of eight core infrastructure sectors dropped by 0.8% in September, mainly due to decline in production of crude oil, natural gas, refinery products and cement.

The output of eight core sectors had contracted 5.1% in September 2019, data released by the Commerce Ministry showed on Thursday.

Maruti posts marginal rise in Q2 profit

Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Thursday reported 2.04% increase in its consolidated net profit for the second quarter at Rs 1,419.6 crore on the back of higher sales. It had posted a net profit of Rs 1,391.1 crore in the July-September quarter of the previous fiscal.

Revenue from operations rose by 10.34% to Rs 18,755.6 crore for the second quarter as against Rs 16,997.9 crore in the same period of 2019-20, MSI said.

US GDP grows 33.1% in third quarter of 2020

The US economy grew by 33.1 per cent in the third-quarter of this year, indicating a revival of the economy from affects of the coronavirus pandemic.

President Donald Trump, who is seeking re-election for a second four-year term, has welcomed the latest GDP estimates released by the US Department of Commerce on Thursday.

Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased at an annual rate of 33.1 per cent in the third quarter of 2020, according to the "advance" estimate released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Mistry family proposes share swap to exit Tatas

The Shapoorji Pallonji (SP) group, the single largest shareholder in Tata Sons Ltd with an 18.4% stake, on Thursday proposed to swap its entire stake in the Tata group holding company for shares in listed entities of India's largest conglomerate.

The SP group, controlled by the Mistry family, also demanded a pro-rata share of the Tata brand value (adjusted for net debt) in cash or in listed securities, according to a scheme of separation filed in the Supreme Court on Thursday.

For the unlisted Tata group companies, the SP group has sought an independent valuation followed by payment in cash or in listed securities.

"A selective reduction of capital by extinguishing shares of Tata Sons held by minority shareholders by swapping them with shares of listed companies (say Tata Consultancy Services) would be a simple solution of providing liquidity to Tata companies and fair compensation for the SP group," said the application filed in the court.

The move by Mistry group to seek a cashless settlement marks a departure from its earlier stance of considering accepting staggered payments from Tata Sons over a period of time.

The proposed arrangement will help reduce the possibility of any additional debt on Tata group, the Mistry family said.

Mint had reported on September 29 the Mistry family is expected to share the details of the offer in the Supreme Court, making it part of the plea for relief it is seeking from the court in a minority shareholder oppression case. The next hearing of the case is on November 3.

While Tata Sons did not immediately respond to requests for comment, a person close to the group said the terms offered may not be entirely acceptable. "The management and the legal teams are currently examining the settlement application. But this is vastly different from the initial stated intent of complete separation from Tata group. This sort of arrangement would, in



Ratan Tata (R) and Cyrus Mistry.

fact, give the Mistry family, which is the single largest shareholder in Tata Sons, more say in the listed companies by virtue of their shareholding," said this person, declining to be named.

"The most contentious issue in the Mistry offer is likely to be the proposed splitting of promoter stake in Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), which is the most valuable company in the Tata stable and enduring source of capital for Tata Sons," said a second person, a former Tata Sons official.

On September 22, the Mistry family, which is fighting several court cases with the Tata group, said that a separation from the Tata group is necessary due to the potential impact this continuing litigation could have on livelihoods and the economy. For this, the family said it was crucial that an early resolution be reached to arrive at an equitable solution, reflecting the value of the underlying tangible and intangible assets.

Twitter warns US election could affect ad sales, shares drop 16%

Twitter Inc on October 29 added fewer users than Wall Street had expected and said a rise in expenses would accelerate in the fourth quarter, sending its shares tumbling 16%.

The San Francisco-based social media company said it expected expenses to increase by close to 20% in the fourth quarter compared with a year ago due to an increase in investments.

The company also cautioned that it was hard to predict how advertisers would react as the US presidential election nears on Nov. 3.

Shares of Twitter fell to \$44.00 in after-market trading.

Twitter said many companies paused ad spending during the second quarter due to widespread protests after the death of George Floyd in May and said there could be a similar dynamic with the US election.

Twitter said it had 187 million monetizable daily active users (mDAU) during the third quarter, missing consensus analyst expectations of 195.2 million users, according to IBES data from Refinitiv. The figure stood at 186 million in the previous quarter. Still, total revenue grew 14% year-over-year to \$936 million during the quarter ended Sept. 30, beating analyst estimates of \$777.15 million.



Oil extends losses with 4% slump on renewed Covid-19 lockdowns

Oil prices tumbled on October 29, touching a five-month low and extending the previous day's sharp decline on the impact renewed coronavirus lockdowns could have on oil demand.

December Brent crude futures settled lower at \$37.65 a barrel, down \$1.47, or 3.76%. During the session, the contract traded as low as \$36.64, the lowest in five months. The more active January contract lost 4% to \$38.11 a barrel.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures settled at \$36.17 a barrel, down \$1.22, or 3.26%. The contract touched its lowest since mid-June at \$34.92.

Both contracts plunged by more than 5% on Wednesday.

"People are reacting to Covid cases that are spiking - they are reacting to the number of new cases," said Bob Yawger, director of energy futures at Mizuho in New York. The market was under additional pressure about demand concerns, as additional US economic stimulus has not been forthcoming, Yawger said.

With Covid-19 cases surging across Europe, France will require people to stay at home for all but essential activities from Friday, while Germany will shut bars, restaurants and theatres from Nov. 2 until the end of the month.

"As lockdowns begin to bite on demand concerns across Europe, the near-term outlook for crude starts to deteriorate," said Stephen Innes, chief global market strategist at Axi.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies will be monitoring the deteriorating demand outlook closely as well as rising supplies from OPEC member Libya.

OPEC and its allies, together known as OPEC+, plan on tapering production cuts in January 2021 from a current 7.7 million barrels per day (bpd) to about 5.7 million bpd. "[We] believe it is increasingly unlikely that oil production will be stepped up from January," Commerzbank said. "Instead, OPEC and its allies (OPEC+) would really need to implement further production cuts, given the weak prospects for demand."

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 November 2 - November 8, 2020

ARIES: Ganesha says there are different commitments of all kinds confronting you now. Work and family will demand not only hard work and effort, but also investments and outlays in finance and time. There could also be an illness in the family, and elders and children will need particular attention. A parent or in-law may need to be hospitalized. You will also have to go slow and look for time to recuperate from the hectic periods of the recent past.

TAURUS: Ganesha says that you have a busy time ahead, both professionally and emotionally. But you are determined to enjoy it. There could also be journeys, legal issues, and dealings at law courts, even some settlements and compromises. You will be in the midst of negotiations of all kinds. There will be sharing, togetherness, bonding, warmth, love, true accord and harmony.

GEMINI: The earth element now balances your fiery temperament and grounds it. You have evolved, developed a vision of the future, worked hard and made all possible efforts to convert your dreams and hopes into reality. There are many possibilities that you will explore. Of course, finance remains a central theme and there will be much buying and selling, signing of lease documents, contracts, instruments of negotiation, promissory notes etc.

CANCER: You have been striving hard for a long time to achieve all this and now success, happiness and all the goodies of life are firmly in your grasp. This is also a great time for love, adds Ganesha. There will be passion and several intimate moments. This is also a time for consolidation. Finances will keep you busy. The focus will be on property, acquisitions, possessions, buying and selling, stocks, reality, inheritances, wills and so on.

LEO: There will be genuine gains as you also plan carefully for the future. It is important in this phase to protect your interests, not to get unethical in your dealings and to prevent others from riding roughshod over your principles. There will be new love too and you could get waylaid. Ganesha asks you to take special care not to be pressurized and exploited. There is urgent need for peace and harmony and you should work towards that.

VIRGO: There will be business issues, acquisitions, capital, funds and other fiscal issues taking up your time. This is also a good time to launch a project, finish pending work, take on new assignments. Lending / borrowing / investing / buying / selling / shopping will continue to be very important. You feel good about yourself as you follow your heart and your true inclinations.

LIBRA: Moonlight and roses, love and storybook romance, leisure and pleasure, fun times and children are what this period has in store for you. You are ready to take risks but do not treat true love with disdain. You are on a high and will have many affairs of the heart. In the process, do not look down on someone who truly loves you. You have both, the resources and the chutzpah to make a success of whatever you take on.

SCORPIO: Ganesha asks you to guard against causing disappointment to a loved one, resentment or impatience with others, and inconsideration in your dealings. You expect too much from friends and colleagues and that can mean trouble. There is also great danger in breaking hearts as we all know how a woman who has been scorned is! You can look forward to happy times, says Ganesha

SAGITTARIUS: In this intense period, there is genuine love, romance and laughter, fun and frolic, the social whirligig, and many bouts of profound happiness. There is respite, relaxation, excitement and glamour and you will revel in it. Your burdens will seem to have fallen away. You are now able to enjoy life, laughter, love, the good times. You bond powerfully with loved ones and there will be an addition to the family or a marriage or engagement.

CAPRICORN: You are happy and turn to prayer, spirituality or meditation. You are drawn to the contemplative life, thinking and looking within, the merging of the lower and higher selves. But there are also mounting expenses and other domestic issues to deal with. You are well equipped to handle life and turn to the spiritual self for answers. It is a unique phase when material and spiritual progress will be linked.

AQUARIUS: There is a significant period and you will reap the whirlwind in the days to come. Ganesha blesses you. You are moving in many directions and not all of them are right. This could be a taxing, tiring, demanding time of highs and lows. While there is a probable wish-fulfilment, there is also much anxiety. There will be a lot of work along with a fair amount of socializing. Family life will be good but you may not have much time for the home.

PISCES: There will be international travel and those in the media, in particular, will do well. This will be a busy and demanding period with many pleasant moves and a lot of pleasure. You make contact with old friends and there will be many happy reunions. Ganesha is happy. You will be busy tending to an ailing relative. The family will be the center of attention in every way.

Birthday Horoscope November 2 - November 8, 2020

NOV 2: Initially, limiting people or situations are likely to be harsh or inflexible, but if you push past them you'll find that conditions improve and become more receptive to your goals and wishes.

NOV 3: The Moon generates impressions but diminishes the ability to sort them out, so allow for the fact that you are likely to change your mind. Attitudes are likely unrealistic.

NOV 4: A new assignment or work is under

mixed influences and therefore should be approached with care and forethought. Don't rush.

NOV 5: Long - range prospects could suddenly seem brighter, as current conditions expand your options. Trust a feeling that things will fall into peace.

NOV 6: Ganesha says be a bit careful where finances are concerned; don't abuse a privilege or take advantage. Avoid being wasteful; don't let things slip out of your fingers because of

inattention or laxity.

NOV 7: An initial feeling of being in tune with someone may tempt you to let your guard down and express yourself freely. Don't! Chats could surprisingly take a rough, angry, explosive tone.

NOV 8: Curtailing high hopes early will spare you disappointment later. Whatever you do, steer a moderate course. Expenditures of time and energy may ultimately prove not to be worth the cost.

KARWA CHAETH

This year, Karwa Chauth will be celebrated on Wednesday, November 4. The Karwa Chauth vrat is observed during Krishna Paksha Chaturthi in the Hindu month of Kartik. Karwa Chauth fasting is observed by the married women in India for the long life of their husband

One of the major and significant festivals celebrated in northern part of the country is Karwa Chauth. Married, Hindu and Sikh woman celebrates Karwa Chauth by fasting for the long lives of their husbands. The idea behind celebrating the festival is to pray and wish for the well-being, prosperity, longevity of their husband.

Karwa Chauth is made of two words, Karva means an earthen oil lamp and Chauth means four. The day of Karwa Chauth is celebrated close to Diwali, exactly falls on the fourth day of the month of Kartik. The Kartik month celebrates the harvest time, where it is a time for meeting people and celebration. The Karwa Chauth is a celebration of the beautiful bond between a husband and wife celebrating love and togetherness. Today Karwa Chauth has become an occasion rather than a prayer.

Significance

Karwa Chauth begins as a festival for celebrating sisterhood and social importance. In the earlier times, girls were married at a young age, according to the tradition the girls had to leave the house to stay with in-laws. After the wedding the girls would become lonely and no one to share their problems and love with. On the day of the wedding, a small ceremony was conducted, where a woman became the bride's god sister for the lifetime. Women were regarded as soul sisters for a lifetime and shared a sanctified bond of friendship. The God sister would share and empathize with the bride in times of troubles, stress and hardships, sharing their problems with each other.

The festival of Karwa Chauth was created to celebrate the friendship, sisterhood and togetherness. Karwa Chauth was started to celebrate the relationship, but with changing times became a fast observed by a married woman for the well being and longevity of their husbands.

Legends

There are a number of legends associated with the origin of the festival. We will be discussing some of the famous legends and fables associated with the festival.

Legend of Karva

Karwa Chauth has been associated with the legend of Karva. Karva, a married woman deeply loved her husband. One fine day his husband went to take a bath in the river. A crocodile caught him, hearing him scream Karva rushed to her husband. After seeing the crocodile, she had a cotton yarn in her hand. She bounded into the crocodile with the cotton yarn and rushed towards Lord of Death, Yama. She requested Yama to send the crocodile to hell. Yama refused to do so. Karva being angry, threatened to curse him. Yama accepted her request and sent the creature to hell. Yama also blessed Karwa's husband with long life.

Satyavan and Savitri

The legend of Satyavan and Savitri is another famous one associated with the festival. It states that one day, Lord Yama came to take away Satyavan's soul. At that point, of time, Satyavan's wife begged Lord Yama to leave him, but he denied. Being angry and disappointed, Savitri gave up food and water. Seeing her in this state, Lord Yama granted her to wish anything leaving her husband's life. She wished for children, for fulfilling her wish Lord Yama had to

DATE AND TIME

- Karwa Chauth: Wednesday, November 4, 2020
- Karwa Chauth Puja Muhurat: 05:47 PM to 07:04 PM (IST)
- Duration - 01 Hour 17 Mins
- Karwa Chauth vrat time: 06:34 AM to 08:31 PM (IST)
- Duration - 13 Hours 57 Mins
- Moonrise on Karwa Chauth Day: 08:31 PM
- Chaturthi Tithi Begins: 03:24 AM on Nov 04, 2020
- Chaturthi Tithi Ends: 05:14 AM on Nov 05, 2020

bring her husband back to life.

The legend of Veeravati

Years ago, there was a queen named Veeravati. She had blessed with seven loving brothers. She was married to a king. On her first Karwa Chauth, Veeravati went to her parent's home to observe the fast. She waited desperately and long for the moon to appear to break her fast. Her brother seeing her in distress planned to trick her by reflecting a mirror through the papal leaves. As soon as Veeravati saw the light, she believed it was the moon. She broke her fast by taking some food and water. As soon as she broke the fast, she received the news of her husband being ill.

She left for the place, while going to the palace Lord 'Shiva' and Goddess 'Parvati' met her. Goddess Parvati told Veeravati about the fact that her husband had departed due to her breaking the fast after seeing the false moon. The queen asked for forgiveness, Goddess blessed with a boon that her king would be alive if only she could keep Karwa Chauth following all the rituals again. Veeravati agreed and followed the orders, which revived her husband.

Rituals

The fast starts from the dawn, where women eat "sargi" a meal prepared by her mother in law in the morning. After eating the Sargi, women stay without consuming water and food all day long until the moon rises. The mornings are usually indulged in community gatherings, putting henna on hand, etc. In the evening, there is a prayer that is offered by all the women for the long life and well-being of their husbands. The fast is called off once the moon appears. The women observe the moon through a strainer and then the husband is seen through the same strainer. The husband gives water and sweets to the wife opening her fast.



Single women also observe the fast wishing for a loving and caring husband. The fast is called off when a single woman sees the first star in the

sky. Celebrated major in the Northern and Central part of India, the festival celebrates the beautiful relationship between a husband and wife.

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"If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it?"

"Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."

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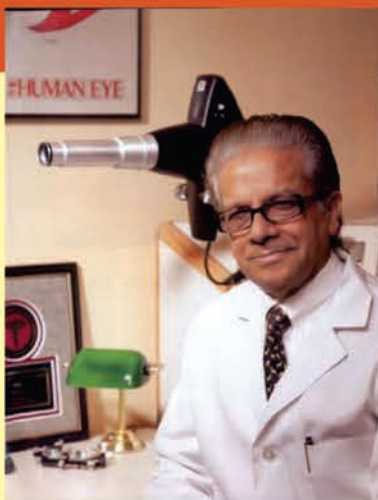
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"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." - **Nelson Mandela**

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DR. V.K. RAJU
MD, FRCS, FACS
Founder and
president of the Eye
Foundation of America



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Beach town on the Konkan coastline, Ganpatipule has temples of Lord Ganesha as major attractions apart from the beautiful virgin beaches.

Ganpatipule is a small town in the Ratnagiri district in Konkan region with a long stretch of pristine beaches, Ganpatipule is a perfect idyllic getaway in the slip of nature. Confluence of beach with river could be witnessed along with a hill shaped like Ganpati, the Hindu God of worship. The village of Ganpatipule is famous for its 400-year-old Ganesha temple. The idol is said to be a self-created monolith of Lord Ganesha, allegedly discovered 1600 years ago. Untouched by commercialism Ganpatipule makes for a great destination for peace-seekers, beach lovers and pilgrim alike. Ganpatipule also has water sports to offer between the months of November-May. Ganpatipule is typically clubbed with Ratnagiri and other smaller villages like Velneswar, Malgund and Pawas for a perfect 2-3 day trip.

PLACES TO VISIT

Jaigad Fort, Ratnagiri

Jaigad Fort, also known as the Fort of Victory, is a 16th-century fort that extends over an area of 13 acres in the coastal region of Ratnagiri, Maharashtra. Located near Jaigad Village and approximately 20 kms to the north-west of Ganpatipule, the remains of the fort stand steady on a cliff overlooking the Jaigad creek where River Shastri enters the vast and mesmerising Arabian Sea. Jaigad Fort is an engineering marvel for the purpose it was built. A glance at the magnificent structure before you enter will surely amaze you. A visit to the Jaigad lighthouse which was built in close vicinity to the Jaigad fort is a must.

Jaigad Fort is considered as one of the chief ports on the Western Coast of India. It is also said that the mighty fort was built along with another fort named the Vijaygad Fort in order to protect the creek; with the Vijaygad Fort to the North and the Jaigad Fort to the South of the creek. The intelligence and brilliant planning put together in the era the Jaigad Fort was built in is commendable considering the limited availability of resources they had. Now, the fort comes under the Archaeological Survey of India and most of the ruins are studied by them.

If adventure sports are what get your adrenaline pumping, then make sure that you do visit Ganpatipule in Ratnagiri. With its wide assortment of water sports, this destination is a daredevil's paradise. The facilities are arranged here by the MTDC and are functional from November to May.

What makes Ganpatipule popular among the younger generations is its wide array of water sports facilities. Put your strength to the test with row-boating in this destination, which is an exciting ride in the beach water. Skim through the sea water with motorboats and water scooters, which will surely give you the James Bond feels! Go banana boating with friends or family and enjoy a unique bonding experience. All in all, Ganpatipule beach is an exhilarating experience indeed!

Ganapatipule Beach

The Ganpatipule Beach is a spectacular and stunning beach that is located on the Konkan coastline in the Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra in southern India. This pristine beauty is



also famous for the 400-year-old Ganesha Temple that can be found here, the idol of which is said to have been self-created and was discovered over 1600 years ago. The coastline of the Ganpatipule Beach is no doubt spectacular and mesmerizing, and is home to a variety of exquisite flora, which includes dense coconut trees and mangroves.

Such a picturesque landscape and serene surroundings are of course an ideal getaway from the monotonous and hectic daily life of the people of Mumbai and the neighbouring areas and is a perfect place to visit for couples, families as well as groups of friends. Nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts enjoy a lot at this place too, since the site offers not only scenic views but also a range of adventure sports in certain specific months.

Luckily, the Ganpatipule Beach has not yet been affected much by commercialisation and continues to remain a pristine location till date. This is precisely why the beach continues to attract thousands of people from all across the country, all year round, who flock to the beach in large numbers to enjoy some quiet moments in the lap of nature.

Malgund

Malgund is the native village of the famous Marathi poet, Kavi Keshavsoot. The poet's house, which is now converted into a student's hostel, is open for visits. The village also houses a memorial to the poet, built by the Marathi Sahitya Parishad.

Jaigad Lighthouse

The Jaigad Lighthouse is situated in one of the bastion on the western edge of the Jaigad Fort. This impressive lighthouse offers breathtaking panoramic view of the area as it is situated on top of a hill.



Feeling very good,
says Kapil Dev in
video

A week after undergoing angioplasty, the legendary Kapil Dev on Thursday, October 29, greeted his former India teammates from the 1983 World Cup, saying he is "feeling very good" and eager to meet everyone soon.

The 61-year-old underwent the procedure after suffering a heart attack. He was discharged from the hospital a couple of days later.

Angioplasty is a procedure to open blocked arteries and restore normal blood flow to the heart.

"My family 83. The weather is very pleasant and I am very eager to meet you all. I am feeling very good. Thanks to all for your wishes and concern," an enthusiastic Kapil, dressed in a purple T-shirt, said in a video which he shared with his 1983 teammates.

Djokovic marks
Italian teenager
Jannik Sinner as
a potential
number one

Novak Djokovic feels Italian teenager Jannik Sinner leads the pack of 'Next Gen' players with the potential of becoming a future world number one, the Serbian said after all but securing his year-end top ranking with a win in Vienna on Wednesday, Oct 28.

Djokovic saved four set points in the opener against Croatia's Borna Coric to win 7-6(11) 6-3 to reach the third round of the Erste Bank Open in the Austrian capital. The win meant that the 17-time Grand Slam winner could only be stopped from tying Pete Sampras' record of finishing as year end No.1 for the sixth time if Rafael Nadal accepts a wild card in competing in Sofia next month.

Hamilton wins
Portuguese GP
for record 92nd
F1 victory

British driver Lewis Hamilton made Formula One history by winning the Portuguese Grand Prix for a 92nd career victory to move one ahead of German great Michael Schumacher. Hamilton finished nearly 25.6 seconds ahead of Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas and 34.5 clear of Red Bull's Max Verstappen for his eighth win of another dominant season.

He also took an extra point for the fastest lap to extend his huge championship lead to 77 points over Bottas with just five races left.

Hamilton won his first F1 race in 2007 and first title the following year. But his career really took off when he replaced the retired Schumacher at Mercedes in 2013. Hamilton has added five F1 titles and the runaway championship leader is now odds-on to equal Schumacher's record of seven.

IPL 2020

Surya gives savage reply for his non-selection to India squad; guides MI to victory

ABU DHABI (TIP): Suryakumar Yadav gave a loud answer to all his doubters, if there are any, on Wednesday night (October 28), guiding Mumbai Indians to a six-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bangalore in an IPL 2020 game.

Suryakumar hammered an unbeaten 43-ball 79 that contained 10 fours and 3 sixes to take Mumbai Indians a step closer to the IPL 2020 play-offs. Along with the result, Suryakumar also stoked the debate as why he was not included in the India squads to tour Australia.

The national selectors under Sunil Joshi had named three India squads for Tests, ODIs and T20Is to travel to Australia but the Mumbai batsman was not in any of them. It had caused widespread disappointment.

Suryakumar revealed how he remained so calm under pressure. "I was looking to finish the game and I am quite happy to have finished it. A lot of meditation has helped me," Surya Kumar said during the post-match presentation.

"One four over cover off Chahal and the backfoot punch off Steyn were my favorites shots of the day. I have worked on my game during the lockdown. I used to love playing on the on-side before and now my off-side game too works. The team management told me before the start of the tournament that you have played enough to take the game deep and I am happy to have finished off the game," he said.



Mumbai stand-in skipper Kieron Pollard too lavished praise on Suryakumar and asked him to stay patient without worrying about rewards. "We lost a few wickets but Surya took us home. Imagine, someone coming in at

that number and batting at that strike rate despite a wicket going down. The most he can do is continue performing for us. As an individual if you continue to be consistent, the rewards will come," said Pollard.

Barca ease past Juve; Chelsea, Man U cruise

TURIN (TIP): There was no Cristiano Ronaldo on the field and no fans in the stands to see Barcelona and Lionel Messi beat Juventus 2-0 away in the Champions League. Ronaldo's lingering Covid-19 case prevented a first meeting between him and Messi in the group stage of a competition they have combined to win nine times.



Barcelona took an early lead in Turin through Ousmane Dembele and had plenty of chances to seal the win long before Messi scored a penalty as 90 minutes ticked over into stoppage time.

Rashford hat-trick

Marcus Rashford scored a hat-trick as Manchester United beat Leipzig 5-0 at home, while Chelsea brushed aside Krasnodar 4-0 in Russia, giving England's four clubs a sweep of wins this week without conceding a goal. A wave of second-half goals also earned wins for Paris Saint-Germain — after losing Neymar early to injury — Borussia Dortmund and Sevilla.

Some of the gloss went out of the Juve-Barca game — the repeat of a standout final in 2015 — when Ronaldo was ruled out in the morning. His virus infection was revealed more than two weeks ago while on international duty with Portugal.

Jadeja helps CSK spoil KKR's party

DUBAI (TIP): Ravindra Jadeja smashed consecutive sixes in the final over as Chennai Super Kings put a big dent in Kolkata Knight Riders' chances of reaching the IPL playoffs with a thrilling six-wicket win here today. Jadeja (31 not out off 11) dispatched the young Kamlesh Nagarkoti for back-to-back sixes to pull off another consolatory win for CSK.

Opener Ruturaj Gaikwad set up the chase with a 72 off 53 balls, his second straight fifty-plus score. KKR had made 172/5, with opener Nitish Rana scoring 87 off 61.

Brief scores: KKR: 172/5 in 20 overs (Rana 87, Karthik 21*; Ngidi 2/34); CSK: 178/4 in 20 overs (Gaekwad 72, Jadeja 31*; Chakravarthy 2/20).



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