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US ELECTION 2020

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

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

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India's Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan dies at 74



Lok Janshakti Party patron had undergone heart surgery a few days ago

File photo / Courtesy PIB

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan, one of the most prominent Dalit leaders of the country, died on Thursday, October 8, at the age of 74, his son Chirag Paswan said. The Lok Janshakti Party founder and Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution was admitted to a private hospital here for several weeks and had recently undergone a heart operation.

"Papa, you are no more in this world, but I know you are with me wherever you are. Miss you papa," Chirag, who now heads the LJP, tweeted. A stalwart of the socialist movement who later emerged as Bihar's foremost Dalit

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COMPREHENSIVE RELIEF BILL IS BACK ON TABLE

Trump: "We're talking about airlines and we're talking about a bigger deal than airlines. We're talking about a deal with \$1,200 per person, we're talking about other things".

I.S. SALUJA

WASHINGTON (TIP): The deal under discussion would include new \$1,200 stimulus checks, renew enhanced unemployment benefits, and provide \$75 billion for coronavirus testing and tracing, among other provisions. When talks broke off Tuesday, October 6, Democrats were pushing for language ensuring a wide-scale testing strategy. Pelosi said Thursday, October 8, they were still waiting to hear back on that and that she had reminded Mnuchin of that.

And Trump said: "We're talking about airlines and we're talking about a bigger deal than airlines. We're talking about a deal with \$1,200 per person, we're talking about other things, but it's not anybody's fault, they were trying to get things,

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Trump said Thursday, October 8, he was hopeful the talks would bear fruit even though he commented that Pelosi is "not my favorite person, she impeached me for no reason."

File photo

Another lackluster, albeit civil debate between Vice Presidential Candidates



It was a lackluster debate between vice presidential candidates Mike Pence and Kamala Harris. Untruths and half-truths abounded.

I.S. SALUJA

WASHINGTON (TIP): The debate between two skilled debaters- vice presidential candidates Mike Pence and Kamala Harris presented a pleasing picture of a civil discourse despite of Pence drawing extra time to make his statements and often interrupting Kamal Harris who politely pointed out to

Pence that she was speaking. There was no lack of civility, but surely a lack of honest and truthful claims and counterclaims. Their debate on October 7 was far easier to watch than last week's chaotic presidential debate.

Both Pence and Harris engaged in mild overstatement and rhetorical flourishes at times. CONTD ON PAGE 2

13 men charged in foiled plot to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer



"Fox said that after kidnapping the governor, the group would remove her to a secure location in Wisconsin for 'trial'," according to the criminal complaint.

CNN Screenshot

MICHIGAN (TIP): More than a dozen men were arrested on federal and state charges in connection with an alleged foiled plot to kidnap Michigan's Democratic governor, Gretchen Whitmer, authorities said Thursday, October 8. Six were apprehended and charged with federal crimes, while another seven were picked up on state charges, officials in Michigan said.

All are members of two militia groups "who were preparing to kidnap and possibly kill me," Whitmer said in an address from Lansing late Thursday afternoon following the arrests. "When I put my hand on the Bible and took the oath of office 22 months ago,

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The Second Presidential Debate is in Limbo

Read full story on page 12

Trump administration imposes new curbs on H-1B visas to protect US workers

Read full story on page 13

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Comprehensive Relief Bill is back on Table

and we were trying to get things and it wasn't going anywhere, I shut it down. I don't want to play games. And then we reopened, and I see the markets are doing well but I think we have a really good chance of doing something."

The labor market remains weak, with another 840,000 Americans filing for unemployment claims last week, more than six months after the coronavirus pandemic began in the United States.

It remains highly uncertain that any deal can be reached, on airlines or anything else. Talks have been on again and off again for months, but ultimately Congress and the administration have been unable to strike a deal since the spring when they passed around \$3 trillion in aid.

Multiple programs approved at that time have since expired, including enhanced unemployment insurance for individuals.

The Cares Act from March included a Payroll Support Program for airlines that expired Oct. 1. Democrats have been pushing an approximately \$25 billion bill to renew the program, but it's unclear if the administration supports the Democrats' approach and Pelosi has now dropped the idea of advancing it on its own.

The developments Thursday, October 8, were just the latest confusing events in days full of them. While hospitalized at Walter Reed over the weekend, Trump tweeted a demand for a new stimulus bill, only to abruptly pull out of talks on Tuesday, a day after getting released from the hospital.

He began backtracking within hours as a number of Republicans in tough re-election races criticized his move and urged him to re-engage.

Trump said Thursday, October 8, he was hopeful the talks would bear fruit even though he commented that Pelosi is "not my favorite person, she impeached me for no reason."

Both the Democrats and Republicans are acutely aware of the immediate need for an infusion of financial aid to individuals and companies to enable them to survive. They also fear, a failure to come up with an aid may damage them in the elections. No American would like to see the daily bread being denied. *(With inputs from Agencies)*

India's Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan dies at 74

leader with following across the country, Ram Vilas Paswan was instrumental in the implementation of the Mandal Commission report in the 1990s.

Condoling his demise, President Ram Nath Kovind said, "In the demise of Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, the nation has lost a visionary leader. He was among the most active and longest-serving members of parliament. He was the voice of the oppressed and championed the cause of the marginalized."

Expressing grief at Paswan's demise, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was saddened beyond words as his death has left a void in the nation that will perhaps never be filled.

"Shri Ram Vilas Paswan Ji's demise is a personal loss. I have lost a friend, valued colleague and someone who was extremely passionate to ensure every poor person leads a life of dignity," Modi said in his condolence message.

The prime minister also said Paswan "rose in politics through hard work and determination. As a young leader, he resisted tyranny and the assault on our democracy during the Emergency. He was an outstanding Parliamentarian and Minister, making lasting contributions in several policy areas."

Born in Khagaria in 1946, Paswan was selected as a police official but chose the calling of politics and became an MLA for the first time in 1969 on a Samyukta Socialist Party ticket. He was elected to Lok Sabha eight times and also held the record of winning his constituency, Hajipur, with the highest margin for several years.

Always at the forefront of raising issues concerning the disadvantaged sections of society, he was also a skillful grassroots politician who enjoyed good equations with leaders across the spectrum, and his dedicated following in his state ensured that every national party courted him in his over five decades of career.

He was a minister in central governments headed by parties of contrasting ideological persuasions, ranging from the Janata Dal to the Congress and the BJP, since 1989.

Whoever might be his ally, he took pride in describing himself as a socialist and secular politician by conviction. (Source: PTI)

Another lackluster, albeit civil debate between Vice Presidential Candidates

That's normal in politics. Harris, for example, exaggerated the job losses that President Trump's trade war with China has caused. But Pence was far more dishonest. At several points, he seemed to want to run on a record that didn't exist.

CNN provided a "partial list" of false and misleading statements made by Pence during the debate.

"On day one, Joe Biden is going to raise your taxes," Pence said. This is false: Biden has proposed tax increases only on households making more than \$400,000 a year.

Pence said he and Trump had a plan to "protect pre-existing conditions for every American." The administration has repeatedly attempted to take health insurance away from Americans, and the number of uninsured people has risen during Trump's presidency.

Pence claimed that Trump had "suspended all travel from China." He did not. Although Trump claimed to have done so, hundreds of thousands of people traveled from China to the U.S. after the coronavirus appeared.

Pence said the Trump administration would "continue to listen to the science" on climate change. The administration has defied or ignored the views of scientists on climate change.

Pence said Biden would "ban fracking." Biden would not.

Pence said Trump revered members of the military. In 2015, Trump publicly mocked John McCain because he had been a prisoner during the Vietnam War. More recently, Trump has described Americans soldiers killed in war as "losers" and "suckers." The Atlantic has reported.

Pence said voting by mail created "a massive opportunity for voter fraud." This contradicts all of the available evidence and history about mail voting.

Pence said he and Trump have "always" told the American people the truth.

The most disappointing aspect of Pence's performance is that he has deep disagreements with Harris and Biden that don't depend on distortions. It's entirely possible to make a fact-based case against higher taxes on the rich; or widely available abortions; or high levels of immigration; or new restrictions on police.

But that is not what Pence did.

A strong moment for each candidate: Harris's opening remarks, taking the administration to task for the terrible toll of the coronavirus on the U.S.; Pence's celebrating the Trump administration's turn to a more hawkish approach to China, which has since become a bipartisan consensus.

Speaking time: Despite the vice president's repeated interruptions, the two debaters spoke for nearly identical amounts of time over all: almost 36 minutes and 30 seconds.

Questions unanswered: Harris refused to answer Pence's direct question about whether Democrats would expand the number of justices on the Supreme Court. Pence didn't answer when the moderator asked him why America's pandemic death toll is disproportionate to its population and what he would do if Trump refused to accept the election results.

Post-debate instant polls: 59 percent thought Harris won, 38 percent thought Pence won, CNN's poll found.

On the lighter side, there was an uninvited guest: A fly that landed on Pence's head for more than two minutes became a star on social media. (With inputs from CNN)

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The Bolla Charity Foundation Surprises Disabled Marine with New State of the Art House

SELDEN, N.Y.(TIP): A disabled marine in a wheelchair, but filled with boundless energy for life, said Friday, October 2, he has a new outlook and gratitude to the community around him.

His neighbors, volunteers and donors surprised him with a brand-new house,

Bolla Charity partnered with Building Homes For Heroes to change lives and make independence possible.

"Nervousness, ecstatic, happiness, sadness, it's everything," retired Marine Lance Corporal William "Billy" Ventura said.

Three years into his marine service, Ventura was on home leave. On a road one mile from his family's home, he was the victim of a hit-and-run. The accident severed his lower spine, and he lost his ability to walk.

"He has never given up," said Ventura's mother, Cynthia.

"It's truly an experience beyond words," said Ventura's father, Bill.

An entire Selden community, volunteers, donors, and the Bolla Charity Foundation awarded her paralyzed son with a brand new, state of the art, custom built home.

"Speechless. It blows my mind," Billy Ventura said.

"People giving lives to saving other



The Bolla Charity Foundation presented Lance Cpl. Billy Ventura, a Long Island Marine, with the keys to a 2,030-square-foot home in Selden on Friday, October 2. At the ceremony, Harry Bolla, President of the Bolla Charity Foundation is seen cutting the ribbon, with a happy Cpl. Ventura in the wheelchair, Mrs. Bolla, and other guests. - Photo / Michael Lewis

people, then I decided that day that I need to contribute to this good cause," said Harry Singh, president and CEO of the Bolla Oil Corporation.

"It takes more than just a village," Billy Ventura said. Bolla Charity partnered with Building Homes For Heroes to change

lives and make independence possible.

"There's a lot that I can't do, but the house now will allow me to. I have a great future," Billy Ventura said.

"He truly is a hero to me and to see how far he's come," said his mother.

"Thank you, thank you, but there's

heroes that made the ultimate sacrifice," Billy Ventura said.

Dozens of companies, military volunteers and local community organizations donated and worked together for more than nine months to surprise Ventura.

AIA Celebrates Diwali on a luxury boat

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Undaunted by the COVID-19, AIA NY celebrated on Sunday October 4th 2020, the 33rd Deepavali festival event at Hudson river in front of South Street Seaport, NYC on a luxury boat with AIA sponsors, media partners and AIA executive members.

Due to Coronavirus (COVID 19) there were very limited number of invited guests for this event. For the last 32 years, Association of Indians in America (AIA), New York chapter has organized Deepavali festival with sparkling fireworks, classical fusion performances, fashion show, vegan expo, fun-filled children's activities and booths with a variety of fine cuisine, handicrafts and gift items along with rich and varied works of contemporary Indian artists at South Street Seaport.

According to Harish Thakkar, President of AIA- NY chapter, Deepavali festival is one of the landmark events of AIA-NY chapter, enjoyed by over 50,000



New Yorkers every year since 1987. Considered by far the largest attraction for Indian Americans from all over the tri-state, Deepavali festival celebrates the

tradition of a faraway land in a new world. This celebration has itself become a tradition that unites New York in a world of myths and colors.

AIA is a grass-roots national organization of Asian-immigrants in the U.S with chapters and membership spread across the nation. It was founded on August 20th, 1967. The New York Chapter was established in 1968 and is well known for its social, cultural and educational activities. AIA represents the hopes and aspirations of those immigrants who are united by their common Indian heritage and American commitment.

AIA is thankful to its supporters like CheapOair and Qatar Airways, McDonald's, New York Life, ICICI Bank, all media partners, Sony Entertainment, ITV Gold, TV Asia, Jus Punjabi, South Asian Times, Desi Talk, Indian Panorama, Indian Express and Hum Hindustani "We are grateful to all our sponsors who made this festival a big success for many years" AIA president Harish Thakkar said.



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Indian American researchers making Covid-19 vaccine for older adults

INDIANA (TIP): A team of Indian American scientists is working to develop a unique covid-19 vaccine to protect all segments of the population, especially older adults using an adenovirus that causes disease in cattle.

Led by Purdue University virologist Suresh Mittal, the team aims to create a vaccine that uses a bovine adenovirus as a safe and effective delivery vehicle with a nearly \$3.9 million grant from the National Institutes of Health.

"Adenoviral vectors have emerged as a promising gene-delivery platform for a variety of therapeutic and vaccine purposes during the last two decades," said researcher Suresh Kuchipudi of Penn State University in a media release.

Kuchipudi is clinical professor of veterinary and biomedical sciences and associate director of Penn State's Animal Diagnostic Laboratory.

"Historically, we have used human adenoviruses as platforms for vaccine delivery, but using a delivery system based on an animal adenovirus means that the human population will have no preexisting immunity to the vector, thereby improving its effectiveness."

Kuchipudi explained that human adenoviruses are widespread and can cause common illnesses such as cold-like symptoms, fever, sore throat, bronchitis, pneumonia, diarrhea and pink eye.

"As a result, most people may have preexisting immunity that could impact the efficacy of vaccines delivered via a human-adenovirus-based vector.

The team which also includes immunologist Suryaprakash Sambhara from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has adapted an adenovirus typically found in cattle to prevent it from replicating, which enhances safety.

The researchers also modified the adenovirus to express a peptide that stimulates a robust immune response to influenza viruses in mice.

"Our preliminary work has revealed that this novel vaccine platform provides significantly higher levels of immunity compared to that of human adenovirus vectors," Kuchipudi said.

"We hypothesize that immunization with this vector expressing relevant antigens of SARS-CoV-2 will strengthen an effective anti-COVID-19 immunity."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Technology Entrepreneur Vinson Palathingal named to President's Export Council

WASHINGTON (TIP): Named by President Donald Trump as a member of the President's Export Council, Indian American Technology entrepreneur Vinson Palathingal says removing the trade barriers to US products is critical to increase its exports.

"I am really honored to be appointed as a member of the President's Export Council," said Vinson, a serial entrepreneur, Asian American community leader, and a free market advocate hailing from Kochi, in Kerala State, India.

"With great pleasure and humility, I thank President Trump for this recognition," said the McLean, Virginia, resident who has lived in the US for about 27 years. "US has so much potential to increase our exports. Removing the trade barriers for our products is very critical to make the playing field level," Palathingal said. "Plus, US EXIM bank need to focus more on small business exporters by simplifying credit guarantee process."



Vinson Palathingal says removing the trade barriers to US products is critical to increase its exports

Palathingal hoped he "will be able to use my experience as a small business exporter to advice the President in key export related policy making."

With a bachelor's degree in engineering from India and master's degree in engineering from University of Nevada, Reno, he has run multiple small businesses in the US.

The winner of the SBA Small Business Exporter of the Year award in 2013, Palathingal has vast experience

with engineering and technology industries over the last three decades ranging from buildings and road construction to block chains and artificial intelligence.

A proactive leader in the Indian American Community, Palathingal engages closely with the Indian diaspora. He intends to leverage the community's success from technology to mainstream America.

In 2015, Vinson started the Indo-American Center, a free-market think tank spreading the message of liberty and small government ideals in both India and the US.

Vinson's wife Asha Palathingal, too, is a technology leader. They have two children, Xavier & Stephen.

He believes that his Catholic upbringing in Kerala obviously contributed to his conservative values and worldview.

Last year, Palathingal had run unsuccessfully to the Fairfax County School Board.

Indian nationals formed the biggest number of EB-5 Investor Program applicants in FY19

WASHINGTON (TIP): Indian nationals overtook those from China and Vietnam to file the highest number of EB-5 Immigrant Investor applications in the October-December and April-June quarters of fiscal year 2019, data sourced by non-profit Invest in the USA (IIUSA) showed.

The EB-5 investor program provides US citizenship to applicants once they invest \$900,000 in any of a few specific opportunities. The investment amount was \$500,000 before it was increased in November last year.

Demand for EB-5 visas, which provide applicants a direct path to US citizenship, rose 400% in India between 2016 and 2019, IIUSA said.

About a third of these applications were filed by Indians living in the United States to counter the excessively long green card processing times for Indian nationals, EB5 attorneys said.

Indians filed 756 applications in the two specified quarters in financial year 2019 - up 43% over the previous year - although there was a slump in visa filings in the first quarter of this fiscal (October-December 2019) due to the hike in the investment amount.

In comparison, there were 351 applicants from China and 240 from Vietnam, the two other big markets for the EB-5 investor program.

There is a country cap of 770 EB-5 visas in a year.

To be sure, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), which follows an October-September financial year, does not make public investor data by nationality, but IIUSA was able to obtain the data under the US Freedom of Information Act, seeking the data only for the fiscal first and third quarters.

Immigration lawyers said Indian nationals who filed for EB-5 visas in the US could be at an advantage as there are no backlogs for Indians in this category.

"Current processing and absence of backlog is definitely



good news for Indian EB-5 applicants. This means there won't be any significant delay between I-526 approval and issue of the EB-5 visa on account of lack of availability of the latter," said Vivek Tandon, CEO, EB5 BRICS, an immigration consultancy.

I-526 is the investor application form. Once approved, investors can file for consular processing.

The status is, however, unlikely to sustain for long as I-526 petitions filed before the increase in investment limit get processed.

Even in such a scenario, too, applicants staying in the US are at an advantage, said Poorvi Chothani, managing partner of immigration law firm LawQuest.

"Consular services haven't resumed in India and most other countries, for many visa categories, so people can't file their applications at present if they are outside the US," she said.

Abhinav Lohia, Director-South Asia and the Middle East, CanAM Enterprises, said the EB-5 investment firm is "seeing more demand and they have filed a lot more applications in the last few months."

However, the pool of investors with the ability to invest under the new rules is significantly smaller compared to the earlier set, he pointed out.

Still, the EB-5 investor program remains a popular option for people who want to secure their place in the US. H-1B visa holders in line for a green card opt for the EB-5 to ensure that their children do not have to leave the country if they age-out or turn 21 before their applications are processed. The program is also popular with parents keen on getting a green card so that their children have an easier path to colleges in the US as citizens.

"The EB-5 program remains popular with professionals and students," said Mark Davies, Global Chairman, Davies & Associates, an immigration law firm.

(Source: Economic Times)

Indian-Origin Couple's Drive-in Wedding in UK



London based Roma Popat and Vinal Patelare celebrating this week after pulling off a first-of-its-kind drive-in wedding near London

LONDON (TIP): An Indian-origin couple, keen not to delay their wedding plans despite a strict restriction on the number of guests allowed to assemble under England's coronavirus lockdown rules, are celebrating this week after pulling off a first-of-its-kind drive-in wedding near London.

London based Roma Popat and Vinal Patel were originally due to get married on April 20 but when lockdown disrupted their plans, they discussed the concept of a drive-in wedding with their wedding coordinator, Saheli Events, almost as a tongue-in-cheek thought rather than a serious plan.

However, what began as a joke became a reality last Friday, when the couple were married in front of a small gathering of their immediate family with the ceremony being projected onto a big screen in a field next door to friends and family seated in more than 100 cars at Braxted Park in Chelmsford.

"We're delighted with how both the wedding ceremony and drive-in has gone," said Saheli Mirpuri, Founder &

Director of Saheli Events. "This year has been so difficult for luxury Asian weddings and celebrations in particular, but this was a creative way to still ensure that guests felt they were with the couple on the day, and we're delighted to have worked with so many amazing suppliers to bring everything together," she said. Under the UK government guidelines, only 15 people are allowed to be part of wedding ceremonies, which has resulted in many weddings either being postponed or couples trying to find virtual options to include friends and family to be a part of their big day.

"When we had to postpone our wedding in April, we had no idea whether we would be able to get married this year or not," said bride Roma.

"We have so many friends and family and we wanted them to be part of our celebration. It literally meant everything to us to have everyone there, albeit in a slightly different way to the one we envisaged. It's a day we'll never forget," she said.

On arrival at the drive-in wedding, guests in cars were given welcome

hampers containing anti-bacterial hand gel and requested to stay in their vehicles throughout. The option to order food was available from their respective seats through a COVID-safe delivery service direct to their cars. If they needed any help, they were advised to flash their lights or hazard flashers

The traditional Hindu wedding ceremony unfolded on the big screen and as is the tradition, the groom's grand entrance was marked by travelling around the field before the ceremony waving at all the guests in their cars.

Horns were honked as he travelled past on a specially decorated golf buggy, driven by a member of venue staff wearing a protective mask.

After the intimate ceremony inside had been completed, the newly-weds then travelled around the field on the same golf buggy, waving to their friends and families inside their cars.

The couple were also able to watch a specially filmed tribute for them on the drive-in screen made by guests unable to travel to be with them on the day.

Braxted Park, the wedding and events venue which hosted the unusual drive-in wedding, said it has since been receiving several inquiries from couples keen to organize their big day under similar Covid-secure settings.

Under tougher restrictions that came in last month, maximum guest numbers at wedding ceremonies and sit-down receptions in England were halved from an initial 30 to 15 amid a spike in coronavirus infections.

However, they were included as an exception to the wider rules banning groups of more than six from gathering.

Indian-Origin Rishi Sunak's Reply upon being asked if he wishes to be UK PM



"Oh God. No. Definitely not," Sunak said.

LONDON (TIP): Indian - Origin British finance minister Rishi Sunak on Monday, October 5, denied he had ambitions to replace Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

"Oh God. No. Definitely not," Sunak said, chuckling, when asked if he wanted the keys to Number 10 Downing Street. "Seeing what the prime minister has to deal with - this is a job hard enough for me to do."

"I think he and I are personally close," Sunak said. He confirmed Johnson called him "Rish".

When asked what he called Johnson, Sunak said: "I call him Prime Minister. He keeps trying to tell me to call him other things... but I just stick with PM."

"I grew up watching my parents serve our local community with dedication. My dad was an NHS family GP and my mum ran her own local chemist shop. I wanted to make that same positive difference to people as their Member of Parliament and I was first elected to represent this wonderful constituency in 2015 and re-elected in 2017 and 2019. I live in Kirby Sigston, just outside Northallerton.

I have been fortunate to enjoy a successful business career. I co-founded a large investment firm, working with companies from Silicon Valley to Bangalore. Then I used that experience to help small and entrepreneurial British companies grow successfully. From working in my mum's tiny chemist shop to my experience building large businesses, I have seen first-hand how politicians should support free enterprise and innovation to ensure our future prosperity.

My parents sacrificed a great deal so I could attend good schools. I was lucky to study at Winchester College, Oxford University and Stanford University. That experience changed my life and as a result I am passionate about ensuring everybody has access to a great education. I have been a school governor, a board member of a large youth club, and have always volunteered my time to education programs that spread opportunity.

I have been lucky to live, study and work internationally. I met my wife, Akshata, in California where we lived for a number of years before returning home. We have two daughters, Krishna and Anoushka, who keep us busy and entertained.

In July 2019 I was appointed Chief Secretary to the Treasury, having entered Government service as the Minister for Local Government in January 2018. In February 2020, I had the honor to be appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer.", Sunak once said about himself.

Indian American Couple Convicted for Forced Labor

PARMINDER AUJLA

SACRAMENTO (TIP): An Indian American woman from California has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for forced labor violations.

Sharmistha Barai and her husband Satish Kartan were found guilty of conspiracy to obtain forced labor and two counts of obtaining forced labor by a federal jury on March 14, 2019, after an 11-day trial.

Kartan will be sentenced on October 22.

"The United States abolished slavery and involuntary servitude more than 150 years ago. Yet, inhuman forced labor and deprivations of liberty and dignity persist because human traffickers are modern-day slave masters who endeavor to exploit their fellow human beings for profit and other gruesome purposes," said Assistant Attorney General Eric Dreiband.

The Indian American couple compelled the victims into servitude for up to 18 hours a day, with minimal pay, through intimidation, threats and violence, he said, adding this is an unconscionable violation of the victims' individual rights, freedom and dignity.

According to court documents and evidence presented at trial, between February 2014 and October 2016, Kartan and Barai hired workers from overseas to perform domestic labor in their home in Stockton, California.

In advertisements seeking workers on the internet and India-based newspapers, they made false claims about the wages and conditions of employment.

Once the workers arrived at their residence, Kartan and Barai compelled them to work up to 18 hours a day with limited rest and nourishment, federal prosecutors alleged.

Few of them were paid any wages. The couple kept the domestic workers from leaving and coerced them to continue working by threatening them, by creating an atmosphere of fear, control, and disempowerment, and at times by physically hitting or burning them.

"When a victim resisted or expressed a desire to leave, the threats and abuse became worse," the Department of Justice added.



Gandhian Society, World Vegan Vison, TV Asia, the Indian Consulate, New York, and the Indian American community join hands to celebrate 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi



Consul General of India in New York Randhir Jaiswal, along with Woodbridge, NJ mayor John McCormac; NJ State Senator Sam Thompson and members of the community, released balloons outside Royal Albert Palace in Fords, NJ, as a symbolic gesture of peace.

EDISON, NJ (TIP): The Gandhian Society, World Vegan Vision and TV Asia in association with the Consulate General of India in New York and the Indian American community, hosted a three-day exhibition from Sept 30 to Oct 2 in Fords, New Jersey, celebrating the 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the apostle of peace and non-violence.

The celebrations included an exhibition as well as the unveiling of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi. The exhibition was stunning for its detailed display of Gandhiji's life. It included a replica of Gandhiji's ancestral home. Also, on display were rare photos of Gandhiji and his major campaigns with detailed descriptions of each. Huge cutouts of Gandhiji adorned the exhibition hall. A bust of Gandhiji was also on display. The gathering was limited to about 75 people at a time because of state Covid guidelines. The three-day event also included a cultural

program with dance performances and renditions of Gandhiji's favorite bhajans by Varsha Joshi. Decorations for the exhibition were meticulously done by Mahesh Wani.

The organizers and guests, along with Consul General of India in New York, Randhir Jaiswal, also released balloons outside Royal Albert Palace in Fords, NJ, as a symbolic gesture of peace.

The Indian American community came together, even while following state Covid guidelines. The celebrations were sponsored by Raj Pandya of Pandya Foundation; Dr Mukund Thakkar of Arista Care; Kenny Desai of Tak Group; Albert Jasani of Royal Albert's Palace; Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan; Oak Tree Business Association and FIA of NY-NJ-CT.

Several speakers addressed the life of the man credited with hastening the independence of India, and especially known for his belief in non-violence and



From left, Padma Shri Dr H R Shah, TV Asia chairman and CEO; India's Consul General in New York Randhir Jaiswal; Nitin Vyas, director of World Vegan Vision and Bhadra Butala, Board of Directors, Gandhian Society.

civil disobedience.

On the inaugural day of the exhibition, Consul General of India in New York, Randhir Jaiswal lauded the efforts of the community in putting together the exhibition. "But more importantly, it celebrates his legacy. Thank you very much for being so thoughtful in your celebration," Jaiswal said at the event. Jaiswal extolled everyone, especially young people, to visit the exhibition to learn from the life and legacy of Gandhi.

Other attendees and speakers included, Woodbridge, NJ mayor John McCormac, NJ State Senator Sam Thompson and several township and Council members from neighboring towns.

Bhadra Butala of Gandhian Society said "I believe in Gandhi. (He) is everything for me. I dedicated my life him." He later also said, "Gandhi was not a politician. He never believed in the war,

or casteism or any kind of discrimination."

H.K. Shah and Nitin Vyas, founder and director respectively of World Vegan Vision said, "Truth and non-violence were Mahatma Gandhi's main principles which should be followed by everyone in today's world also. He had no wealth, no power, no assets; yet he was the most loved and respected person across the world."

Padma Shri Dr H.R. Shah, chairman and CEO of TV Asia, admired Gandhi for being a firm believer of satyagraha. He quoted Leo Tolstoy saying, "Where there is faith, there is love; where there is love, there is peace; where there is peace, there is God; and where there is God, there is no need."

Nitin Vyas added Gandhiji's way of life and principles were more relevant in today's world and it was paramount that we reflected on his teachings for overall harmony.

Indian American Republican Danny Gaekwad's "Trump Hai to Safe Hai" Campaign



OCALA (TIP): With President Donald Trump trailing in the polls, an avid Indian American supporter has launched an ad campaign on 30 Indian channels, targeting the community which has emerged as a key constituency in 2020 presidential election. Taking a cue from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's campaign slogan, "Modi Hai to Mumkin Hai" (With Modi, it's possible), "Trump Hai to Safe Hai" (With Trump, it's safe) campaign highlights Trump's support for India and his commitment to maintain law order and economic recovery among other topics. "I saw that President Trump is wounded in the race. So, I'm spending my own money to support him," Ocala, Florida, based serial entrepreneur Digvijay "Danny" Gaekwad told the American Bazaar. "In recent months, I have had opportunities to engage the president and Vice President Mike Pence in person," he said. "I'm convinced that Trump is the right person to lead America and spearhead an economic recovery." "Indian American votes are going to be crucial in battleground states such as Pennsylvania, Florida, Michigan and Ohio," said the Baroda, Gujarat, -born Gaekwad. "I believe Indian television channels are the best way to reach many of the first-generation voters from the community." *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Indian- Origin Indigo Global Corp Founder and Chairman announces high profile appointment

PHILADELPHIA (TIP): Ask Ajay Raju about Indigo Global, the all-purpose elite corporate strategy and solutions firm he founded, and you'll learn perhaps more than you ever wanted to know about the mating habits of deep sea anglerfish.

"Like the males of most species, the anglerfish exists for the sole purpose of finding a mate," says Raju, "but unlike even the most compatible of human couples, when two anglerfish connect to reproduce, the male fuses into the female, losing its eyes, organs and its own bloodstream, literally becoming one with its partner." That, Raju emphasizes, is precisely the level of commitment Indigo seeks to bring to its client relationships. Offering its eligible clients tailor-made packages of executive-in-residence services and captive venture capital access, Indigo embeds experts from a range of industries with its clients, taking both ownership of the problem they're engaged to solve, and a stake - win or lose - in the solution. *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*



Indigo Global founder and chairman Ajay Raju recently appointed Craig Snyder - a well-known and highly regarded Philadelphian of note in his own right - as its president and CEO.

2020 NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS

The 2020 Nobel Prizes kicked off on October 5 with the naming of winners in the field of physiology and medicine. The prestigious award comes with a gold medal and prize money of 10 million Swedish kronor (over \$1,118,000), courtesy of a bequest left 124 years ago by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel. The amount was increased recently to adjust for inflation.

Chemistry



Jennifer A. Doudna, left, and Emmanuelle Charpentier.

US-French duo win Prize for gene editing tool

Emmanuelle Charpentier of France and Jennifer Doudna of the U.S. on October 7 won the Nobel Chemistry Prize for the gene-editing technique known as the CRISPR-Cas9 DNA snipping "scissors", the first time a Nobel science prize has gone to a women-only team.

"Using these, researchers can change the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms with extremely high precision," the Nobel jury said.

"This technology has had a revolutionary impact on the life sciences, is contributing to new cancer therapies and may make the dream of curing inherited diseases come true."

The technique has been tipped for a Nobel nod several times in the past, but speaking to reporters in Stockholm via telephone link Prof. Charpentier said the call was still a surprise.

"Strangely enough I was told a number of times [it might happen] but when it happens you are very surprised and you feel that it's not real," she said. "But obviously it is real so I have to get used to it now," she added.

Prof. Charpentier, 51, and Prof. Doudna, 56, are just the sixth and seventh women to receive the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, and this is the first time a Nobel science prize goes to a women-only team.

Prof. Charpentier told reporters she considered herself "a scientist" first, but hoped the prize would provide "a really strong message for young girls".

Literature



American poet Louise Glück

American poet Louise Glück wins the Prize

American poet Louise Glück won the 2020 Nobel Literature Prize on October 8, an unexpected choice known for themes of childhood and family life that draw inspiration from myths and classical motifs.

Prof. Glück, 77, was honoured "for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal," the Academy said.

Prof. Glück won the Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for her collection "The Wild Iris" and the National Book Award for her latest collection, "Faithful and Virtuous Night", in 2014.

The Academy's permanent secretary Mats Malm said he had spoken to Prof. Glück just before making the public announcement.

"The message came as a surprise, but a welcome one as far as I could tell," Mr. Malm told reporters.

Prof. Glück was not seen as a favourite for the Nobel in the run-up to Thursday's announcement — though betting sites' odds on her reportedly plunged just before Thursday's announcement.

The chair of the Academy's Nobel committee, Anders Olsson, lamented that she was not more well-known, "at least outside the U.S.' borders", and had not been translated into many other languages.

She is the fourth woman to win the Nobel Literature Prize in the past decade — after Olga Tokarczuk, Svetlana Alexievich and Alice Munro — and only the 16th since the Nobel prizes were first awarded in 1901.

Physics



Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez.

Three share Prize for their discoveries about black holes

Three scientists won this year's Nobel Prize in Physics on Tuesday for advancing our understanding of black holes, the all-consuming monsters that lurk in the darkest parts of the universe.

Briton Roger Penrose received half of this year's prize "for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity," the Nobel Committee said.

German Reinhard Genzel and American Andrea Ghez received the second half of the prize "for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the center of our galaxy."

The prize celebrates "one of the most exotic objects in the universe," black holes, which have become a staple of science fact and science fiction and where time seems to stand still, according to the committee.

Black holes are perhaps the most mysterious and powerful objects in astronomy. They are at the center of every galaxy, and smaller ones are dotted around the universe. Nothing, not even light, can escape their incredible gravity. They are the ultimate cosmic dead end. "Black holes, because they are so hard to understand, is what makes them so appealing," Ghez told Tuesday morning. "I really think of science as a big, giant puzzle." Penrose proved with mathematics that the formation of black holes was possible, based heavily on Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity.

Three scientists share Prize in Physiology or Medicine

Americans Harvey J Alter and Charles M Rice, and British scientist Michael Houghton were awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology on Monday for the discovery of the hepatitis C virus.

Announcing the prize in Stockholm on Monday, the Nobel Committee noted that the trio's work helped explain a major source of blood-borne hepatitis that couldn't be explained by the hepatitis A and B viruses.

Their work make possible blood tests and new medicines that have saved millions of lives, the committee said.

Thanks to their discovery, highly sensitive blood tests for the virus are now available and these have essentially eliminated post-transfusion hepatitis in many parts of the world, greatly improving global health, the committee said.

Their discovery also allowed the rapid



Harvey J Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M Rice.

development of antiviral drugs directed at hepatitis C, it added. For the first time in history, the disease can now be cured,

raising hopes of eradicating hepatitis C virus from the world population.

The World Health Organisation

estimates there are over 70 million cases of hepatitis worldwide and 400,000 deaths each year. The disease is chronic and a major cause of liver inflammation and cancer.

The prestigious Nobel award comes with a gold medal and prize money of 10 million Swedish kronor (over USD 1,118,000), courtesy of a bequest left 124 years ago by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel.

The medicine prize carried particular significance this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, which has highlighted the importance that medical research has for societies and economies around the world.

The Nobel Committee often recognizes basic science that has laid the foundations for practical applications in common use today.

The award is the first of six prizes being announced through October 12.

AS I SEE IT

Hathras a setback for Hindutva's social project



By Saba Naqvi

The Yogi Adityanath regime in Uttar Pradesh has responded hysterically and undemocratically to the criticism and protest generated by the terrible Hathras case. The state police have now filed FIRs against members of Opposition parties and threatened protesters with sedition charges, even as the chief minister has alleged a conspiracy to trigger caste and communal riots. The touchiness over this case comes from the fact that it has the potential to set back the BJP-RSS socio-political project in the nation's most populous state. The most tangible damage comes from the fact that the Valmiki sub-caste of the Dalit community, to which the victim belonged, has been overwhelmingly voting for the BJP in recent elections in Uttar Pradesh (unlike the numerically larger Chamars/Jatavs who have traditionally been backers of the BSP led by Mayawati).

The Hindutva project in Uttar Pradesh rode on upending the state parties that became prominent in the Mandal era, by using cadre, narratives and mobilization, to reach out to non-dominant Dalit and backward caste groups. This was achieved by giving them a sense of belonging and telling them that they were included in the Hindutva project. In some instances, Valmikis were the foot soldiers of anti-Muslim mobilization.

To give an example from the ground in Moradabad in western UP, a seat with a large Muslim population, in the middle of the minority-dominated part of the town is a Valmiki settlement in an area known as Bhude ka Chauraha. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections and the 2017 Assembly polls, residents of this Valmiki basti were among the most determined BJP voters and foot soldiers on the ground. They were the new voters the BJP has been getting in its consolidation of power in this electorally crucial state, achieved after consistent cadre outreach by the Sangh Parivar.

But post Hathras, the manner in which the Thakur community (to which the four rape-murder accused belong) has postured with the patronage of BJP leaders as if they are the aggrieved party with the license to protest their arrests, suggests these fragile gains could be lost. Thakurs make up 7.9 per cent of the population, while Dalits account for 21 per cent. So, the question is that as a politician, why is the CM inclined to give a free pass to his own caste although the BJP got the support of both forward and backward sections of society minus Muslims? The answer lies in the fact that despite being an MP from Gorakhpur, the seat of the Gorakhnath temple that he heads, for five consecutive terms, Yogi Adityanath is not really a politician but a

There is an undeniable political vacuum in the space for the Opposition in UP, but even an unrivalled political force has to stand on a structure that has strong foundational beams. The Yogi regime is beginning to disgust its own supporters. As long as the Hindutva wave was moving along smoothly, Yogi was even being spoken of as a possible successor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the emerging Hindu rashtra. But the Hathras episode has diminished him.



The community to which the Hathras victim belonged has been voting for BJP.

religious mascot who likes to talk tough and give the license to shoot to the police in the state.

Before he got the state as his stage, stormtroopers of the Hindu Yuva Vahini, a so-called youth organization founded by Yogi Adityanath in Gorakhpur in 2002, went about dispensing vigilante justice and intimidating minorities. On its website, under 'Type of Business', the Yuva Vahini calls itself 'far right Hindu nationalist organization.' As long as just Muslims were at the receiving end, it did not really jar sensibilities in the now deeply communalized state. But now that it has become clear that crime against Dalits is increasing at an alarming rate, it's an altogether different matter.

It is common knowledge in Lucknow and the district headquarters that the CM trusts only members of his own caste, as he was groomed and raised in the Thakur-run Gorakhnath monastic order. As the state will have elections in early 2022, it's possible that Yogi intends to rely solely on the mix of Hindutva and muscle power that Thakurs supply. The community has clout way beyond its numerical strength; in spite of the abolition of the zamindari system, Thakurs are believed to still own half the agricultural land in parts of Uttar Pradesh.

But the Hathras incident has served the larger social purpose of shining the arc lights on the dark and regressive social impulses that have got a free run

during the reign of Yogi Adityanath. Seeing the pushback from the Thakurs, imagine the scale of the bullying that can go unseen. The outrageous scale of injustice at Hathras also raises the larger question about whether the social gains of the Mandal era were superficial at best, dependent solely on a Dalit figure occupying high office? BSP leader and four-time CM Mayawati did leave monuments and parks; her coming to power did make many Dalits believe they need not sit on the floor if a high-caste individual came by; and once upon a time, she famously jailed all the notorious Thakur strongmen of the state.

But the palpable regression in the years of BJP rule raises the question about whether she left a lasting legacy or just a lot of statues. Has she hollowed out her own movement by selling tickets and making deals with whosoever could keep her person and assets safe? Or is Mayawati just helpless today, reduced to being a Team B of the BJP? During the Hathras episode, for instance, she made more attacks on the Congress than the BJP.

There is an undeniable vacuum in the space for the Opposition in Uttar Pradesh, but even an unrivalled political force has to stand on a structure that has strong foundational beams. The Yogi regime is beginning to disgust its own supporters and the pillars holding it up are looking rotten. As long as the Hindutva wave was moving along smoothly, Yogi was even being spoken of as a possible successor to PM Narendra Modi in the emerging Hindu rashtra. But the Hathras episode has diminished him.

Like Yogi, Modi was not an elected but a selected CM. But Modi would remain in control of whatever image or narrative he wished to project, be it the Hindu Hriday Samrat of the 2002 Gujarat riots or the friend of industrialists by 2007, the liberator of Gujarat, the undisputed leader and so on till he cast his eye on Delhi by 2013. Yogi Adityanath in contrast seems to have lost control of any narrative beyond his open desire to erase the names of Muslim historical figures and eras. From aspiring to be the next Hindu Hriday Samrat, he has been caught out to be a mere Thakur strongman in saffron robes. The ghost of that young woman of Hathras who met such a terrible end will haunt him.

(Saba Naqvi is a senior journalist)

GUEST COMMENT

Hathras mess

Hounding of the victim's family should stop

The Uttar Pradesh government is stooping to new lows in its gross mishandling of the Hathras case. Even as the probe has been referred to the CBI, the state authorities are leaving no stone unturned to exert pressure on the victim's family. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) has proposed a narco-polygraph test on the deceased Dalit woman's kin to ascertain the

truthfulness of their statements. Her outraged brother has rightly asserted that such a test should be conducted on the accused and the policemen who are trying to 'twist the narrative'. The family members have also accused the District Magistrate of threatening them. The UP police, too, haven't exactly covered themselves in glory. Citing a forensic report based on samples received over 10 days after the victim was hospitalized, the ADGP (Law and Order) jumped to the conclusion that there was no evidence of rape. He tried to pass off the case as a conspiracy to disturb communal harmony. Not surprisingly, the Hathras

police have now lodged an FIR against unknown persons, invoking the sedition charge no less, for an attempt to trigger caste-based conflict.

The Yogi Adityanath dispensation has gone all out to keep mediapersons away from the scene of the gruesome crime. In a vicious assault on the freedom of the Press, some journalists' phones have been tapped and their conversations leaked. The obvious motive is to divert attention away from the instant case. The meeting held outside a former BJP MLA's house in Hathras on Sunday, during which the accused were defended, and an FIR sought against the woman's

family, is another abhorrent ploy to turn the matter on its head.

Influential accused can go to any extent to intimidate the victim and her family, as witnessed in the 2017 Unnao rape case. The girl survived a car crash in which two of her aunts lost their lives, and her father died in judicial custody after being framed for illegal possession of firearms. Justice did eventually prevail as former BJP legislator Kuldeep Sengar was convicted and jailed for life. Attempts to arm-twist the Hathras victim's family should also not go unpunished.

(Tribune, India)

Permanent UNSC membership for India -- mirage or achievable?



By Prabhu Dayal

On September 26, Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a virtual address during the General Debate of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly in which he made an impassioned and forceful plea for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. His speech was brilliant, but when he had finished I was still asking myself this question: Is India's quest heading anywhere, or is it just a pipe dream?

The composition of the Security Council was established in 1945. The victors of the Second World War shaped the UN Charter in their national interests, giving to themselves the veto power in the Security Council. Since then the geopolitical realities have changed drastically, but the Council has changed very little. The Prime Minister did well to stress this when he said that the world of 1945 was significantly different from today's world; the global situation, sources-resources, problems-solutions; all were quite different. Keeping this in mind, he urged that "Reform in the responses, in the processes, and in the very character of the UN is the need of the hour".

This was not the first time in recent months that PM Modi had urged the need for UN reforms. It would be recalled that while speaking at the high-level dialogue of the U.N.'s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on July 17 this year, he had said that "Only reformed multilateralism with a reformed United Nations at its center can meet the aspirations of humanity".

PM Modi put forward several arguments that make India's case for permanent membership appear quite strong. Highlighting India's achievements and role in 75 years of the United Nations, he called for reforms with "changing times" and India's inclusion in the decision-making process within the global body. He mentioned that India is the largest democracy of the world, with more than 18% of the world population; it had sent its soldiers for about 50 peacekeeping missions; it is also the country that has lost the maximum number of soldiers in the course of establishing peace; even during these very difficult times of the Covid 19 pandemic, the pharma industry of India has sent essential medicines to more than 150 countries. In this context, PM Modi assured that India's vaccine production and delivery capacity will help all humanity in fighting the COVID-19 crisis.

Thus, articulating the role being played by India for lending a helping hand to other nations, and putting forward cogent arguments for India to be given a permanent membership of the UN, he asked the General Assembly a very pointed question: "For how long will India be kept out of the decision-making structures of the United Nations?"

- **PM Narendra Modi advocated India's inclusion among the permanent members of the UNSC during the 75th session of the UN General Assembly**
- **The only increase in the membership of the Security Council came in 1965, when the number of non-permanent members was increased from six to 10**
- **Any reform to the Security Council would require an amendment to the UN Charter**



The composition of the United Nations Security Council was established in 1945 - Photo / AP/PTI

There have been expressions of support for India's candidature from four out of the five permanent members--USA, UK, Russia and France. But what about China? Given the nature of Sino-Indian relations, it is not surprising that Beijing does not support India's case. China's close friendship with Pakistan is a compounding factor in this regard.

It may be recalled that the only increase in the membership of the Security Council occurred in 1965 when the non-permanent membership was increased from six to 10 members, thus increasing the total strength from 11 to 15 members; fifty-five years have elapsed since then. Thus, PM Modi was right on target when he pointed out that the United Nations in its present form is out of date: "The international community today is faced with a very important question: Whether the character of the institution, constituted in the prevailing circumstances of 1945, is relevant even today?"

However, the challenges which lie in India's path should not be underestimated. Any reform of the Security Council would require an amendment to the UN Charter. In this regard, it is useful to remember that Article 108 of the UN Charter states:

'Amendments to the present Charter shall come into force for all Members of the United Nations when they have been adopted by a vote of two thirds of the members of the General Assembly and ratified in accordance with their respective constitutional processes by two thirds of the Members of the United Nations, including all the permanent members of the Security Council'.

Thus, any reform of the Security Council not only requires the support of at least two-thirds of UN member states, but also all the permanent members of the UN Security Council must also agree to this as they have veto powers. Assuming that India can get the support of two-thirds of the members of the General Assembly, the question which arises is simply this: Will all the Security Council's permanent members give their nod for adding India as a permanent member?

India's quest has to be viewed in a

broader perspective. The need for Security Council reform has been actively discussed among the UN member states for quite some time. By 1992, Japan and Germany had become the second and third-largest financial contributors to the United Nations, and they started to demand a permanent seat; so too did Brazil (the world's fifth largest country in terms of territory) and India (the largest democracy and the second largest country in terms of population) which had emerged not only as the most important countries within their regional groups but also key players in the emerging global scenario. These four countries formed an interest group which came to be known as the G-4.

On the other hand, their regional rivals opposed the idea of G4 countries becoming permanent members. Italy, Pakistan, Argentina and South Korea formed an interest group, known as the 'Uniting for Consensus' (also nicknamed the 'Coffee Club') which later grew to around 40 members. The Coffee Club members are opposed to increasing the number of the Security Council's permanent members while wanting an increase in the non-permanent members category.

Simultaneously, the African countries also started to demand two permanent seats for themselves, arguing that historical injustices had been done to them, and also that much of the Council's agenda related to their continent. All these developments have further complicated the situation.

On their part, the G-4 countries have shown flexibility on the veto issue in their bid to get the United Nations reform process moving. In a joint statement on their behalf delivered by India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin at an inter-governmental

negotiations meeting in March 2017, the G4 nations--India, Brazil, Germany and Japan--stated that while the new permanent members would in principle have the same responsibilities and obligations as the current permanent members, they shall not exercise the veto until a decision on the matter has been taken during a review. Despite this flexibility, there has not been any progress in regard to the G4 demands.

There have been expressions of support for India's candidature from four out of the five permanent members--USA, UK, Russia and France. But what about China? Given the nature of Sino-Indian relations, it is not surprising that Beijing does not support India's case. China's close friendship with Pakistan is a compounding factor in this regard.

There are many who believe that in actual fact, all the P-5 countries have reservations about adding any other country including India to their privileged group. The support extended to India by the US, UK, Russia and France has to be viewed against the background of their being fully aware that in any case, the process of Security Council reform is making no headway whatsoever. Many analysts think that they only render lip service by way of support to India in order to derive political mileage as they are fully aware of the Chinese position. In other words, whether their support is genuine is a matter of debate, for it is extended whilst knowing full well that the Chinese will oppose India anyway. Meanwhile, China, the world's biggest dictatorship sits on the high table as a permanent member of the UN Security Council while India, the world's largest democracy has to be content with getting a seat on that table from time to time as a non-permanent member. We can raise our voice against this injustice, as Prime Minister Modi has done. However, one cannot say when the winds of change will actually reach the UN Security Council, for diplomacy, like politics is only the art of the possible.

Prime Minister Modi said in his address: "Today, people of India are concerned whether this reform-process will ever reach its logical conclusion". He asked: "How long would a country have to wait particularly when the transformational changes happening in that country affect a large part of the world?" His words had a ring of anguish as well as disappointment.

As I reflect on Prime Minister Modi's address at the UN, I cannot help reminding myself of a verse from the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam:

"Could thou and I with fate conspire,
To grasp this sorry scheme of things
entire,

Would we not shatter it to bits--and then
Remold it nearer to the heart's desire."

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

US 2020 ELECTION

All polls except Trafalgar Polls think Biden will win November 2020 election

Gallup Poll finds majority of Americans favoring a Trump win



By Ven Parameswaran

Regarding the polls, we are re-living 2016. The Gallup poll has the reputation of being extremely accurate and shows a big 4-point jump in Trump's approval rating to 46% (the highest of his presidency was last February at 49%). This increase happened just days after the debate! But the biggest "surprise" was the "perception of victory" by the voters: 56% expect Trump to win, while only 40% think that the winner will be Biden!

How does Gallup explain this? The same way it explained 4 years ago: There is a huge number of Trump voters who do not respond to the polls or fake their responses. Why do they fake their responses? Partly because they are afraid of some form of social retribution if it is known that they support Trump! Gallup says, when someone is scared to express their political opinion then this is a sign of oppression or totalitarianism! Those of us who grew up in such a totalitarian climate (either in 1967-74 military dictatorship Greece or elsewhere) can instantly recognize fascism - and this time we live in a form of fascism from the Left...Censorship by social media and other venues is just one form of it...

Finally, Gallup's prediction is that this time around the number of voters who are hiding their feelings for Trump but will turn out and vote for him will be much higher than it was in 2016. WHY? Because now the voters know exactly who Trump is - he has produced results! They are not voting for a "TV personality turned politician" as in 2016. They are voting for the President who saved the country...Will it be a landslide? This is up to all voters...For the sake of the country, it has to be a landslide!...

The good news for President Trump: His job approval has hit its highest point since May, Gallup reported on October 1. The bad news: His approval rating is 46%, while his disapproval rating is 52%.

BUT THE LATEST GALLUP POLL INCLUDED ONE FASCINATING FINDING.

Regardless of whom they personally support, 56% of Americans expect Trump to prevail over Biden in the November election, while 40% think Biden will win, "wrote Megan Brennan in an article released by the



The presidential race is believed to be the tightest ever. For both the oldies, Trump (74) and Biden (77), it is a do or die election, as much as it is for their parties

polling firm. "Although majorities of partisans think their party's candidate will win, Republicans are more likely to believe Trump will win (90%) than Democrats are to think Biden will (73%). 56% of independents predict that Trump will win."

The pollster does not offer an explanation as to how Trump can be underwater on his approval rating but still be the majority pick to win the election. But Gallup said the finding might not be the great news for Trump.

"Looking back Gallup has asked Americans for their predictions in the late summer or fall of every presidential election year from 1996 through 2012, and an ABC News/Washington Post poll included a comparable question in 2016," according to the article.

"In each of these polls, Americans accurately predicted the winner of the popular vote, though not the winner of the Electoral College," Brennan wrote. "That is, in 2000 and 2016, the public predicted Al Gore and Hillary Clinton, respectively would win the election. Although both of these Democratic candidates won the popular vote, George W Bush and Trump, respectively, won the most electoral votes and ultimately became president."

"The prediction of a Trump victory is not consistent with the average of recent presidential vote-preference polls," cautioned the polling organization, "which show Biden with a significant lead, but it is consistent with Americans' expectation of a victory for the incumbent president in every race in which one has been running. The two most recent elections in which an incumbent lost - 1980 and 1992 - occurred before Gallup began asking Americans to handicap the presidential election race."

As reference, in 2016, just 31% of those surveyed thought Trump would win, while 58% thought Clinton

would win. In 2000, 56% thought Gore would win, just 35% thought Bush would come out on top.

THE FINDING ON INDEPENDENTS ALSO APPEARS INTERESTING: 56% THINK TRUMP WILL WIN, WHILE JUST 39% PREDICT BIDEN WILL WIN.

There has been a talk that Trump supporters have gone underground, and he may actually have more support than indicated in national polls, which routinely show Trump trailing, sometimes by double digits.

A poll last month by Monmouth University of 401 Pennsylvania voters found that a majority of voters think there are Trump supporters out there who are not being counted.

"The media consistently reports that Biden is in the lead, but voters remember what happened in 2016. The specter of a secret Trump vote looms large in 2020," said Patrick Murray, director of the Independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

"Most voters (57%) believe there are a number of so-called secret voters in their communities who support Trump but won't tell anyone about it. Less than half that number (27%) believe there are secret voters for Biden. The suspicion that a secret Trump vote exists is slightly higher in swing counties (62%) and Clinton counties (61%) than in Trump counties (51%)," the pollster wrote.

It must be pointed out that the Gallup Poll has been a highly independent and reputed poll for many years. It has predicted all Presidential elections accurately except 2016. In my previous dispatch I have brought to attention that Trafalgar Poll was the only poll that predicted the outcome of 2016 presidential election. It is interesting to observe that the Gallup, now is projecting on the basis of silent majority or secret voters, emulating Trafalgar. We have already been hit with an October surprise when Trump fell victim to coronavirus. Two more debates and the possibility of confirmation of third Supreme Court Justice are awaited. Today (October 5) is 29 days from November 3 election and many things can happen including more surprises. Keep tracking the Trafalgar and the Gallup polls along with the polls sponsored by the mainstream media, especially in the battleground states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Nevada, Florida, Arizona, and North Carolina.

(Ven Parameswaran, Chairman, Asian American Republican Committee (founded 1988); Senior Adviser, Imagindia Institute, a think tank in New Delhi lives in Scarsdale, NY)

What the latest Polls say about whether Trump or Biden will win the Presidential Election



By Ben Levisohn

With less than a month to go before the U.S. presidential election, the stock market seems to be watching as closely as most Americans. And for good reason: A victory by President Donald Trump or Joe Biden would benefit different sectors and a sweep by either party could end the

gridlock in Washington that has kept another coronavirus relief package from getting passed.

Here's what the latest polls and betting odds are saying about the possible outcome.

Where we were.

Biden ended Wednesday, October 7, with a clear lead in the polls, with the RealClear Politics average of national polls showing 51.6% of Americans preferring Biden to 41.9% preferring Trump. RCP's betting odds average gave Biden a 64% chance of winning to

Trump's 35.4%.

What's new.

Two new polls were released Thursday, October 8 morning, and neither changes the calculus much. An Emerson poll shows Trump leading Biden in Montana by 13 points, while a Goucher College poll shows Biden leading Trump by 31 points in Maryland. Neither state is considered in play. There's little change in Real Clear Politics' average of national polls and average of betting odds today. These polls do not capture the impact of Wednesday night's vice-presidential debate.

What's next.

The next presidential debate, which is scheduled to take place on Oct. 15, would normally be the next chance for Trump to make up lost ground with Biden. Whether that debate happens, however, is unclear after the group that organizes the event said it would go virtual and the president responded by saying he wouldn't participate. The stock market is taking it in stride: The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 0.1%, while the S&P 500 was 0.5% higher.

(Source: The Barron's Daily)

Pakistan police register sedition case against Sharif, other PML-N leaders

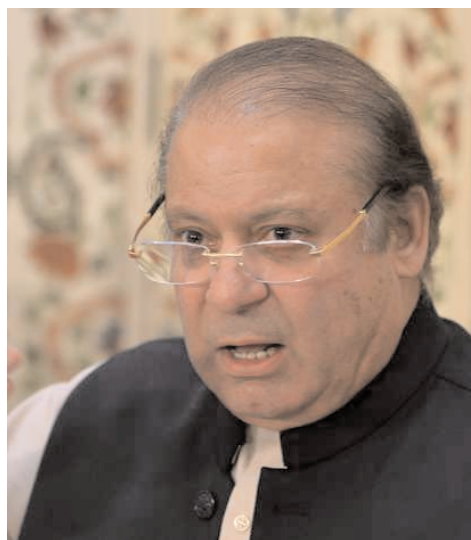
LAHORE (TIP): Pakistan's former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, his daughter Maryam and other top leaders of the Opposition PML-N party were charged with sedition and other serious cases for allegedly conspiring against the institutions of the Army and the Judiciary, and inciting people against them.

The Lahore police registered an FIR on the complaint of a person on Monday, citing Sharif's two recent speeches made through a video link from London in which the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo made blistering remarks targeting the powerful Pakistan Army.

Sharif, who left for London late last year after securing bail for medical treatment in the Chaudhry Sugar Mills case and the Al Azizia case, has been targeting the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led government led by Prime Minister Imran Khan, as well as many state institutions, including the Judiciary and the military.

He served as Pakistan's prime minister three times, first removed by a president in 1993, then by military ruler Pervez Musharraf in 1999. A court in 2017 ousted him from power over corruption allegations. Imran Khan, a former cricketer, came to power in 2018.

The case was registered under Sections 10 (cyber-terrorism), 120-A (definition of criminal conspiracy), 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 121-A (conspiracy to wage war against Pakistan), 123-A (condemning the creation of the country and advocating the abolishment of its sovereignty), 124-A (sedition) and 153-A (promoting



enmity between different groups) of the Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act (2016) and the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

In his speeches, 70-year-old Sharif alleged that the Pakistan Army had rigged the 2018 vote that brought Khan to power.

The powerful Army, which has ruled Pakistan for more than half of its 70 plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy.

Sharif attacked the Army for its alleged involvement in politics, conspiring against elected governments and using the judiciary for its designs.

He alleged that there was "a state above the state in the country and the Opposition's struggle was not against Prime Minister Khan but against those who had imposed such an incapable and mindless person upon the nation through a manipulated electoral process".

Sharif also accused Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa of 'taking action against him'. He disclosed that he was conveyed a message in the middle of the night by then Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) chief Lt Gen. Zaheerul Islam during Khan's sit-in in Islamabad in 2014 to resign otherwise he would face consequences or martial law could also be imposed.

He said "desired decisions" had been secured from judges through pressure and blackmail, referring to his ouster by the Supreme Court in 2017. He cited the example of former accountability judge Malik Arshad, who convicted him in the Al-Azizia corruption case for seven years imprisonment.

According to the FIR, instead of availing medical treatment in London, Sharif launched a planned conspiracy to defame Pakistan and its institutions — the Army and the Judiciary.

Through his speeches he is trying to incite the public against the state institutions, the FIR further read. It alleged that Sharif, through his speeches, supported the policies of India so that Pakistan remained on the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) grey list and got isolated in the world being 'a rogue state'.

The Punjab government has announced taking action against the PML-N leadership in the light of the FIR.

"We will arrest the PML-N leaders nominated in this FIR," Punjab information minister Fayyazul Hasan Chohan said.

He said no criticism of the Army and the intelligence agencies was allowed under the Constitution. PTI

Malaysia reports 375 new coronavirus cases

KUALA LUMPUR (TIP): Malaysia reported on October 8, 375 new coronavirus cases, the second straight day of falling infections as the Southeast Asian country moved to impose targeted lockdowns to rein in a fresh surge in infections.

The new cases raise the cumulative tally to 14,368 cases, according to the health ministry. There were five new deaths reported, raising the toll to 146. — Reuters

Kuwait National Guard minister picked as next crown prince

DUBAI (TIP): Kuwait's deputy chief of the National Guard, who spent years in the oil-rich country's security services, was nominated as crown prince on October 7, the Kuwaiti state news agency reported. The nomination makes Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah the possible heir apparent to the new emir, 83-year-old Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who was propelled to power following the death of his half-brother. Before Sheikh Meshal can be officially named crown prince, lawmakers must approve the choice during their final session on October 8. AP

382 Rohingya on migrant ship land in Bangladesh; several dead

DHAKA (TIP): Officials said a ship with almost 400 Rohingya refugees that left for Malaysia two months ago has turned up in the Baharchara Union region near Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, and witnesses report dozens died on board.

Residents of the Ukhiva-Teknaf refugee camp had hoped to reach Malaysia but were turned away because of new restrictions set in place in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The Bangladesh Coast Guard was notified of the ship.

One of the rescued refugees, Md Jobair, said 28 people died on the ship without food or water while it was adrift on its return to Bangladesh.

Thousands of Rohingya have fled violence in Myanmar in recent years, which is under investigation by the International Court of Justice over accusations of genocide against the largely Muslim ethnic group.

Documentary filmmaker Shafiur Rahman said the refugee boat tried to dock in Malaysia on three different occasions, only to be turned back each time. (UPI)

High-powered Chinese delegation visits Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (TIP): A "high-powered Chinese delegation", led by senior Chinese leader and top foreign policy official Yang Jiechi, who is a member of the Communist Party of China's Politburo and the director of the Central Committee's Foreign Affairs Commission, the top policy-making body, will arrive in Colombo on Thursday night, the Foreign Ministry in Colombo said in a statement.

"Being the first ever Chinese visit in the South Asian region since the global coronavirus epidemic, the visit is expected to strengthen cooperation between Sri Lanka and China, in the areas of combating the global pandemic and revival of economic relations," the statement said.

FOUR-NATION TOUR: Sri Lanka will be Mr. Yang's first stop on a four-nation tour, which will also see him visit the UAE, Algeria and Serbia, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said, adding he was invited by the governments of the four countries.

The visit takes place against the backdrop of worsening India-China



relations and rising U.S.-China tensions, and a push by Beijing following the pandemic to deepen its economic ties in the neighbourhood, including through cooperation to battle the impact of COVID-19, a move that is being closely followed in both New Delhi and Washington.

The Chinese delegation's meeting with Sri Lanka's two most powerful leaders comes a fortnight after the virtual summit

between Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Mahinda Rajapaksa. It also comes days after the 'Quad' meeting in Tokyo, where U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo referred to "regional tensions" between India and China.

DEBT FREEZE : New Delhi, in the bilateral summit, promised Colombo a \$15-million grant for the promotion of Buddhist cultural exchanges. However, there was no final word on Colombo's request for a debt freeze and an additional \$1.1-billion currency swap facility — RBI signed one for \$400 million in July — that President Gotabaya and PM Mahinda have sought from New Delhi. In March this year, Sri Lanka and China signed a "facility agreement" for a \$500 million loan, on Colombo's request. In Friday's meetings, the two sides will likely discuss strengthening economic cooperation, specifically looking at ongoing Chinese-backed projects such as the \$1.4 billion port city coming up on over 650 acres of reclaimed land by the seafront in Colombo. (The Hindu)

The Second Presidential Debate is in Limbo

Donald Trump says no to virtual debate with Joe Biden

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Trump administration has announced new restrictions on H-1B nonimmigrant visa programme which it said is aimed at protecting American workers, restoring integrity and to better guarantee that H-1B petitions are approved only for qualified beneficiaries and petitioners, a move which is likely to affect thousands of Indian IT professionals.

The interim final rule announced by the Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday, October 6, less than four weeks ahead of the US presidential election, will narrow the definition of "specialty occupation" as Congress intended by closing the overbroad definition that allowed companies to game the system.

It will also require companies to make "real" offers to "real employees," by closing loopholes and preventing the displacement of the American workers. And finally, the new rules would enhance the department's ability to enforce compliance through worksite inspections and monitor compliance before, during and after an H-1B petition is approved.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

Such a decision by the Trump administration is likely to have an adverse impact on thousands of



"I'm not going to do a virtual debate", Trump told Fox News. And Biden said he will not engage in a debate with Trump who is infected with coronavirus. - Fox News screenshot

Indian IT professionals. Already a large number of Indians on the H-1B visas have lost their jobs and are headed back home during the coronavirus pandemic that has severely hit the US economy.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, the interim final rule to be published in Federal Register will be effective in 60 days.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services is forgoing the regular notice and comment period to immediately ensure that employing H-1B workers will not worsen the economic crisis caused by COVID-19 and adversely affect wages and working conditions of similarly employed US workers, it said.

The pandemic's economic impact is an "obvious and compelling fact" that justifies good cause to issue this

interim final rule.

"We have entered an era in which economic security is an integral part of homeland security. Put simply, economic security is homeland security. In response, we must do everything we can within the bounds of the law to make sure the American worker is put first," said Acting Secretary Chad Wolf.

US Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia said that these changes will strengthen foreign worker programs and secure American workers' opportunities for stable, good-paying jobs.

"The US Department of Labor is strengthening wage protections, addressing abuses in these visa programs and ensuring American workers are not undercut by cheaper foreign labor," she said.

In a conference call with reporters, Deputy Labor Secretary Patrick Pizzella said that these changes were long overdue, and it had become imperative in light of the current conditions in the US labor market.

"We're making good on the president's promise to protect Americans from those who seek to exploit the system for their gain," he said, adding that the rule would "ensure that Americans are first in line for American jobs as we continue our recovery".

According to the Department of Homeland Security, the H-1B programme was intended to allow employers to fill gaps in their workforce and remain competitive in the global economy, however, it has now expanded far beyond that, often to the detriment of US workers.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

contd from page 1

13 men charged in foiled plot...

"I knew this job would be hard," Whitmer continued. "But I'll be honest, I never could have imagined anything like this."

She thanked federal and state law enforcement for bringing criminal charges that "hopefully will lead to convictions, bringing these sick and depraved men to justice."

The arrests grew out of an FBI-led probe which began in March and focused on militia groups' discussing the "violent overthrow" of certain government and law enforcement officials.

Each of the federally charged men faces up to life in prison if convicted on all charges, authorities said.

Those six suspects facing federal charges in the alleged kidnapping plot used encrypted messaging to communicate about the plot, conducted coordinated surveillance on the governor's vacation home and detonated an improvised explosive device wrapped with shrapnel, officials said.

Based on court documents, the FBI was well aware of the activities of the six men charged Thursday and there does not seem to have been an imminent threat posed to Whitmer.

The documents identify the defendants as Adam Fox, Barry Croft, Ty Garbin, Kaleb Franks, Daniel Harris and Brandon Caserta.

At a meeting in July, allegedly attended and recorded by one of the informants, the men "discussed attacking a Michigan State Police facility, and in a separate conversation after the meeting, Garbin suggested shooting up the Governor's vacation home," authorities said.

Then at a July 27 meeting, Fox and an informant discussed a possible kidnapping of Whitmer, with the defendant allegedly saying: "Snatch and grab, man. Grab the f---ing governor. Just grab the b----. Because at that point, we do that, dude - it's over."

"Fox said that after kidnapping the governor, the group would remove her to a secure location in

Wisconsin for 'trial'," according to the criminal complaint. The alleged conspirators used code words and encrypted platforms to shield their discussions from authorities, according to U.S. Attorney Andrew Birge for the Western District of Michigan.

They used terms such as "cake" or "cupcakes" for bombs, a "chemistry set" for components of an improvised explosive device and "baker" for an explosives manufacturer, according to the complaint.

"Fox and Croft in particular ... discussed detonating explosive devices to divert police from the area of the governor's vacation home," Birge said.

The federal investigation involved at least one member of a Michigan militia group who was involved in a Second Amendment rally at the Michigan Statehouse in June.

That member allegedly told the FBI that the group was considering killing police officers and agreed to become an informant.

But the involvement of that militia in the plot to kidnap the governor appears to be minimal as the group that was charged Thursday allegedly discussed keeping the broader militia out of their actual plan.

In a YouTube video from May, Caserta claimed in a 30-minute diatribe that "the enemy is government." He shot the video in front of an anarchist's flag and a map of Michigan.

Caserta did not post on YouTube again until three weeks ago. In that video, Caserta does not speak, and simply loads and poses with a long gun off camera while wearing a shirt that says "F--- The Government."

The seven suspects facing state charges were identified as Paul Bellar, 21, Shawn Fix, 38, Eric Molitor, 36, Michael Null, 38, William Null, 38, Pete Musico, 42, and Joseph Morrison, 42.

They've all been charged with "providing material support for terrorist acts" and "carrying or possessing a firearm during the commission of a felony," according to state prosecutors.

The seven are linked to the Wolverine Watchmen militia and sought to "instigate a civil war" and had "engaged in planning and training for an operation to attack the Capitol building of Michigan and to kidnap government officials, including the governor of

Michigan," Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel said.

For months, Whitmer has drawn the ire of militia groups and others opposed to her restrictions aimed at curbing the spread of the coronavirus.

Armed protesters took to the streets of Lansing, the state capital, during the early days of Whitmer's coronavirus lockdown orders. And President Donald Trump famously tweeted "LIBERATE MICHIGAN!" in April.

"The Governor of Michigan should give a little, and put out the fire," Trump tweeted May 1. "These are very good people, but they are angry. They want their lives back again, safely! See them, talk to them, make a deal."

U.S. Attorney Matthew Schneider, who heads federal prosecutions in the Eastern District of Michigan, acknowledged the fraught political climate in which these arrests were made.

"All of us in Michigan can disagree about politics," he said. "But those disagreements should never, ever amount to violence."

Whitmer on Thursday said Trump was "complicit" through his rhetoric. She specifically linked the alleged actions of the suspects in her case to Trump's refusal, at a debate last week, to forcibly denounce white supremacist groups.

"Just last week the president of the United States stood before the American people and refused to condemn white supremacists and hate groups like these two Michigan militia groups," she said.

"Stand back and stand by," he told them ... hate groups heard the president's words not as a rebuke but as a rallying cry, as a call to action."

Whitmer was elected as the state's 49th governor in 2018, defeating Republican Bill Schuette by nearly 10 percentage points.

The governor on Thursday continued to defend her actions during the pandemic.

Michigan residents are now testing positive at about a 3-percent rate, one of the lowest in the nation, according to a rolling count kept by Johns Hopkins University. "It's not over yet, but here's what I know: We're Michiganders. We have grit. We have heart and we are tough as hell," Whitmer said.

Trump administration imposes new curbs on H-1B visas to protect US workers

Move likely to affect thousands of Indian IT professionals

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Trump administration has announced new restrictions on H-1B nonimmigrant visa programme which it said is aimed at protecting American workers, restoring integrity and to better guarantee that H-1B petitions are approved only for qualified beneficiaries and petitioners, a move which is likely to affect thousands of Indian IT professionals.

The interim final rule announced by the Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday, October 6, less than four weeks ahead of the US presidential election, will narrow the definition of "specialty occupation" as Congress intended by closing the overbroad definition that allowed companies to game the system.

It will also require companies to make "real" offers to "real employees," by closing loopholes and preventing the displacement of the American workers. And finally, the new rules would enhance the department's ability to enforce compliance through worksite inspections and monitor compliance before, during and after an H-1B petition is approved.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

Such a decision by the Trump administration is likely to have an adverse impact on thousands of Indian IT professionals. Already a large number of Indians on the H-1B visas have lost their jobs and are headed back home during the coronavirus pandemic that has severely hit the US economy.

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According to the Department of Homeland Security, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services is forgoing the regular notice and comment period to immediately ensure that employing H-1B workers will not worsen the economic crisis caused by COVID-19 and adversely affect wages and working conditions of



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similarly employed US workers, it said.

The pandemic's economic impact is an "obvious and compelling fact" that justifies good cause to issue this interim final rule.

"We have entered an era in which economic security is an integral part of homeland security. Put simply, economic security is homeland security. In response, we must do everything we can within the bounds of the law to make sure the American worker is put first," said Acting Secretary Chad Wolf.

US Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia said that these changes will strengthen foreign worker programs and secure American workers' opportunities for stable, good-paying jobs.

"The US Department of Labor is strengthening wage protections, addressing abuses in these visa programs and ensuring American workers are not undercut by cheaper foreign labor," she said.

In a conference call with reporters, Deputy Labor Secretary Patrick Pizzella said that these changes were long overdue, and it had become imperative in light of the current conditions in the US labor market.

"We're making good on the president's promise to protect Americans from those who seek to exploit the system for their gain," he said, adding that the rule would "ensure that Americans are first in line for American jobs as we continue our recovery".

According to the Department of Homeland Security, the H-1B programme was intended to allow employers to fill gaps in their workforce and remain competitive in the global economy, however, it has now expanded far beyond that, often to the detriment of US workers.

Data shows that more than half-a-million H-1B nonimmigrants in the United States have been used to displace US workers, which has led to reduced wages in a number of industries in the US labor market and the stagnation of wages in certain occupations, said the Department of Homeland Security.

"This is part of a larger Trump administration goal in coordination with the Department of Labor to protect American workers," it said.

The Department of Labor said that the prevailing wage rates in these programs play an integral role in protecting US workers from unfair competition posed by the entry of lower-cost foreign labor into the US labor market.

It is essential that the methodology used by the Department in calculating the prevailing wage rates accurately reflect what US workers performing the same kinds of jobs and with similar qualifications make to ensure employers cannot use foreign workers in place of US workers, it said.

The Interim Final rule, it said, will improve the accuracy of prevailing wages paid to foreign workers by bringing them in line with the wages paid to similarly employed US workers.

This will ensure that the Department more effectively protects the job opportunities and wages of American workers by removing the economic incentive to hire foreign workers on a permanent or temporary basis in the US over American workers, it said.

Trump, a Republican, is seeking another term in the White House. He is being challenged by former Vice President Joe Biden of the Democratic Party in the November 3 presidential election.

In June, the Trump administration suspended the H-1B visas along with other types of foreign work visas until the end of 2020 to protect American workers.

(Source: PTI)

Gandhi Memorial Chicago celebrated 151st Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): Gandhi Memorial Chicago NFP celebrated the 151st Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi on Oct. 2, 2020, at the Gandhi statue located in the Heritage Public Park, Skokie, Illinois. Every year Babu's birthday is celebrated since inception, for the past 17 yrs.

Consul General of India (CGI), Mr. Amit Kumar accompanied with the consulate staff, Village of Skokie Clerk Mr. Pramod Shah, Mr. Omprakash Kamaria, Ex-Chairperson of Gandhi memorial trust; Chandrakant M. Modi MD, the present Chairperson Mr. Suresh Bodiwala, President of Gandhi Memorial Chicago (GMC) and other members of Gandhi Memorial including Mira Chander Dina Modi, Usha Kamaria and supporters were present to grace the occasion.

Despite the typical Chicago cold windy day, Mother Nature blessed this happy



Consul General of India (CGI), Mr. Amit Kumar & his wife Surabhi Kumar accompanied by the consulate staff, Village of Skokie Clerk Mr. Pramod Shah and Gandhi Memorial Chicago NFP members.

occasion with very comfortable weather. The celebrations started with the reciting of Gandhi's favorite prayer "Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram" The program was facilitated by Senior Board Member Mr. Satish Chander.

All the norms of social distancing and wearing face masks were duly observed by all the guests.

Mr. Amit Kumar, CGI, conveyed the good wishes from the President of India on this occasion and encouraged the volunteers to continue spreading the message of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Village of Skokie Clerk, Mr. Pramod Shah appreciated the services of Gandhi Memorial and thanked the guests for their participation. Mr. Omprakash Kamaria also conveyed his good wishes on the occasion.

Dr C.M. Modi offered a vote of thanks at the end of the program. He briefly outlined History of Establishment of Statue of "Mahatma" October 2, 2004 in Skokie, Illinois.

The office of Counsel General of India graciously provided snacks and beverages at the conclusion of the event.

(Photograph and Press release by Asian Media USA)

Horse plasma can be used to treat Covid-19 patients, says ICMR study

Antibody-rich plasma obtained from horses can be used to treat patients infected with Covid-19, according to an Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) pre-print study, following which the apex medical research body has received regulatory approval to conduct clinical trials using the equine plasma on humans.

The study was published on Research Square.

In the study, 10 healthy horses between the ages of four and 10 years were injected with inactivated Sars-CoV-2 antigen subcutaneously (under the skin) at the Hyderabad-based Biologicals E Ltd, and after 21 days of immunisation, their plasma samples were tested. Sars-Cov-2 is the virus that causes Covid-19.

The plasma had Covid-19-specific high-quality antibodies with virus neutralising capacity, which is ideal for preventing infection. The results are in line with other studies on equine antisera that reported the generation of a high level of antibodies in horses against the receptor binding area of the virus's spike protein. A receptor-binding domain is a key part of a virus located on its spike domain that allows it to dock to body receptors to gain entry into cells and lead to infection.

With 70,496 new cases, India's Covid tally reaches 69.06 lakh

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's COVID-19 tally of cases went past 69 lakh with 70,496 infections being reported in a day, while active cases of infection fell below 9 lakh after a month comprising 12.94 per cent of the total caseload, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday, October 9.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 69,06,151. The death toll climbed to 1,06,490 with 964 people succumbing to the disease in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The total recoveries have surged to 59,06,069 pushing the recovery rate to 85.52 per cent, while there are 8,93,592 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country. The COVID-19 case fatality rate due to the coronavirus infection was recorded at 1.54 per cent.

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

According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 8,46,34,680 samples have been tested up to October 8 with 11,68,705 samples being tested on Thursday.

The 964 new fatalities include 358 from Maharashtra, 101 from Karnataka, 68 Tamil Nadu, 63 from West Bengal, 45 from Uttar Pradesh, 42 Andhra Pradesh and 37 from Delhi.

A total of 1,06,490 deaths have been



reported so far in the country includes 39,430 from Maharashtra followed by 10,052 from Tamil Nadu, 9,675 from Karnataka, 6,245 from Uttar Pradesh, 6,128 from Andhra Pradesh, 5,653 from Delhi, 5,439 from West Bengal, 3,741 from Punjab and 3,538 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.

RBI keeps policy rate unchanged at 4%

MUMBAI (TIP): Maintaining status quo for the second time in a row, Reserve Bank of India on Friday, October 9, decided to keep benchmark interest rate unchanged at 4 per cent but maintained an accommodative stance, implying more rate cuts in the future if the need arises to support the economy hit by the COVID-19 crisis.

The benchmark repurchase (repo) rate had been left unchanged at 4 per cent, Governor Shaktikanta Das said while announcing the decisions taken by the central bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

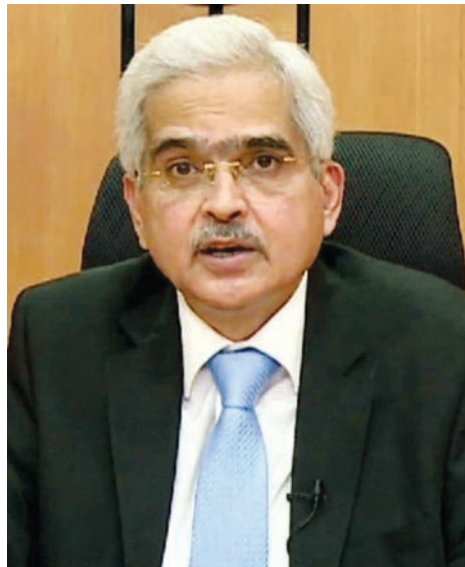
Consequently, the reverse repo rate will also continue to earn 3.35 per cent for banks for their deposits kept with the RBI.

He said MPC voted for keeping the interest rate unchanged and continued with its accommodative stance to support growth.

The RBI had last revised its policy rate on May 22, in an off-policy cycle to perk up demand by cutting interest rate to a historic low.

The 25th meeting of the rate-setting MPC with three new external members — Ashima Goyal, Jayanth R Varma and Shashanka Bhide — began on October 7. This is the maiden meeting of the new members who were appointed just a day before the meeting for a term of four years.

It is to be noted that MPC meeting earlier slated between September 29 and



Shaktikanta Das.

October 1 was deferred for the first time as the government failed to appoint external members before the scheduled date.

The government moved the interest rate-setting role from the RBI Governor to the six-member MPC in 2016. Half of the panel, headed by the Governor, is made up of external independent members.

MPC has been given the mandate to maintain annual inflation at 4 per cent until March 31, 2021, with an upper tolerance of 6 per cent and lower tolerance of 2 per cent.

Airlines may operate at 75% capacity soon: Hardeep Puri

NEW DELHI (TIP): As demand for air travel increases steadily, the government is considering allowing airlines to operate at up to 75% of their pre-pandemic capacity, raising it from the current 60%, but the removal of restrictions on international flights depends on a raft of factors including the discovery of a Covid-19 vaccine, civil aviation minister Hardeep Puri said on Thursday, October 8.

A decision on raising flight capacity will be made over the next seven to 10 days, Puri said at a press conference, as the festive season that's usually the peak period for air travel approaches.

The civil aviation ministry has allowed limited domestic flight operations up to 60% of pre-Covid-19 capacity. After domestic passenger flights resumed on May 25 following a two-month gap because of the lockdown to curb the contagion, the Centre allowed Indian airlines to operate only 33% of their pre-Covid domestic flights.

On June 26, the ministry increased the capacity to 45% and to 60% on September 2.

Pre-pandemic, Indian airlines used to operate around 3,100 flights a day, according to Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) data. Airlines are currently operating around 1,500 flights per day, according to data until October 8.

"Our internal thinking is that we will watch it for another week or 10 days....If the figures (of passengers travelling)

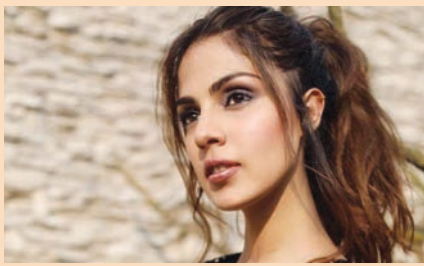


continue to be healthy, we would open domestic civil aviation to 75% of pre-Covid levels. There is no deadline," Puri said. "But this can happen soon as the domestic numbers are going up...I am confident that by the first quarter next year, we will be able to surpass the pre-Covid numbers."

"With regard to the number of daily domestic air passengers, the figure on October 2 was 176,000 passengers...by the end of this month, we'll be at 200,000. Between Diwali and the year's end, we will reach 300,000," Puri said.

According to the ministry, around 300,000 to 350,000 passenger travelled on domestic routes before the pandemic.

Puri said a complete resumption of international flights depends on the availability of a vaccine for Covid-19, and hinted that so-called travel bubble arrangements may continue until March-April.



Sushant Case: After Rhea's Bail, SSR's Aides Released

Samuel Miranda and Dipesh Sawant, who got bail along with Rhea Chakraborty, were released from Taloja, Navi Mumbai, on Thursday, Oct 8.

Rhea Chakraborty was seen at Santacruz police station on Thursday, a day after Bombay High Court granted her bail in an alleged drug-related case pertaining to the death of Sushant Singh Rajput. While granting bail to Rhea, the court had stated in the order that the actress will have to mark her presence at the nearest Police Station from her residence anytime between 11am to 5pm to show her availability. While Rhea was granted bail on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh, the high court rejected the plea of her brother Showik Chakraborty. Rhea "is not part of a chain of drug dealers" and "has not forwarded the drugs allegedly procured by her to somebody else to earn monetary or other benefits," the High Court said in its order. "The allegations against Rhea Chakraborty of spending money in procuring drugs for Sushant Singh Rajput will not mean that she had financed illicit traffic," the HC held.

The Supreme Court will hear a PIL seeking a court-monitored CBI probe into the death of Sushant Singh Rajput's former manager Disha Salian on October 12. The apex court was set to hear the PIL, along with the agency's probe into the death of the Bollywood actor, as both are "inter-linked", on Thursday. But a bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde adjourned the matter as the counsel of petitioner Vineet Dhanda could not be presented for the video-conferencing hearing.

Yoga enthusiast from US raped in Rishikesh

A 37-year-old yoga enthusiast from the US was allegedly raped here several times by a local resident, police said on Thursday, October 8.

As per the case registered by the victim, a Rishikesh resident sneaked into her room through her balcony and raped her on October 5, an officer said.

He had established sexual contact with her by calling her to his flat several times before the October 5 incident, the official said.

The woman's love of drug and yoga brought her close to the accused, the officer added. The woman complained that pressure was being mounted on her by the father of the accused to withdraw the case, said police.

Indo-US Two Plus Two by year-end, says MEA



S Jaishankar and Mike Pompeo.

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Indo-US Two Plus Two meeting of Foreign and Defence Ministers will be held towards the end of the year with the dates yet to be finalised, said Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Anurag Srivastava.

There was speculation that the Two Plus Two could take place this month, close on the heels of the Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting in Tokyo held earlier this week. However, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo mentioned after meeting External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar that he was looking forward to an India visit towards the year-end.

Srivastava said in keeping with the MEA's standard procedure, an announcement would be made closer to the event. This will also be the case for

other high-level multilateral summits such as BRICS, SCO and G-20 where PM Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping will share the stage or a video-screen.

Moscow has announced November 17 as the date for the BRICS virtual summit in which India will take over the chair from Russia. Saudi Arabia has announced that it will also virtually host the summit from November 21-22. India will take over the chair of G-20 as well in 2022.

The Indo-US Two Plus Two is being seen as especially crucial as Washington wants India to sign a military pact that can be the precursor of more intimate military ties at a time when the Indian Army is locked in a standoff with the PLA on the LAC.

Political rallies in poll-bound states allowed

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Centre on Thursday, Oct 8, allowed political rallies to be held with 'immediate effect' in 12 states where elections are scheduled to be held, modifying its Covid-19 guidelines issued on September 30.

According to the Unlock 5.0 guidelines released by the MHA on September 30, social gatherings of more than 100 persons were prohibited in the country till October 15.

The new MHA order allows relaxation of attendance norm at political gatherings — permitting a gathering up to 50% of hall capacity in closed spaces, with a ceiling of 200, and depending on capacity of the ground, in open spaces

With campaigning set to gather steam in the state of Bihar where assembly elections are due next month, the announcement is ought to have an impact on Bihar's electoral preparations.

In Thursday's order, MHA mentioned the elections called in Bihar as well as by-elections to assembly and parliamentary constituencies across 11 states, to announce its decision to allow the state governments to permit political gatherings, outside the containment zones, beyond the existing limit of 100 persons on any date before October 15, 2020. It specified that this relaxation would apply only to the assembly/parliamentary constituencies where elections are to be held.

The MHA has asked all parties to ensure that people follow measures taken to prevent the curbing of Covid-19. All earlier guidelines must be adhered to such as requirement of mandatorily wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, providing for thermal scanning and use of handwash or sanitizer, it stated.

Police accuse Republic in 'TRP scam'

MUMBAI (TIP): Mumbai Police said on Thursday, Oct 8, that they unearthed a "major racket" of gaming television rating points, or TRPs, by at least three channels, including Republic TV, and arrested four people, contending that the manipulated audience numbers were crucial because they directly translated into advertising revenue.

The action provoked an instant denial from Republic TV, which claimed it was being targeted for its coverage of the Sushant Singh Rajput case, and added that it would sue the police.

"We found some channels were paying former Hansa research group employees — contracted by BARC to carry out the research. They, in turn, were paying certain households to keep certain channels like Republic switched on to show higher TRPs," Mumbai's police commissioner Param Bir Singh said, adding that apart from Republic, Fakt Marathi and Box Cinema were also found to be gaming the system.

BARC stands for Broadcast Audience Research Council.

The revelations by the commissioner at a press conference set off a storm, with an angry denial from Republic's managing director and editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami and triumphalist tweets by anchors working at the channel's rivals.

The police said Hansa and BARC complained after they spotted "unusual trends" in viewership. Following this, the police arrested a former Hansa employee, found Rs 20 lakh in his



bank account and Rs 8.5 lakh from his locker, which they contended was being paid to some households to keep certain channels on.

According to the latest TRP ratings, Republic is the most watched English language news channel.

Aaj Tak fined Rs 1 lakh

The News Broadcasting Standards Authority has fined news channel Aaj Tak Rs 1 lakh for telecasting fake tweets related to actor Sushant Singh Rajput, Live Law reported on Thursday. The self-governing authority censured the channel and asked it to air an apology, along with Zee News, News 24 and India TV for affecting the dignity of the deceased.

In its order dated October 6, the NBSA said Aaj Tak "did not conduct the due diligence required prior to telecasting the tweets and attributing" those to Rajput. It also said that videos of the same programmes if hosted, on the website of the broadcasters, YouTube or other links should be removed immediately.

UP Man Beheads Wife, Carries Her Head To The Police Station

BANDA (TIP): In a horrifying incident this morning, a man in Uttar Pradesh's Banda decapitated his wife suspecting infidelity and walked with her severed head to the police station where he surrendered.

According to the police, the accused - Chinnar Yadav had a quarrel with his wife Vimla (35) at around 7:30 am this morning in their home in Netanagar locality in UP's Banda district.

"In a fit of rage, Chinnar Yadav cut his wife's head off with a sharp weapon, following which he carried her severed head to the Baberu Police Station where he surrendered," Superintendent of Police, Mahendra Pratap Singh Chauhan said.

"A video of the accused walking to the police station with his wife's head surfaced on social media," police said.

INDIAN AIR FORCE, THE GUARDIAN OF THE SKIES, CELEBRATES 88TH ANNIVERSARY

The Indian Air Force Day is celebrated every year on October 8. Also known as Bhartiya Vayu Sena, the force is tasked with securing Indian airspace and conducting aerial activities during armed conflicts

The Indian Air Force, also known as the 'Bhartiya Vayu Sena', has made stellar contributions securing the Indian airspace and conducting aerial warfare during armed conflicts. The IAF not only safeguards the country's territory and national interests from all threats but it also provides strategic and tactical airlift capabilities in the battlefield and support during natural calamities. Since its inception, IAF has made remarkable achievements.

This year, India celebrates its 88th Indian Air Force Day. The day is observed to build the familiarity with Indian aviation based armed forces in any association of the national security both authoritatively and freely.

The Indian Air Force today, having completed 88 years of dedicated service to the nation, is a modern, technology-intensive force distinguished by its commitment to excellence and professionalism. Keeping pace with the demands of contemporary advancements, the IAF continues to modernise in a phased manner. Today, it stands as a credible air power counted among the fore-most professional services in the world.

The primacy of Air Power will be a decisive factor in shaping the outcome of future conflicts. In line with this dictum, the IAF has developed into a major 'Component of National Power', which can be applied quickly and decisively. The IAF has reoriented itself to a multi-role capability of platforms and equipment, along with multi-skill capability of personnel. The rapid economic growth of the country dictates the need to protect our security interests extending from the Persian Gulf to the Straits of Malacca.

Over the years, the IAF has grown from a tactical force to one with transoceanic reach. The strategic reach emerges from induction of Force Multipliers like Flight Refuelling Aircraft (FRA), Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) and credible strategic lift capabilities. There is emphasis on acquiring best of technology through acquisitions or upgradation, be it aircraft, systems, precision missiles or net centricity.

IAF has started upgrading its combat aircraft fleet since the last few years in order to enhance its operational capability and maintain its aircraft as modern weapon platforms, capable of meeting the present challenges posed by the security scenario in our region. Of the available fleet, MiG-21, MiG-27 and Jaguar aircraft have already been upgraded and Mirage-2000 and MiG-29 aircraft are planned for upgradation. The Indian Air Force is considering upgrade of its medium lift helicopters comprising Mi-8, Mi-17 and Mi-17-IVs, as also the AN-32 transport aircraft, with the aim of improving their overall capability.

The IAF today is in the process of a most comprehensive modernisation plan. Over the next few years, the force would induct more Su-30 MKI aircraft, the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and the Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA).



Indian Air Force personnel march past a Sukhoi Su-30 MKII fighter jet during Air Force Day Parade at Hindon Air Force Station in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India, on Thursday 8th October, 2020.



Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) 'Sarang' team perform during the 88th Air Force Day parade at Hindon Air Force Station in Ghaziabad on October 8.

There are plans to augment the helicopter and transport fleets too. The IAF is also in the process of acquiring radars in various categories to meet the Air Defence requirements, accurate and advanced weapons, Network Centric Warfare systems, etc, to meet its assigned tasks.

Why is Indian Air Force Day observed?

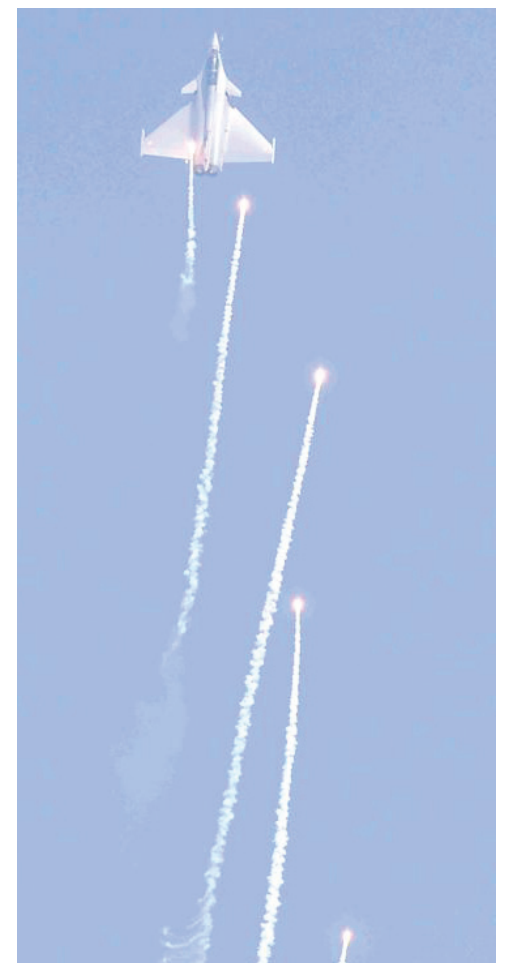
IAF day is celebrated to increase the awareness about Indian air force and the role it plays in the national security. The day is celebrated in air force bases all across the nation with air shows and parades conducted by air force cadets. More than 170,000 personnel and over 1,400 aircraft are in service with the Indian Air Force. Its personnel and aircraft assets rank fourth amongst the air forces of the world. Air Force not only

safeguards Indian territory and national interests from all threats but also provides support during natural calamities.

The President of India holds the rank of Supreme Commander of the air force. The Chief of Air Staff, an air chief marshal is responsible for the operational command of the air force. The motto of the Indian Air Force is 'Touch the Sky with Glory', which has been taken from the eleventh chapter of the Bhagavad Gita. After independence, the air force took part in four wars with Pakistan and one with the People's Republic of China. IAF works with the United Nations' peacekeeping missions.

History

The Indian Air Force was established in British India as an auxiliary air force of the Royal Air Force with the enactment of the Indian Air Force Act



Rafale fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force fires flares during the 88th Indian Air Force Day celebrations, at Hindon Airbase in Ghaziabad, Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020.

1932 on 8 October that year and adopted the Royal Air Force uniforms, badges, brevets and insignia. On 1 April 1933, the IAF commissioned its first squadron, No.1 Squadron, with four Westland Wapiti biplanes and five Indian pilots. The Indian pilots were led by RAF Commanding officer Flight Lieutenant

Continued on page 17

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(later Air Vice Marshal) Cecil Bouchier.

The first five pilots commissioned into the IAF were Harish Chandra Sircar, Subroto Mukerjee, Bhupendra Singh, Aizad Baksh Awan and Amarjeet Singh. A sixth officer, J N Tandon had to revert to logistics duties as he was too short. All of them were commissioned as Pilot Officers in 1932 from RAF Cranwell. Subroto Mukerjee later went on to become the IAF's first Chief of the Air Staff. Subsequent batches inducted before World War II included Aspy Engineer, K K Majumdar, Narendra, Daljit Singh, Henry Runganadhan, R H D Singh, Baba Mehar Singh, S N Goyal, Prithpal Singh and Arjan Singh.

World War II (1939-1945)

During World War II, the IAF played an instrumental role in blocking the advance of the Japanese army in Burma, where its first air strike was on the Japanese military base in Arakan. It also carried out strike missions against the Japanese airbases at Mae Hong Son, Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai in northern Thailand.

The IAF was mainly involved in Strike, Close Air Support, Aerial reconnaissance, Bomber Escort and Pathfinding missions for RAF and USAAF Heavy bombers. RAF Pilots were embedded in IAF units and vice versa to gain combat experience. IAF pilots participated in air operations in Europe as part of the RAF.

During the war, the IAF went through a phase of steady expansion. New aircraft, including the U.S. built Vultee Vengeance, Douglas DC-3 and the British Hawker Hurricane, Supermarine Spitfire and Westland Lysander, were added to its fleet.

Subhas Chandra Bose sent Indian National Army youth cadets to Japan to train as pilots. They went on to attend the Imperial Japanese Army Air Force Academy in 1944.

In recognition of the services rendered by the IAF, King George VI conferred the prefix "Royal" in 1945. Thereafter the IAF was referred to as Royal Indian Air Force. In 1950, when India became a republic, the prefix was dropped and it reverted to Indian Air Force.

Post war, No. 4 Squadron IAF was sent to Japan as part of the Allied Occupation forces.

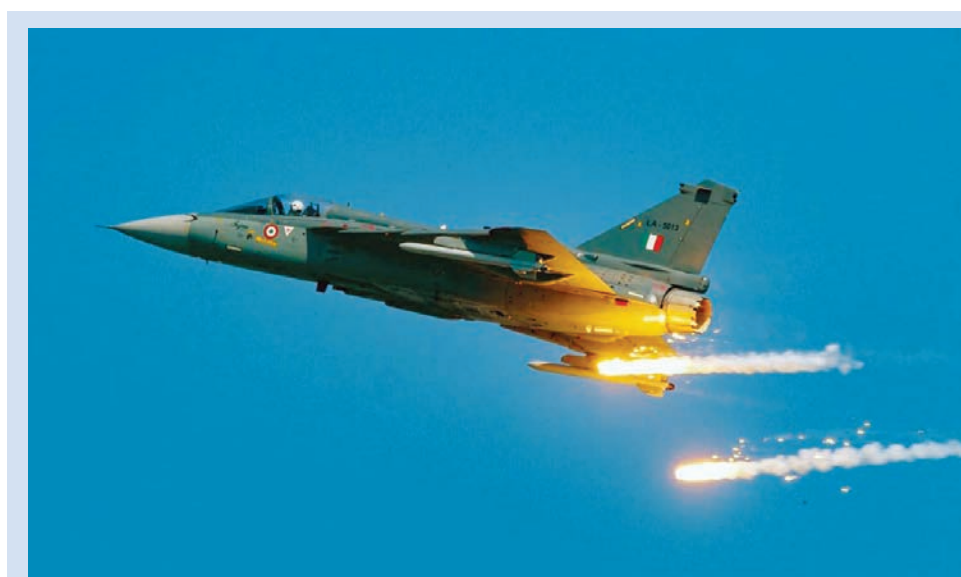
Partition of India (1947)

With the partition of the Indian sub-continent into two separate nations-India and Pakistan-the military forces were also partitioned. This gave a reduced Royal Indian Air Force and a new Royal Pakistan Air Force in 1947.

First Kashmir War 1947

In a bid to gain control of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, Pathan tribesmen poured into Kashmir on 20 October 1947, aided by the Pakistani Army. Incapable of withstanding the armed assault in his province, the Maharaja of Kashmir, Hari Singh, asked India for help. The Government of India made its assistance conditional upon Kashmir's accession to India. The Instrument of accession was signed on 26 October 1947 and the next day Indian troops were airlifted into Srinagar. The agreement was later ratified by the British.

Taking off from Safdarjang, then known as Willingdon Airfield, the IAF landed Indian troops at Srinagar airfield at 09:30 hours IST on 27 October. This was the most instrumental action of the war



Indian Air Force (IAF) Rafale fighter jet flypast during the 88th Air Force Day parade at Hindon Air Force Station in Ghaziabad on October 8.

India showcases its air power, debutant Rafale steals show

The Indian Air Force celebrated its 88th anniversary on October 8. Like every year, the IAF held a parade at the Hindon airbase in Ghaziabad where it showcased its air power. The key highlight this year is the newly-inducted Rafale fighter aircraft. During the ceremony, Rafale fighter jet carried out a minimum radius turn within an area smaller than a hockey field forming a figure of eight. Earlier this year, India received five of the 36 rafale fighter jets from France, as part of a 2016 deal worth Rs 60,000 crores. It was the largest-ever defence deal signed by India.

Even, Indian Air Force fighter jet carried out vertical charlie manoeuvre at Hindon Air Base in Ghaziabad.

Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff, General Manoj Mukund Naravane and Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh attended the 88th Indian Air Force Day celebrations at Hindon airbase on Thursday.

IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria inspected the 88th Indian Air Force Day parade. Nishan Toli being led by Squadron Leader Shivangi Rajawat marched at the Hindon Air Force Station in Ghaziabad on the occasion.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended greetings to the 'brave warriors' of the Indian Air Force (IAF) on the occasion. "Many congratulations to all the brave warriors of the Indian Air Force on Air Force Day. You not only keep the skies of the country safe but also play a leading role in the service of humanity in times of disaster. Your courage, valour and dedication to protect Maa Bharti inspire everyone," PM Modi tweeted (roughly translated from Hindi).

President Ram Nath Kovind, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also extended their wishes on Air Force Day 2020.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday extended his greeting to the Indian Air Force (IAF) and its personnel on the 88th Air Force Day. Wishing the IAF, Singh added that the Centre is committed to enhancing its capabilities through modernisation and indigenisation.

"My felicitations and best wishes to the air warriors and their families on the occasion of Air Force Day-2020. Eighty-eight years of dedication, sacrifice and excellence mark the journey of the IAF which is today a lethal and formidable force to reckon with," Singh's tweet read.

Rajnath Singh said the country is "proud of its men and women in blue and salutes the prowess of the IAF as it stands ready to face challenges and deter adversaries". "The Nation is proud of its men and women in blue and salutes the prowess of the IAF as it stands ready to face challenges and deter adversaries. We remain committed to enhancement of IAF's combat capability through modernisation and indigenisation," he added.

The Defence Minister further said that he was confident that IAF will "always guard the nation's skies, come what may" and further wished them "blue skies and happy landings always."

as the troops saved the city from the invaders.

On 31 December 1948, both nations agreed to a UN mediated cease-fire proposal marking the end of hostilities. A Line of Control has since separated Indian-held Kashmir from Pakistani-held Kashmir.

Sino-Indian War (1962)

In 1962, border disputes escalated into full-scale war between India and China. Indian military and civilian leadership failed to organize and co-ordinate the air assaults efficiently and eventually the Indian Air Force was never used during the conflict apart from occasional supply missions.

Second Kashmir War 1965

Three years after the Sino-Indian conflict, India went to war with Pakistan again over Kashmir. Learning from the experiences of the Sino-Indian war, India decided to use its air force extensively during the war. This was the first time the IAF actively engaged an enemy air force. However, instead of providing close air support to the Indian Army, the IAF carried out independent raid missions against Pakistani Air Force (PAF) bases. These bases were situated deep inside the Pakistani territory, making IAF fighters vulnerable to anti-aircraft fire.

Bangladesh Liberation War 1971



Rafale fighter jet carries out a minimum radius turn within an area smaller than a hockey field forming a figure of eight, on the 88th Air Force Day parade at Hindon Air Force Station in Ghaziabad.

BALAKOT HEROES HONOURED ON AIR FORCE DAY

Three Indian Air Force Officers part of the Balakot operation and Indian Air Force's action to neutralise Pakistan's air raid last year in February after India targeted terror camps across the Line of Control received Yudh Seva medal on the occasion of Air Force Day on Thursday.

The Indian Air Force celebrated its 88th Air Force Day where the Rafale also made its debut in the flypast at the annual event.

The officers who received Yudh Seva Medal are Squadron Leader Minty Agarwal, Group Captain Hansel Sequera and Group Captain Hemant Kumar Vadsra.

While the group captains to be honoured are fighter pilots part of the operations to bomb terror camps in Pakistan, Squadron Leader Agarwal was the fighter control the following day playing an important role giving to directions to Indian pilots to combat and neutralise the Pakistan Air Force attack. This is when Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman's MiG 21 was hit and he ejected on the Pakistani side.

Yudh Seva Medal is an honour is to recognise distinguished service during war, conflict or hostilities.

The Balakot air strikes were carried out as a punitive action on Pakistan based terror groups after 40 Indian soldiers were killed in a terror attack claimed by Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed on February 14, 2019 in Pulwama.

After the 1965 War, the Indian Air Force went through an intense phase of modernization and consolidation. With newly acquired HF-24, MiG-21 and Sukhoi Su-7BM (though the versions of these acquired between 1965 and 1971 did not have night-fight capability) aircraft, the IAF was able to measure up to the most powerful air forces in the world.

Kargil 1999

On 11 May 1999, the Indian Air Force was called in to provide close air support to the Indian Army at the height of the ongoing Kargil conflict with the use of helicopters. The IAF strike was code named Operation Safed Sagar. The first strikes were launched on 26 May, when the Indian Air Force struck infiltrator positions with fighter aircraft and helicopter gunships. The initial strikes saw MiG-27s carrying out offensive sorties, with MiG-21s and later MiG-29s providing fighter cover. The IAF also deployed its radars and the MiG-29 fighters in vast numbers to keep check on Pakistani military movements across the border. Srinagar Airport was at this time closed to civilian air-traffic and dedicated to the Indian Air Force. By 26 July, the Indian forces had successfully liberated Kargil from Pakistani forces.

KAJAL AGGARWAL TO GET MARRIED TO GAUTAM KITCHLU ON OCTOBER 30



'Chalte Chalte' actor Vishal Anand dies at 82

Veteran Bollywood actor-filmmaker Vishal Anand passed away on Sunday. He was 82. A statement from Anand's family read, "Bhisham Kohli also known as Vishal Anand passed away in the afternoon of October 4, 2020. He was 82 years old, and not keeping in good health since the last couple of months. We would like people to remember him from the 1976 super-hit song & movie Chalte Chalte. Our prayers are with him. May he rest in peace. We kindly request members of the media to respect the family's privacy during this sad time."

Vishal Anand was best known for featuring in 70s movies like Chalte Chalte and Taxi Driver. He also directed and produced a few films.

The actor-filmmaker was also known for giving music director Bappi Lahiri his big break in Bollywood. Lahiri had scored the music for Chalte Chalte, which was produced by Anand.

Popular actor and former VJ Purab Kohli is Vishal Anand's nephew.

Actress Kajal Aggarwal took to social media to announce her wedding to businessman Gautam Kitchlu. She will be tying the knot with Gautam on October 30 in Mumbai in the presence of their immediate families. She issued a statement saying that the wedding will be a small private ceremony due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. Kajal also added that she will continue to act in films.

Her statement read, "I said yes. It gives me immense joy to share that I am getting married to Gautam Kitchlu, on October 30, 2020 in Mumbai, in a small, private ceremony surrounded by our immediate families. This pandemic has certainly shed a sobering light on our joy, but we are thrilled to start our lives together and know that all of you will be cheering us on in spirit."

She added, "I thank you for all the love you have showered upon me over the years and we seek your blessings as we embark upon this incredible new journey. I will still continue doing what I cherish the most - entertaining my audience - now, with a whole new purpose and meaning. Thank you for your unending support (sic)."

As soon as the announcement was made, actors Fahadh Faasil and Hansika took to the comments section to congratulate her. Along with them, Kajal's ardent fans congratulated her on her wedding with businessman Gautam Kitchlu.

On the work front, Kajal Aggarwal is eagerly waiting to resume the shoot of her upcoming Tamil film, Indian 2. Directed by Shankar, the film stars Kamal Haasan, Siddharth, Rakul Preet Singh and Priya Bhavani Shankar. Recently, the teaser of her upcoming Telugu film, Mosagallu, was unveiled by Allu Arjun.



Actor won't apologise to Richa Chadha despite promise in court

The actor against whom Richa Chadha filed a defamation suit has refused to apologise. During a hearing of the case at the Bombay High Court, the defendant's lawyer had said that she was ready to tender an unconditional apology to Richa. However, she now appears to have changed her mind.

The actor took to Twitter on Wednesday evening to say that she will not apologise to anyone. "I hv nothing to do wd Ms Chadda. We as women hv got 2stand wd each other, shoulder to shoulder. I don't want any unintentional harrasment to her or me on this matter. My fight 4justice is against only Mr. Kashyap & I want 2focus solely on dt ryt now. Lets make d world c his true face," she wrote.

"I am not apologizing to anyone. I have not wronged nor have I given a wrong statement about anyone. I just said what @anuragkashyap72 told me. #SorryNotSorry," she added. When someone tweeted "So (name redacted) 'innocently' slandered @RichaChadha? ", she replied, "No (name redacted) did not defame her. it was what Mr. Kashyap said about her, still want to blow It out of proportion, GIRL?"

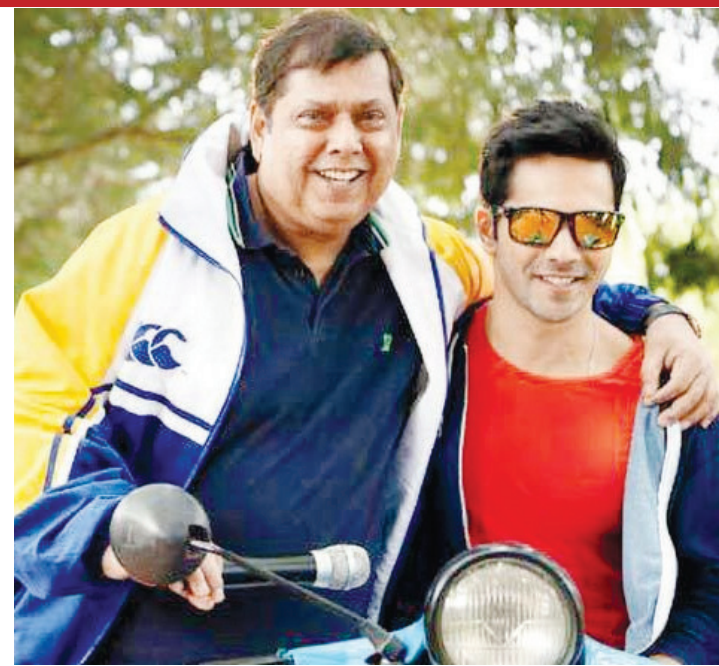


Varun slams report of 'split wide open' with father David Dhawan

Actor Varun Dhawan took to Twitter to refute news report of a rift with his filmmaker father, David Dhawan. The report said that the two were in disagreement over how to release their film, Coolie No 1. Varun wrote that the publication should not write articles on his behalf. "Maybe until I don't give you an interview you shouldn't write on my behalf sir," he wrote and added a 'folded hands' emoji.

The report suggested that due to the delay in the film's release amid the coronavirus pandemic, David was considering releasing the film on OTT. However, Varun is against the idea as he 'doesn't want to be labeled an OTT actor, at least not yet.'

Coolie No 1 is a remake of David's 1995 movie of the same name, starring Govinda and Karisma Kapoor. The new version stars Varun opposite Sara Ali Khan.



Speaking about working with his son, David had told Hindustan Times in an interview, "All my life I've worked with every hero in the industry, from Amitabh Bachchan to Riteish Deshmukh, over 35 of them.

Now, with my son, I've found the comfort level so I'm enjoying. If he wasn't good, I'd not have cast him in my films, that way I'm very professional. I told him, 'don't spoil my work'. But he's extremely disciplined."



Amber Rose shuns her critics

Amber Rose doesn't let her critics control her life. The 36-year-old model and businesswoman received criticism online earlier this year when she debuted her forehead tattoos, which read "Bash Slash", in honour of her two children - Sebastian, seven, whom she has with Wiz Khalifa, and 12-month-old Slash, whom she welcomed with her boyfriend, Alexander Edwards.

And now, Amber has said she doesn't care what people think of her unique ink, because she doesn't live her life "for other people".

She said: "Not everybody is gonna get a face tat. That's what separates me from them. I don't live my life for other people ... If I let people affect me in that way, I would just be miserable every day. I wouldn't be the great mom that I am. I would be depressed and I would be filled with anxiety."

"I love my body, I'm cool with my body and I do what I want with my body ... You just gotta be who you are and if someone likes you, they'll join the bandwagon and if not, they're just not for you. It's not really a big deal for me."

SOFIA VERGARA IS FORBES' HIGHEST-PAID ACTRESS OF 2020

Sofia Vergara is the highest-paid female actor in the world, according to Forbes' latest list. She made \$43 million in a one-year period, which is the equivalent of Rs 315 crore.

Also included in the top 10 are Angelina Jolie (\$35.5 million), Gal Gadot (\$31 million), Melissa McCarthy (25 million), Meryl Streep (\$24 million), Emily Blunt (\$22.5 million), Nicole Kidman (\$22 million), Ellen Pompeo (\$19 million), Elisabeth Moss (\$16 million) and Viola Davis (\$15.5 million).

According to Forbes, most of Vergara's earnings came from Modern Family and America's Got Talent, which she padded up with endorsement deals. She made \$500,000 per episode for the show, while America's Got Talent makes her \$10 million per season. Jolie, meanwhile, earned the majority of her \$35.5 million from her upcoming appearance in Marvel's Eternals.

Last year's number one, Scarlett Johansson, had made \$56 million. Blunt is a newcomer on the list, thanks to a hefty payday for A Quiet Place: Part 2 and Disney's upcoming Jungle Cruise film with Dwayne Johnson.

Combined, the top 10 highest paid female actors made \$254 million this year, down 20% from last year. By comparison, the top 10 highest-paid male actors made \$545 million, almost double. Dwayne Johnson topped the male list, with \$87.5 million. Akshay Kumar was the only Indian actor on either list.

The men's list also included Ryan Reynolds, Mark Wahlberg, Ben Affleck, Vin Diesel, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Will Smith, Adam Sandler and Jackie Chan.



I quit shopping to save the planet, says Jane Fonda

Jane Fonda has quit shopping in order to save the planet. The 82-year-old actress has admitted she's still using clothes that were in her wardrobe "30 years ago", because she doesn't want to "waste" perfectly good items by throwing them out as she's worried it could have a negative impact on the environment.

She said: "We have to not waste so much. We have to be satisfied with less. I'm trying to not buy anything new anymore, no new clothing. But I also understand that I can say that because I still wear what I wore 30 years ago, and I have a lot of clothes, so it's easy for me."

Jane urged other to "pay attention" to what they buy, but admitted it has been easier for her to let go of some of her luxuries because of her privileged background as the daughter of the late movie icon Henry Fonda.

She told Interview magazine: "I mean, look, I have to be very honest. I am Henry Fonda's daughter. I have always had privilege. When it was very slow going in terms of my ability to earn a living, I had savings that I could fall back on. I don't want to pretend that I was scraping nickels and dimes together. I lived pretty close to the bone for quite a while, but I always knew I could make it. I have to say that. My privilege protected me a lot."



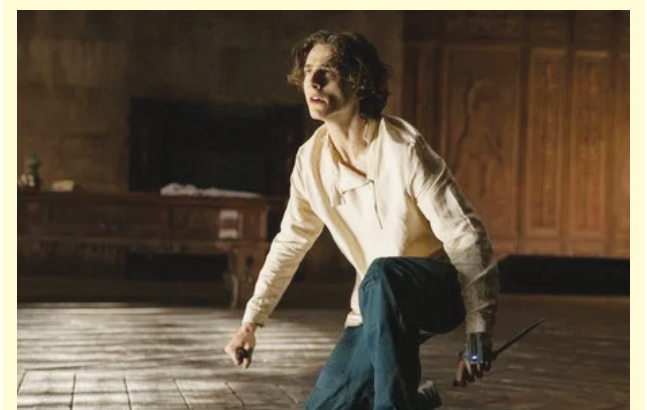
DUNE ARRIVES OCT 2021, THE BATMAN IN MAY 2022

Warner Bros said it is delaying the release of Dune and The Batman movies, another setback for the entertainment industry hit by Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns and social distancing measures that have closed theaters worldwide.

Dune, a sci-fi movie directed by Canadian director Denis Villeneuve, is now scheduled to open in October 2021, instead of December. The release of The Batman, starring Robert Pattinson, has been moved to the spring of 2022 from October next year.

Movie releases have been getting delayed even after restrictions were eased, with people still wary of stepping into cinema halls, and many theaters still not operational.

The world's second-biggest cinema chain, Cineworld, decided to temporarily close its UK and U.S. movie theaters in an attempt to survive a collapse in film-making and cinema-going. Credit rating agency Fitch promptly downgraded the company.



FILMS FOR OUR TIMES

BY MABEL PAIS

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

DIR: Carolyn Jones | 2020 | USA | Doc | Eng | 1h 20m | World Premiere

AWARD WINNING DIRECTOR

CBS: PREVIEWED AMONG BEST DOCS FOR FALL SEASON

INCLUSION IN 2020/2021 SEASON: AMERICAN FILM



Nurse Rabih with gunshot victim and trauma team. - Photo / Kino Lorber

SHOWCASE

RELEASE: OCTOBER 14, 2020

"In Case of Emergency" documentary paints a startling picture of our Hospital Emergency Rooms (ERs) stretched to the breaking point and exposes the extent of our nation's broken safety net. All of our country's biggest public health challenges—from COVID-19 to the opioid crisis to gun violence to lack of insurance—collide in emergency departments.

Nearly half of all medical care in the U.S. is delivered in ERs and nurses are on the frontlines, addressing our physical and emotional needs before sending us back out into the world. In Case of Emergency follows 16 emergency nurses across the U.S., shedding light on their efforts to help break a sometimes-vicious cycle for patients under their care.

The film offers a unique opportunity for people to understand what nurses have experienced and to allow nurses to verbalize what they have gone through during the pandemic and other recent emergency events.

To learn more, visit incaseofemergency.film
facebook.com/americannurseproject
instagram.com/carolynjonesproductions
twitter.com/amnurseproject

COMING CLEAN

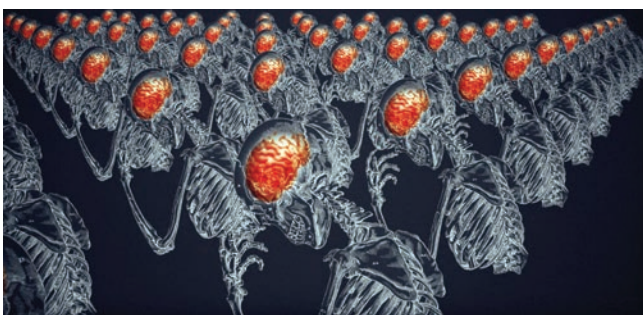
DIR: DIR/WRIT/PROD: ONDI TIMONER | 2020 | USA | Eng | 1h 19m

THE OPPOSITE OF ADDICTION IS CONNECTION

"Since COVID-19 - overdoses have increased more than 50%." - The Washington Post

"An additional 76,000 deaths are expected from overdose and suicide as a result of COVID." "Every 1% increase in unemployment leads eventually to a 3.5% increase in opioid addiction." - Well Being Trust / CNN

SPECIAL JURY PRIZE: 2020 SIDEWALK FILM FESTIVAL



A scene from "Coming Clean." - Photo / The Parker Foundation/Interloper Films.

STORY OF DEADLIEST DRUG EPIDEMIC IN HISTORY THROUGH EYES OF SURVIVORS

ACCLAIMED DIRECTOR ONDI TIMONER

"COMING CLEAN" by acclaimed director Ondi Timoner is a feature documentary examining addiction through the eyes of recovering addicts and political leaders, as they come together to bring the profiteers to justice and rebuild in the wake of the deadliest drug epidemic in our history.

Long before COVID-19, another pandemic was raging across the American landscape, penetrating all age groups, races, and socio-economic classes. The cause: opioids. The culprit: Purdue Pharmaceutical and the company's deceitful approach to lure in and hook patients.

Since 1999, almost 450,000 people have died from overdose involving any opioid, including prescription and illicit opioids. The devastation to individuals, families, friends, businesses caused by this addiction is incalculable and begs the questions: why did this happen? who is responsible? and how do we solve this problem?

"COMING CLEAN" will have a timely special national preview screening hosted by the Utah Film Festival on Saturday, October 10th through its "Watch at Home" program as well as a screening at the "Midvale Drive-In". This special event can be accessed from anywhere in the U.S. by visiting utahfilmcenter.org/comingclean. A post-film Q&A with director Ondi Timoner, film participant/subject Congressman Ben McAdams, lead prosecutor Mike Moore and recovering addict Destiny Garcia, will be moderated by NPR member station KUER's RadioWest host Doug Fabrizio. To learn more, visit comingcleanmovie.com

THE BIG SCARY "S" WORD

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

"I realized there is an urgent need for an honest, accessible exploration of today's socialist ideas as they are being mobilized in America, as well as their historical precedents. 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

"Socialism is as American as apple pie." - Cornel West, Prof. of Philosophy, Harvard University

"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

WORLD PREMIERE, OCTOBER 9-18, 2020



A scene from "The Big Scary 'S' Word." - Photo / CourtesyIDA

"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

MIGHTY IRA

DIRS/PRODS: Nico Perrino, Aaron Reese & Chris Maltby | 2020 | USA | Doc | Eng | 1h 39m

OPENS OCTOBER 9: ANGELIKA FILM CENTER'S VIRTUAL CINEMA

New York, Washington DC / Fairfax, VA, San Diego, Dallas / Plano

Expands nationwide: October 23



Ira Glasser - Ben Stern locking hands - Photo / Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, Inc. 2020

"Mighty Ira" is a documentary on Ira Glasser, one of America's unsung champions of civil rights and liberties. As the leader of the American Civil Liberties Union for 23 years, he transformed the organization from a small, "mom-and-pop" operation on the verge of bankruptcy into a civil liberties juggernaut with offices in every state and a \$30 million endowment. Amid high-profile controversies surrounding free speech and racial equality -and on the occasion of the ACLU's centennial -Ira reminisces on his life at the forefront of defending the rights of all Americans, from civil rights leaders to neo-Nazis.

His story takes us to his hometown of Brooklyn, New York, where in 1947 Jackie Robinson and the Dodgers broke the color barrier in baseball and inspired a generation of civil rights activists; to the offices of Robert Kennedy, where the U.S. Senator spoke with a young Ira and convinced him to take his first job with the ACLU; and to California, where a 96-year-old Holocaust survivor explains to Ira why he thinks the ACLU was wrong to defend the right of neo-Nazis to demonstrate near his home in Skokie, Illinois, over 40 years ago -and how recent events in Charlottesville, Virginia, evoke painful memories.

Watch the trailer: youtu.be/R8qSgyLgDZc

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

FILMS/FILM FEST OF NOTE

BY MABEL PAIS



Nasrin, human rights activist, supported by protestors
Photo / Floating World PICTURES

NASRIN - "The Nelson Mandela of Iran"

Dir: Jeff Kaufman | 2020 | Iran | Doc | Farsi/Eng w/Eng subs | 1h 31m | World Premiere

"NASRIN will make you angry at injustice, and give you hope. This is a must-see film!" - Gloria Steinem
"We felt that her life and work could inform and inspire people around the world and help create a new understanding of an often-misunderstood country. Nasrin always wanted this film to bring attention to other human rights activists and political prisoners in Iran and around the world." - Filmmakers, Kaufman & Ross
Narrator: Oscar Winner Olivia Colman
Director: Emmy Nominee Jeff Kaufman
Producer: Emmy Nominee Marcia S. Ross



A Black man in his car surrounded and attacked by a group of White men. Photo / PBS- Steeplechase Films



Barack Obama in a scene from "The Way I See It" at HSDF 2020 - Photo / HSDF 2020.

NASRIN" is an immersive portrait of Nasrin Sotoudeh, one of the world's most courageous human rights activists and an outspoken leader of Iran's remarkably resilient women's rights movement. She is now in the fifth week of a hunger strike and serving a long sentence in Iran's notorious Evin Prison. Millions of people from over 200 nations have called for Nasrin's release. Secretly filmed in Iran

by men and women who risked arrest to make the film. NASRIN features acclaimed filmmaker Jafar Panahi, Nobel Peace laureate Shirin Ebadi, journalist Ann Curry, and Nasrin's husband and fellow-activist Reza Khandan. Currently running at Boston's GlobeDocs Film Festival 2020. Learn more at www.nasrinfilm.com

FINDING YINGYING

DIR: Jiayan "Jenny" Shi | 2020 | USA | Doc |

"Finding Yingying" is a film about Yingying Zhang, a 26-year-old Chinese student who comes to the U.S. to study. In her detailed and beautiful diaries, the aspiring young scientist and teacher is full of optimism, hoping to also be married and a mother someday. Within weeks of her arrival, Yingying disappears from the campus. Through exclusive access to Yingying's family and boyfriend, "FINDING YINGYING" closely follows their journey as they search to unravel the mystery of her disappearance and seek justice for their daughter while navigating a strange, foreign country. But most of all, "FINDING YINGYING" is the story of who Yingying was: a talented young woman loved by her family and friends.

DRIVING WHILE BLACK - Race, Space and Mobility in America

DIRS: GRETCHEN SORIN & RIC BURNS | 2020 | USA | Eng | 1h 54m
RELEASE ON PBS, OCTOBER 13, 2020

"There's no freedom without mobility. Mobility is an essential part of what it means to be free, and what it means to be American, living in this country. But it also goes beyond mobility and it allows us to understand the way that African-Americans have moved forward in this country and the way that African-Americans have been pushed back." -GRETCHEN SULLIVAN SORIN - Historian, Curator, Interviewee

".....it entails so much more than simply driving while Black. It's living while Black. It's sleeping while Black. It's eating while Black. It's moving while Black. And so, when we start talking about the brutal restrictions on black movement in this country, well that's a long history. That goes all the way back to day one, you know. And so, you have to get to the root of it. You know, where's the root of it?" HERB BOYD - Writer, Interviewee
"Driving While Black" examines the history of African Americans on the road from the early 1900's through the 1960's and beyond. The film explores deeply embedded dynamics of race, space and mobility in America - focusing in particular on the historical background, unfolding reality, and contemporary relevance of the experience of African Americans navigating the nation's highways during the last four decades of Jim Crow - one of the most crucial, turbulent and transformative periods in American racial, cultural, social and political history. With urgent and powerful reverberations in American society today, this riveting history - at once revelatory, deeply troubling, and inspiring for what it reveals about human creativity, courage, and commitment to change - provides a crucial window on issues of class, gender, law enforcement, discrimination, automobile culture and national identity.

Hot Springs Doc Film Fest 2020 (HSDF)

"Building off the healing waters and spa characteristics of

Hot Springs, we have designed a series of virtual and in-person activities to safely allow people to gather and enjoy low-impact activities in downtown Hot Springs, such as bike rides, inspiration hikes and yoga in the park." - Jen Gerber, HSDF Artistic Director

I am especially pleased to present a program where filmmakers of color represent 47% of our feature films and over 50% of the total films presented are directed by women. We are also proud to showcase several regional titles, elevating local directors and the idiosyncratic culture of the South. The films in our 2020 program will inspire viewers, challenge perceptions, and illuminate the urgent realities of this turbulent year." - Jessie Fairbanks, HSDF Director of Programming

HOT SPRINGS DOC FILM FEST 29TH EDITION

Rich Lineup of Films, Honorees, and Special Events

DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING PANELS, WORKSHOPS

LIVE STORYTELLING CLASS

WORKSHOP: YOUR ART WILL SAVE YOUR LIFE

2020 SURVIVAL GUIDE: MENTAL HEALTH AND CREATIVE HEALING

IN THE MIDST OF CRISES

VIRTUAL/DRIVE-IN HYBRID EDITION, OCTOBER 9-17

OPENING NIGHT: Wharton's JIMMY CARTER, ROCK & ROLL PRESIDENT

CENTERPIECE: Gabbert's OTTOLENGHI AND THE CAKES OF VERSAILLES CLOSING NOD: Reichart & Bognar's 9-TO-5: THE STORY OF A MOVEMENT

HSDF Career Achievement Honors Alex Gibney and Dawn Porter

Festival Impact Awards: Diana Quon and Iyabo Boyd

The Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival (HSDF) 2020 has a rich lineup of films, honorees, and special events for this year's Virtual/Drive-In hybrid edition of the film festival, October 9-17. The Festival presents a total of 110 films (50 feature-length, and 60 shorts) representing 30 countries. The Gala presentations of Opening, Centerpiece and Closing will be drive-in.

Mary Wharton's "JIMMY CARTER, ROCK & ROLL PRESIDENT" is the Opening Night selection, Laura Gabbert's "OTTOLENGHI AND THE CAKES OF VERSAILLES" is the Centerpiece and Julia Reichart and Steve Bognar's "9-TO-5: THE STORY OF A MOVEMENT" gets the Closing Night nod.

HSDF Career Achievement honors will be presented to Alex Gibney and Dawn Porter, while Diana Quon and Iyabo Boyd will receive the festival's Impact Awards.

There will be HSDF 2020 Panels, Talks and Special Events: HSDF Speakeasy Series, Documentary Filmmaking Panels and 2020 Survival Guide: Mental Health and Creative Healing in the Midst of Crises, VIRTUAL TALKS AND WORKSHOPS, HSDF STORYTELLING WORKSHOP and much more.

TICKETS & PASSES

For Tickets and Passes and more details on HSDF 2020, visit: hsdfi.org

ABOUT HOT SPRINGS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL (HSDF)

Each year, with the help of a small staff and over 100 dedicated volunteers, HSDF attracts thousands of visitors to the 9-day multicultural and intergenerational event. Now approaching its 29th year as the oldest all-documentary festival in North America and one of the longest running non-fiction festivals in the world, the HSDF remains a prominent champion and protector of the documentary film genre.

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

EU seals vaccine deal with Johnson & Johnson

BRUSSELS (TIP): The European Union has sealed a deal with Johnson & Johnson to supply up to 400 million doses of its potential Covid-19 vaccine, as the bloc builds up stocks amid a global scramble to secure shots.

The deal announced on October 8 by the European Commission is its third advance purchase contract with makers of Covid vaccines after deals with AstraZeneca and Sanofi, bringing the number of doses secured by the EU for its population of 450 million to 1.1 billion. — Reuters

Norway's aging king to undergo heart valve operation

COPENHAGEN (TIP): Norway's 83-year-old King Harald V was admitted to the main hospital in Oslo October 8 to undergo an operation to replace a heart valve, the palace said.

"This intervention is necessary to improve the king's breathing. This type of operation is performed several hundred times a year at Rikshospitalet," the monarch's doctor, Bjoern Bendz, said in a palace statement.

The king was hospitalised last month with breathing difficulties. Doctors ruled out COVID-19.

The royal household in Oslo said the monarch is on sick leave until further notice and that his son and heir to the throne, Crown Prince Haakon, has stepped in and taken over his father's duties.

The palace said the operation will not be open heart surgery. The king will be awake, and the operation will be performed via the groin with local anesthesia. It is scheduled for Friday at the hospital's Cardiovascular and Lung Clinic.

In 2005, the king's aortic valve was replaced by an artificial heart valve. Such valves have a lifespan of between 10 and 15 years, the royal household said, adding it was "not uncommon" for such interventions to have to be repeated.

Harald ascended the throne upon the death of his father, King Olav, on January 17, 1991.

The country's first native-born king since the 14th century, he married a commoner as a prince and won hearts in his egalitarian country by leading the mourning in 2011 for the victims of mass killer Anders Behring Breivik. AP

Belgium uses giant 'vacuum cleaner' to remove plastic from nature reserve

BRUSSELS (TIP): Engineers have built a giant 'vacuum cleaner' to rid a Belgian nature reserve of millions of pieces of plastic litter too small to collect by hand.

The Galgeschoor reserve, a site of mudflats and salt marshes in the port city of Antwerp, has become riddled with plastic particles that built up over years from litter deposited by industry and towns along the river Scheldt.

Port authorities last year launched a competition to design a solution to decontaminate the area, which is home to endangered bird species.

The winner: a huge Hoover, dubbed the 'Nul-o-Plastic' and developed by Envisan, the environment division of maritime infrastructure company Jan De Nul Group.

"It's basically a vacuum cleaner which is really smart (and) adapted to this circumstances," engineer Tom Van Vooren, the project's coordinator, told Reuters.

The machine's rubber tyres limit soil disruption, and its suction mechanism is designed to avoid damaging plants.



The aim is to pull roughly 7.5 tonnes of plastic pellets out of the reserve. A first test concludes later this month.

Currently, less than a third of Europe's plastic waste is recycled. To help curb

litter, the European Union is planning new rules to ensure all packaging can be reused or recycled, and will ban single-use plastic cutlery and straws from 2021. Reuters

Teen assumes Finland's PM post for a day in "Girls Takeover"

Harassment that girls face online remains a major issue worldwide, the stand-in prime minister and the real one stressed in a joint statement

HELSINKI (TIP): A 16-year-old girl ceremoniously assumed the post of Finnish prime minister for one day for the "Girls Takeover" program — part of the UN International Day of the Girl to raise more awareness of gender equality.

Aava Murto from the small village of Vaaksy in southern Finland stepped into the shoes of Prime Minister Sanna Marin on October 7 to highlight the impact of technology on gender equality, this year's theme for the annual event, the Finnish government said.

"Girls' access to technology is a significant, global equality issue that needs to be taken seriously," said Murto, who during her day met with Cabinet members and lawmakers, among others.

Murto and Marin, one of the world's youngest government leaders at 34 and the Nordic nation's second female prime minister, discussed what tech-savvy Finland with 5.5 million residents could do to improve girls' opportunities to use and develop technology on a global basis.

Harassment that girls face online remains a major issue worldwide, the stand-in prime minister and the real one stressed in a joint statement.

"Gender equality ambitions will fall short as long as girls are pushed aside



"Girls' access to technology is a significant, global equality issue that needs to be taken seriously," said Murto, who during her day met with Cabinet members and lawmakers, among others.

from using and developing technology. Girls, too, have a digital future, and that is why girls should have a voice in technology," Murto said.

"Girls Takeover" also occurred at some Finnish companies, including in the technology sector, ahead of the U.N. Girls Day on Sunday.

Finland regularly scores near the top when it comes to women's rights. Marin leads Finland's center-left coalition

government, which is made up of five parties whose leaders are all female.

It also became the first territory in Europe in 1906 — Finland gained independence from Russia in 1917 — and one of the first countries in the world where all women had legal rights to vote and run for office. Last year, girls took over the jobs of 1,800 leaders in more than 60 countries worldwide, the government said. — AP

Greek court rules far-right Golden Dawn party criminal organisation

ATHENS (TIP): A Greek court has ruled that the far-right Golden Dawn party was operating as a criminal organisation, delivering a landmark verdict in a marathon five-year trial.

The court on October 7 delivered guilty verdicts against several of the party's former lawmakers for participating in a criminal organisation, and deemed others guilty of leading a criminal organisation.

The 68 defendants in the trial include 18 former lawmakers from the party that was founded in the 1980s as a neo-Nazi organisation and rose to become Greece's third largest party in parliament during the country's decade-long financial crisis.

The court has been assessing four cases rolled into one: the fatal stabbing of Greek rap singer Pavlos Fyssas, attacks on migrant fishermen, attacks on left-wing activists and whether Golden Dawn was operating as a criminal organisation.

The presiding judge of the three-member panel began reading the verdicts shortly after 11.30 am, delivering a guilty verdict against Giorgos Roupakias for the murder of Fyssas. That prompted applause inside the courtroom and among the crowd outside. Roupakias had been accused of being a party supporter who delivered



the fatal stab wounds to Fyssas.

Party leader Nikos Michaloliakos and 17 other former parliamentary members face at least 10 years in prison if convicted of charges of leading or participating in a criminal organisation. Dozens of others on trial, party members and alleged associates, face convictions on charges that range from murder to perjury — most linked to a spate of violent attacks in 2013.

Only 11 of the 68 defendants were present in the courtroom, with the rest represented by their lawyers. None of the former Golden Dawn lawmakers were in court.

Security is tight, with around 2,000 police deployed, as well as a drone and a police helicopter. The avenue outside the Athens courthouse is closed off to traffic

and the building itself blocked off by a string of police buses.

More than 10,000 people, including politicians from all political parties, gathered outside the courthouse. The crowd waved banners with slogans including "Fyssas lives, crush the Nazis," and chanted "The people demand the Nazis in jail."

Representatives of parties across the political spectrum, from the governing conservative New Democracy party to Greece's Communist Party, were outside the courthouse.

"The war against violence and hate is constant," said New Democracy's Giorgos Stergiou, noting it was under a New Democracy government that the prosecution of Golden Dawn began. — AP

French court upholds order for Google to pay news companies

PARIS (TIP): A French appeals court on October 8 upheld an order for Google to pay media companies to show their news content in search results.

The Paris Court of Appeal rejected a challenge by the US tech company, which had refused to comply with an order by France's competition authority to negotiate with publishers and press agencies for payments to display their material.

The court rejected Google's argument that the competition watchdog overstepped its authority in its April decision.

Google had said the day before that it was on the verge of reaching a deal with French newspapers over digital copyright.

"Our priority remains to reach an agreement with the French publishers and press agencies," the company said. "We appealed to get legal clarity on some parts of the order, and we will now review the decision of the Paris Court of Appeal."

France became the first European Union country last year to adopt a directive aimed at modernising copyright rules into national law, including a requirement that search engines pay for offering up snippets of news articles.

News companies had pushed for the new rules amid slumping revenue at traditional media organisations but Google balked. AP

Russia reports successful test launch of hypersonic missile

MOSCOW (TIP): The Russian military on October 7 reported a successful test launch of the new Zircon hypersonic cruise missile, giving Russian President Vladimir Putin something to smile about on his 68th birthday. Speaking to Putin via a video call, Russian General Staff chief Valery Gerasimov said the test launch was carried out Tuesday from the Admiral Groshkov frigate located in the White Sea, north of Russia.

The missile successfully hit a target in the Barents Sea, Gerasimov said.

Putin praised the successful test as "a big event" for Russia.

"Equipping our Armed Forces — the army and the navy — with the latest, truly unparalleled weapon systems will certainly ensure the defence capability of our country in the long term," the president said.

Putin talked about the coming deployment of the new Zircon hypersonic missile for the Russian navy in 2019, saying that it's capable of flying at nine times the speed of sound and will have a range of 1,000 km. AP

Poland fines Russia's Gazprom \$7.6 billion over pipeline

WARSAW (TIP): Polish antitrust authorities have fined Russia's state-owned energy giant Gazprom USD 7.6 billion (6.5 billion euros) for its role in building the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline to Germany, saying the project hurts Polish consumers and increases Europe's dependence on Russian imports.

The Office of Competition and Consumer Protection on Wednesday also fined five other international companies participating in the project a total of USD 61 million (52 million euros).

Poland is strongly opposed to the pipeline, which is in its final stages of construction and is due to transport Russian natural gas across the Baltic Sea bed to Germany and western Europe, bypassing traditional transit routes through Ukraine and Poland.

The authorities say that the pipeline could lead to higher gas prices in Poland, hurting consumers.

The other companies fined are Engie Energy, OMV, Shell, Uniper and Wintershall.

The fines amount to 10 per cent of the companies' annual revenue and can be appealed. Gazprom was reported as saying it would appeal. — AP

Beirut explosion among most powerful non-nuclear blasts in history: Study

LONDON (TIP): The explosion that happened in August in the Port of Beirut was one of the most powerful non-nuclear blasts in history — releasing enough energy in a matter of milliseconds to power over 100 homes for a year — according to a new assessment of the disaster in the Lebanese capital by researchers.

The researchers from the University of Sheffield in the UK hope that the new assessment can be used to provide policymakers and the public with more accurate information on the blast, as well as help first responders prepare for future disasters and save lives.

The August 4 explosion killed more than 190 people, injured around 6,500 and damaged thousands of buildings in Beirut.

After analysing videos of the explosion posted on social media, the team was able to estimate the power of the blast by tracking how the explosion's shockwave spread through the city.

The assessment, published in the journal Shock Waves, found that the size of the explosion was the equivalent of between 500-1100 tonnes of TNT — around 1/20th of the size of the atomic bomb that was used on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.

The explosion also released — in a



matter of milliseconds — the equivalent of around 1GWh of energy, equal to the hourly energy generated by three million solar panels or 400 wind turbines, the researchers said.

They hope that by releasing a more accurate assessment of the blast, including an insight into how the shockwave travelled, it could be used to help with future disaster response planning.

The data could be used by first responders to help predict the likely injuries and structural damage at various distances from a blast in future emergency situations.

"The disaster that hit Beirut this summer was devastating and we hope that nothing like that ever happens again," said Sam Rigby, Senior Lecturer at the University of Sheffield. PTI

HOME REMEDIES FOR UNDERARM ODOUR

We all sweat and that's what leads to smelly armpits. This pungent odour is extremely unattractive and sometimes may become a cause for your embarrassment. Some people sweat more than others and therefore their underarms smell disgusting. One of the ways that we use to subside the stink throughout the day is by spraying deodorant. But, that's not a permanent solution. If you wish to permanently reduce the odour of your armpits, here are certain home remedies that you can try.

Apple Cider Vinegar

It has strong anti-microbial properties that help in killing the odour causing bacteria in the underarms. To neutralise your armpits' environment, you can apply apple cider vinegar in the area regularly. You can do that by dipping a cotton ball in the liquid and applying to your underarms directly. Doing this during the morning after taking a bath and at night before sleeping can give you the required result.

Lavender Essential Oil

Lavender oil is known for its pleasant fragrance that can easily suppress the armpit odour. Also, its anti-bacterial properties can destroy bacteria present in the area. Lavender oil has various other



benefits when it comes to treating skin conditions. To use it, you need to mix 4-5 drops of lavender oil in a glass of water and pour the mixture in a spray bottle. Spray the liquid on your underarms twice a day to permanently reduce the stinky odour of your underarms.

Baking Soda

Applying baking soda on your

underarms can keep the area dry and avoid too much sweating. Also, it has anti-bacterial properties that can remove the foul smell creating bacteria from your armpits. All you need to do is to mix 1 tablespoon of baking soda and 1 tablespoon of lemon juice. Apply the mixture on your underarms and wait for around 3 minutes. Then, take a shower.

Easy steps for flawless skin

Who doesn't like the idea of clear, soft and glowing skin? In the quest for good skin, we women have done everything from buying expensive products to parlour sessions. But, are you treating your skin right? Here are 6 tips that you must follow to get that good skin:

Morning water

Forget your morning cup of tea or coffee, the first thing you need to do is drink water. When we wake up, our body is dehydrated and that's why you should drink water first.

Double Cleansing

Korean women known for their flawless skin swear by this technique. Double Cleansing is a way of cleansing your face twice. First, it is advised to clean your face using an oil cleanser sans water. Next, wash it off with a warm cloth, this helps to remove all the grime and make-up. The second step involves using a regular cleanser to remove all the dirt and sweat.

Use a toner

If you're skipping the toner, then you're missing a big skincare step. Toners help to maintain the pH



level of the skin and even shrink the pores. You should stay away from alcohol-based toner and look for natural ingredients. You can also use gulab jal (rose water) as a toner.

Always moisturise

The key to healthy skin is moisturising. Even if you have an oily skin texture, you must moisturise using a gel-based cream. By keeping your skin hydrated, you will fight away the signs of ageing.

Use a serum

Growing up comes with a lot of responsibilities and skin issues. That's one of the reasons, you

should invest in a specific serum for your skin issues. Be it dark spots, dry skin or pigmentation, a specific serum at night will give your skin all the pampering it needs.

Don't forget to scrub

With time our skin tends to get dull. That's why you must maintain your skin by weekly sessions.

Depending on your skin type, you can exfoliate 2-3 times a week. This will buff away the dead skin cells and give your skin that extra glow. Never exfoliate your skin at night, as this can make your skin extra prone to tanning the next day.



By Tript Arora

CONNOISSEUR'S
CHOICE



YELLOW DAL TADKA

Yellow Dal tadka is also an integral part of Punjabi cuisine. After heavy meals in the afternoon this dal becomes an instant choice of my family for dinner. The simplicity of this dal is unbeatable. You can pair this Dal with Boiled rice for a simple meal. For a side dish you can serve Baigan Tawa Fry. This will taste awesome.

Yellow dal tadka in Punjab is made with Dhuli moong dal and Malka Masoor sabut combined together in equal quantity. In some recipes Dal Masri (Red lentils split) is used. But I prefer to make it with Malka Masoor Whole (red lentils whole) . It tastes much better. Today we are going to make it in an easy way. On week days when you are tired , keep dal on one flame and boil rice on another. In 25 to 30 min a healthy dinner is ready. Try it and do let me know how you relish it.

We Need

- 50 gm Dhuli Moong Dal
- 50 gm Malka Masoor Sabut
- 2 medium Tomatoes
- 1 Tsp Haldi, Salt to taste
- For Tempering:
- 8 garlic pods (chopped finely)
- 1 medium onion chopped finely
- 1 Tsp Zeera (cumin seeds)
- ½ Tsp Red Chilli Powder
- 1 Green Chilli optional
- 2 Tbsp Desi Ghee
- 1Tbsp Chopped Green Coriander

Here We go

- Wash both lentils in water thoroughly till the water runs clear. Soak for 10 min.
- Puree the tomatoes in a blender jar.
- In a pressure cooker add Both the lentils, 4 times water of the quantity of Dal, pureed tomatoes, Turmeric powder and salt.
- Pressure cook on full flame upto 4 whistles. Let it cool. When the pressure releases on its own, open the pressure cooker and check consistency. Add water if required.
- For Tempering, take Desi ghee in a tadka pan. Warm it on slow flame. Add jeera seeds(cumin) . When they start spluttering, add garlic and onions. Saute till they turn pink in colour. Avoid browning as it will spoil the taste. At this stage add chopped green chillies and coriander. Saute for 10 sec only.
- Add this tempering to the prepared dal and close the lid. Open it after 2 to 3 minutes and serve . You can serve it with chapati or rice.

Tips

While making the tempering avoid burning as it will spoil the taste of the Dal.



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TAKING TOO MUCH VITAMIN E CAN CAUSE TOXICITY

Vitamin E is a critical nutrient for the body that can be found in foods like sunflower seeds, nuts, and vegetable oils. It plays an important role in expanding blood vessels to prevent dangerous blood clots.

However, vitamin E is a fat-soluble vitamin, which means it can potentially build up to toxic levels within the body. Here is what you need to know about vitamin E toxicity, including symptoms, causes, and treatment options.

What is vitamin E toxicity?

While eating adequate amounts of vitamin E is important to keep your body running smoothly, it is possible to consume too much, resulting in toxicity. According to the National Institutes of Health, your recommended daily vitamin E intake varies by age.

The upper limit — the largest daily intake considered safe — for adults is 1,100 mg a day.

There are many foods that are rich in vitamin E, so most people with a healthy diet consume enough from food alone. However, some people — like those with diseases that may impact their ability to absorb fat like Crohn's or Celiac — may consider supplements.

Although it's possible to have too much vitamin E in your diet, toxicity most often occurs due to unnecessary or excessive



supplement use.

"If you are taking a vitamin E supplement [and] you don't have a deficiency of vitamin E, high levels can build up in the body and cause toxicity," says Bansari Acharya, RDN, a registered dietitian-nutritionist in Detroit, Michigan.

Signs and symptoms of vitamin E toxicity

Vitamin E toxicity has two stages of symptoms: mild and severe. According to Acharya, mild symptoms of vitamin E toxicity include:

Nausea
Headache
Diarrhea
Abdominal cramps
Fatigue

"If a high dose of vitamin E is taken consistently and routinely, you may quickly experience mild symptoms such as GI distress and headaches," says Acharya. Which symptoms present themselves will vary from person to person, she explains, with some people having one to two symptoms and others experiencing most of them at once.



Why prolonged 'Keto' diet can be deadly for you

As the nation left shocked after the death of actress Mishti Mukherjee due to renal failure as a result of 'Keto diet,' health experts warned that this hardest diet leads to an overload consumption of protein and burdens the kidney function and should not be made a permanent diet schedule.

According to experts, Keto diet is not advisable to be continued for more than six months, that too with breaks during this period.

Parmeet Kaur, the Senior Dietician at Narayana Hospital in Gurugram, told IANS: "Once you start a keto diet, the results start showing up in one week, it works that fast because the body starts using body fat itself to produce more energy than carbohydrates."

"But prolonged intake of fat has the high risk of increasing cholesterol and also high protein puts pressure on kidneys, some Keto diet followers even report low blood pressure as well which in the long run can result in heart diseases as well," Kaur said.

Go for it only if the prime focus is on losing weight and ask a nutritionist first and follow every related precaution.

A recent study from Harvard University in the US had revealed that the ketogenic diet has numerous risks. Kidneys help metabolize protein, and the keto diet may overload them.

It is also associated with an increase in "bad" LDL cholesterol, which is also linked to heart disease.

According to Salil Jain, Director-HOD, Nephrology and Renal Transplant, Fortis Memorial Research Institute in Gurugram, Keto diet is high in fats and proteins and low carbohydrates.

If you consume a lot of these foods, especially red meat, it may lead to a higher risk of forming kidney stones.

"It may also worsen the kidney functioning of those who already have kidney diseases. The theory is that higher intake of animal food products can make your urine more acidic i.e. increase level of excretion of calcium from your urine," Jain said.

There are numerous studies which say that the keto diet may reduce citrate level that's released in your urine. Citrate binds calcium and prevents kidney stone formation. A reduced level of citrate may raise the risk of developing a stone.

Eat eggs to fight iron deficiency, promote weight loss

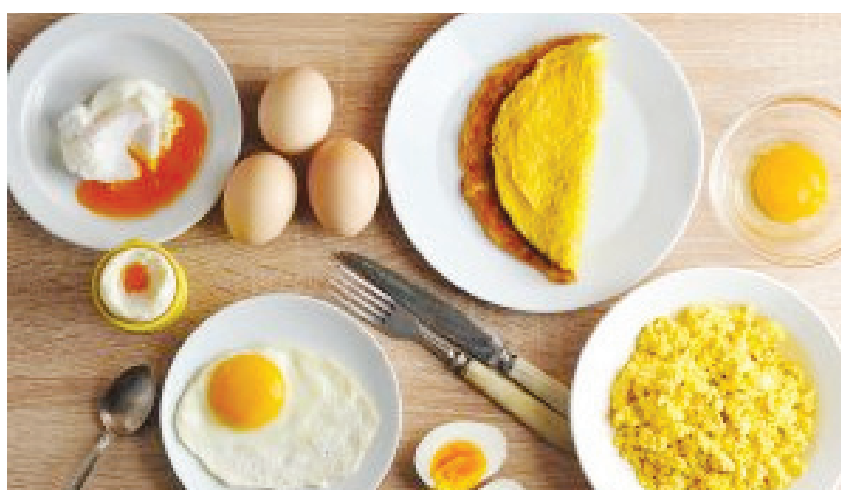
Eggs are among the very few foods you could actually classify as a "superfood", says Dr Rohini Patil, MBBS and founder and nutritionist at Nutrace Lifestyle. She adds that eggs are rich in all sorts of nutrients, many of which are lacking in the modern diet. So, do you consume enough eggs to meet your body's requirements?

A single large boiled egg contains:

Vitamin A – 6 per cent
Vitamin B5 – 7 per cent
Vitamin B12 – 9 per cent
Phosphorus – 9 per cent
Vitamin B2 – 15 per cent
Selenium – 22 per cent

Help improve performance

"Eggs have a high satiety index, which means they make you feel full for long. One big egg supplies 6g of high-quality protein and a huge variety of necessary nutrients, except vitamin C. This is why a fruit or orange juice with egg and whole wheat bread provides the perfect breakfast to perform well in a challenging



environment," Dr Patil told indianexpress.com.

Help meet body's iron requirement

The nutritionist adds that many people with mild deficiency experience vague symptoms of tiredness, headaches and irritability. Iron is a carrier of oxygen in the blood and plays an important role in immunity, energy metabolism and many other functions in the body. "The

room in egg yolk is in the form of heme iron, the most readily absorbable and usable form of iron in food and more absorbable than the form of iron in most supplements," she elucidates.

The nutrients density of eggs makes them a valuable contributor to a nutritious diet. A study among egg vs non-egg consumers revealed that the diets of non-egg consumers were more likely to fall short of vitamin A, E and B12.

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Spotify will now let you to find songs by typing its lyrics

Spotify has finally introduced the much-awaited feature of 'Search by lyrics' feature while scrolling for our favourite music online. This feature is touted to come for both the iOS and Android users and will now enable us to search the music by typing the lyrics, in case, we do not remember the name of any specific song. It often happens with us that while we hum and sing the tune of the music in our minds, we tend to forget the name and then it quite becomes difficult to find the song.

Spotify designer, Lina, took to Twitter and announced that Spotify has shipped something on Android and iOS and that users can now find a song by lyrics. Besides that, the feature is expected to show several results with 'Lyrics Match' label, once all the songs as per the input fed into the search bar appears.

That said, better late than never, Spotify users will be finally having some relief in addition to Apple Music users who are enjoying this feature from the last two years as Apple already introduced 'Search music by lyrics' back in the year of 2018 itself.

Chrome on Android, iOS Will Now Alert You if Your Password Has Been Compromised

Google is bringing improvements to password security and other safety features on Chrome for Android and iOS. The browser will alert you if any of the passwords you've asked it to save have been compromised, and lead you straight to the right 'change password' form. Chrome sends a copy of your username and passwords to Google using a special form of encryption – this lets Google check them against lists of credentials known to be compromised, without deriving your username or password.

The tech giant has added support for a Web standard that allows websites to declare the password change URLs for easy access. The use of this standard will allow Chrome take users directly to the right webpage to change password after alerting that a particular has been compromised in a data leak. Google will also be introducing a few other features in Chrome 86 that is rolling out now, to improve user security. It will also be launching Enhanced Safe Browsing for Android, through which Chrome can protect you against phishing, malware, and other dangerous sites, by sharing real-time data with Google's Safe Browsing Service.

Scientists discover 2 dozen planets suitable for life

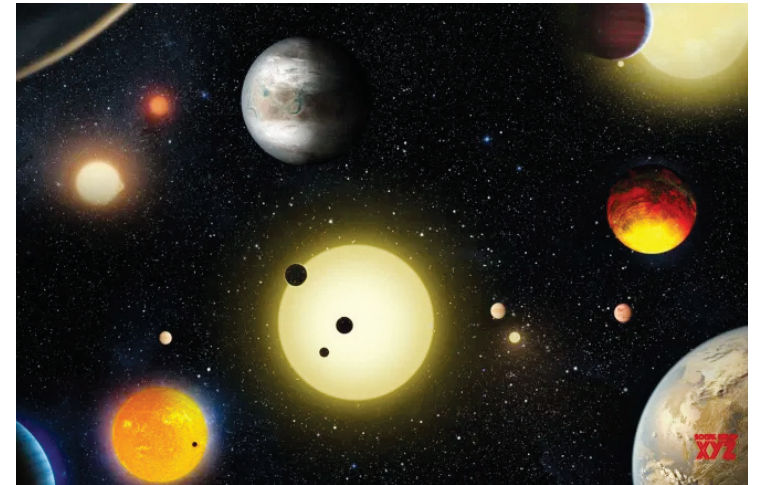
If we thought that Earth is just the perfect planet for human beings to thrive, then we might be wrong as scientists have discovered two-dozen planets that are habitable and perhaps support suitable conditions for the thriving of life forms. The research found out that there are at least 24 Superhabitable planets which may support life better than the Earth.

As per the research conducted by the team led by scientist Dirk Schulze-Makuch of Washington State University and published in the journal *Astrobiology* – researchers have rummaged for the planets which are older, slightly warmer and wetter than the Earth.

In the process, scientists went through observing over 4,500 exoplanets and were able to find out 24 planets based on certain parameters that gave evidences of a conducive environment for life-supporting conditions although no life has yet been confirmed on those planets. Moreover, all these planets are 100 light-years away from the Earth located outside the Solar System.

The scope of life on any planet significantly depends upon the star it orbits. Earth which is 4.5 billion years old, orbits around the Sun that has relatively shorter lifespan of less than 10 billion years while complex life appeared on the Earth only after 4 billion years. The research also suggests that there may be the origin of better life on those planets which are 5 to 8 billion years old and are revolving changing stars with longer lifespan than the Sun at a lower speed.

Scientists further classified these stars into G-stars which have lifespan less than that of 10 billion years and K-stars that are comparatively cooler, dwarf stars with lifespan of 20 to 70 billion years. As a consequence, appearance of complex life may not take place in conducive manner on those planets which are revolving around a G-star as their star may run out of fuel before any substantial form of complex life develops on them. On the contrary, those planets orbiting K-stars may have favourable outcomes pertaining to the appearance of intricate



life processes due to longer lifespan of its star.

In addition, mass of the planet was also one of the promising factors to determine evidence regarding life-formation. The research concluded that the planet which is 10 percent larger than the Earth will be having greater area of habitable land with larger mass and would be able to easily retain its interior heating through radioactive decay. This would, eventually make the gravitational force on the planet much stronger and hence it will be able to retain its atmosphere substantially.

Apart from these, Surface temperature also play a crucial role in indicating any life-supporting evidences as it would decide the formation of water, moisture and clouds. Planets having comparatively 5 degree-Celsius higher temperature than the Earth might be suitable for better conditions of life as overall higher temperature with greater moisture can lead to emanation of diverse forms of life as it is also corroborated by Earth's biodiversity.

How to secure private WhatsApp chats

There has been a lot of debates over user privacy when he/she uses a messaging app like WhatsApp. The leaked chats which have surfaced in the recent past have added fire to the debate as users begin to question the end-to-end encryption feature claimed by the Facebook-owned messaging platform. India is the largest market for WhatsApp and scandals like these may end up in the company losing users' trust as they will lean towards alternatives available in the market.

Reacting to the outrage and growing mistrust among the users, WhatsApp tried to clarify in their statement saying that only the recipient can see the sender's message with end-to-end encryption. On the other hand, it was also revealed that the backup of chats on Google Drive or iCloud is not end-to-end encrypted and hence can be hacked.

However, there is one way through which a WhatsApp user can ensure that the chats are end-to-end encrypted and cannot be hacked into. The app gives the user control over whether he/she wants to back up the chats or not. The app also gives users the option to back up these chats every day, every week, or every month. There is also an option available whether chats get backed up over just WiFi or cellular connection as well.



Here's a simple guide if you feel there is a no need to back up your chats and it is better to keep them end-to-end encrypted at least.

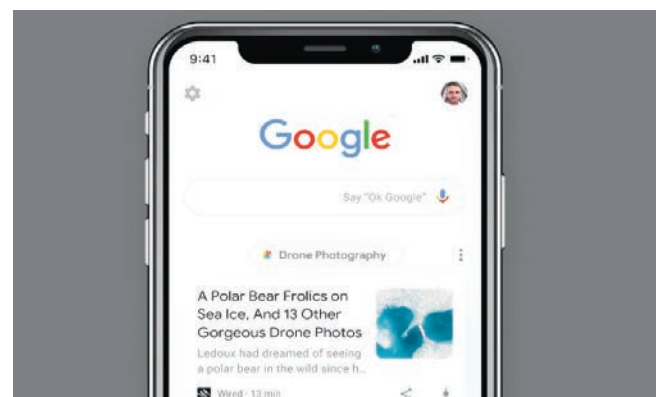
- Open WhatsApp, tap on the three dots in the top right corner and then choose the settings option. On iOS devices, tap on the settings tab visible at the bottom right corner.
- You'll see the 'Back up to Google Drive' option in Android devices. On iOS you'll need to tap on chat options and then select backup.
- There will be five options including 'never', 'Only when I tap "Back up"' and the ones mentioned earlier. You can choose either of the two options to safeguard your chats. On iOS devices, you just need to tap on the 'Auto Backup' option and then turn it off.

Google Discover is soon going to get a Web Stories section

Google in its latest blog post announced that it is bringing all-new visual and immersive Web stories feature to Discover for all the Android and iOS users. As of now, the Web Stories carousel will be available in the US, Brazil, and India which will be going to help in finding some of the best visual content from around the web. Moreover, Google claims, that around the world over 800 million people get benefitted by receiving news and information through the Discover feature.

These visual stories can easily be accessed by browsing them and then tapping the story on the Shelf while a full-screen and immersive experience begins. Meanwhile, you can also move forward to the next page or can swipe to the different carousels. In addition, Google also claims to consistently bring more web stories as usual across Google Search.

The new Web stories feature on Discover will completely enable the creators and publishers to make their own web stories along with monetisation of their posts by using Google's free feature. Along with that, authors of the stories will have full control over hosting, sharing and adding links to their stories. News publishers can seamlessly create these web stories in minutes by visiting stories.google and can use Web Story editor, Makestories, Newsroom AI.





Toyota, Myles in pact for car subscription

Toyota Kirloskar Motor on Thursday, October 8, said it has joined hands with Myles Automotive Technologies to expand its car subscription service for individuals in Delhi NCR, Mumbai, and Bengaluru.

The company also announced steps to provide more convenience to customers with the introduction of shorter subscription periods of 12 and 18 months.

Thus, customers can now choose from flexible subscription tenures of 12, 18, 24, 36 or 48 months and annual running kilometre usage for a fixed monthly rental through Myles, it added.

The monthly rental includes vehicle usage cost, road tax, registration, insurance coverage and maintenance for kilometres opted and 24x7 roadside assistance that will be handled by Myles in association with TKM dealers, it said.

IBM to break up 109-year old company to focus on cloud growth

International Business Machines Corp is splitting itself into two public companies, capping a years-long effort by the world's first big computing firm to diversify away from its legacy businesses to focus on high-margin cloud computing.

IBM will list its IT infrastructure services unit, which provides technical support for 4,600 clients in 115 countries and has a backlog of \$60 billion, as a separate company with a new name by the end of 2021.

The new company will have 90,000 employees and its leadership structure will be decided in a few months, Chief Financial Officer James Kavanaugh told Reuters.

IBM, which currently has more than 352,000 workers, said it expects to record nearly \$5 billion in expenses related to the separation and operational changes.

Investors cheered the surprise move by Chief Executive Officer Arvind Krishna, the key architect behind IBM's \$34 billion acquisition of cloud company Red Hat last year, sending the company's shares up 7%.

"We divested networking back in the '90s, we divested PCs back in the 2000s, we divested semiconductors about five years ago because all of them didn't necessarily play into the integrated value proposition," Krishna said on a call with analysts.

World Bank downgrades India's FY21 GDP forecast, estimates 9.6% contraction

The World Bank has cut India's gross domestic product (GDP) forecast for FY21.

India's GDP for the fiscal started March is expected to contract by 9.6 percent, compared to June estimates of 4.5 percent contraction, it said in its South Asia Economic Focus report released on October 8.

"India's GDP forecast has been revised down since June from a 3.2 percent drop, reflecting the impact of the national lockdown (for COVID-19) and the income shock experienced by households and small urban service firms," it said.

It added that it expects growth to return to 5.4 percent in FY22, assuming COVID-19-related restrictions are completely lifted by 2022, but mostly reflecting base effects.

"The forecast calls for a short-term improvement in current account balances, while capital inflows are forecasted to remain positive in the baseline, barring any unexpected events," it said.

Reasons

Impact of COVID-19, "materialised against a backdrop of (i) enduring fragility in the financial sector, (ii)



slowing overall growth, and (iii) limited fiscal buffers," were listed as reasons by WB.

It noted that government response to the pandemic was "swift and comprehensive" with strict lockdown implemented to contain the health emergency.

It also noted social protection measures taken to mitigate impact on the poorest, and liquidity and regulatory support provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Centre to ensure that businesses could maintain operations.

"Nonetheless, there was a massive

contraction in output and poor and vulnerable households experienced significant social hardship – specifically urban migrants and workers in the informal economy," it observed.

Outlook

There is "substantial uncertainty related to (i) the course and duration of the pandemic, (ii) the speed at which households and firm behavior will adjust to the lifting of lockdowns, and (iii) a possible new round of countercyclical fiscal policy," WB noted, stating that confidence around baseline projections is thus "wide".

"Growth is expected to rebound to 5.4 percent in FY22, but mostly reflecting base effects, while potential output is expected to remain depressed in the medium-term. Inflation is expected remain around the RBI's target range mid-point (4 percent) in the near-term," it added.

Weak activity, domestically and abroad, will depress both imports and exports. Thus, the current account is expected to reach a surplus of 0.7 percent of GDP in FY21 and is projected to gradually return to a deficit in later years, the report stated.

Sensex reclaims 40K mark after 7 months, IT stocks hog limelight

The BSE Sensex rallied for the sixth straight day to reclaim the 40,000-mark on Thursday (October 8), with IT shares hogging the limelight after robust results from TCS indicated that the worst may be over for the software services industry. After soaring over 400 points during the day, the 30-share benchmark ended 303.72 points higher at 40,182.67.

The Sensex has closed above the crucial 40,000-mark after February 25 this year. The Nifty climbed 95.75 points to finish at 11,834.60.

UltraTech Cement topped the Sensex gainers' chart with a jump of 3.24%, followed by TCS, HCL Tech, Infosys, HDFC Bank, Sun Pharma and Tech Mahindra.

India's largest software services firm TCS has reported a 4.9% rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 8,433 crore for the September 2020 quarter, and also announced a share buyback plan of up to Rs 16,000 crore.

On the other hand, ONGC, ITC, Reliance Industries, L&T, PowerGrid and Asian Paints were among the major laggards, shedding up to 2.84%.

RIL came under selling pressure after Amazon.com Inc slapped a legal notice on Future Group over its Rs 24,713 crore asset sale to the Mukesh Ambani-led conglomerate.

Asian markets rise banking on hopes for post-election stimulus in US

Asian markets mostly rose Thursday, October 8, as investors tracked a Wall Street rally, with investors increasingly confident Joe Biden and the Democratic Party will win the presidency and both houses of Congress, paving the way for a huge new stimulus.

Donald Trump's decision to break off talks for a second rescue package gave global traders a massive jolt this week, but his call soon after for targeted help -- including \$1,200 handouts for Americans and help for small businesses -- lifted hopes for some sort of deal.

But analysts said that while the end of the talks came as a blow, there are broad expectations that a new spending bill will be passed at some point as the economic recovery stutters and the coronavirus sees fresh spikes around the world.

"The market realises that whoever wins, more than likely Biden now, there is going to be significant stimulus and additional infrastructure spending," Andy Brenner, head of international fixed income at National Alliance, said in a note.

And the odds on a Biden win are shortening, with opinion polls putting him well ahead nationally and enjoying leads in battleground states such as Florida, where polling website FiveThirtyEight says Trump is losing the crucial senior vote.

A Biden victory and Democrats taking the Senate and House is also being priced into markets, observers said, as traders grow increasingly optimistic for a bigger



rescue plan than what was being discussed before talks were curtailed Tuesday.

The party had initially proposed a stimulus of more than \$3 trillion before lowering it earlier this year.

All three major Wall Street indexes ended with gains of close to two percent.

Brexit talks in focus

Asia mostly followed suit. Tokyo rose one percent, while Sydney, Mumbai, Manila and Taipei added more than one percent. Seoul, Bangkok and Jakarta were also up.

Wellington jumped 1.8 percent after the New Zealand central bank indicated it could unveil fresh economy-boosting measures. The country's dollar sank 0.4 percent against the US dollar on the news. However, Hong Kong fell 0.2 percent after four days of gains, while Singapore was flat.

London, Paris and Frankfurt all enjoyed gains in early trade, while US futures were also healthily higher.

Shree Ganeshaya Namah



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BEJAN DARUWALLA

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Chirag Bejan Daruwalla with his father late Bejan Daruwalla

The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope from the World's most trusted Vedic Astrologer Nastur Bejan Daruwalla.

Weekly Horoscope October 12 to October 18, 2020

ARIES: Ganesha says you rod the crest of achievements and glory and now your attention shifts to the needs of the family. Children will bring happiness and parents, in-laws, extended family, siblings call for your time. It could be a farmhouse, country home or even a quiet corner of seclusion. But you need to get away and be by yourself. You need to think things over as they have all been moving as fast as a Hollywood thriller.

TAURUS: You make big purchases and fill your office and home with works of art. You feel like doing up your place tastefully and that costs money which you don't mind spending. You have new perspectives to life and are faced with a string of possibilities. You have many options and worry which to choose from; this is, of course, a good problem to have. Exert caution against overindulgence and try to maintain a sense of proportion, and balance.

GEMINI: You need to make strong decisions and steer the boat in the right direction. You are energized and enthused to steer full steam direction. The results are spectacular. You win applause and grow in several ways. There will also be happy times with friends and family. You should, once again, watch your temperament closely. Try not to slip into your dark moods.

CANCER: There is substantial growth in the last period. You have reached a point in your life and in your career where what you say is of consequence and you are listened to with care. Your innovative schemes and ideas win many admirers and you also make money. There are meetings, collaborations and all types of expenses too. You spend time with the family and there may be minor hospital expenses. But, once again, luck is on your side and all is well that ends well.

LEO: This is a formidable phase in which you push ahead hard and true. You are all fired up to make inroads and are greeted with success in all your activities. You spend on luxuries like there was no tomorrow; home and wardrobe renovation take a lot of your time. You also make sensible investments and may buy property. There is money to be made on the markets too. It will be in your interest if you can guard against overindulgence in this period.

VIRGO: The bull - run in your life continues. There are new associations and, possibly, steaming sex. You spend large sums on the object of your affections and, for a while at least, lose all balance and sense of direction. You throw caution to the winds and immerse yourself in your pet indulgence. Money and emotions remain in sharp focus this period and you also move up the ladder of success and fame.

LIBRA: There are many possibilities now but it also depends on how you tweak them. This period is full of hope and promise. There may be an end to your struggles and mental confusion or they will just increase and blow up in your face. It depends on you in many and be healthy and more productive or get into needless emotional and psychic dilemmas and drown in their turbid waters.

SCORPIO: Luckily, you are brought back to the real world just in time. Several domestic and work pressures mount and you are pressed to solve them and sort out your affairs. You have the necessary negotiating skills but all this is a waste of time and a detour from what you really want to do which is to ideate. There are expenses and pressures of all types and you are pushed to find answers.

SAGITTARIUS: You continue on the practical plank and settle down to working hard. There are a lot of finer details that need your attention both at home and at work and there is no time for fanciful thinking. There are appraisals at work and several key decisions to be taken if self-employed. Monies will have to be looked into, children's schooling, parents' and spouse's medical issues and several such matters hog your time and attention.

CAPRICORN: You will be relating better to people and will be making several long-term plans. There are indications of travel, and conferences, gathering and conventions to attend. All this will go a long way in bolstering your career. You may get into arguments, altercations and unnecessary disagreements and could lose your temper and say things you would be better off not saying.

AQUARIUS: In many ways, this can be a beautiful period. There will be better health, better prospects and better income, and you will cool off and not enter unnecessary argumentation. You are in love with love and so any person or thing that suits the mood will become the object of your affections. You will pass through moments of heightened emotions and this can be very beautiful if you dare to share it with someone close.

PISCES: You decide to take the family out and have some truly wonderful moments. If intellectually inclined, you do exceptionally well. There will be several visitors and some even from overseas. It is a happy period with no particular accomplishment or achievement but nothing, also, to complain about.

Birthday Horoscope October 12 to October 18, 2020

OCT 12: Ganesha says creativity is amped up, but detail work suffers from wandering attention. An infatuation could I and you astray. Some are assertive but unfocused.

OCT 13: Try to have a positive response to delays and obstacles instead of giving in to defeat. There may be a silver lining to not getting what you wanted

OCT 14: Foresight and sensible planning will

assist you in not only getting past any blockages that are standing in your way, but also in profiting from them.

OCT 15: Changes may feel disruptive, but try to face them with courage and you'll forge a new path. As one door closes, another one opens.

OCT 16: Educational, travel, and legal concerns are favored. Take action with resolve and determination and back it up with skill and

you'll succeed.

OCT 17: Discrimination in love or friendship is lost. Either someone doesn't live up to standards or is idealized. Don't sacrifice too much

OCT 18: Though something puts a damper on friendship, gregariousness eventually returns. Costs or duty may initially stand in the way.

ANNAPURNA: GODDESS OF FOOD AND NOURISHMENT

Annapurna or Annapoorna is an aspect of Devi and is known as Hindu goddess of food and nourishment. Worship and offering of food are highly praised in Hinduism, and therefore, the goddess Annapurna is regarded as a popular deity. She is a manifestation of the goddess Parvati, the consort of Shiva. The Annapurna Sahasranam is dedicated to the goddess and praises her one thousand names, while the Annapurna Shatanama Stotram is dedicated to her 108 names.

A few temples exist that are dedicated to her, the most prominent being the Annapurna Devi Mandir in Varanasi. Since Akshaya Tritiya is considered to be the birth date of the goddess Annapurna, the day is believed to be very auspicious for buying gold jewelry.

Legend

One day, the god Shiva and his consort Parvati got into an argument about the material world. Shiva said that everything materialistic was just an illusion, including the food that the humans ate. This infuriated Parvati, who governs materialistic aspects. To show Shiva and the world her importance, she disappeared, saying that she wanted to see how the world would survive without her.

With Parvati's disappearance, the world was deprived of food, and there occurred a famine. Shiva's followers begged him for food; even the Gods were forced to beg for food, but could not find any food. Finally, Shiva and his followers came to know that there was only one kitchen on earth, in the city of Varanasi (Kashi), where food was still available.

Shiva went to Kashi to beg for food. To his surprise, the kitchen was owned by his wife Parvati, but in the form of Annapurna. She wore celestial purple and brown garments, which were lightly adorned with ornaments. She was seated on a throne, serving and distributed food to the starving gods and hungry inhabitants of the earth. Annapurna offered her food as alms to Shiva and made him realize that as Brahman, Shiva might have outgrown hunger; but his followers had not.

The Agamas (religious texts) describe the iconography of Annapoorna as a youthful goddess having red complexion with a face round like the full moon, three eyes and four hands. The lower left hand is depicted as holding a vessel full of delicious porridge. The right hand with a golden ladle adorned with various jewels. The other two hands depict the Abhaya and Varada poses. She is depicted with wristlets and golden jewelry on her chest. She is seated on a throne with the crescent moon adorning her head.

In some depictions, Shiva is shown



standing to her right with a begging bowl, begging her for alms. Shiva in Annapoorna Stotra described the deity always holding a scripture, akshamala and opener of doors of Moksha in her hands in place of vessel and ladle, indicating his prayer to Annapoorna being spiritual perfection rather than food.

Benefits of Worship

When Mother Annapurna is worshiped, She blesses her children with nourishment beyond the gross material things we desire. She blesses us with the attainment of perfection in wisdom and renunciation.

Before partaking of any meal, a

devotee should offer Her food with this prayer: "Oh Annapurna, you are always full, complete, and perfect. You are the energy of the beloved Lord Shiva. For the attainment of perfection in wisdom and renunciation, please give me your nourishment."

The wisdom Mother gives is the understanding that "Giving" is the true spirituality. She teaches that renunciation will allow us to remain in equanimity in all of life's circumstances.

Holy Places of Worship

The city of Varanasi, also known as Kashi and Benares, is the spiritual capital of India. The presiding deities of Varanasi are Lord Shiva and the Divine

Mother known by the name of Annapurna.

On several occasions, the priests of the Annapurna temple in Benares have invited Shree Maa and Swamiji to worship Mother Annapurna there. They have asked them to bless the temple, the devotees, and the City of Varanasi. The video "Sadhana in the Jyotirlingams," shows Shree Maa and Swamiji performing puja to the Goddess Annapurna in the Annapurna Temple.

Goddess Annapurna is known by a thousand names that are mentioned in the Annapurna Sahashranam. While worshipping her, her devotees call her by the 108 names mentioned in the Annapurna Sahashranam Stotram which is a hymn dedicated to her. The names depict her as a goddess that is complete and perfect with food, strength of Shiva and a giver of nourishment and strength. She is shown as a deity who is beyond Maya (illusion) and is the supreme goddess of the universe. She is the one who takes away all fear and provides welfare and protection.

In order to attain nourishment as well as knowledge, the devotees should recite her names with full devotion and faith. Also before meals, we should recite a prayer to Goddess Annapurna and thank her for providing nourishment and not letting us sleep with an empty stomach.

The most famous temple of Annapurna devi is located in the city of Varanasi. It is situated in Visheshwarganj, 15 meters North-West of the famous Kashi Vishwanath Mandir, 350 meters West of Manikarnika Ghat, 5 kilometres South-East of Varanasi Junction railway station and 4.5 kilometres North-East of Banaras Hindu University. This temple was the place she appeared and offered food to the hungry people. It was constructed in the 18th century by Maratha Peshwa Baji Rao. Annapurna Devi Mandir is constructed in Nagara architecture and has sanctum with large pillared porch which houses the picture of the image of Goddess Annapurna Devi. The temple houses two idols of Goddess Annapurna Devi - one made of gold and other of brass. The brass idol is available for the daily darshana whereas the darshana of the golden idol can only be done once a year i.e. the day before Diwali.



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China joins COVAX coronavirus vaccine alliance

China, which has four coronavirus vaccine candidates in stage 3 clinical trials, said on Friday that it is joining the Covid-19 vaccine alliance known as COVAX.

The country signed an agreement with GAVI, the co-leader of the alliance, on Thursday, China's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. Initially, China did not agree to join the alliance, missing the global deadline to join in September.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said in a statement that "we are taking this concrete step to ensure equitable distribution of vaccines, especially to developing countries, and hope more capable countries will also join and support COVAX." It is not yet clear the exact terms of the agreement and how China will contribute. The country's leader Xi Jinping previously said that China would make the vaccine a global public good.

The alliance is designed so that richer countries agree to buy into potential vaccines and help finance access for poorer ones. The Trump administration in the US had declined to join the alliance.

WHO reports record one-day rise in global coronavirus cases

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported a record one-day increase in global coronavirus cases on Thursday October 8, with the total rising by 338,779 in 24 hours led by a surge of infections in Europe. Europe reported 96,996 new cases, the highest total for the region ever recorded by the WHO. Global deaths rose by 5,514 to a total of 1.05 million.

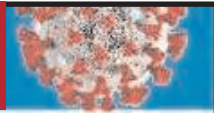
The previous WHO record for new cases was 330,340 on Oct. 2. The agency reported a record 12,393 deaths on April 17. As a region, Europe is now reporting more cases than India, Brazil or the United States.

India reported 78,524 new cases, followed by Brazil at 41,906 and the United States with 38,904 new infections, according to the WHO, whose data lags the daily reports by each country.

According to a Reuters analysis of more recent country data, COVID-19 infections are rising in 54 countries, including surges in Argentina, Canada and much of Europe. Infections in the United Kingdom have reached record levels with over 17,000 new cases reported on Thursday.

"We are seeing a definite and sustained increase in cases and admissions to hospital. The trend is clear; and it is very concerning," said Dr Yvonne Doyle, medical director for Public Health England. France's new daily COVID-19 infections remained above the record 18,000 threshold for the second day on Thursday with new measures to curb the outbreak expected.

TRACKING THE VIRUS



GLOBAL

Cases | Deaths
36,755,338 | **1,066,860**

INDIA

Cases | Deaths
69,06,151 | **1,06,490**

The average number of new infections reported in Belgium has been increasing for seven days straight and Germany reported its biggest daily increase in new cases since April on Thursday. While India still leads in the globe in most new cases reported per day, new infections are down 20% from its peak.

In the United States, which has the largest total number of cases and deaths in the world, new infections are edging higher along with the most hospitalized COVID-19 patients since early September.

WHO awaits China's nod on list of experts to probe origin of coronavirus

The WHO has given Beijing a list of global experts to be part of the international investigation team to be sent to China to probe the origin of the coronavirus and is awaiting its approval, according to a media report on Thursday.

In May, the annual meeting of World Health Assembly (WHA), the decision-making body of the Geneva-based WHO currently headed by India, passed a

unanimous resolution to probe the origin of the virus. China also backed the resolution.

In August, a two-member team from the WHO which visited China completed the groundwork for the probe into the animal source and reservoirs of the COVID-19 which first emerged in Wuhan in December last year and later became a global pandemic, creating the worst health crisis across the world.

On Monday, WHO Health Emergencies Programme Executive Director Mike Ryan told a special meeting of the organisation's executive board that it has selected expert candidates from around the world for the mission and it was now up to Beijing to say who would be on the international team and when they would enter China, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported. "A list of candidates has been submitted to the Chinese authorities for their consideration and for next steps in order to deploy that team," Ryan told the advisory group of member state representatives, without saying when the list was sent.

Europe struggles to stem rapid resurgence of coronavirus

Several mainland European countries have recorded their highest daily number of Covid-19 infections since widespread testing began, as governments struggle to stem a rapid resurgence of the virus that risks overwhelming some healthcare systems.

The figures came as the World Health Organization reported a record one-day increase in global coronavirus cases, with the total rising by 338,779 in 24 hours. The previous record for new cases was 330,340 on 2 October.

As a region, Europe is now reporting more cases than India, Brazil or the United States.

From France to Portugal, Poland to the Netherlands, authorities across the continent are battling spiralling case numbers as contacts have multiplied since the end of strict national lockdowns in the spring and last month's return to schools, workplaces and hospitality venues.

Germany's leading public health body, the Robert Koch Institute, said on Thursday that the virus could start spreading uncontrollably after the number of new infections in the country leapt by almost half overnight to 4,000, a figure not seen since April. There are predictions that new cases could soon exceed 10,000 a day.

The health minister, Jens Spahn, who has won praise for his management of the pandemic so far – Germany has reported significantly fewer cases and a



much lower death rate than most of the rest of Europe – said he was "very concerned", adding that the pandemic was a "character test for us as a society".

The capital, Berlin, and the financial hub of Frankfurt have already imposed a curfew on evening entertainment, and most of Germany's states have agreed that people who live in higher-risk areas should not be allowed to stay in hotels elsewhere.

Days after bars in Paris were closed for a fortnight, tighter restrictions were announced in four more cities as France reported a record 18,746 new infections. The proportion of test results that are

positive has risen to 9.1%, from 4.5% a month ago.

The health minister, Olivier Véran, said Lille, Lyon, Grenoble and Saint-Étienne had joined Marseille and Paris on "maximum alert" and must close gyms, sports centres and bars, although restaurants could remain open. Infection levels in Toulouse and Montpellier were "worrying", and they could be subject to the same restrictions on Monday, he said.

The president, Emmanuel Macron, said: "In places where the virus is spreading too fast, especially among the elderly who are most at risk, and where there are more and more intensive care

beds being occupied, we must proceed to more restrictions." He said the situation would not return to normal for several months.

The Paris regional health agency said on Thursday that 40% of intensive care beds in the capital and surrounding area were occupied by coronavirus patients, and it has told hospitals to put themselves on an emergency footing, mobilising extra doctors and postponing some operations.

"It means that we're going to have a huge wave of cases and we need to throw all our forces into the battle," said the agency's chief, Aurélien Rousseau.

In Spain, the squabbles and mixed messaging that have dogged efforts to tackle the virus in and around Madrid continued on Thursday. The capital and its surrounding area is battling a soaring infection rate of more than 700 cases per 100,000 people, compared with 300 per 100,000 in the rest of Spain, which is the highest national rate in the European Union.

Less than a week after the central government imposed a partial lockdown on the capital and nine nearby towns, a court in Madrid struck down the temporary measures, which had been opposed by the regional government.

Despite the verdict, the regional president, Isabel Díaz Ayuso, urged people to stay in the capital over the busy bank holiday weekend and to follow all the health recommendations.

5 JULY 1946 - OCTOBER 8, 2020

RAM VILAS PASWAN: DALIT LEADER WHO WORE MANY A HAT

In the half century that he spent in the profession, Ram Vilas Paswan came to be known as the weather vane of Indian politics, serving in the Cabinets of six Prime Ministers of all hues, from the United Front government of H.D. Deve Gowda to the BJP-led government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

It was 1968. Paswan, then a 22-year-old, had secured the position of Deputy Superintendent of Police in Bihar, a huge leap for the son of a Dalit farmer, brought up in flood-prone Shaharbanii village, now known as mantri tola thanks to its famous resident, in Khagaria district of Bihar. Should he take the unpredictable life of a legislator or return to being a "Dy.SP", was the question.

His friend Lakshmi Narain Arya said, "Yeh toh aapke upar nirbhar karta hai, aap government ban-na chate hai ya servant ban-na chahte hai." He never joined the police.

It has been a roller coaster ride for Mr. Paswan from the heartland of Bihar to 12 Janpath, sharing the boundary wall with one of the most famous political addresses of the country, UPA president Sonia Gandhi's residence at 10 Janpath.

He was in equal measure a participant and a spectator in the Lutyens power matrix. And he wore many hats — a Dalit leader, a socialist, a liberal and also a political opportunist.

There was no turning back for him after being elected MLA in 1969 from the Samyukta Socialist Party. It is difficult to believe that till he fought his first election, he had no brush with politicians and had not attended a single political rally. It was more of a dare to defeat Congress old-timer Mishri Sada who had been winning the Alauli seat since 1952.

Long record

In the 42 years since, he had been elected to the Lok Sabha eight times barring in 2009. And this year, he returned to Parliament once again for a second stint in the Rajya Sabha.

In 1975, when the Emergency was proclaimed, he was arrested and spent the entire period in jail. On being released in 1977, he became a member of the Janata Party and won the election to the Lok Sabha for the first time on its ticket. He held the world record for winning the election by the highest margin.

In 1989, he first became a Minister handling the Labour portfolio in the V.P. Singh government. His favourite stint was as Railway Minister in 1996 under Mr. Deve Gowda's leadership. He was also part of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, in which he was unceremoniously removed as Communications Minister, an announcement, he often said, that he first heard on TV.

In 2000, Mr. Paswan broke from the Janata Dal to form the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) building up on the Dalit sena that he had formed in 1983. In 2002, after the Godhra riots, he quit the NDA. For a while, he drifted in the political



Ram Vilas Paswan (right) with Lalu Prasad Yadav (left) and Sharad Yadav.

wilderness which lifted when Congress president Sonia Gandhi, a neighbour of many years, walked across to his house to convince him to join the UPA. In the February 2005 Bihar Assembly elections, Paswan's LJP contested the election with the Congress. The results threw up a hung Assembly. The LJP won 29 seats, its highest tally ever in the State. However, Mr. Paswan refused to support either Nitish Kumar or Lalu Prasad. Instead he insisted that a Muslim be made the Chief Minister. The State went to the polls again and Nitish Kumar won.

In 2014, it was his son Chirag Paswan who steered him towards the BJP, a party that he had publicly recoiled from. He was the oldest of three brothers and one sister. He is often called a dynast. He brought his brothers Pashupati Nath Paras and late Ramchandra Paswan into politics. Of the six seats that the LJP won in 2019, three are from his family — Chirag, brother Pashupati Kumar Paras

and nephew Prince Raj.

Condolences pour in

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to Twitter and condoled the LJP leader's demise. In a heartfelt note, he said:

I am saddened beyond words. There is a void in our nation that will perhaps never be filled. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan Ji's demise is a personal loss. I have lost a friend, valued colleague and someone who was extremely passionate to ensure every poor person leads a life of dignity

Similarly, the President tweeted: *In the demise of Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, the nation has lost a visionary leader. He was among the most active and longest-serving members of parliament. He was the voice of the oppressed, and championed the cause of the marginalized.*

Condoling his death, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said he always worked for the welfare of the poor, Dalits and the

Paswan's death will cast a shadow on Bihar elections

A fortnight ago, as Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan was being admitted to a Delhi hospital with multiple complications, he had tweeted that he would stand by any decision his son Chirag Paswan took on Bihar. It was a strong signal from the LJP patriarch that put to rest all speculation about whether he was uneasy over his son Chirag's aggressive posturing against Bihar CM Nitish Kumar.

Ram Vilas Paswan's death in New Delhi on Thursday, days before Bihar votes in the first phase on October 28, will inevitably cast a shadow on the crucial polls, and have a bearing on almost every political move by the key players.

While the BJP has anyway handled Chirag with kid gloves so far even as he has walked out of the NDA in Bihar and openly taken on Nitish Kumar, the NDA's chief ministerial face, with the death of its long-time ally Paswan, the party will be even more cautious about any overt criticism of the LJP.

As for the LJP national president Chirag, who has taken a leap of faith by fighting the elections alone, his father's death leaves him in an extremely delicate position.

Four days before the 74-year-old's death, a senior LJP leader had described the father-son's politics as complementing each other. "Even though he is unwell, the mere presence of Ram Vilasji reassures the Dalit voter, especially the Dusadh (Paswans). He won his first election in 1969. Since then, he has always been a man of the people, making phone calls, keeping old relationships. The way he talked, or carried himself never changed. He is the tallest Paswan leader ever. His son Chirag is the boy who went to Bollywood, but now is creating his own space. He speaks English well, and can pull in the youth and is positioning himself as such. They complement each other," the senior leader had said.

Now, with one pillar of that edifice gone, political leaders in Bihar say there could be consequences for the LJP.

underprivileged.

"The death of Union Minister Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji is very painful for me. In his long political life, he always worked for the welfare of the poor; Dalits and the underprivileged. He was counted among the tallest leaders associated with the soil of Bihar and had good relations with all the parties," Singh said in a tweet.

Expressing condolences to his family members, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the poor-downtrodden lost a strong political voice today. *"The news of the untimely demise of Ram Vilas Paswan ji is sad. The poor-downtrodden lost a strong political voice today. My condolences to his family members,"* he tweeted in Hindi.

IPL 2020

Bairstow, Rashid star in SunRisers Hyderabad 's 69-run win over Kings XI Punjab

Batsmen let the team down, says MS Dhoni

Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni said the batsmen let the team down after a spirited comeback by the bowlers in their Indian Premier League game against Kolkata Knight Riders here.

Chasing 168, veteran opener Shane Watson struck his second successive fifty to give CSK a perfect start on Wednesday, Oct 7, but the team choked at the back end of the innings and was restricted to 157 for five to suffer its fourth defeat in five matches.

"In the middle overs, there was a phase when they bowled two-three good overs. Then we lost two-three wickets in a row. If our batting was different during that period, the result would have been different," Dhoni said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

Earlier, 'Birthday Boy' Dwayne Bravo bowled a perfect final over to finish with figures of 3/37, while the trio of Sam Curran, Shradul Thakur and Karn Sharma claimed two each as CSK bowled KKR out for 167.

"Initially we gave away a few too many with the new ball. Karn (Sharma) did really well. The bowlers did well to bring them down to 160-odd. As a team we should have achieved the target but the batsmen let the bowlers down."

Dhoni promoted himself to No. 4 but was cleaned up by spinner Varun Chakravarthy, while Sam Curran became Andre Russell's victim after a brisk 11-ball 17.

"Rotation of strike is always important. At times we have to judge the deliveries. There were hardly any boundaries in the last three overs.

Hamilton chases F1 record again as Schumacher's son debuts

Lewis Hamilton's bid to match the Formula One win record held by Michael Schumacher is back on, and he could achieve it in Schumacher's home country of Germany. Hamilton was chasing a record-equaling 91st win two weeks ago in Russia before his race was ruined by penalties for breaching an obscure rule on where drivers can practice their starts before the race. His Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas took the win.

That sets the stage for Hamilton to try again in Germany. He'll have to do it in conditions which would have tested even Schumacher, who was nicknamed "Regenmeister" or Rain Master for his talent on wet tracks. Rain is likely on all three days and temperatures on race day may not reach 10 degrees (50 F).

Formula One is back at the Nürburgring, one of the most storied circuits in the series, for the first time since 2013. Officially, the German Grand Prix is on hiatus this year, and this race — a late replacement on the coronavirus-affected calendar — is called the Eifel Grand Prix after a nearby mountain range.

DUBAI (TIP): Jonny Bairstow shone with the bat with a 97-run knock before star leg-spinner Rashid Khan snared three wickets in an impressive bowling display to guide Sunrisers Hyderabad to a comfortable 69-run win over Kings XI Punjab in an IPL match here on Thursday, Oct 8.

Bairstow and captain David Warner (52) took the opposition bowlers to the cleaners with a 160-run opening stand as SRH scored an imposing 201 for six after opting to bat, even though KXIP made a brilliant comeback by taking six wickets in the final five overs.

The England wicketkeeper batsman hit seven fours and six sixes during his 55-ball knock, while Warner consumed 40 balls for his 52 to set up SRH's third win from six matches.

KXIP made amends of their woeful death overs bowling by conceding just 41 runs in the last five overs and taking six wickets in the process with leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (3/29) triggering the collapse but that could not stop SRH from crossing the 200-run mark.

Chasing a stiff target of 202, KXIP were all out for 132 in 16.5 overs to slump to their fifth defeat -- and fourth on the trot -- in six matches to remain at the bottom of the points table.

Rashid Khan was the most impressive SRH bowler as he returned with figures of 3/12 from his four overs.



Only Nicholas Pooran (77 off 37 balls; 5 fours and 7 sixes) gave a fight for KXIP with his maiden half century and the season's fastest fifty -- off just 17 balls. He hit six fours -- three of them on the trot -- to take 28 runs off a hapless Abdul Samad.

KXIP made a disastrous start to their run chase as they lost two wickets inside five overs. In-form Mayank Agarwal (9) was run out in a horrible mix-up with his captain KL Rahul (11) in the second over itself, while Prabhsimran Singh looked

promising for a while but got out for 11.

Rahul played second fiddle to his partners, looking to anchor the innings but he failed in doing that as he was out in the eighth over, hitting straight to the safe hands of Kane Williamson in the deep.

Glenn Maxwell's struggle continued as he was run out for seven, courtesy a brilliant direct throw from Priyam Garg.

Earlier, KXIP bowlers did not have a clue how to break the partnership of Bairstow and Warner till the 15th over.

Solid Kenin beats Kvitova to reach final

PARIS (TIP): American fourth seed Sofia Kenin marched into her second Grand Slam final of the year with a commanding 6-4 7-5 victory against Czech Petra Kvitova at the French Open on Thursday, October 8.

The Australian Open champion, who will face Polish teenager Iga Swiatek on Saturday, was the most aggressive player throughout the match on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Seventh seed Kvitova, in her first semi-final appearance at Roland Garros since 2012, was often forced out of position by her crafty 21-year-old opponent.

Kenin raced into a 4-1 lead as Kvitova showed some nerves after holding her first service game to love and, despite her Czech opponent finally getting into the groove, it was enough for the American to bag the first set.

Twice Wimbledon champion Kvitova lost her serve to fall 3-2 behind in the second before breaking back for 5-5, only to drop serve again.

Kenin did not miss her chance as she served for the match for the second time, seeing it through when Kvitova's cross-court forehand flew wide.

Djokovic survives scare to beat Carreno Busta, to face Tsitsipas in semi-final

World number one Novak Djokovic reached his 10th French Open semi-final but suffered an injury scare before beating Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta 4-6 6-2 6-3 6-4 on Wednesday. A month after being defaulted for inadvertently striking a line judge with a ball while playing Carreno Busta in the U.S. Open fourth round, the 33-year-old Serbian found himself in trouble once again.

This time it was nothing more sinister than apparent physical problems with the top seed wearing tape on the back of his neck and his upper arm requiring treatment. Carreno Busta, who lost in the U.S. Open semi-final after leading Alexander Zverev by two sets, took advantage to win the opening set -- the first conceded by Djokovic in the tournament.

Djokovic looked flat and had to save break points early in the second set before raising his game at the important moment to win the next two sets. Carreno Busta hung on gamely but



Djokovic was superior when it mattered and one break in the fourth was enough to set up a last-four clash with Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas, the Serb's 38th Grand Slam semi-final.

Djokovic's dramatic demise in New York deprived him of a chance to win an 18th Grand Slam title and move to within one of Rafa Nadal's haul and two shy of Roger Federer's men's record. He looked relieved after avoiding another setback against the Spaniard he has found such an awkward customer of late.

"I started this match a bit badly with bad movement. After I found rhythm and confidence," Djokovic said afterwards on Court Philippe Chatrier on another damp and chilly night. "It was important to stay focussed. Many players have said it before me: these four Grand Slams matter the most in tennis history."

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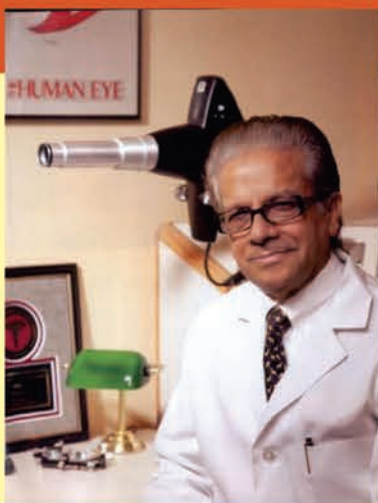
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