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The INDIAN PANORAMA

EVER TRUTHFUL

will bring out a Special Edition on the occasion of Deepavali on Friday, November 13, 2020. Articles and advertisements for the special edition may please be submitted by Nov 10, 2020.

QUICK TAKES

Time for a Healing Touch and Unity - By Prof. Indrajit S Saluja
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WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF TESTS POSITIVE FOR CORONAVIRUS



NEW YORK (TIP): White House chief of staff Mark Meadows has tested positive for coronavirus, according to a CNN report. CNN reports, quoting sources that

Mark Meadows joins a long list of White House officials who got infected with coronavirus

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Biden addresses the nation as he moves steadily closer to victory

Leads in Arizona, Nevada, Georgia and Pennsylvania
Results may take a few days to come

I.S. SALUJA

NEW YORK (TIP): Joe Biden on Friday, November 6 evening maintained his lead over Trump in the battleground States of Georgia and Pennsylvania.

Addressing the nation on Friday, November 6 evening, Biden said, "We're not waiting to get the work done."

As Joe Biden's lead over President Trump continues to grow in states yet to declare a victor, the presidential hopeful said Friday night that while he's waiting for the final election results, he is "not waiting to get the work done" on important issues facing the country.

"Yesterday, Sen. Harris and I held meetings with groups of experts on public health and the economic crisis this country is facing," Biden said. "The pandemic, as you also know, is getting more worrisome all across the country. Cases are skyrocketing."

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Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden speaks on Friday, November 6, in Wilmington, Delaware - Photo / courtesy CNN

Trump campaign loses legal fights in Georgia and Michigan, vows Nevada lawsuit

James Bass, a Superior Court judge in Georgia, said there was 'no evidence' that the ballots in question were invalid



"We think there's going to be a lot of litigation," Trump told reporters on Thursday, November 5, adding that "it's going to end up perhaps in the highest court in the land."

ATLANTA, GA (TIP): President Donald Trump's campaign lost court rulings in the closely contested states of Georgia and Michigan on Thursday, even as it vowed to bring a new lawsuit challenging what it called voting irregularities in Nevada.

In the Georgia case, the campaign alleged that 53 late-arriving ballots were mixed with on-time ballots. In Michigan, it had sought to stop votes from being counted and obtain greater access to the tabulation process.

State judges tossed out both lawsuits on Thursday, November 5. James Bass, a Superior Court judge in Georgia, said there was "no evidence" that the ballots in question were invalid.

In the Michigan case, Judge Cynthia Stephens said: "I have no basis to find that there is a substantial likelihood of success on the merits."

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US poll outcome will not impact ties with India, says MEA

Ties between India and US have witnessed major upswing in last four years

NEW DELHI (TIP): As the world awaits the result of the American presidential election, India on Friday, November 6, said the global strategic partnership between the two countries have a very strong bipartisan support in the US, suggesting that the bilateral ties will not be impacted by the poll outcome.

"We are also awaiting the election results," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said during an online media briefing while replying to questions on impact of US presidential outcome on the Indo-US ties. He asserted that "the comprehensive strategic (Indo-US) partnership has very strong bipartisan support in the US and successive presidents and administrations have raised the level of the relationship even higher." As per latest vote count, Democrat Biden was inching closer to the 270 Electoral College votes required to win the race.



CONTD ON PAGE 2



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CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Biden addresses the nation as he moves steadily closer to victory

It's believed we could see as many as 200,000 cases a day, and the death toll is approaching 240,000 lives lost. 240,000 empty chairs across America."

Biden's speech came as the United States set a new record when it surpassed 125,000 daily coronavirus infections.

"We both know tensions are high," Biden said. "They can be high after a tough election. One like we've had. But we need to remember, we have to remain calm. Patient. Let the process work out as we count all the votes."

Biden exuded confidence as his campaign inches closer to the White House while votes continue to be tallied in key battleground states.

"We don't have a final declaration of victory yet, but the numbers tell us it's clear. We are going to win this race. Just look at what has happened since yesterday. Twenty-four hours we were behind in Georgia, now we're ahead, and we are going to win that state. Twenty-four hours ago we were behind in Pennsylvania, and we are going to win Pennsylvania. And now we are ahead, but we are winning in Arizona, we're winning in Nevada, and in fact our lead just doubled in Nevada. We're on track for over 300 electoral votes, electoral college votes. And look at the national numbers. We're going to win this race with a clear majority, with the nation behind us."

HERE ARE THE LATEST FIGURES AT 11 PM ET ON NOVEMBER 6.

Nevada: Biden leads (632,558) over Trump (609,901).

Georgia: Biden leads (2,456,845) over Trump (2,452,825)

Pennsylvania: Biden leads (3,337,069) over Trump (3,308,192)

Arizona: Biden leads (1,604,067) over Trump (1,574,206)

North Carolina: Trump leads (2,732,782) over Biden (2,656,303).

As of 11 PM ET on November 6, Joe Biden has 253 delegate votes while Donald Trump trails with 213 delegate votes. 270 delegate votes is the magic number for a winner. The current trend favors Biden. It is a matter of days when the unofficial results will be available. The certified results will be available only in early December. (With input from agencies)

Trump campaign loses legal fights in Georgia and Michigan, vows Nevada lawsuit

A Trump campaign spokeswoman did not respond to requests for comment on the Michigan and Georgia rulings. Trump allies also alleged that there had been voting irregularities in Nevada's populous Clark County, which includes Las Vegas.

Votes are still being counted in all three states, among a handful of battleground states that could decide the presidency.

At a news conference in Las Vegas on Thursday, November 5, former Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt and other Trump campaign surrogates, including former administration official Richard Grenell, gave no evidence to support their allegations of irregularities and did not answer questions from reporters. "We believe that there are dead voters that have been counted. We are also confident that there are thousands of people whose votes have been counted that have moved out of Clark County during the pandemic," Laxalt said.

He said a lawsuit would be filed in federal court to ask the

judge to "stop the counting of improper votes". Joe Gloria, an election official in Clark County, told reporters there was no evidence of improper ballots being processed.

'MISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN' :

Bob Bauer, a senior adviser to Biden's campaign, called the various Trump lawsuits a "meritless" distraction and said the strategy was designed to undermine the integrity of the electoral process.

"This is part of a broader misinformation campaign that involves some political theatre. They're intended to give the Trump campaign the opportunity to argue the vote count should stop. It is not going to stop," he told reporters on Thursday.

In Pennsylvania, where Trump is narrowly leading but Biden is gaining, the Trump campaign and other Republicans have already filed various legal challenges.

An appeals court in Pennsylvania on Thursday, November 5, ordered that Trump campaign officials be allowed to more closely observe ballot processing in Philadelphia, which led to a brief delay in the count.

A judge later in the day helped negotiate an agreement that a fixed number of observers from each campaign - up to 60 - could be admitted into parts of the city's ballot-counting area inside the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Pennsylvania Democrats filed papers on Thursday in the US Supreme Court saying that although they would not oppose the Trump campaign's bid to intervene in a pending appeal in which Republicans seek to block late-arriving mail-in ballots in the state, it was premature for the court to act on the motion.

Trump has repeatedly said that he expects the Supreme Court, which has a 6-3 conservative majority including three justices he appointed, to have a key role in determining the outcome.

"We think there's going to be a lot of litigation," Trump told reporters on Thursday, adding that "it's going to end up perhaps in the highest court in the land." But it is unlikely the Supreme Court would have the final word in any decisive way and any challenge would have to make its way through the usual court process, legal experts say. (Source: Reuters)

US poll outcome will not impact ties with India, says MEA

"Indo-US relations rest on strong foundations. Our relations encompass cooperation in every possible sphere, extending from strategic to defense, from investment to trade to people-to-people ties," the spokesperson added.

The ties between India and the US have witnessed a major upswing in the last four years under the Trump administration, particularly in areas of defense and security.

The Trump administration has also been strongly favoring a greater role for India in the Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of rising military assertiveness by China in the region. (Source: PTI)

White House chief of staff tests positive for coronavirus

Meadows told people after the election that he had coronavirus, but it wasn't clear when he first tested positive. He had traveled with President Donald Trump on Sunday, November 1 and Monday, November 2.

He was also at the White House election party on Tuesday, November 3 and came into close contact with members of the President's family.

White House officials are now alarmed, given Meadows has been around other staffers while potentially contagious, reports CNN.

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TIME FOR A HEALING TOUCH AND UNITY



By Prof. Indrajit S Saluja

I am assuming Mr. Biden has won the presidency. Mr. Biden may have to wait a little to be certified a winner; may have to wait a little longer in view of the lawsuits the Trump campaign has filed. But, unless there is a divine intervention on his behalf, Mr. Trump stands a loser.

America has demonstrated to the world that the election system of the greatest democracy in the world is strong and fair. It was indeed a mammoth task to be handling voting and counting of votes which have outnumbered any in the past - a whopping 160 million-, up from 138 million in 2016. My friend Ven Parameswaran who has lived in this country for more than 60 years now, and has been closely studying elections, tells me it is a record percentage since 1900. On top of the numbers handled, the elections have been conducted in all fairness. It speaks of the integrity and efficiency of the huge number of officials involved in the management of elections. They deserve gratitude of the whole nation.

However, there have been some murmurs that all is not right with the election. Well, if at all there is something wrong, it is not with the system or the people working in that system. It is a section of people who, instead of lauding a dynamic system, berate it just because the fairness of system has denied them their cherished dream of winning the election by hook or by crook.

The cries of "stop counting" remind me of the cries of "stop testing" when the rising numbers of coronavirus became a subject of concern for health officials and Americans. Mr. Trump was anguished that tests resulted in throwing up more positive cases of the disease. Similarly, when Trump found the number of votes going up in favor of Biden, he demanded a halt to counting. Between the first shout from him to now, we have seen how the number of votes for Biden have gone up in major battleground States, particularly, Georgia and Pennsylvania, leaving a bewildered Trump wondering where his lead has evaporated. It is all because of mail-in votes which were counted after November 3 in person voting. And, all know, it is the Democrats who preferred to send in their votes by mail. So., there should be no surprise that Joe Biden came from behind and overtook Trump in many States.

While Trump vented his frustration with the system, and threatened to litigate, his rival on the ascendancy, Joe Biden advised calm and patience to Americans, asking them to let the democratic process play out. But we cannot expect such restraint and patience from Mr. Trump, who until the other day, demanded from his base that they chant, not just four years more, but "twelve years more". The egotistical sublime in him is hurt and hurt beyond words.

Not to give in easily, and he has suggested it so often, Mr. Trump must play out all cards available to him even at the cost of the great American nation, the great American people, the great American institutions, including the great American Justices of the Supreme Court who, erroneously he thinks, will do his bidding because they are there because of him. He forgets that God Himself resides within a Judge and guides his / her conscience.

Unfortunately for America, there are always a few around Mr. Trump (many have since distanced themselves from him seeing his imminent defeat, and have been criticized also), who, like Iago in Shakespeare's "OTHELLO" driven by "motiveless malignity" must goad Trump into more crimes, to heap on himself greater insult and ignominy. The world knows them. Only Mr. Trump does not. Alas!

And these people, I am sure, readers know them, are telling Mr. Trump to fight back the "perceived injustice" of the election system, the imagined wrong that the election is being stolen from him, without any evidence, whatsoever. They are not Trump's friends. They have their own agenda which they want to play out. I wish Mr. Trump could understand their designs, show maturity, accept there are always opportunities, and



Joe Biden pledged he will be president of all Americans. His running mate Kamala Harris is seen on the right.

File picture / Courtesy Rebecca Cook-Reuters

bide his time.

And now, I am assuming Mr. Biden has won the presidency. Mr. Biden may have to wait a little to be certified a winner; may have to wait a little longer in view of the lawsuits the Trump campaign has filed. But, unless there is a divine intervention on his behalf, Mr. Trump stands a loser.

Let Mr. Trump accept that Americans preferred Mr. Joe Biden to him. They probably were not satisfied with what he gave them. By the way, in the long history of American democracy, Mr. Trump probably is the 4th sitting president, not to be elected for a second term, according to my friend Ven Parameswaran. Ford who was VP with Nixon, took up presidency after Nixon resigned. Technically, Ford was not an elected President. However, let us count him in. He ran for president but was defeated. Jimmy Carter was not re-elected for a second term. And, then Bush was not elected for a second term, again, according to the information provided by my friend Ven Parameswaran. Mr. Trump has certainly become a part of history.

Mr. Trump should have shown the grace befitting the President of America, as did the Democratic Presidential candidate Al Gore in 2000. Though Al Gore was a clear winner, the Supreme Court accepted the claim of George W. Bush who became the 43rd President of the U.S. Al Gore congratulated Bush, and "offered to meet with him as soon as possible to heal the divisions of the campaign and the contest through which we have passed".

Almost a century and a half ago, Senator Stephen Douglas told Abraham Lincoln, who had just defeated him for the presidency, "Partisan feeling must yield to patriotism. I'm with you, Mr. President, and God bless you". I am glad Joe Biden asked people to be "calm" and "patient" and let the "Democratic process play out". That's being a leader.

President Biden faces a daunting task. He is inheritor of a divided nation. The first task for him will be to unite the people of America. It will not be easy. It is heartening to find Joe Biden pledging to be the President of all Americans. But mere words will not heal and unite. The world will keenly watch how Biden restores the exceptional American spirit of unity and brotherhood which makes America great.

The second important task for Biden is to free Americans of the deadly pandemic which has been raging for months now and has claimed 2.36K American lives. As at the time of writing this comment, America has recorded 9.76 million cases, with 100,000 new cases being reported on a daily basis. The new administration must ensure the virus is contained, and Americans get

back to their normal life.

Still another and immediate task before President Biden is to provide economic relief to millions of people across all walks of life who have been battered by the long spell of the pandemic, rendering them unemployed, and without adequate means to sustain themselves. They need to be rehabilitated. Their dignity needs to be restored, so they take, once again, pride in being Americans.

Yet another immediate issue of concern to President Biden should be providing jobs to millions who have during the months of pandemic lost jobs and have not had enough to support their families., with many benefits having been withdrawn by the Trump administration.

Related to job creation is the question of wages. Even though it is the States which decide on minimum wages to workers in their State, Federal government should take initiative to persuade States to agree on a fair minimum wage, which then should be applicable across the nation. The guarantee of a uniform minimum wage across the nation will allow people to freely migrate to the State of their choice, fulfilling a basic strength of American democracy.

Business and industry are other areas which need immediate attention of the new administration. America must bring back manufacturing to its shores, which alone can create jobs, and give to the nation self-reliance which are the crying needs of the present times.

Nobody can deny that environment is an important part of our existence. Mr. Biden has rightly announced that America under him will immediately rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement, from which Trump had pulled out because he thinks climate change is "a hoax", and may be, because it has President Obama's stamp on it.

November 11 is Veterans Day. It makes me unhappy to think that we do not show the veneration the veterans deserve. They need not only veneration, but also better care. Hope, President Biden will come up with some idea to give the heroes their due.

Related to Veterans are our brave soldiers. It is time to review US engagement in futile conflicts abroad. We must bring back our soldiers who have for long been involved in conflicts which are not ours in any way and serve no legitimate American interests. Let America initiate a new era of world peace and brotherhood of entire human world.

In respect of friends and foes across the world which, in other words, means foreign policy, while there is need to further strengthen ties with friendly countries, including India, there is also an urgent need to have a fresh look at US alliances. The ruptured relationship with NATO countries must immediately be repaired.

In this context, the Trump administration's failures in maintaining decent relationship with the United Nations and countries of the world should not be forgotten. All nations are equal partners in managing the world. They need to be treated with respect. It is the first requirement of civility. And America is a civilized nation.

It is my fervent hope that President Biden will keep his promise to be "the president of all America, and all Americans", and as Senator Stephen Douglas, a century and a half ago said, "Partisan feeling must yield to patriotism". Hope, the US Senate and the US House of Representatives will lend their bipartisan support to President Biden to restore the glory of America as the First and the Greatest Nation in the World.

God bless America!

(The author is Chief Editor of The Indian Panorama. He can be reached at salujajindra@gmail.com)

Indian-Origin Chef in Australia Feeding Needy during the Pandemic



Daman Shrivastav said food is everyone's right and everybody should have access to food and times like these remind him of his own sufferings.

MELBOURNE (TIP): An Indian-origin chef in Australia has been tirelessly working to deliver free food to the homeless and needy people, including international students, ever since the coronavirus pandemic broke out and is now raising funds for a food truck to enable him to deliver meals to them.

Melbourne-based Daman Shrivastav, 54, who grew up in Delhi and made his way to Australia after working in the Middle East for a while in the 1990s, said his drive to feed the homeless is not a new thing for him as he did similar work in Iraq during the Gulf War.

"This pandemic may not be like the Gulf War, but the stories of people trapped inside and scared to go out remain the same. The situation is more or less the same as people have lost jobs and thousands of livelihoods have been affected," he said.

Daman Shrivastav said food is everyone's right and everybody should have access to food and times like these remind him of his own sufferings.

"I have seen poverty. I have been homeless in Australia for a couple of days during my early days here. The feeling, which I had experienced that time, prompted me to take this initiative to reach out to the needy people," he said.

Daman Shrivastav, who had fed hundreds of people for free in Baghdad during the Gulf War, is now doing the same in Melbourne for those who cannot afford to buy their own food amid the pandemic.

He is also feeding international students, many of whom are finding it hard to sustain in an alien country in this time of crisis.

Daman Shrivastav prepares the meals in his humble home kitchen and delivers them around the city in his car.

"I used to cook 150 meals a day in my home kitchen with my wife and daughter when the pandemic broke out and distributed them to the homeless in my car," he said.

However, with the information about his initiative now spreading fast through media and word-of-mouth, Daman Shrivastav said he is getting a lot of support from the locals who want to join the cause.

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

Indian-Origin Priyanca Radhakrishnan Elected as New Zealand's First - Ever Indian- Origin Minister

NEW ZEALAND (TIP): Priyanca Radhakrishnan, who on Monday became New Zealand's first-ever Indian-origin minister, has been receiving a large number of congratulatory messages on social media. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan is one of the many leaders who've praised her after her big career leap.

The 41-year-old is a member of the Labour Party, "which has its roots in Kerala," Mr Vijayan said in a tweet today. "It gives us immense happiness to learn that Priyanca Radhakrishnan (@priyancanzlp) became the first-ever Indian-origin minister of New Zealand. The Labour party leader has her roots in Kerala. On behalf of the people of the State, we extend our warmest greetings. (sic)," he said a tweet.

Congress leader and Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor, in his congratulatory message on Twitter, shared a report that said Ms Radhakrishnan is from Paravoor in Ernakulam. "Congratulations to @priyancanzlp on becoming the first New Zealand Cabinet Minister of Indian



Priyanca Radhakrishnan has been appointed as the minister for the community and voluntary sector, minister for diversity, inclusion and ethnic communities, minister for youth and associate minister for social development and employment.

origin. Keralites taking great pride in this news! (sic)," Mr Tharoor tweeted.

Weeks after her re-election and a landslide win, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden on Monday appointed Ms Radhakrishnan and four other new ministers.

The Indian-Origin leader has been appointed as the minister for the community and voluntary sector, minister for diversity, inclusion and ethnic communities, minister for youth and associate minister for social

development and employment.

Calling it an "incredibly special day", Ms Radhakrishnan yesterday said in a Facebook post: "I'm feeling a lot of things including an overwhelming sense of privilege to become part of our government. Huge thanks to everyone who has taken the time to message / call / text congratulatory messages- thank you all. Humbled to be appointed a minister and I'm looking forward to working with an incredible line up of ministerial and caucus colleagues this term. (sic)."

Today has been an incredibly special day. I'm feeling a lot of things including an overwhelming sense of privilege to...

Posted by Priyanca Radhakrishnan MP on Monday, 2 November 2020

Ms Radhakrishnan has spent her work life advocating on behalf of people whose voices are often unheard - women survivors of domestic violence, and migrant workers who have been exploited, news agency PTI reported.

Priyanca Radhakrishnan was elected first as a Member of Parliament belonging to the Labour Party in September 2017. She will be sworn in on Friday.

Indian- Origin British Expert on Mission to Fix Diversity Gap for Women in Finance

NIRPAL SINGH SHERGILL IN LONDON

LONDON (TIP): A British-Indian financial expert, recently honored in the Queen's Birthday Honors List for her work in the field of inclusion and diversity, says she is on a mission to fix the diversity gap within the financial services sector, especially for women.

Dr Bijna Kotak Dasani, an Executive Director at global investment bank Morgan Stanley, was awarded an MBE by Queen Elizabeth II for "Services to Diversity and Inclusion in Financial Services" last month.

She now wants to make use of that platform to support women in India as she advocates the upskilling of women in the financial services workforce.

"This fix in the diversity gap needs to be a firm partnership between both men and women and the shared responsibility discussion needs to extend beyond the boardroom and into the home environment," said Dasani.

"My primary focus is on promoting women into senior roles and I will be extending mentoring capabilities to India with a focus on helping as many young women as possible thrive and progress in their career trajectories," she said.

The UK-based professional graduated from De Montfort University (DMU) in Leicester with a degree in Business Administration and went on to study at the University of Oxford, where her



Dr Bijna Kotak Dasani, an Executive Director at global investment bank Morgan Stanley, was awarded an MBE by Queen Elizabeth II for "Services to Diversity and Inclusion in Financial Services" last month.

postgraduate thesis examined gender parity in the C-suite within the UK financial services sector.

Since completing her studies, Dasani has become a strong advocate for equal opportunities in the workplace and serves on numerous boards, including the Inclusive Companies Network, Generation Success, CIO Net, Fintech Connect and Cajigo.

She said: "My mother as a single parent raised three children whilst working full-time in financial services and the working world was very different then. We have relatively new layers of awareness, protocols and policies in the corporate world today to accommodate and support flexible working arrangements and equal opportunities.

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

Indian Americans make a splash in yet another election cycle

NEW YORK (TIP): Besides the four member 'Samosa Caucus' of Indian American lawmakers re-elected to the US House of Representatives, over a dozen others, including five women have won state level elections



Jennifer Rajkumar became the first South Asian woman elected to the New York state assembly defeating her Republican rival Giovanni Perna - Twitter Image

scoring a few firsts for the community.

Among the five women, Democrat lawyer Jenifer Rajkumar, 38, became the first South Asian woman elected to the New York state assembly defeating her Republican rival Giovanni Perna.

Rajkumar, a Stanford-educated lawyer and an immigrant rights advocate, is a professor at the City University of New York. She has previously served as the Director of Immigration Affairs and Special Counsel for New York state.

Democrat Kesha Ram, who served in the Vermont House of Representatives from 2009 to 2016, became the first woman of color elected to the Vermont State Senate.

Daughter of a Punjabi from India, she was one of the youngest ever to be elected to State Assembly at the age of 21.

contd on page 12

Four Democratic Indian American Lawmakers of "Samosa Caucus" Re-Elected to US House of Representatives



Dr Ami Bera, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ro Khanna and Pramila Jayapal have been re-elected to the US House of Representatives

WASHINGTON (TIP): In an impressive show, all the four Indian American Democratic lawmakers - Dr Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna and Raja Krishnamoorthi - have been re-elected to the US House of Representatives.

The Indian American community has emerged as a force to reckon with for the first time in the history of the US presidential election. Both the Democrat and the Republican campaigns had initiated several measures to woo the

approximately 1.8 million members of the community who have emerged as a critical voting bloc in the battleground states of Florida, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

The 'Samosa caucus' currently comprises five Indian American lawmakers, including the four members of the House of Representatives and Senator and Democratic vice-presidential nominee Kamala Harris, 56.

Raja Krishnamoorthi, 47, easily defeated Preston Nelson, 30, of the Libertarian Party. When last reports came in, he had accounted for nearly 71 per cent of the total votes counted.

Ro Khanna, 44, easily defeated fellow Indian-American Ritesh Tandon, 48, of the Republican Party with a margin of more than 50 percentage points. This was his third-consecutive win from the 17th Congressional district of California.

Dr Ami Bera, 55, the senior most member of the 'Samosa Caucus', won the seventh Congressional District of California for the fifth consecutive term. When the last report came in, he had established an inaccessible lead by more than 25 percentage points against his Republican rival 65-year-old Buzz Patterson.

The House of Representatives is the lower house of the US Congress, with the Senate being the upper house.

First Indian American Ohio state senator is Niraj Antani



Niraj Antani has been elected as Ohio's first Indian-American state senator

COLUMBUS, OH (TIP): Republican Niraj Antani, who in 2014 became the youngest member of the Ohio state house, made history again on Tuesday, November 3, by being elected as Ohio's first Indian-American state senator.

Antani defeated Democrat Mark Fogel in the senate's sixth district, which encompasses most of Montgomery county of the state with an Indian American population of over 87,000.

"I am so grateful for the continued support of this community in which I was born and raised," said Antani, 29, currently serving his third term in the Ohio House. "My grandparents lived much of their life under British rule in India, only gaining their freedom seven decades ago," he recalled. "That it is possible for their grandson to be elected as Ohio's first Indian American State Senator is a testament to America's beauty." "I thank the voters for entrusting in me with this sacred honor, to be their voice at the Statehouse," Antani said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-American Republican candidate Rik Mehta loses New Jersey Senate election



Indian-American Republican candidate Rik Mehta lost his New Jersey Senate election bid to Democratic incumbent Senator Cory Booker. Mehta garnered 37.9 per cent of the votes at 1,071,726, while Booker got 60.6 per cent with 1,714,375 votes in the November 3 election.

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): In July, Mehta had become the first Indian-American to win the Republican primary for the Senate seat from the US state of New Jersey. Mehta, a former US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) official, had defeated his nearest rival Hirsh Singh, also an Indian-American, by a margin of approximately 13,743 votes in the Republican primaries held in July. Mehta is a biotech entrepreneur, innovator, healthcare policy expert and a licensed pharmacist and attorney. "As a small business owner and a first generation American, he's a staunch advocate for defending our Constitutional rights, fighting against illegal immigration and Sanctuary Cities, an affordable, accessible healthcare system that's built for generations to come, and building New Jersey's economy for the future," his profile said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American lawyer becomes first South Asian woman to be elected to New York State Assembly



Jenifer Rajkumar has become the first South Asian Woman elected to NY State Assembly

NEW YORK (TIP) : A 38-year-old Indian-American lawyer has become the first South Asian woman to be elected to the New York State Assembly. Jenifer Rajkumar, a Democrat, defeated her Republican rival Giovanni Perna.

"Congratulations to @JeniferRajkumar on

becoming the first South Asian woman elected to NY state office! Jenifer is a longtime public servant and legal advocate, and we know she'll be a strong advocate for South Asian voices in Albany," the Indian American Impact Fund tweeted on Wednesday.

Rajkumar, a Stanford-educated lawyer and an immigrant rights advocate, will represent New York City in the New York State Assembly, representing the 38th Assembly district, which includes Woodhaven, Ridgewood, Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and Glendale.

The New York State Assembly is the lower house of the NY state legislature, the state Senate being the upper house. There are 150 seats in the Assembly. Assembly members serve two-year terms without term limits.

Rajkumar is a lawyer and a professor at the City University of New York. She is also a former New York state government official. According to her profile on her website, Rajkumar has early roots in public service. Her parents immigrated to the United States from India and settled in the Queens neighborhood of New York.

She serves on the Legal Advisory Council of Sanctuary for Families, New York City's leading service provider and advocate for survivors of domestic violence, sex trafficking, and related forms of gender violence. She has spoken on public interest law and policy at Stanford Law School, CUNY Law School and Harvard Law School.

In 2015 and 2016, Rajkumar was selected to Super Lawyers' New York-Metro Rising Stars List, a recognition given to no more than 2.5 per cent of the lawyers in New York. Her profile said New York Governor Andrew Cuomo had appointed her as the Director of Immigration Affairs and Special Counsel for New York state.

Indian-Origin Millionaire Shri Thanedar Elected to Michigan State Legislature

HOUSTON (TIP): Shri Thanedar, an Indian-origin millionaire businessman who ran for Governor two years ago, has been elected to the House of Representatives in Michigan with 93 per cent votes.



Shri Thanedar has been elected to the House of Representatives in Michigan with 93 per cent votes.

Mr Thanedar, 65, also a scientist, raised a record-breaking USD 438,620, primarily from his own wealth, in the state House primary against six other opponents of the Democratic Party.

The former gubernatorial hopeful cashed in on his high name familiarity after he moved from Ann Arbor to Detroit after losing the 2018 primary. His campaign two years ago featured a heavy dose of "Shri for We" television ads.

He won from the 3rd District of Michigan with 93 per cent of the total votes.

Mr Thanedar had spent almost USD 10 million of his own fortune to finish third behind Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Abdul El Sayed in the 2018 gubernatorial primary, but he won the most votes in Detroit.

Originally from Karnataka's Belgaum, he earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry at 18 and master's degree from University of Bombay. Later, he migrated to the US in 1979 to pursue higher studies from University of Akron and later University of Michigan.

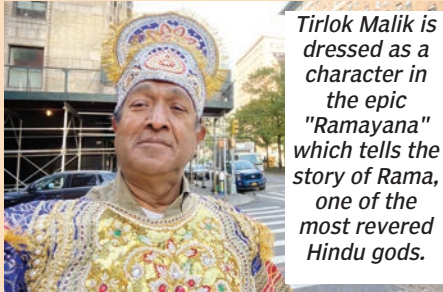
Mr Thanedar told the media in a recent interview that he began campaigning last fall prior to the pandemic and has spent time during the outbreak passing out masks, hand sanitizer and door knockers.

He said that he wants to tackle a long list of challenges plaguing his district, including blight, water shutoffs, foreclosures, crime and unemployment.

"I'm seeing people have no hope. Conditions are really bad and nothing has changed in years. People are disenfranchised. I've slept and ate on the floor, with no running water," Mr Thanedar said, referring to his upbringing in India.

"I understand the pain of poverty," he said.

Tirloak Malik finds a novel way to transmit his message of peace and universal brotherhood



Tirloak Malik is dressed as a character in the epic "Ramayana" which tells the story of Rama, one of the most revered Hindu gods.

NEW YORK (TIP): Emmy nominated Filmmaker, Actor and Happy Life yoga speaker Tirloak Malik went to cast his vote in the US election 2020, in Manhattan New York dressed as a character from Indian Epic Ramayana wishing and inviting everyone to join in prayers for health, peace, and prosperity for the world and America.

His message of Ramrajya- just governance- was well conveyed. He said, "It may be a wishful prayer but why not have HOPE, especially while we are living in Covid -19 times. Because of his unique attire, he drew a lot of attention, with some people walking up to him to know about his dress and what it conveyed.

Sudhir Vaishnav is appointed Director of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, USA

NEW YORK (TIP): Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan is a well-known staple as an institution of Indian Culture, dedicated to promoting and preserving the art, culture and heritage of India. Bhavan was founded 81 years ago by Dr. KM Munshi Ji, with the support of Mahatma Gandhi Ji and Shri Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. It has established 119 centers in India and 7 centers abroad, alongside 367 constituent institutions. Its honorary members list includes HHThe Dalai Lama, HRH The Prince of Wales Prince Charles, JRD Tata, Mother Teresa, past presidents of India, renowned business leaders, and other prominent dignitaries.

The US chapter, founded in 1981 with PadmaShri Dr.P. Jayraman as its first Executive Director, is based in Manhattan, New York, and has been instrumental in pioneering & showcasing the best of India's culture and arts in the US. The New York center offers various classes in Indian dances & languages and hosts seminars & entertainment events at prestigious venues. Mr. Deepak Dave, a dedicated Bhavanite, was the Executive Director from the year 2008 through 2020.

The US and India-based Board of Directors unanimously appointed Mr. Sudhir Vaishnav as its new Executive Director to oversee and manage the



Bhavan's activities in the USA.

"I am really humbled and honored to serve such a prestigious institution as its Executive Director and will try to live up to the Board's expectations in trusting me to promote Indian culture. My whole family has been associated with BVB since its inception in 1981," said Mr. Vaishnav. The Bhavan's current US Board of Directors consists of the "who's who" of the South Asian community.

"We are delighted that Mr. Vaishnav has accepted the challenge to take the Bhavan to even greater heights," stated Dr. Navin Mehta, the Chairman of BVB, USA.

"His community involvement for the

past 40+ years with various organizations will help the Bhavan in reaching its lofty ideals," said Chairman Emeritus Padma Shri Dr. H R Shah.

Vice Chairman Mr. Kenny Desai said, "Sudhir Bhai's expertise in bringing the best of South Asian entertainment and event planning will enhance the Bhavan's fund raising activities." The other eminent community leaders who are part of the US Board are Dr. Bhupendra (Bhupi) Patel, Mr. Harish Mistry, Dr. Parveen Chopra, Mr. Yakub Matthew, Mr. Ravi Iyer, Ms. Riddhi Gandhi, & Ms. Megha Bhouraskar. Ms. Swati Vaishnav has resigned from the Board of Directors, but she will continue to serve the Bhavan as the Director of Cultural Affairs. Mr. Minesh Patel was appointed as the Operations Manager for Office Administration.

The Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, USA is planning several events starting next year, including celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Any cultural organization is supported by membership and we are reaching out to the community and the Bhavan's Alumni for membership and a fundraising drive. The Bhavan is a nonprofit cultural and educational organization incorporated under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. (Press Release)



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Trump faces tough road in getting Supreme Court to intervene

NEW YORK (TIP): President Donald Trump has repeatedly said there's one place he wants to determine the outcome of the presidential election: the US Supreme Court. But he may have a difficult time ever getting there, an AP report says.

Over the last two days, Trump has leaned into the idea that the high court should get involved in the election as it did in 2000. Then, the court effectively settled the contested election for President George W Bush in a 5-4 decision that split the court's liberals and conservatives.

Today, six members of the court are conservatives, including three nominated by Trump. But the outcome of this year's election seemed to be shaping up very differently from 2000, when Florida's electoral votes delivered the presidency to George W Bush.

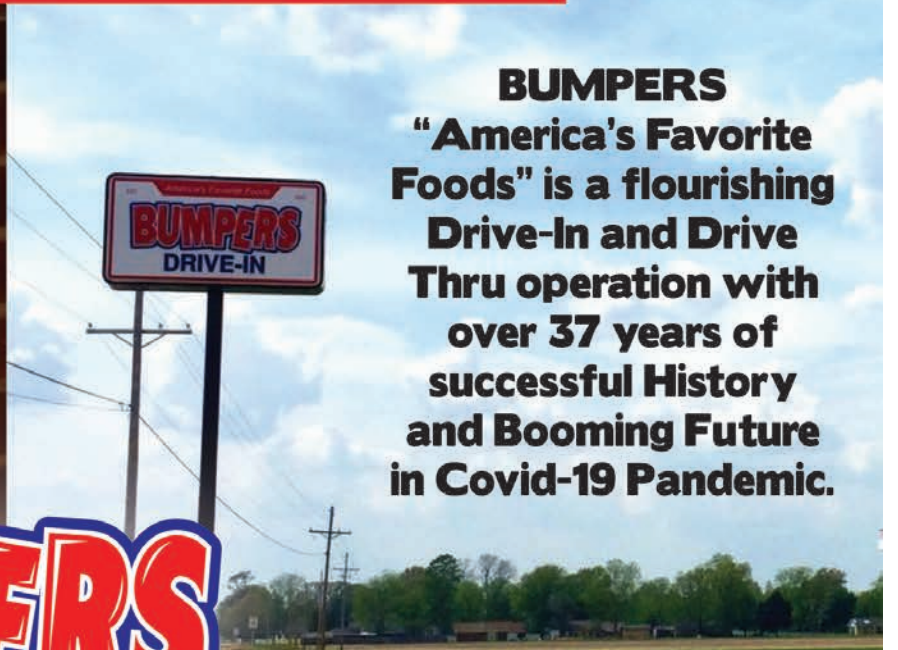
Then, Bush led in Florida and went to court to stop a recount. Trump, for

his part, has suggested a strategy that would focus on multiple states where the winning margins appear to be slim. But he might have to persuade the Supreme Court to set aside votes in two or more states to prevent Joe Biden from becoming president.

Chief Justice John Roberts, for his part, is not likely to want the election to come down to himself and his colleagues. Roberts, who was not on the court for Bush v Gore in 2000 but was a lawyer for Bush, has often tried to distance the court from the political branches of government and the politics he thinks could hurt the court's reputation.

It's also not clear what legal issues might cause the justices to step in. Trump has made repeated, unsubstantiated claims of election fraud. Lawsuits filed by his campaign so far have been small-scale efforts unlikely to affect many votes and some already have been dismissed.

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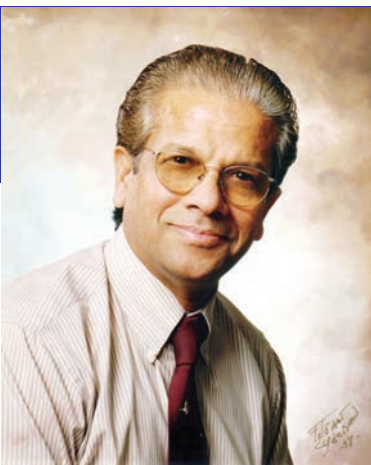


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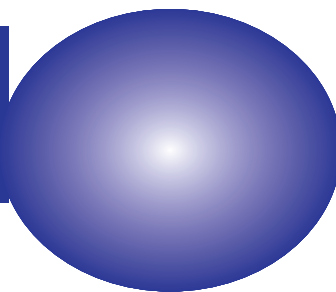


CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE

Dr. VK Raju and Dr. Leela Raju of the Eye Foundation of America will be glad to answer any eye related concerns of the readers of The Indian Panorama during this difficult period of Coronavirus onslaught



DR. VK RAJU IS A CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AT WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY



DR. LEELA RAJU IS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AT NYU LANGONE MEDICAL CENTER



They can be reached at eyefoundationofamerica.org@gmail.com

AS I SEE IT

CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS

ISLAM, MORE THAN ANY OTHER RELIGION, SMELLS APOSTASY IN REJECTION OF ITS BELIEFS



By Julio Ribeiro

The French have always been irreverent about anything to do with religion. Perhaps this almost national attitude to God and God's attributes was a fallout of the French Revolution. It is not surprising, therefore, that French President Emmanuel Macron made an off-the-cuff statement that conveyed to the Islamic world that the French government would uphold the right of its citizens to dabble in cartoons of the Prophet.

The issue arose because of the beheading of a Paris schoolteacher who had shown the cartoons drawn in a popular French magazine, Charlie Hebdo, a publication that specializes in political satire, to his pupils in a classroom. Ordinary Muslims take umbrage to the depiction of their Prophet in picture form. Cartoons, of course, are the worst form of picture depictions since the artist intends to draw wry humor which fragile minds cannot stomach.

More than any other religion in our universe, Islam smells apostasy and insult in any rejection of its beliefs, however casual the intent of the culprit. In Muslim nations, the apostate would be put to the sword. In non-Muslim countries like France, the violent reactions of true believers would send out messages of dire consequences. The beheadings in Paris and Nice and the stabbings in the latter city were the responses of extremists who really believe that violent revenge would win them grace in heaven!

What brought me cause for joy and hope was a body of local believers calling themselves 'Muslims for Secular Democracy', led by my friend Javed Anand, husband of an even bigger friend, Teesta Setalvad, who in castigating the beheading of the teacher, Samuel Paty, made secular liberals exult. Here, at last, was a group of moderate and sensible Muslims that knows that no religion and no God will condone the brutality of murder and mayhem.

The very next day, to the consternation of the same secular liberals, thousands of Muslim protesters took to the streets of our cities, condemning France and its President for standing up to the legal rights of its citizens! Cinema houses in France and other countries of Europe have often screened films debunking some core beliefs of Christians regarding Jesus Christ, while hardcore Christians protested peacefully outside. Peaceful protests are par for the course in mature democracies.

France enforces strict segregation of the Church from the State. In its schools, religious symbols like



Far gone: The problem with jihadi terrorism is that it transcends boundaries and even geographies.

crucifixes are not displayed. They are, in fact, not permitted. In many Christian lands, the crucifix is prominently displayed above hospital beds - but not in France or the Nordic countries which pride themselves on their secularism.

In his seminal work, The Clash of Civilizations, political scientist-cum-writer Samuel Huntington had predicted that the North-South divide between democracy and communism would be replaced by the East-West divide between the more populous but economically backward Muslim countries of the East and the established Christian-led economies of the West. The Islamic concept of a caliphate led to the establishment of the ISIS which tried to conquer lands and cities with economies based on oil revenues in Syria and Iraq and actually controlled vast territories in those lands for a decade. It established its capital in the Syrian city of Rakka, then under its control.

A French journalist named Anna Erelle went undercover to befriend an Algerian-descended ISIS emir or captain of French nationality. Her book Undercover Jihadi Bride gives a fair account of the murders and beheadings ordered by ISIS forces in and around Rakka in the decade before the organization was ousted from the Middle East and its caliph killed by the joint forces of Syria, Russia and the US.

The depredations linked to the ISIS should caution like-minded Islamic jihadist adventurers from dreaming of the unattainable! But they continue to dream and to feed on promises of rewards in the after-life made to them by semi-literate mullahs. Lacking secular education and skills to compete in a secular environment, they fall back on antiquated religious practices that can only lead them to despair and from

More than any other religion in our universe, Islam smells apostasy and insult in any rejection of its beliefs, however casual the intent of the culprit. In Muslim nations, the apostate would be put to the sword. In non-Muslim countries like France, the violent reactions of true believers would send out messages of dire consequences. The beheadings in Paris and Nice and the stabbings in the latter city were the responses of extremists who really believe that violent revenge would win them grace in heaven!

despair to crime and from crime to destruction.

Candidates to avenge perceived wrongs are never wanting. I have seen this in the Khalistani terrorist scene in Punjab. The emotional chord is one that is easily touched. It leads soldiers of terror to self-destruct sooner or later.

The problem with jihadi terrorism is that it transcends boundaries and even geographies. The ISIS and the Al-Qaida attracted recruits from all over the Islamic world. The 'ummah', the brotherhood, provided the cannon fodder from among the gullible who were fired by visions of Islamic rule in the world, with the Sharia law dictating how men must pray and dress and eat and how women should be treated.

In India, extreme elements of the Hindu right were disgusted with the terror strikes by jihadists in a land that had been populated from times immemorial by the Indo-Aryans and the people they had conquered but later assimilated into Aryan society at lower graded levels. These disgruntled elements decided to take matters in their own hands and give a befitting reply to their tormentors. But they went about the riposte in a very amateurish manner, with the result that they were soon discovered and put out of commission.

The moral of the story is that the call to arms by extremist elements of any religious persuasion will be answered by disgruntled young men who have smelt insult to their religion and its culture. But those who answer the call will soon repent because those who want to live peaceful and conventional lives outnumber them by wide and convincing margins.

(The author is a former Indian Police Services Officer)

(Source: The Tribune, India)

GUEST COMMENT

NEW DAWN: ON JOE BIDEN

Biden brings hope, but Trump's regressive politics will certainly outlast his time

After trailing but steadily closing the gap since Election Day, Democrat and former Vice-President Joe Biden has seized the lead in the Republican-leaning swing State of Georgia, and in Pennsylvania, and winning them would guarantee his victory in the 2020 U.S. presidential election. Mr. Biden is now poised to garner more than 270 votes in the Electoral College, with leads in Georgia, Pennsylvania, Nevada and Arizona, and wins in any two of them or in Pennsylvania alone should be enough. However, an obstacle in his path to the Oval Office comes from the scattershot legal action by the Trump campaign to stop the counting of votes after polls

closed, on the unfounded allegation that mail-in votes were subject to large-scale fraud. Mr. Biden is also firmly on track to win the popular vote decisively, having secured more than a whopping 73 million, a fact that Democrats will no doubt seize upon in the days ahead to underscore the legitimacy of their potential mandate to govern. The nail-biting denouement of the contest belied earlier hopes on both sides for a landslide victory, with the fiercest contests playing out in the swing States of the Rust Belt, including Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, and, further afield, Arizona, Florida, and Nevada. Under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, a historically

unprecedented surge in mail-in voting contributed to a high overall turnout, likely in excess of 68%.

In normal times, and with a predictable predecessor, Mr. Biden may have relished the prospect of preparing to enter office in January 2021. Yet the pandemic and the legacy of Mr. Trump's administration imply that, should he win, Mr. Biden will have to make plans on an emergency footing, not only in the realms of health care and macroeconomic policy but also in terms of healing the painful divisions that have led to the emergence of two Americas, with radically divergent views on everything from tolerating pluralism to embracing globalization. On COVID-19, the U.S. will soon touch a grim milestone - 10 million cases; more than 230,000 fatalities have been recorded. This makes it imperative that the next President of the country

respects science and advocates the use of masks, social distancing, and lockdowns. Similarly, experts concur that the pandemic-induced tailspin of the U.S. economy will need a pragmatic and bold fiscal policy, not fear mongering tweets denigrating immigrants. Finally, it is likely that "Trumpism" - which includes not only dog-whistles to white supremacists, retrograde views on women's reproductive rights and an instinct to pander to unhinged nativism, but also concern for economically disenfranchised working-class Americans - will certainly outlast Mr. Trump's time at the White House. If the U.S. is to have a hope of holding onto its superpower status, the mammoth task of bridge-building across the bitter polarization of the partisan divide must be the highest priority for the 46th President. (The Hindu)

Political takeaways from the Bihar campaign



By Seema Chishti

Bihar's Champaran farmlands served as the brewing fields for Gandhi's ruminations and eventual journey to a Mahatma more than a century ago. Later, the State was quick to catch the sparks off Gujarat's student revolt and lend the anti-Emergency movement the fury that was to become a prairie fire which consumed the invincible Indira Gandhi. Bihar is renowned for its intangible political energy, equations and trends that have gone on to shape India's political firmament.

Throwbacks to the past

The final election results notwithstanding, not that the voters' mandate is sacrosanct - consider Goa, Manipur, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh - the election campaign has provided important political takeaways. Like all elections in the last six years, including the municipal polls in the capital in 2017, Narendra Modi has campaigned with admirable energy and dedication in Bihar. The Prime Minister's campaigning is an opportunity to peep into his vision and priorities for the people of the State and the country.

A quick glance at his speeches shows that Mr. Modi's refrain is Ayodhya's Ram temple and Article 370 in Kashmir (Darbhanga on October 28 and Champaran on November 1), "Jungle Raj" spoken of often, a reference to the "double Yuvrajs" ostensibly of Tejashwi Yadav and Rahul Gandhi (Chhapra on November 1) struggling to "keep the simhasan/throne", "BIMARU" Bihar, referring to an outdated acronym for Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh no longer used even in seminars. Almost all of the Prime Minister's repeated references are jaded throwbacks to the past: Ayodhya's Babri Masjid was brought down in 1992, 'jungle raj', referring to pejoratives for Lalu Yadav and Rabri Devi's time as Chief Minister is 15 years ago and the last time that either Tejashwi Yadav or Rahul Gandhi's fathers held public office was several years ago - there is certainly no 'simhasan' for them to defend. It is a negative agenda of a campaign anchored selectively in the past.

No vision, invoking fear

Nitish Kumar has been in power in the State for the past 15 years, mostly with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and there is little in the achievement columns of his report card for Mr. Modi to seek votes on. Soliciting support for another five years of a jaded government is tough, and thus the argument seems to be that "we are bad but they are worse" - not the most inspiring political pitch. More surprising is the lack of vision for either Bihar or India from the Prime Minister. The selective recall of the 1990s is odd when at 57.2%, Bihar has the highest proportion of those below 25 years of age in the country. This is like the captain's proverbial yearning for the safety of the shore when the boat is in choppy waters mid-ocean, when, instead, it needs a vision to navigate ahead.

The exponential rise of the BJP, now dominating the political scene with more than half of India's States under its rule and having 302 Lok Sabha seats (as on October 1, 2020), began by leveraging the upheaval of the 1990s as the polity was challenged by newly opened fissures of caste, religion and economic disparity. Social and cultural issues are an integral part of Indian electoral politics, but to invoke the divisive issues of the past at this time points to a poverty of vision for the future, of the missing destination the ship of governance is aiming for when at sea. Instead of taking matters to a higher level of 'aspiration', the country's top leadership has chosen to invoke not hope but fear.

Tejashwi Yadav's campaign in Bihar is frustrating the ruling party as it is using that very powerful appeal against a 15-year-old regime by citing the absence of bread and butter issues and taking the campaign out to the State's youth. His primary emphasis during the election campaign has been on the high rate of unemployment, forming the backbone of his promise of providing 10 lakh new government jobs to the youth of Bihar. The BJP has been forced to play catch-up. After the results come in, there will be much to theorize on how caste politics has changed in north India. Enough has already been said about how this is the last of the Mandal elections (with Nitish Kumar on the backfoot, Lalu Prasad not campaigning and Ram Vilas Paswan no more); but on closer scrutiny, this is more about evolution of the social justice plank than its burial.



The strategy of Tejashwi Yadav shows this election is more about the evolution of the social justice plank than its burial

A lost opportunity and why

When India has gone from one of the fastest growing three economies in the world to among the slowest, with an unprecedented decline of 23.9% in the first quarter of 2020, the country would have benefited from learning of the Prime Minister's plan to get the economy back in shape. The novel coronavirus pandemic also offered an opportunity to speak of public health as a sharp arrow in its quiver, and take his party's campaign to another high level. Quite the contrary happened when a free vaccine was offered as an election sop, hitting another new low for the BJP in 2020. Public health, at a time of a rapidly growing infectious disease, has always been handled centrally and has been universal and free. The smallpox vaccine, BCG or even the tuberculosis programme has been centrally driven and unconnected with electoral cycles.

The appeal that proved invincible and lent a deathly blow to the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance in 2014 was a dream that Mr. Modi associated himself with. The 'Gujarat model', notwithstanding its merits, was about hope, about vikas, development (if not progress), and overall about improving lives of Indians, a formula that proved unbeatable. The promise, plastered on all available billboards was about 'two crore jobs' every year, '15 lakh in every bank account and the burnishing of an entrepreneurial spirit that would bring welfare and prosperity. Mr. Modi would make India great again and improve the conditions of its millions, who came out and voted for that dream. This appeal was developed on the campaign that Mr. Modi had carefully crafted around 'Vibrant Gujarat,' which had shut down his critics. It was Mr. Modi as the doer and the Vikas Purush that won accolades and eventually the seat of power in Delhi. The core Hindutva spirit that he stood for was just the backstory: Mr. Modi in 2014 worked, as he offered himself and much more.

The youth connect

Turning the tables on this, Tejashwi Yadav's campaign in Bihar is frustrating the ruling party as it

is using that very powerful appeal against a 15-year-old regime by citing the absence of bread and butter issues and taking the campaign out to the State's youth. His primary emphasis during the election campaign has been on the high rate of unemployment, forming the backbone of his promise of providing 10 lakh new government jobs to the youth of Bihar. The BJP has been forced to play catch-up. After the results come in, there will be much to theorize on how caste politics has changed in north India. Enough has already been said about how this is the last of the Mandal elections (with Nitish Kumar on the backfoot, Lalu Prasad not campaigning and Ram Vilas Paswan no more); but on closer scrutiny, this is more about evolution of the social justice plank than its burial.

Tejashwi Yadav in 2020 is doing a Narendra Modi in 2014, by not making it overtly about social justice alone. The Mandal campaign of the 1990s in north India was particularly anxious to underscore that it was not economics but social oppression that rankled and needed urgent redress. By threading economic upliftment seamlessly into the idea of social justice, Tejashwi Yadav has confounded his opponents. He need not even loudly talk about backward caste or utter the phrase social justice, any more than Mr. Modi had to proclaim that he is a proud bearer of Hindutva.

In 2015 when Nitish Kumar and Lalu Prasad struck an alliance, they stumped the BJP by turning it into a 'forward versus backward' election. That was a case of political innovation in the face of the BJP juggernaut, at a time when the electoral machine of the BJP, with its freshness, was at its peak. But this time, what has annoyed Nitish Kumar and visibly frustrated the BJP is Tejashwi Yadav coming up from behind and smoothly introducing Social Justice 2.0 into the campaign in his own unique manner. The results of the elections will be known soon but if there is already a winner for political reimagination, it is Tejashwi Yadav against a weary Nitish Kumar and a rear-view mirror-gazing Narendra Modi.

(The author is a journalist based in New Delhi)

(Source: The Hindu)



By Vivek Katju

DEEP FISSURES IN US SOCIETY

The election has revealed the great divisions at the core of people's beliefs & polity

"Trump did nothing to bridge these divides. Indeed, he consolidated them through his exclusivist policies under the rubric of America First. This appealed to his base which has stuck to him as is clearly indicated by this election. At this stage, too, instead of seeking to calm the country, Trump has done the opposite by asserting that his rival is robbing him of the election. Departing from convention-and throughout his term, he has shown complete disregard for conventions-Trump declared as initial results came in that as far as he was concerned, he had won the election!"



FOR & AGAINST: President Trump did nothing to bridge the divide.

The US presidential election has been anything but smooth. The final result is not known but it clearly appears that Joe Biden is on his way to victory. President Donald Trump has made accusations of fraud in states where he was initially in the lead but Biden has all but caught up. His party has taken matters to the courts and he has announced that he will fight it out till the Supreme Court. It is mind-boggling that the world's greatest power with all its technological strengths has not been able to devise ways to ensure that results can become known in a predictable timeframe. Though the pandemic added to this election's complexities, including through a large number of postal votes, but that has not been the only cause of difficulties.

The election also shows the need for US electoral reform. In contrast, India, with all its complexities, is able to conduct elections smoothly and credibly.

The archaic and decentralized system which allows states to determine election procedures results in lack of uniformity in the election administration. This may flow from the federal principle, which is a cornerstone of the US political system, but may result in making election outcomes known in a predictable manner problematic, thereby generating uncertainty and adversely impacting not only the US, but also the world. The US President holds the most powerful political office of the world and uncertainties about who will hold it troubles the international community. The longer the delay in knowing this the greater the trouble. This is going to be so on this occasion because the process is getting involved in judicial proceedings.

This election has revealed the great and continuing divisions at the core of US society and polity. The split almost down the middle with a few percentage points advantage for Biden in the popular nationwide vote reveals the great abyss in society. This mirrors the 2016 election where Hillary Clinton had the leads but Trump won because of decisively beating her in the electoral

The election also shows the need for US electoral reform. In contrast, India, with all its complexities, is able to conduct elections smoothly and credibly.

college. Indeed, Trump's success in 2016 was largely on account of these great divides along several societal axes—education and skills, ideology, rural-urban and the great mass of people feeling helpless and hopeless in the midst of rapid technological change.

Trump did nothing to bridge these divides. Indeed, he consolidated them through his exclusivist policies under the rubric of America First. This appealed to his base which has stuck to him as is clearly indicated by this election. At this stage, too, instead of seeking to calm the country, Trump has done the opposite by asserting that his rival is robbing him of the election. Departing from convention-and throughout his term, he has shown complete disregard for conventions—Trump declared as initial results came in that as far as he was concerned, he had won the election!

No wonder some demonstrations are taking place with angry supporters of both parties reiterating the demands of their leaders: that counting of votes should stop (Trump), and that every vote should be counted (Biden). The difficulty is that the lack of uniformity in the counting process followed by different states and counties has led to the narrowing, if not reversal, of early leads in the swing states which decide the election. This raises doubts and suspicions, particularly as the counting

is stretching in time. This election shows the great need for electoral reform in the US. It is noteworthy in contrast to the confusion that is prevailing in these elections, India, with all its complexities, is able to conduct elections smoothly and credibly. Indians seldom claim credit for their own processes, but this is one time to acknowledge the strengths of their own election administration system. This is not to suggest that there is no scope for improvement in them.

In sharp contrast to Trump, Biden is an establishment person well experienced in the ways of Washington. As Vice-President to Barack Obama, he stuck to the tradition of deference to his leader but was known for his political skills acquired in a 36-year career as a Senator. He has pledged to heal the divisions and certainly he will not be as erratic as Trump. The difficulty he will immediately face, if he does succeed, is that the Senate will continue to be in Republican hands. That will require him to work with that party to devise compromises on all fronts, including foreign policy.

Biden's first task would be to calm global nerves that have been frayed by four years of Trump's behavior. The international community puts a premium on certainty and predictability of policy, especially of a superpower. With Trump, it has been on a roller coaster. This has been particularly the experience of US's European allies. He railed against NATO which has been the bedrock of the Atlantic Alliance in the security sphere. With China, too, Trump has only lately shown a full and stubborn desire for containment. Objective factors should compel an adherence to this approach, but with Trump, instincts come into play and these are not the best guides for foreign policy.

Biden would revert to the traditional US approach of strengthening the Atlantic Alliance and he will ensure greater stability in these important relationships. He will be strong on China, as demanded by US national interest, but his language and diplomatic methods will be less abrasive.

The two foreign policy initiatives of the Obama administration that Trump overturned related to climate change and the Iran nuclear question. Biden has already made it clear that he favors the US re-entry in the Paris climate accord. The international community will applaud this decision, but with the Senate under Republican control, it will be necessary for Biden to work out the details. Similarly, Biden is likely to reverse Trump's hostility towards Iran and may revert largely to the Obama approach, changing the dynamics of West Asia.

But first, the US election process has to come to a conclusion and that is likely to be drawn-out. America and the world are in for a painful wait.

(The author is Ex-Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs)

(Source: The Tribune, India)

Suu Kyi's party expected to win second term in Myanmar polls

BANGKOK (TIP): Myanmar's citizens go to the polls Sunday in an effort to sustain the fledgling democracy they helped install just five years ago.

There are about 37 million registered voters, though turnout is expected to suffer because of a recent surge in coronavirus cases.

In 2015, excitement was high over the opportunity to end more than five decades of army-directed rule.

The National League of Democracy party of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi roared to a landslide election victory and she became her country's leader after many hard years at the forefront of a non-violent struggle against military dictatorships that won international admiration.

This year, her party is expected to again top the polls, but some critics feel her administration has failed to embrace democratic principles.

Chances for real reform were always dicey, as the 2008 constitution drafted under the military assures it of enough seats in parliament to block charter changes. Key ministries are also under the control of the military.

Critics accuse 75-year-old Suu Kyi and her party of being more concerned about entrenching itself in power than encouraging a broad-based democracy.

"This time, neither Aung San Suu Kyi nor her party is bringing democracy to Myanmar. Instead, they are trying to bring in a one-party democracy system," charged Khin Zaw Win, director of the



Tampadipa Institute, a Yangon-based policy advocacy group.

Enfeebling other parties had meant there has been little real debate about policies during the campaign. Myanmar needs a better political mix, he said.

Even the voting process has become enmeshed in controversy, as the state election commission has been accused of conniving with Suu Kyi's ruling party by cancelling voting in some areas where parties critical of the government were certain to win seats.

The Union Election Commission insisted the voting was cancelled because of armed conflict with ethnic guerrillas in those areas.

The decision was one of several points criticised this past week by Thomas Andrews, the UN special rapporteur for human rights in Myanmar.

Buddhist-majority Myanmar, he said, would not be able to hold free and fair elections "as long as ... the right to vote is denied based on race, ethnicity or religion, as it is with the Rohingya".

Long-standing prejudice against the Muslim Rohingya minority, whom many consider to have immigrated illegally from South Asia even though their families have lived in Myanmar for generations, has deprived most of them of the rights of citizenship.

Western friends of Myanmar were

shocked at the brutal 2017 counter-insurgency campaign by Myanmar's army that drove about 740,000 Rohingya to flee into neighbouring Bangladesh, drawing accusations of genocide.

It also sent Suu Kyi's reputation with Western admirers into a tailspin when she failed to restrain the security forces.

But for most people in Myanmar, the Rohingya are not an issue in the election.

Andrews also said opposition political parties claim they were denied access to state media and their messages have been censored for criticising government policies.

Measures to control the coronavirus severely restricted traditional large-scale campaigning by all parties, but Suu Kyi benefits from frequent reports in state media about her carrying out her official duties, and from her regular updates about fighting the coronavirus streamed on her Facebook page.

Her administration had already been criticised by free speech advocates. It scrapped some censorship and licensing laws, but aggressively employs defamation and telecommunications laws against journalists and activists critical of the government and the military.

Failure of much-touted plans to reconcile with the country's fractious ethnic minorities is another dent in Suu Kyi's reputation.

Ethnic minority groups, mainly in border areas, have for decades been engaged in an on-again, off-again armed struggle for autonomy. AP

Pakistani army: Militant fire from Afghanistan kills soldier

PESHAWAR (TIP): Militant gunfire from across the border with Afghanistan on Tuesday killed a Pakistani soldier and wounded two others, Pakistan's military said, the latest in militant attacks on troops in the region.

The attack targeted a border post in the village of Manzaikai in southwestern Baluchistan province, the military said in a statement. It said Pakistan has constantly been asking Afghan authorities to take effective measures on their side of the border "to rein in cross-border terrorist incidents".

The military provided no further details, but Pakistan and Afghanistan often accuse each other of turning a blind eye to militants operating along their shared porous frontier, which stretches some 2,400 kilometers (1,500 miles) across rugged mountainous terrain.

Pakistan's border areas have served as a base for militants until a few years ago, when the army claimed it cleared the regions of insurgents. However, occasional attacks have continued, raising fears that the Pakistani Taliban are regrouping in the area. — AP

Pakistan National Bank's manager shot dead by security guard over 'blasphemy'

LAHORE (TIP): A senior manager of the state-run National Bank of Pakistan was killed by the bank's security guard over the allegation of "blasphemy" in the country's Punjab province, the police said on Thursday.

Malik Imran Hanif, manager of the multinational commercial bank's Quaidabad tehsil in Khushab, some 250 km from here, was shot by the bank's security guard Ahmed Nawaz, retired Army personnel, on Wednesday morning.

The deceased's family said that it was a "cold-blooded murder" by the accused over a personal grudge, claiming that the guard took the cover of blasphemy to save himself.

The manager was shifted to Lahore's Services Hospital in a critical condition where he succumbed to his injuries on Thursday, the police said, adding that Nawaz has been arrested.

According to senior police officer Tariq Wilayat, Nawaz claimed that he opened fire at Hanif after he committed blasphemy.

"This claim cannot be verified at this stage. Police are probing the matter from all the aspects including the statement of

the deceased's family that Nawaz killed him to settle a personal grudge against him," the officer said.

Hanif's family said Nawaz was fired a few months ago but he was subsequently reinstated. He nursed a grudge against Hanif over his sacking and both had a heated argument recently.

Muhammad Razzak, another guard of the bank, told the police that after completing his nightshift, he was changing his uniform when he heard the gunshots.

"I rushed towards the bank office where I found Hanif in a pool of blood and Nawaz fleeing," he said.

In a video posted on social media, Nawaz can be heard saying he killed the bank manager because he had committed blasphemy.

Nawaz was seen being greeted by a crowd of supporters who also raised religious slogans and roamed in the city streets. Later, he surrendered himself before the police.

Leaders of some religious groups addressed the mob from the rooftop of the police station where he surrendered himself. Police officials were seen standing helplessly. PTI

Indonesia suffers first recession in over two decades as coronavirus hits

JAKARTA (TIP): Indonesia suffered its first recession in over two decades in the third quarter and millions of people lost their jobs over the past year as the COVID-19 pandemic battered Southeast Asia's largest economy, the statistics bureau said on Thursday.

Gross domestic product (GDP) shrank by a slightly more than expected 3.49 per cent year-on-year as household consumption fell while investment also dropped in the third quarter, official data showed. Economists in a Reuters poll had expected GDP to fall 3 per cent after a 5.32 per cent contraction in the second quarter.

While Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said in a press conference "the worst is over", pointing to a pick-up in quarterly growth, the statistics bureau said some 2.67 million people had lost their jobs in the year to August due to COVID-19.

A 9.8 per cent rise in government spending helped soften the blow but economists called on more stimulus to help lift the economy out of the doldrums. (Reuters)

Indian Embassy issues Public Notice Regarding New Outsourcing Service Provider

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Indian Embassy in Washington in a press release said that they are adding information in continuation of their Press Release of 9 October, 2020 regarding change of outsourcing service provider for Visa, OCI, Renunciation, Passport and Global Entry Programme (GEP) services,

With effect from 4 November 2020 (12:01 AM Eastern Standard Time), Embassy of India, Washington DC will accept online applications for OCI, Renunciation, Passport and GEP services through new service provider, VFS Global. A service fee of US\$15.90 (inclusive of all taxes) per application will be charged in addition to applicable Government of India fees for these services. Applicants are advised not to send any applications by post to VFS before making an online application on 4 November 2020 on the website of VFS.

The details of the VFS Global Application Centre are as under:
1025 Vermont Ave, N.W.
Suite 302, 3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20005
Website: <https://visa.vfsglobal.com/usa/en/ind>

It may also be noted that due to the ongoing Covid pandemic, there will be no walk-in service at VFS Global until further notice. All applications shall only be dealt with by post.

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

Trump Jr criticizes Nikki Haley for 'sitting on the sidelines' on prez's vote counting fraud claims

NEW YORK (TIP): In an apparent attack on popular Indian-American Republican politician Nikki Haley, Donald Trump Jr has accused that "2024 GOP hopefuls" are "sitting on the sidelines" and not speaking out against the "fraud" in counting of votes as claimed by his father and US President Donald Trump.

Trump, 74, is trailing behind his Democratic rival Joe Biden, who is nearing the magical figure of 270 electoral votes to win the race to the White House.

The former US vice president has so far bagged 253 votes as compared to 213 won by Trump, according to latest US media projections. To win the election, a candidate has to win at least 270 electoral college votes out of the 538 up for grabs.

The incumbent president has claimed without presenting any evidence that there has been "fraud" in counting of votes and he will legally challenge the election result.

"All of a sudden everything just stopped. This is a fraud on the American public. This is an embarrassment to our country. We were getting ready to win this election. Frankly, we did win this election...Our goal now is to ensure integrity, for the good of this



Former US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley - File photo

nation...This is a major fraud on our nation. We want law to be used in a proper manner. So we'll be going to the US Supreme Court," Trump told his supporters on Wednesday.

Responding to a tweet on Thursday, Trump Jr said, "This is an important point! Everyone should be watching who is actually fighting this flagrant nonsense and who is sitting on the sidelines. Republicans have been weak for decades which has allowed for the left to do these things. Let's end that trend once and for all."

He was responding to a Twitter user who wrote, "Where are the so-called future of the GOP? Nikki

Haley is doing what?"

In a series of tweets later, Trump Jr said, "The total lack of action from virtually all of the '2024 GOP hopefuls' is pretty amazing. They have a perfect platform to show that they're willing & able to fight but they will cower to the media mob instead. Don't worry @realDonaldTrump will fight & they can watch as usual!"

The 48-year-old former US Ambassador to the United Nations, Haley is seen as a potential Republican candidate for president in 2024.

She also has the distinction of being the first ever Indian-American Cabinet ranking official in any administration.

Haley, who had campaigned for Trump during the just concluded presidential election, later tweeted, "We all owe @realDonaldTrump for his leadership of conservative victories for Senate, House, & state legislatures."

"He (President Trump) and the American people deserve transparency & fairness as the votes are counted. The law must be followed. We have to keep the faith that the truth will prevail," she added.

(Source: PTI)

contd fro page 4

Indian Americans make a splash in yet another election cycle

Other three elected to state houses were immigration attorney Nima Kulkarni in Kentucky, Vandana Slatter, a pharmacist, and scientist, in Washington and Democrat Padma Kuppa in Michigan.

Kuppa was the first Indian immigrant and Hindu in the Michigan Legislature.

"This year's election represented a giant leap forward for the Indian Americans' role in US politics," says Neil Makhija, Executive Director of IMPACT.

The leading Indian American advocacy and political action committee had raised a \$10 million war chest to get Democratic vice-presidential candidate Kamala Harris and other Indian origin candidates elected.

"Indian American voters and candidates demonstrated the burgeoning power and influence of this important voting bloc in decisive fashion," he said.

With a record number of Indian American candidates running for office across the nation, around two million Indian Americans voted in the 2020 election, according to the Center for American Progress.

Winners

US House:

The longest serving Indian American House member Ami Bera, 55, won his fifth consecutive term to the House from California. Son of immigrant parents from Gujarat, Bera is a physician by profession.

New Delhi-born lawyer Krishnamoorthi, 47, defeated his Libertarian Party rival in Illinois to win a third term.

So did lawyer, academic Ro Khanna, 44, who defeated another Indian American challenger Ritesh Tandon of

Republican Party in California.

Chenna-born civil rights activist Jayapal, 55, the first and the only Indian American woman in the House, also won a third consecutive term from Washington State.

States:

In Arizona, Democrat Amish Shah, a doctor who defeated incumbent Ken Clark in 2018 was reelected to the State House from District 24.

In California, Ash Kalra was re-elected to the California State Assembly for the third consecutive term.

In Michigan, Democrat Ranjeev Puri was elected to 21st House District with a promise to help fight for a better Michigan.

Also elected to Michigan state House 3rd District was Shri Thanedar, 65, millionaire businessman, scientist, who made an unsuccessful bid for governor two years ago,

In New York, Jeremy Cooney of Democratic Party, Working Families Party, was elected to the state senate from district 56.

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

Zohran Mamdani, son of filmmaker Mira Nair, won a New York State Assembly seat.

In North Carolina, Democrat attorney and professor Jay Chaudhuri, who in 2016 became the first Indian American state legislator, was re-elected from State Senate's 15th District.

In Ohio, Republican Niraj Antani, 29, who in 2014 became the youngest member of the Ohio state house, has been elected as Ohio's first Indian American state senator.

He was the first Indian American Republican to serve

in the Ohio House and second to get elected from the community to the statehouse.

In Pennsylvania Democrat Nikil Saval, a writer and community organizer, was elected to District 1 of State Senate. He was the first Indian American elected to the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

In Texas, Ravi Sandill, who in November 2008 became the first judge of South Asian descent elected in Texas, was re-elected as District Judge in Harris County.

A number of Indian Americans also lost their races on Tuesday.

In Maine, state house speaker Sara Gideon, 48, lost the US senate race to incumbent veteran Republican Senator Susan Collins.

Gideon grew up in East Greenwich, Rhode Island, where her father was a pediatrician who emigrated from India and her Armenian American mother was a psychiatrist.

In New Jersey, Republican Rik Mehta, 42, a pharmaceutical entrepreneur and political newcomer, lost to popular Democrat senator Cory Booker, a former mayor of New Jersey's largest city and onetime Democratic presidential aspirant.

In California, Republican Ritesh Tandon lost the US House race to fellow Indian American lawyer, academic Ro Khanna.

So did Nisha Sharma, another Republican, to sitting Democrat Mark DeSaulnier.

In Texas, former US diplomat Sri Preston Kulkarni, 42, lost to his Republican rival Troy Nehls in the state's 22nd congressional district. He had narrowly lost the race in 2018, too.

In Arizona's 6th congressional district, Democrat Hiral Tiperneni is trailing narrowly at 10:30 am EST.

In Virginia, Republican Manga Anantatmula failed to unseat Democrat Gerry Connolly.

Secret Service sends more agents to Delaware in anticipation of a potential Biden win: Report

WASHINGTON (TIP): More US Secret Service agents have been sent to Wilmington, Delaware, in anticipation of a potential Joe Biden presidential win after the Democratic Party nominee was leading in the vote count against incumbent President Donald Trump, a media report said on Friday, November 6.

The extra Secret Service agents were sent to Delaware on Thursday, CNN quoted two unnamed sources as saying.

Upon a presidential win, the USSS detail for a president-elect would get larger and mirror the size and scope of a president's.

Additional airspace security measures are also implemented, a source familiar with USSS protocols said. A team for the 77-year-old former US vice president has been on standby since last week, the source said.

According to latest US media projections, Biden pulled ahead of Trump in Georgia. He has also taken the lead over Trump in Pennsylvania.



Democratic US presidential nominee Joe Biden makes a statement on the 2020 US presidential election results in Delaware, November 6

Biden has secured 253 electoral college votes out of at least 270 required for winning the 2020 presidential election against Trump, a Republican. Trump has received 213 electoral college votes out of the 538 up for grabs.

"This is as expected. It's actually a

little bit delayed. It's not telegraphing any specific concern," a senior law enforcement official said.

The bolstering of security typically happens on election night, the official said, but USSS has played it "cautiously" as the agency does not want to be seen as making a decision on the election.

On Wednesday, additional security assets were deployed in Biden's motorcade consistent with Presidential entourages that are equipped to handle a wide variety of threats and situations and are not part of the typical secret service teams a candidate receives, in addition to Biden's original detail, the report said.

A USSS spokesperson declined to provide additional details to CNN, saying, "For operational security reasons, the Secret Service cannot discuss specifically or in general terms the means, methods or resources we utilize to carry out our protective mission." (Source: PTI)

Georgia state likely to go through recount in US presidential election: Secretary of state

ATLANTA (TIP): Georgia's secretary of state on Friday, November 6, said he expects a recount due to the small margin for the presidential election in the battleground state, where Democrat Joe Biden has a small lead over Republican President Donald Trump, Reuters reported.

The presidential candidates each had 49.4 per cent of counted ballots, though Biden was ahead by 1,579 votes as of Friday morning with 4,169 left to count, Georgia's voting system implementation manager, Gabriel Sterling, said.

"With a margin that small, there will be a recount," Brad Raffensperger, Georgia's secretary of state, told reporters.

Officials said about 9,000 military and overseas ballots were still outstanding and could be accepted if they arrive on Friday and are postmarked on Tuesday or earlier.

There are two ways of seeking a recount in Georgia. A presidential candidate who loses by 0.5 per cent of the vote or less can force a recount by sending a written request to the secretary of state, or a candidate can ask the secretary of state to conduct one by alleging a "discrepancy or error" in the vote tabulation.

In that case, state law gives the secretary discretion about whether to conduct a recount.

Local election officials in Georgia also can conduct recounts in their counties if they think there is a discrepancy in the results.

The Southern state switched to new touchscreen voting machines this year. After a voter makes their choices, the machine produces a marked paper ballot that's fed into a scanner that counts the vote.

Absentee voters--hundreds of thousands this year--filled out the same ballots, which also were fed into the scanners. If the scanner cannot read the ballot, a bipartisan group of election officials reviews it to determine whether or how it should be counted.

A recount essentially repeats that process, and in the past has not made big changes in the results.

Because of that, a recount is considered unlikely to have a big effect on the state's vote totals.

Biden vows to rejoin Paris Climate Agreement

NEW YORK (TIP): On November 4, the US formally withdrew from the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has pledged that his administration would rejoin the historic Paris Agreement on climate change.

Mr. Biden, 77, has not won the presidential elections yet, but is inching closer to be declared the winner by garnering 253 electoral votes out of the required 270. His Republican rival and incumbent US President Donald Trump has got 213 electoral votes, according to latest projections released by the US media.

On November 4, the US formally withdrew from the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, a decision originally announced three years ago.

"Today, the Trump Administration officially left the Paris Climate Agreement. And in exactly 77 days, a Biden Administration will rejoin it," Mr. Biden tweeted on Wednesday night, reflecting his decision to reverse one of the key policies of the Trump administration on day one.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Swedish environment activist Greta Thunberg mocks Trump in his own words

"So ridiculous. Donald must work on his anger management problem, then go to a good old-fashioned movie with a friend! Chill, Donald, Chill."

WASHINGTON (TIP): Amid ongoing tensions over the results of the US presidential election, Swedish environment activist Greta Thunberg has mocked US President Donald Trump in his own words in the ultimate social media revenge.

In response to Trump's "stop the count" tweet, the 17-year-old said on the micro-blogging platform on Thursday: "So ridiculous. Donald must work on his anger management problem, then go to a good old-fashioned movie with a friend! Chill, Donald, Chill." Thunberg's tweet was the exact copy of the one that Trump posted in December 2019 criticizing the Time magazine's decision to name her "Person of the Year".

"So ridiculous. Greta must work on her Anger Management problem, then go to a good old-fashioned movie with a friend! Chill Greta, Chill!," the President had tweeted on December 12, 2019.

Within hours of posting, the teenage activist's tweet has garnered over 1 million likes and nearly 300,000 retweets.

The development comes as President Trump has made controversial broad allegations of voter fraud in Tuesday's election.

"If you count the legal votes, I easily



Swedish environment activist Greta Thunberg mocks Trump in his own words

win," the President told reporters at the White House earlier on Thursday, implying that some of the postal ballots, the counting of which he was trying to stop was illegal.

"If you count the illegal votes, they can try to steal the election from us. If you count the votes that came in late, we're looking at them very strongly, but a lot of votes came in late.

"This is a case where they're trying to steal an election, trying to rig an election," he asserted.

Trump's allegations about election fraud brought immediate condemnation from the media, almost all of which labelled it "false", and politicians in Republican and Democratic parties.

The main TV networks, ABC, CBS and NBC, stopped broadcasting his speech midway.

Meanwhile, his Democratic rival Joe Biden said: "Each ballot must be counted and that's what is going on now. And that's how it should be. Democracy is sometimes messy, so sometimes it requires a little patience." While the New York Times and CBS gave Biden 253 electoral college votes, the Associated Press and Fox News gave him 264 votes and Trump 214, both projections put the presidency in Biden's reach. (Agencies)

US supercarrier Nimitz to join Vikramaditya for QUAD Malabar exercise

Indian Navy's flagship Vikramaditya and US supercarrier Nimitz along with two destroyers of the Australian and Japanese navies will conduct full-spectrum exercises off the coast of Goa as part of Malabar war games from November 17 to 20.

The two carrier groups, with MiG-29K fighters on board Vikramaditya and F-18 fighters on board Nimitz, will participate in war games, while the involvement of the two other countries, which are, like India and the US, members of the Quad grouping, will strengthen multi-operability in full domain exercises. It is also expected to help all four countries understand the ethos and level of training of each other's navies, commanders and personnel.

The exercise will take place in quite a congested environment with at least 70 foreign warships patrolling the area between the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy's warships are not in the vicinity but are not too far off either -- ostensibly conducting anti-pirate operations off the Gulf of Aden.

Source: HT

84.11 lakh COVID-19 cases, 1,24,985 deaths in India

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's COVID-19 tally crossed the 84-lakh mark after 47,638 new infections were reported in the past 24 hours, according to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's data on Friday, November 6.

The coronavirus cases in the country continue to decline further but the overall infections reached 84,11,724 including 5,20,773 active cases.

Total cured cases reached 77,65,966 with 54,157 new discharges in the last 24 hours. Meanwhile, with 670 new deaths, the toll mounted to 1,24,985 overall.

Maharashtra reported 1,07,358 active cases, 15,51,282 discharges and 44,804 deaths so far. While Karnataka reported 33,114 active cases, 7,94,503 discharges and 11,312 death so far due to the disease. A total of 38,729 active cases, 3,71,155 discharges and 6,769 deaths were recorded in the national capital till Thursday.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a total of 11,54,29,095 samples have been tested for coronavirus till November 5, of these, 12,20,711 samples were tested yesterday.

Ten State and Union Territories accounted for 78.2 per cent of total active cases in the country, according to the Health Ministry.

80 teachers test positive for virus in Uttarakhand



Eighty teachers tested positive for coronavirus in Uttarakhand's Pauri district, forcing the authorities to shut over a dozen schools for five days, according to an official.

Schools in the state had reopened for Classes X and XII on November 2 after a long gap due to the coronavirus outbreak. Over a dozen schools have been closed for five days as a safety measure after 80 teachers tested positive for COVID-19, Pauri Chief Medical Officer Madan Singh Rawat said on Friday.

The teachers have been isolated for 14 days while students and others who came in their contact are being identified, Rawat said.

The CMO said principals of the schools concerned were to be blamed as they should not have allowed the teachers to come to the school before the arrival of their test reports.

The office of the additional director, primary education, has also been closed till Sunday after an employee tested positive for coronavirus there, he said.

CIC allows Centre to withhold list of documents, precious material seized during Operation Bluestar

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Central Information Commission (CIC) has allowed the Centre to withhold list of documents and precious material seized by a central agency during the 1984 operation at the Golden Temple in Punjab in which 576 persons, including Army personnel, were killed.

An RTI applicant, Gurvinder Singh Chadha, had demanded from the Union Home Ministry list of all the material seized during the operation and its present status as well as all records related to the operation and list of all the persons who died during the operation conducted by the Army to flush out militants holed up inside the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

Without giving the list and the specific details of the seized material, the ministry had said in its RTI response to Chadha that "about 4000 documents/books/files and gold /gold ornaments, silver/silver ornaments, precious stones currency, coins etc. were recovered by a central agency during the Operation Blue Star. The articles and documents were handed over either to SGPC or to the Government of Punjab".

"As per records available with this office, 493 terrorists/civilians and 83 Army officials were killed in Golden Temple area in June, 1984," the home ministry further



said. Dissatisfied with the denial of specific information about the seized material, Chadha filed first appeal within the ministry before a senior official who upheld the denial of information invoking Section 8 1(a) of the RTI Act.

The Section allows the government to withhold information, disclosure of which would prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State, relation with foreign State or lead to incitement of an offence.

During the second appeal before the Central Information Commission, highest adjudication body in RTI matters, Chadha stated that a satisfactory response was not yet provided on points related to records of Operation Blue Star and a list of material seized during it.

The ministry said a point wise response was provided to Chadha

but the details sought pertained to confidential information, the disclosure of which could prejudicially affect the safety and security of the country.

Agreeing with the home ministry's view, Information Commissioner Y K Sinha held Chadha has sought "vague, ambiguous and generic information" which cannot be disclosed in terms of the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.

"Hence, no further intervention of the Commission is warranted in the matter," Sinha said.

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has been demanding the return of the artefacts, allegedly taken away by the Army during Operation Blue Star in 1984.

Last year in June, SGPC chief secretary Roop Singh had said the holy scriptures, artefacts and historical books, which were part of the Sikh Reference Library, were taken away by the Army during the operation.

When asked that a section of media had reported that the Centre had returned the artefacts to the SGPC, Singh had claimed that only a few copies of historical books were returned.

He had said still a large quantity of material and handwritten copies of the Guru Granth Sahib were with the Centre.

India to help other nations with Covid vaccine supply

NEW DELHI (TIP): India on Friday, Nov 6, conveyed to a host of other nations that it will deploy its vaccine production capabilities to help them battle the Covid-19 crisis.

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla made the statement during an interaction with ambassadors and high commissioners of foreign missions in India. It was conveyed that the MEA would organise a tour for heads of diplomatic missions and international organisations to Pune where they can visit institutions engaged in coronavirus research and vaccine development programmes, a MEA statement said.

"Several countries have been approaching us for receiving vaccine supply. I reiterate our Prime Minister's commitment that India's vaccine production and delivery capacity will be used to help all humanity in fighting this crisis. India will also help interested countries in enhancing their cold chain and storage capacities for the delivery of vaccines," Shringla said.

The interaction was organised to provide the envoys an outline of the Covid-19 vaccine development programme in India, delivery system management and international cooperation on this.

Shringla said India remains on track to develop a vaccine.

"We are exploring the possibility of conducting phase three trials in a few of our partner countries. We are also looking forward to research collaboration in the field of vaccine development. Based on willingness, we may also go for joint production of vaccines in some countries," he said.

"We have already conducted online training sessions for nearly 90 participants from eight neighbouring countries to develop capacity in clinical trials and clinical practices," he added.



Enhanced version of Pinaka rocket system successfully test-fired

An enhanced version of Pinaka rocket system was successfully test fired from the Integrated Test Range in Odisha's Balasore district on Wednesday, Nov 4, official sources said.

Six rockets were launched in quick succession and the test met complete mission objectives, defence sources said.

This enhanced version would replace the existing Pinaka Mk1 rockets that are currently under production.

The rocket has a state-of-the-art guidance navigation and control system with which it has become efficient to identify its target and hit it.

Development of the enhanced Pinaka system was taken up to achieve longer range performance compared to the earlier designs with reduced length.

The design and development has been carried out by Pune-based DRDO laboratories, Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, they said.

Milind Soman faces FIR, charged with obscenity

Actor and model Milind Soman has been booked for obscenity after he uploaded a photograph of himself running in the buff on a beach in south Goa.

The south Goa Superintendent of Police Pankaj Kumar Singh confirmed that the actor was booked under section 294 (obscenity) of the Indian Penal Code, along with other relevant sections of the Information Technology Act. On November 4, Soman had uploaded a photo on Twitter which showed him running naked on a Goa beach on his 55th birthday. The actor captioned the picture, clicked against the wide expanse of the ocean, as "Happy Birthday to me...55 and running".

There has been no comment from the actor on the FIR against him.

The FIR comes even as the Canacona judicial magistrate granted model and actress Poonam Pandey bail, observing that all nudity didn't amount to obscenity. The model was arrested on Thursday for shooting an "objectionable" video in Goa.

PM Modi hardsells India advantage as he invites global investors

NEW DELHI (TIP): Urging global investors to invest in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, November 5, said the government will do "whatever it takes to make India the engine of global growth resurgence".

Speaking at a Virtual Global Investor Roundtable with leaders of top pension and sovereign wealth funds and domestic business leaders, Modi said:

"If you want returns with reliability, India is the place to be. If you want demand with democracy, India is the place to be. If you want stability with sustainability, India is the place to be. If you want growth with a green approach, India is the place to be. India's growth has the potential to catalyse global economic resurgence."

He added, "Any achievement by India will have a multiplier impact on the world's development and welfare. A strong and vibrant India can contribute to stabilisation of the world economic order. We will do whatever it takes to make India the engine of global growth resurgence. There is an exciting period of progress ahead."

Stating that he is conscious of investors' requirement for safe, long-term returns, Modi said the government is finalising a master plan for connectivity infrastructure with an investment target of \$1.5 trillion under the National Infrastructure Pipeline. The government has already undertaken several policies like GST, lowering the corporate tax, incentive scheme for new manufactures, new labour laws, ease of doing business and production linked incentives, he said.

"We have an ambitious plan to invest \$1.5 trillion under the National Infrastructure Pipeline. A pioneering multi-modal connectivity infrastructure master plan is being finalised. India has embarked on a massive infrastructure building spree of highways, railways, metros, water-ways, airports across the country. We are building millions of affordable houses for the neo-middle class. We want investments not just in big cities but smaller cities and towns too," he said.

Reforms in the agricultural sector have opened up "new exciting possibilities to partner with the farmers of India", the Prime Minister said, adding that the country can emerge as an agricultural export hub with use of technology and modern



processing solutions. The last five months have seen a 13 per cent rise in FDI inflows compared to last year, he said.

Modi said the country's quest for self-reliance or Aatmanirbhar Bharat is not a vision but a well-planned economic strategy. "A strategy that aims to use the capabilities of our businesses and skills of our workers to make India into a global manufacturing powerhouse," he said.

The Virtual Global Investor Roundtable was organised by the Finance Ministry and National Investment and Infrastructure Fund. Global institutional investors, Indian business leaders, top government officials and financial market regulators were part of the meeting. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur, and RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das also participated.

"The VGIR 2020 roundtable was a very productive and helpful forum which provided us insight into the government's vision to build out the India economy and accelerate the growth of international institutional investment in India. India is key to our long-horizon investment strategy, focused on growth markets, and we have a strong appetite to build on our existing investments across infrastructure, industrial and consumer sectors," Mark Machin, President & CEO of CPP Investments was quoted as saying in a release issued by the Prime Minister's Office.

Indo-China border situation tense, possibility of larger conflict can't be discounted: Bipin Rawat

NEW DELHI (TIP): Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat on Friday, November 6, said the situation astride the India-China border in Ladakh continued to remain tense, five months after their deadliest military confrontation in decades, PTI reported. Rawat admitted that the possibility of confrontations and unprovoked military actions spiralling into a larger conflict "cannot be discounted".

Nonetheless, India's posturing is "unambiguous", the military official said. "We will not accept any shift in Line of Actual Control. China's People's Liberation Army is facing unanticipated consequences for its misadventure in Ladakh because of firm responses by Indian forces."

Rawat made the statements at the Diamond Jubilee Webinar 2020, organised by National Defence College, according to ANI.

On August 24, Rawat had made similar assertions and said that the military option is on the table if talks between New Delhi and Beijing to de-escalate the tension along the border fail. "Defence services always remain prepared for military actions should all efforts to restore status quo along the LAC do not succeed," he had said.

The standoff along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh is in a stalemate since May, when Chinese troops moved to take control of the territory that had been patrolled by Indian soldiers for decades. The initial scuffles led up to a pitched battle



– without firearms – in June that saw 20 Indian soldiers killed, with Beijing refusing to release casualty numbers on its side.

Both India and China have accused each other of crossing into rival territory and of firing shots for the first time in 45 years.

The sides have held several rounds of talks by military, diplomatic and political officials, including negotiations between their foreign ministers and defense ministers in Moscow last month. But the standoff has persisted, although no new military aggression has been reported for over a month now.

Rawat also criticised Pakistan and alleged that the "unabated proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir" unleashed by the neighbouring country, accompanied by its "vicious anti-India rhetoric" have taken the bilateral ties to a new low.

India summons Pak envoy on Kartarpur issue

NEW DELHI (TIP): India followed up its strong note to Pakistan on the Kartarpur Corridor issue by summoning Pakistan's Deputy High Commissioner on Friday, Nov 6, to seek a reversal of its decision, said MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava during a media briefing. The Pakistan diplomat was told that the decision to hand over the management of the project to the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) instead of the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabhanda Committee (PSGPC) was highly condemnable. This is evident by the reaction of a section of the Sikh community here which also met MEA's Pakistan Desk incharge JP Singh to register their protest.

The MEA said such actions expose the Pakistani leadership's tall claims of preserving and protecting the rights and welfare of the religious minority communities. But the Pakistan Foreign Office maintained that the PSGPC remained responsible for carrying out rituals at the gurdwara as per the Sikh code of conduct.

Lodges strong protest over Islamabad's decision to transfer the management of the Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara from a Sikh body to a separate trust.



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- Plus shorts programs and student film showcases
- 57 features (53% of lineup) directed or co-directed by women
- 36 by BIPOC directors (34% of features program)

This year's festival reflects the growing diversity of nonfiction filmmaking forms. The lineup includes investigations of current events, explorations of unknown phenomena, re-examinations of settled histories, and profiles of a host of unforgettable personalities, including John Belushi, Ruth Finley, Pope Francis, Joanna Harcourt-Smith, Bill T. Jones, Jamal Khashoggi, Martin Luther King, Jr., Barbara Lee, Shane McGowan, Sona Mohapatra, Lorine Padilla, Kenny Scharf, Nasrin Soutodeh, Tiny Tim, Billy Tipton, David Wojnarowicz, and Frank Zappa.

World Premieres at the festival include Nelson G. Navarrete and Maxx Caicedo's "A La Calle", Petra Epperlein and Michael Tucker's "The Meaning of Hitler", Gong Cheng and Yung Chang's "Wuhan", Sian-Pierre Regis's "Duty Free", Noah Hutton's "In Silico", Nancy Buirski's "A Crime on the Bayou", Jeff Daniels's "Television Event", Ilinca Calugareanu's "A Cops and Robbers Story", Frank Matson's "Restaurant Hustle 2020: All on the Line", Rosalynde LeBlanc and Tom Hurwitz's "Can You Bring It: Bill T. Jones and D-Man in the

Waters", Cheryl Dunn's "Moments Like This Never Last", and Lauren DeFillipo and Katherine Gorringer's "Red Heaven", among others.

Among this year's international, North American, and US premieres are Mor Loushy's "Kings of Capitol Hill", Ulrike Ottinger's "Paris Calligrammes", Siji Awoyinka's "Elder's Corner", Meng Han's "Smog Town", Justin Staple's "American Rapstar", Mayye Zayed's "Lift Like a Girl", Sam Osborn and Nick Capezzeria's "Universe", Magnus Skatvold and Greg Mallozzi's "Blue Code of Silence", and Julien Temple's "Crock of Gold: A Few Rounds with Shane McGowan".

The Viewfinders Competition, recognizing 11 films demonstrating distinct directorial vision, includes Ra'anan Alexandrowicz's "The Viewing Booth", Loira Limbal's "Through the Night", Cecilia Aldarondo's "Landfall", and Bruno Santamaria's "Things We Dare Not Do".

In the Metropolis Competition, the ten films are dedicated to stories set in New York City, and include Chris McKim's "Wojnarowicz", Christian D. Bruun's "Calendar Girl", and Raquel Cepeda's "La Madrina: The Savage Life of Lorine Padilla".

Other festival sections include:

Winner's Circle, highlighting 8 films that have won awards at Oscar-qualifying international festivals, including David Osit's "Mayor", Elizabeth Lo's "Stray", and Radu Ciorniciuc's "Acasa, My Home"

Masters, offering a spotlight on the newest work from nonfiction auteurs like Julia Reichert and Steven Bognar ("9to5: The Story of a Movement"), and Errol Morris ("My Psychedelic Love Story")

American Perspectives and International Perspectives, with work like Eden Wurmfeld and Margaret Munzer Loeb's "Chasing Childhood", Deirdre Fishel's "Women in Blue", and Maia Lekow and Christopher King's "The Letter"

Investigations, thought-provoking investigative nonfiction, including Maya Zinshtein's "'Til Kingdom Come" and Giedr? ickyt?'s "The Jump"

Fight the Power, on activism, including Jeff Kaufman's "Nasrin" and Ashley O'Shay's "Unapologetic"

Portraits, profiling singular individuals in work like Rebecca Richman Cohen's "Weed & Wine" and Aisling Chin-Yee and Chase Joynt's "No Ordinary Man"

Jock Docs, on sports, in films like José Permar's "Off the Road" and Sami Khan and Michael Gassert's "The Last Out"

Behind the Scenes, on films and television, including R.J. Cutler's "Belushi" and Mo Scarpelli's "El Father Plays Himself"

Arts & Culture, on the arts, including Sachi Cunningham and Vayabobo's

DOC NYC VIRTUAL FEST

BY MABEL PAIS

"Documentary filmmakers are an integral part of NYC's creative economy and production community, and their ability to capture and communicate the human condition is so important during these challenging times." - Anne del Castillo: Commissioner, NYC Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment



A scene from "A Place That Makes Us." - Photo / Courtesy DOC NYC 2020



A scene from "Jacinta." - Photo / Courtesy DOC NYC 2020

"Crutch" and Katja Høgset, Margreth Olin, Espen Wallin's "Self Portrait"

Sonic Cinema, on music, including Alex Winter's "Zappa" and Robert Yapkovitz and Richard Peete's "In My Own Time: A Portrait of Karen Dalton"

NEW! Spotlight on Canada, celebrating work by Canadian filmmakers, co-presented by the Consulate General of Canada in New York.

DOC NYC's Shorts Competition boasts 43 films in 8 thematic programs, and the 2020 edition of its long-running DOC NYC U showcases 46 films representing student work from 7 NYC schools. DOC NYC U is co-presented by HBO Documentary Films.

During the festival, conversations with festival filmmakers will take place in daily "DOC NYC Live" events, and festival screenings will also include pre-recorded filmmaker Q&As after the films. Schedule and guests for both "Road Trip" and "DOC NYC Live" to be announced. "Road Trip" is co-presented by Netflix.

DOC NYC PRO, the festival's noted filmmaker development program, also

moved online in 2020, offering webinars to emerging and established documentary markers around that globe. DOC NYC PRO is co-presented by Apple Original Films.

"Documentary film has never felt so vital as in these tumultuous times," said Director of Programming Basil Tsiokos. "This year's lineup represents a wide array of voices both on screen and from behind the camera, creating works of art that will resonate for years to come." Tsiokos leads the festival's selection team of Programmers Ruth Somalo, Karen McMullen, and Jessie Fairbanks, and Associate Programmer Brandon Harrison, in collaboration with Artistic Director Thom Powers. For more information about the Festival, visit docnyc.net

TICKETS:

Tickets are available at docnyc.net. For Individual Tickets, Ticket-Packs and All-Access Passes, visit docnyc.net. Films will be available to screen throughout the U.S. November 11-19.

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

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Ajay Devgn in war mode post Diwali

After eight months of lockdown, Ajay Devgn is ready to don the Indian Air Force uniform again as he steps out to resume work on Bhuj: The Pride of India. It is heard that the actor will join Sanjay Dutt, Sharad Kelkar and Ammy Virk for a 12-day schedule this month that will see them canning some action sequences and a few dramatic scenes.

A trade source reveals that Devgn and director Abhishek Dudhaiya are currently determining the location for the shoot. "Given the prevailing scenario, the production team is hunting for a location that meets their safety demands. The final schedule is likely to kick off post Diwali. Sanjay, who is currently with his family in Dubai, will fly down after the festival to join the proceedings. After Ajay finishes his portions by the month-end, Sonakshi Sinha, Nora Fatehi and the rest of the cast will be called for the patchwork."

Set during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war, the period drama sees Devgn play IAF Squadron Leader Vijay Karnik, who reconstructed the IAF airbase in Bhuj with the help of Sunderben Jetha Madharparya and 300 local women. Confirming the pending schedule, Dudhaiya says, "We are looking forward to going back on the set, and have all the safety measures in place."

MANOJ BAJPAYEE IS THE REASON I DID THE SONG BASANTI: KARISHMA TANNA

Actress Karishma Tanna, who made her Bollywood debut in the year 2005, recently featured in her first-ever dance number, titled Basanti, in the upcoming film Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari along with Manoj Bajpayee. Shot in the 90s style with satirical lyrics, the song has been praised for Karishma's energetic dancing and expressions and Manoj Bajpayee's funny acting and dance.

The track is Karishma's first-ever dance number in a Bollywood song. Dressed in a shimmery red gown, the popular Television actress looks drop-dead gorgeous. Speaking of working with the legendary Manoj Bajpayee in her first-ever dance number in Bollywood, Karishma said, "I consider it my honour and blessing to share screen space, even if it's just for a dance number, with the multi-talented Manoj sir. It was an outstanding experience of working with him, better than what I imagined it to be. There is so much to learn from him, he is so full of talent, it's unbelievable. The reasons I did the song were, one for the melody of the song and two, for Manoj sir."

The song has been choreographed by Vijay Ganguly which features a lot of quirks, impromptu high-voltage steps, and funny expressions just like the trailer of the film. The song written by Danish Sabri, sung by Javed-Mohsin, Payal Dev, and Danish, and composed by Javed-Mohsin, is a fun number that will make it certainly make it to every party playlist this Diwali.



Kashmera Shah to feature in Mahesh Manjrekar's Marathi film

Actress Kashmera Shah has started shooting for a Marathi film directed by Mahesh Manjrekar.

The title of the film is still under wraps. According to sources, Kashmera will essay a simple yet sensuous housewife who stays in a chawl.

"It's a very challenging character and I can't reveal much about it right now. Maheshji has been one of my favourite directors. I am super excited as Maheshji has been creating magic on screen. His knowledge and understanding of films is unbelievable," said Kashmera about the director, who has helmed films such as "Vaastav: The Reality" and "Astitva" in the past.

"I get to play a completely different character in this film. People are going to love the film and the situation of it," she added.

Kashmera is currently shooting for it in Mumbai.



Shah Rukh Khan features on Burj Khalifa on 55th birthday

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan is elated that much before he could come on the big screen, he featured on the world's "biggest screen", Dubai's Burj Khalifa, on the occasion of his 55th birthday.

SRK, who is Dubai's ambassador since 2016, took to social media to share a picture of himself posing in front of the world's tallest building, which flashed "Happy Birthday Shah Rukh Khan." The superstar wrote that while he loved this gesture, his kids were "mighty impressed" too.

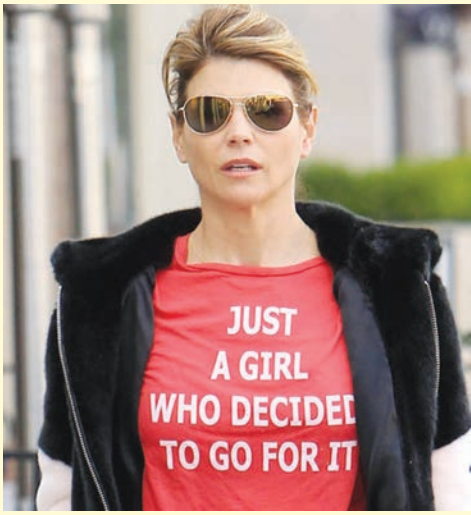
"It's nice to see myself on the biggest and tallest screen in the world. My friend #MohamedAlabbar has me on the biggest screen even before my next film. Thanks & love u all @burjkhalifa & @emaardubai. Being my own guest in Dubai... my kids mighty impressed and me is loving it," the Zero actor posted.

Shah Rukh Khan's friend,



filmmaker Karan Johar also took to Instagram to share a video of the moment. In the video, K Jo is heard telling

SRK to face the camera even as the actor is busy "admiring himself" on Burj Khalifa.



Lori Loughlin will serve full two months in prison

Lori Loughlin will serve her full two months in prison, unless there's a coronavirus outbreak. The 'Full House' star will be isolated for her first two weeks at Dublin Federal Prison in Northern California before joining the prison for the remainder of her sentence, with unlikely chance of her sentence being shortened.

However, it may be possible that if there is an outbreak of COVID-19 that she will serve the rest of her sentence elsewhere, TMZ reports.

As well as serving two months in jail, Lori was also asked to pay \$150,000 fine and complete 150 hours of community service for her part in the exams scandal. The 56-year-old actress originally pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery, but she subsequently decided to take a plea deal.

Mossimo Giannulli - Lori's husband, with whom she has Olivia, 21, and Isabella, 22 - has also received five months in jail, as well as a \$250,000 fine and 250 hours of service for his part in the controversy.

MEGAN FOX SLAMS EX BRIAN AUSTIN GREEN FOR SHARING PHOTOS OF KIDS

Megan Fox has accused Brian Austin Green of trying to make her look like an "absent mother".

The 'Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles' actress slammed her estranged husband for repeatedly sharing social media posts featuring photos of their three sons, Noah, seven, Bodhi, six, and three-year-old Journey, and claimed he only did so in order to look like "the perennial, eternally dedicated dad of the year" at her expense.

After Brian shared a photo of himself and Journey in their Halloween costumes, Megan wrote: "Why does Journey have to be in this picture? It's not hard to crop them out. Or choose photos that they aren't in."

"I had a great halloween with them yesterday, and yet notice how absent they are from my social media. I know you love your kids. But I don't know why you can't stop using them to posture via Instagram."

"You're so intoxicated with feeding the pervasive narrative that I'm an absent mother, and you are the perennial, eternally dedicated dad of the year. You have them half of the time."

"Congratulations you truly are a remarkable human! Why do you need the internet to echo back to you what should be inexhaustibly evident in the way your children love you? (sic)"

Not long after the 34-year-old beauty shared her comment, Brian - who announced in May this year that he and Megan had split - took down his original post.



Jess Glynne 'regrets' dress code complaint

The 30-year-old singer suffered a backlash over the summer when she hit out at an upmarket London eatery for refusing her entry because she was wearing a tracksuit but she insisted her words were "misconstrued" and she was just trying to make a point that people should never be "disregarded" just because of the way they look.

She admitted to Telegraph Luxury magazine: "I wish I never posted it. I think it got so misconstrued."

"I called it discrimination which was the wrong word and it's a very sensitive time at the moment. I know discrimination is a lot bigger than that."

"I appreciate I wasn't dressed appropriately, but the reason I posted my outfit was that I was aware of what I looked like in a tracksuit and I felt as if I was treated accordingly."

"My point was that as a human being, you shouldn't be disregarded."

In her original post, the 'Hold My Hand' hitmaker had blasted Sexy Fish - which has a clear dress code policy set out on their website - for their "rude" attitude when staff refused her entry, despite the restaurant being "empty".

She wrote: "Dear @sexyfishlondon I turned up to your restaurant looking like this and you looked me and my friend up and down and said no you can't come in and your restaurant was EMPTY. I then went to @amazonicolondon who greeted me and my friend with pure joy and we had a banging meal with wicked service."



BEYONCE KEEPS HER OWN HIVES, OWNS 80,000 BEES

Beyonce keeps "around 80,000 bees" at her home. The 39-year-old singer has revealed she has two large beehives on her property, which she uses to make "hundreds of jars of honey a year".

Beyonce said she got into beekeeping when she discovered her two daughters - Blue Ivy, eight, and Rumi, three - both have "terrible allergies", and found that honey has "countless healing properties" that could help them overcome their symptoms.

She said: "I know it's random, but I have two beehives. Real ones. I've had them at my house for a while now. I have around 80,000 bees and we make hundreds of jars of honey a year. I started the beehives because my daughters, Blue and Rumi, both have terrible allergies, and honey has countless healing properties."



VETERANS DAY IN THE UNITED STATES

In the USA, Veterans Day annually falls on November 11. This day is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice, which ended the World War I hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany in 1918. Veterans are thanked for their services to the United States on this Day.

Formerly called Armistice Day, Veterans Day is celebrated on 11th November every year. Initially, the day was a holiday to honor the anniversary of World War I. The day coincides with Armistice Day and Remembrance Day celebrated in other countries to honor the same war. Veterans Day commemorates both the living and dead persons who served in the US military service. Veterans vs. Memorial Day should however not be confused. While Memorial Day celebrates persons who died in the military service, Veterans Day celebrates all those who served in the US military, whether dead or alive.

Although the day is celebrated on 11th November, it is observed on the nearest weekday to 11th. For instance, if the day falls on a Sunday, then people observe it on Monday, whereas if it falls on Saturday, then the preceding Friday is often designated as the observance day.

Veterans Day History

The first Veterans Day was observed in 1019 after Germany and Allies put to end World War I. On November 11, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Armistice Day as one filled with solemn pride because of the heroism of the persons who died while serving the country. In May 1938, the Congress declared 11th November as a legal holiday and a day dedicated to the cause of world peace.

In 1945, Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran, suggested that the holiday should recognize all veterans from all the US wars. Following this, Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day after Congress amended the act in June 1954.

In 1968, the new legislation changed the Veterans Day celebration to the fourth Monday in October. However, given that November 11th held a historical significance for many Americans, Congress shifted the day's observance from October to the traditional date.

Although Veterans Day is a federal holiday in most of the states in the US, Wisconsin remains the only state that does not celebrate the holiday.

The Significance of Red Poppy to Veterans Day

Red poppies are a symbol of Veterans Day. The association of red poppies to this great day dates back in 1915. This was after Colonel John McCrae wrote a poem popularly known as 'In Flanders Fields' where he immortalized the poppy and its ability to sprout in large numbers after laying dormant in the soil for a long time. The red poppy is therefore, a symbol of sacrifice and the many needs of our veterans.

Today, the flower is used to raise funds and donations for veterans as a sign that despite the destruction of war, they have survived, and life has given them a second chance.



President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs HR7786, June 1, 1954. This ceremony changed Armistice Day to Veterans Day.



Facts

1918: World War I, then normally referred to simply as The Great War (no one could imagine any war being greater!), ended with the implementation of an armistice [temporary cessation of hostilities-in this case until the final peace treaty, the infamous Treaty of Versailles, was signed in 1919] between the Allies and Germany at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of November, 1918.

1919, November 11: President Wilson proclaims the first Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations." The original concept for the celebration was for the suspension of business for a two minute period beginning at 11 A.M., with the day also marked by parades and public meetings.

1920: On the second anniversary of the armistice, France and the United Kingdom hold ceremonies honoring their unknown dead from the war. In America, at the suggestion of church groups, President Wilson names the Sunday nearest Armistice Day Sunday, on which should

be held services in the interest of international peace.

1921: Congress passes legislation approving the establishment of a Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. November 11 is chosen for the date of the ceremony. According on October 20, Congress declares November 11, 1921 a legal Federal holiday to honor all those who participated in the war. The ceremony was conducted with great success.

1926: Congress adopts a resolution directing the President to issue an annual proclamation calling on the observance of Armistice Day. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, most states establish November 11 as a legal holiday and at the Federal level, an annual proclamation is issued by the President.

1938: Congress passes legislation on May 13 making November 11 a legal Federal holiday, Armistice Day. The United States has no 'actual' national holidays because the states retain the right to designate their own holidays. The Federal government can in fact only designate holidays for Federal employees and for the District of Columbia. But in practice the states almost always follow the Federal lead in designation of holidays.

1941- 1945/1950- 1953: World War II and the Korean War create millions of additional war

veterans in addition to those of the First World War already honored by Armistice Day.

1954: On June 1, President Eisenhower signs legislation changing the name of the legal holiday from Armistice Day to Veteran's Day.

1968: Congress passes the Monday Holiday Law which established the fourth Monday in October as the new date for the observance of Veteran's Day. The law is to take effect in 1971.

1971-1975: The Federal observance of Veterans Day is held on the fourth Monday of October. Initially all states follow suit except Mississippi and South Dakota. Other states changed their observances back to November 11 as follows: 1972- Louisiana and Wisconsin; 1974- Kentucky, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Maine, South Carolina, West Virginia; 1975- California, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, West Virginia, Wyoming

1975: Legislation passed to return the Federal observance of Veteran's Day to November 11, based on popular support throughout the nation. Since the change to the fourth Monday in October, 46 states had either continued to commemorate November 11 or had reverted back to the original date based on popular sentiment. The law was to take effect in 1978.

1978: Veteran's Day observance reverts to November 11.

Canada quietly updates COVID guidelines on risk of airborne spread

Canada has quietly revised its guidelines on how COVID-19 spreads to include the risk of aerosol transmission, weeks after other countries and international health organizations acknowledged the airborne threat of the coronavirus.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) updated its guidance without notice this week, making mention of the risk of transmission from aerosols — or microscopic airborne particles — for the first time.

"SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, spreads from an infected person to others through respiratory droplets and aerosols created when an infected person coughs, sneezes, sings, shouts, or talks," the updated guidance said.

"The droplets vary in size from large droplets that fall to the ground rapidly (within seconds or minutes) near the infected person, to smaller droplets, sometimes called aerosols, which linger in the air under some circumstances."

The federal agency's guidelines previously said the virus spreads only through breathing in respiratory droplets, touching contaminated surfaces and common greetings like handshakes and hugs. "We are continually reviewing new evidence and research as it emerges during the pandemic, and this new evidence guides our response to Canadians," a spokesperson for PHAC said in a statement to CBC News.

Global Covid-19 Cases top 48.5mn: Johns Hopkins

The overall number of global coronavirus cases has topped the 48.5 million mark, while the deaths have surged to more than 1,231,610, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

As of Friday (Nov 6) morning, the total caseload and death toll stood at 48,590,825 and 1,231,616, respectively, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed in its latest update.

The US is the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 9,604,077 and 234,904, respectively, according to the CSSE.

India comes in second place in terms of cases at 8,364,086, while the country's death toll soared to 124,315.

The other top 15 countries with the maximum amount of cases are Brazil (5,590,025), Russia (1,699,695), France (1,648,989), Spain (1,306,316), Argentina (1,217,028), the UK (1,126,469), Colombia (1,117,983), Mexico (943,630), Peru (911,787), Italy (824,879), South Africa (732,414), Iran (654,936), Germany (619,186), Chile (516,582), and Iraq (489,571), the CSSE figures showed.

Brazil currently accounts for the second highest number of fatalities at 161,106.

The countries with a death toll above 10,000 are Mexico (93,228), the UK (48,210), Italy (40,192), France (39,088), Spain (38,486), Iran (36,985), Peru (34,671), Argentina (32,766), Colombia (32,209), Russia (29,285), South Africa (19,677),

TRACKING THE VIRUS			
GLOBAL		INDIA	
Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
48,590,825	1,231,616	84,11,724	1,24,985



Chile (14,404), Indonesia (14,348), Ecuador (12,730), Belgium (12,331), Iraq (11,175), Germany (11,006), Turkey (10,639) and Canada (10,432).

The US has set a new world record as its single-day COVID-19 cases topped over 110,000 on Thursday.

A total of 117,988 new cases and 1,135 new deaths were recorded on Thursday, according to data updated by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Friday, Xinhua news agency reported.

The new number broke the previous record of 106,537 single-day cases on Wednesday. The country had added over 100,000 cases in two consecutive days respectively, which marked a grim milestone since the outbreak of the pandemic.

The surge had been predicted by experts months ago. In June, with daily cases hovering around 40,000, Anthony Fauci, director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, warned the country was on track to hit 100,000 daily cases if the nation did not work harder to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

The 7-day average case count also set a new record at over 93,000 on Thursday, CDC data show.

Currently more than 252,000 COVID-19 cases have been reported across more than 1,700 US colleges and universities, according to The New York Times. More than 50 campuses have marked 1,000 COVID-19 infections while 400 colleges have reported at least 100 cases.

The majority of infections occurred as students returned to school for the fall semester.

While young adults are at lower risk for severe disease and death compared to older adults and those with preexisting

US sets new world record as single-day COVID-19 cases surpass 110,000



conditions, experts are concerned young adults could transmit the virus to those at higher risks and can also become seriously ill themselves.

As nationwide COVID-19 cases soar, the number of hospitalized Americans is also climbing, and experts warn that could lead to a rise in deaths.

The United States currently has more than 53,000 hospitalized patients,

according to The COVID Tracking Project.

A new ensemble forecast by the CDC predicts that a total of 250,000 to 266,000 COVID-19 deaths will be reported by the end of November.

The United States has recorded more than 9,678,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases and over 235,500 deaths as of Friday afternoon, according to the real-

time count kept by Johns Hopkins University.

UK reports 23,287 new COVID-19 cases, 355 deaths

Another 23,287 people in the UK have tested positive for the novel coronavirus, which increased the country's overall infection tally to 1,146,484, according to official figures.

Also on Friday, coronavirus deaths rose by 355 to 48,475, Xinhua news agency reported.

Earlier in the day, the government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) announced that the UK's coronavirus reproduction number, also known as the R number, remained between 1.1 and 1.3, the same as last week's figure.

The R number is one of many indicators scientists use to determine how fast the virus is spreading in the country.

If the R number is above one, it means the number of cases will increase exponentially.

Also on Friday, queues were seen outside new test centres in Liverpool which were opened at midday as part of the country's first mass coronavirus testing programme.

German police search homes of four suspected of ties to Vienna attacker

BERLIN (TIP): German police on Friday searched the homes and businesses of four people believed to have had ties to the man who went on a deadly rampage in Vienna this week, officials said.

The 20-year-old convicted jihadist who killed four people on Monday was shot dead by police within nine minutes of opening fire on bystanders and bars. He was later identified as Kujtim Fejzulaj, a native of Vienna.

"There is no initial suspicion that the four people affected by today's measures took part in the attack but there are believed to have been links with the suspected attacker," Germany's BKA criminal police said on Twitter.

The BKA said a federal judge had issued search warrants for the homes and businesses in the German towns of Osnabrueck, Kassel and in the district of Pinneberg near Hamburg after the Austrian judiciary transferred some of its findings on the attack to German prosecutors.

The suspects had had contact with Fejzulaj online and had met him in person, Germany's interior ministry said. Nobody was arrested as part of Friday's searches, it added.

Austrian authorities have arrested 15 people who interior ministry officials said were part of the radical Islamist scene.

Switzerland has also arrested two men in connection with the attack. Austrian Interior Minister Karl Nehammer said on Thursday Austria was in close contact with another unspecified country in its investigation. - Reuters

Tesla launches \$250 Tequila, runs out in hours

Maxico (TIP): Tesla Inc Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk made good on his promise to sell "Tesla Tequila"—two years after teasing the plan in a tweet, and the \$250 bottles quickly flew off the virtual shelf. Pictures revealed a sleek, lightning bolt-shaped bottle, a lot different than what Musk teased when he touted the Tequila. The Silicon Valley billionaire is no stranger to selling quirky products in limited one-time sales. He sold flamethrowers at \$500 a piece in early 2018, raising \$10 million for his high-speed tunnel venture The Boring Company. Musk has also sold 50,000 Boring Company hats previously. He tweeted the idea of 'Teslaquila' on April Fool's day in 2018, which many of his followers considered to be a joke. However, Musk's efforts to trademark the drink in October of that year were frowned upon by Mexico's tequila producers. Reuters

Dutch PM denounces intolerance as teacher in hiding amid Islam cartoon debate

AMSTERDAM (TIP): Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte on Friday denounced what he called intolerable threats to freedom of expression, after a Rotterdam teacher was forced into hiding following a classroom discussion on the killing of French teacher Samuel Paty.

Police said they had arrested a teenager on suspicion of inciting threats against the Dutch teacher.

It was not clear if the unidentified 18-year-old woman, who police said posted messages on social media, was a student at the city's Emmauscollege high school, where the class debate took place.

Police did not detail the content of the messages.

Premier Mark Rutte called threats against the teacher "absurd" and "intolerable".

"We must be able to discuss topics such as freedom of expression in our classrooms without any outside pressure," he told reporters.



"It may hurt when someone has an opinion that conflicts with your worldview or religious conviction, but they have a right to say so in all liberty." Schools in the Netherlands, France

and Germany had been asked to hold a moment of silence for Paty, who was beheaded by a man of Chechen origin in a Paris suburb in October after showing pupils cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad by the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo.

During a classroom discussion on Monday at the Emmauscollege, students noticed a satirical cartoon that had been hanging on a bulletin board for years, and some took offence.

The cartoon, which won a national prize in 2015, shows a decapitated figure labelled "Charlie Hebdo" sticking its tongue out at a bearded man with a bloody sword.

A photo of the image quickly began circulating on social media, and on Tuesday the teacher who had led the discussion went into hiding due to what police said were serious threats.

Also on Tuesday, Le Monde reported that a school in a Paris suburb was closed after threats against a teacher. Reuters

How thousands in China got infected by brucellosis in one single outbreak

BEIJING (TIP): Brucellosis, a bacterial disease with flu-like symptoms, has infected more than 6,000 people in a single outbreak in northwestern China.

Usually caused by contact with animals, the outbreak in Lanzhou, the capital of Gansu province, was due to a leak at a vaccine plant, according to Lanzhou's health commission. People are still being treated at hospitals even though the outbreak happened a year ago.

China's top legislative body passed a law last month to establish protocols for biosecurity risk prevention and control, and systems to respond to risks including sudden outbreaks.

What is brucellosis?

Brucellosis is a zoonotic infectious disease, or a disease in animals that can spread to humans. It is caused by a bacteria that affects sheep, goats, cattle, swine and even dogs and is reported in many countries.

Humans generally get the disease from direct contact with infected animals through the consumption of tainted animal products such as unpasteurised milk or cheese, or through the inhalation of airborne agents.

Human-to-human transmission is extremely rare, according to the World Health Organization.

Symptoms in humans include fever and weakness, which emerge over a few weeks. The mortality rate is low, though complications could lead to death. Some symptoms such as joint pain may become chronic and never go away.

What happened in Lanzhou?

The latest outbreak in Lanzhou was



Humans generally get the disease from direct contact with infected animals through the consumption of tainted animal products such as unpasteurised milk or cheese, or through the inhalation of airborne agents.

first uncovered in November 2019 when some students at the Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute tested positive for brucellosis. By the end of December, at least 181 people at the institute had been infected, according to the provincial health authority.

The outbreak even spread to Heilongjiang province in the northeastern corner of China, where 13 people who worked at the veterinarian institute in August 2019 tested positive, state media reported.

The government has tested 55,725 people in the city, of which 6,620 are positive for brucellosis as of now, the

Lanzhou government said at a press conference, according to a report on Thursday by the state-owned Global Times.

The outbreak originated at a biopharmaceutical factory owned by Shanghai-listed China Animal Husbandry Industry Co, according to a statement from Lanzhou's health commission in September.

The factory had used expired disinfectants in July to August 2019 to make brucellosis vaccines, leaving the bacteria in its waste gas. The contaminated gas later formed aerosols that drifted downwind to the veterinary institute.

Is Brucellosis common in China?

About half a million infected people are reported each year around the world, with China typically accounting for tens of thousands.

In 2019, China reported 44,036 cases with one death, up from 37,947 cases and zero deaths a year earlier.

The very first cases reported in China were in the southwestern city of Chongqing in 1905. China saw a widespread epidemic of brucellosis in the 1950s and 1960s, according to state media.

Brucellosis is more common in pastoral areas in the west and north of China. It is categorized as a Class B infectious disease under a three-tier system

Last year, China reported over 10 million cases of infectious diseases, including brucellosis, scarlet fever, dysentery and dengue.

Reuters

New Zealand's Ardern vows to 'crack on' with new-look cabinet



SYDNEY (TIP): New Zealand swore in its new cabinet on Friday, including five Maori and its first openly gay deputy prime minister, as Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's government increased its majority with the release of full results of an October 17 general election.

In separate vote results, New

Zealanders narrowly rejected the legalisation of recreational marijuana while deciding to push ahead with laws to legalise euthanasia.

Ardern's Labour Party increased its majority to 65 seats from 64 in the 120-seat assembly, according to final NZ Electoral Commission results. The results included an additional 5,00,000

special votes, some of them mailed in from overseas.

"There are significant challenges for us to overcome together but I am confident we have the team to do it and it is great to be officially able to now crack on with it," Ardern said in Wellington after the full results were released.

The 20-strong new-look cabinet includes eight women.

The final results compounded the election-day disaster suffered by the opposition National Party, which was in power as recently as 2017. The party dropped two seats to 33 in parliament after the additional votes were tallied.

The Maori Party, representing the indigenous community that makes up about 15 per cent of the population, picked up an additional seat to secure two representatives in the new parliament.

New Zealanders voted in the referendums on marijuana and euthanasia while casting ballots in the general election.

A thin 50.7 per cent majority voted against the legalisation of recreational cannabis use while nearly two-thirds of voters supported a bill to allow people who meet certain requirements ask for medical assistance to end their lives, the Electoral Commission's full results showed. Reuters



Australia charges first person under foreign interference law

SYDNEY (TIP): Australian police said a Melbourne man, who appeared in court on Thursday, was the first person charged with foreign interference under the new legislation introduced in 2018.

A federal police statement did not give details about which foreign state the 65-year-old man was accused of acting for.

A Melbourne Magistrates Court spokeswoman confirmed that Di Sanh Duong had appeared in court on Thursday.

Duong holds senior positions in a number of Chinese community associations in the state of Victoria, including the Oceania Federation of Chinese Australians, and the Chinese Museum, according to organisation records seen by Reuters, websites and press statements.

Duong could not immediately be contacted for comment.

The Chinese Museum did not respond to a request for comment and the Oceania Federation could not be immediately reached for comment.

The Australian Federal Police executed search warrants in Melbourne on October 16, the police statement said.

The charge, of preparing an act of foreign interference, followed an investigation into the man's relationship with a foreign intelligence agency by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) and the federal police, it said.

AFP Deputy Commissioner Ian McCartney said in a statement: "Foreign interference is contrary to Australia's national interest. It goes to the heart of our democracy." He added: "It is corrupting and deceptive, and goes beyond routine diplomatic influence practiced by governments."

When the foreign interference legislation was introduced to the Parliament, then Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull referred to the media reports about covert interference by the Chinese Communist Party and said he was galvanised to take action by a classified ASIO report.

Beijing took offence at the Australian political debate over the interference laws. Reuters

4-week lockdown comes into force in England



LONDON (TIP): Amid an ongoing second Covid-19 wave, a new four-week lockdown in England came into force on Thursday, under which people will have to stay at home, while non-essential shops, pubs and gyms will remain closed.

The lockdown came into effect after MPs on Wednesday voted in its favour by 516 to 39, a majority of 477, the BBC reported.

It will replace the three tiers of regional restrictions that were previously in place across England.

On December 2, MPs will again vote

on the next steps needed to tackle the virus before the lockdown comes to an end.

Under the new rules, households are banned from mixing indoors or in private gardens, unless in a support bubble.

All non-essential retailers, leisure and entertainment venues will be shut, with pubs and restaurants will be closed except for takeaways.

In a warning, Martin Hewitt, chairman of the National Police Chiefs Council, said that those responsible for the most "egregious" breaches of the

rules would face stiff fines.

Unlike the first lockdown in March, schools, universities, and nurseries will remain open, and people will be able to meet another person who they do not live with in an outdoor public place such as a park or beach.

During a debate in the House of Commons before the vote, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that the second lockdown was "not something any of us wanted to do" but "I am not prepared to take the risk with the lives of British people", the BBC reported.

"While it pains me to call for such restrictions on lives, liberty and business I have no doubt that these restrictions represent the best and safest path for our country," he told MPs.

Johnson insisted the lockdown will expire automatically on December 2 and he hopes "very much" to "get this country going again" in the run up to Christmas.

On Thursday, Chancellor Rishi Sunak will address the House of Commons during which he will outline what economic support will be available to businesses and jobs during the lockdown.

On Wednesday, the UK reported 492 news coronavirus deaths, the highest daily figure since May 19, and 25,177 confirmed cases.

With the new tallies, the UK's overall caseload and death toll stood at 1,102,305 and 47,832, respectively. IANS

INSTANT FACE MASKS FOR GLOWING SKIN

Try these easy home remedies that will instantly give you glowing skin of your dreams!

At-home sheet mask

A new lockdown find is sheet masks that come packed as a capsule and as soon as you dip it in a liquid it turns into a mask. This is perfect for days when you do not have too much time for an elaborate skincare routine. All you need to do is dip one of those in cold milk and a pinch of turmeric. Leave the mask on for 15 minutes and rinse with cold water. This will ensure you have brighter and glowing skin. Just make sure you use organic turmeric that does not leave a stain on your face!

Ice-cube galore

Ice cubes are one of the best things to increase blood circulation to your face and bring the lost glow back. One of the best things to do here is to steep a cup of green tea and let it cool. Once the green tea is ready, mix it with a few drops of your favourite essential oil and fill it up in an ice tray. After a few



hours, use this iced green tea on your face and watch the magic happen! It is an instant hack to get glowing skin.

Besan packs

If you're looking to go all out with traditional home remedies, we're

here for you. All you need is one teaspoon of besan aka gram flour and yoghurt. Mix it together and add a pinch of turmeric and saffron to the mix. Now, apply the mixture to your face and leave it on for about 20 minutes. Rinse with cold water and see the magic happen!

Tips to keep kitchen squeaky clean

Count on these easy suggestions to ensure your kitchen stays neat, clean and beautiful

Cleaning

It is important to keep the kitchen's cleanliness and hygiene in check. Spray the area with all-purpose cleaners and wipe it dry. Regularly cleaning the countertop and the sink helps to ease down the tedious task of maintaining the kitchen.

Waste management

Working around edible stuff can create a lot of waste (both wet and dry). It is important you have your waste management in check. The garbage can harbour alarming bacteria and offensive smells. Separate bins for dry and wet waste not only helps in disposing of the same easily but also maintain kitchen hygiene.

Empty sinks

Make sure to keep your sinks empty and clean. That way it creates more room for rinsing off the vegetable while cooking and reduces the concern of bad odour from used utensils.

Right cleaning tools

There's nothing more nerve-racking than going about cleaning without the right cleaning tools. Make sure you wash the napkins regularly and store them at a place that is easily accessible. Also, do not forget to dispose of an overused napkin as the odour from it can last



for days. Using kitchen napkins or rags cuts down on trash and makes you take the eco-friendly route because you can just use one rag and rinse it out when required instead of tearing off paper towels and throwing them away after one wipe.

Floor and wall tiles

Kitchen floors get messy in no time with food crumbs, other edible particles, dust, etc. To keep germs and insects away from your kitchen, it is important to sweep or vacuum your floor daily. Along with the floor, ensure the tiles above the counter are cleaned at regular intervals. If the tiles contain dirt on them for long durations, they can come in contact with your food, and thus affect your health.

Spill-in check

Another easy way to maintain your kitchen is to never let the spills sit. They get sticky and stinky in no time. Make sure to wipe a spill as soon as it happens to avoid dealing with a larger mess later. Depending on the food ingredient, if left unchecked for a long time, the spills can result in unremovable stains thus ruining the beauty of your kitchen.

Clean cabinets

Always ensure you clean your cabinets regularly. Clean them by wiping down a few times. After cleaning, wipe the cabinets with a dry cloth or towel to absorb any extra moisture. It is recommended to clean the cabinets inside out a few times every month to avoid any dust particles or stains.



By Tript Arora

CONNOISSEUR'S CHOICE



ALOO TIKKI

Aloo tikki is an Indian street food. Made from boiled potatoes and shaped like patties. They are crispy from outside and soft from inside. These crispy potato patties are served with tamarind and green chutney. They are made with different types of stuffing. Today I am making them with the easiest stuffing. So you can very well serve them as evening snacks today.

We need

500 gm boiled potatoes, 2 Tbsp All purpose flour, 2 Tbsp Cornstarch, Oil for shallow frying.

For Stuffing:

100 gm boiled Green Peas, 1 Tbsp Boiled grated Potatoes, 1 Tsp Chaat Masala, 1 Tsp Red Chilli Powder, 1 Tsp Coriander Powder, 1 Tsp roasted Cumin Powder, 1 Tsp Salt.

For Serving

1 Cup Curd, ½ Cup Green Chutney, ½ Cup Tamarind Chutney, 2 Tbsp roasted Cumin powder, 2 Tbsp Red Chilli Powder, 2 Tbsp Chat Masala, 1 Large Onion Sliced, 1 Large Tomato Sliced, Black Salt as required

Here We Go

- Wash and Clean Potatoes. Put them in a pressure cooker. Add enough water to cover the potatoes. Pressure cook them upto 3 whistles. Don't release the steam. Let it cool by itself. Keep them in the refrigerator for ½ an hour.
- After half an hour of refrigeration, grate the potatoes. Then mix cornflour and all purpose flour to them. Mash and Mix them thoroughly till there are no lumps. Keep aside 2 tbsp of this mixture.
- Grease your hands and Make balls from this mixture and flatten them between your palms. Shape all the patties and keep aside.
- In a bowl take all the ingredients listed under for stuffing. Mash them thoroughly. Add the potatoes mixture which we have kept aside to this.
- Take one patty in your palm. Make depression in it. Fill the peas mixture in the depression which you have created. Seal the ends and shape them like patties again.
- Heat a pan or girdle (tawa) on medium heat. Put 3 Tbsp of oil on it. Shallow fry tikkies on it till they are nice and crisp on both sides.
- Serve them hot with curd, tamarind chutney, green chutney and sliced tomato and onions



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ABNORMAL BP WHILE SLEEPING CAN INCREASE STROKE RISK: STUDY

People who experience high blood pressure while sleeping are more likely to experience future cardiovascular disease especially heart failure, even when their daytime blood pressure is within normal ranges, warn researchers.

"Nighttime blood pressure is increasingly being recognised as a predictor of cardiovascular risk," said study lead author Kazuomi Kario from Jichi Medical University in Japan.

The study, published in the journal *Circulation*, provides in-depth information about the cardiovascular risk associated with high nighttime blood pressure.

For the findings, the research team rolled 6,359 patients from across Japan between 2009 and 2017 and measured daytime and nighttime levels using an at-home, wearable, ambulatory monitor.

Blood pressure was measured during daily activities and sleep for at least 24 hours at a time, and device data were periodically downloaded at a health care clinic.

Almost half of the study participants were male, and more than half were over the age of 65 years. The patients all had at least one cardiovascular risk factor, and



three-quarters of them were taking blood pressure medications, and none had symptomatic cardiovascular disease when the study began.

The study participants were instructed to rest or sleep during nighttime hours and maintain their usual daytime activities.

Their daily activities and sleep and wake times were self-reported in a diary. Almost every participant recorded 20 daytime and seven nighttime automated blood pressure measurements.

To determine nighttime measurements, patients self-

reported the time they fell asleep and woke up. All other readings were defined as daytime.

Follow-up occurred annually via phone or clinic visit, with total follow up ranging from two to seven years. Researchers analysed the rates of cardiovascular disease events, including heart attacks, strokes, heart failure and death, among the participants.

Study participants experienced a total of 306 cardiovascular events, including 119 strokes, 99 diagnoses of coronary artery disease and 88 diagnoses of heart failure.



Vitamin B3 can protect skin cells from UV-induced skin cancer

A form of vitamin B3 can protect skin cells from the effects of ultraviolet (UV) exposure which is the main risk factor for non-melanoma skin cancers, reveals new research.

Researchers in Italy isolated cells (human primary keratinocytes) from the skin of patients with non-melanoma skin cancers.

These cells were treated with three different concentrations of nicotinamide (NAM)—a form of vitamin B3—for 18, 24, and 48 hours and then exposed to UVB.

Results showed that pre-treatment with 25 micron (ÅµM) of NAM 24 hours before UV irradiation protected the skin cells from the effects of UV-induced oxidative stress, including DNA damage.

NAM enhanced DNA repair, demonstrated by decreased expression of the DNA repair enzyme OGG1.

Furthermore, it decreased antioxidant expression and blocked local inflammation by showing decreased nitric oxide (NO) release and reactive oxygen species (ROS) production, and reduced iNOS protein expression.

"Our study indicates that increasing the consumption of vitamin B3, which is readily available in the daily diet, will protect the skin from some of the effects of UV exposure, potentially reducing the incidence of non-melanoma skin cancers," said Lara Camillo, a research student from the dermatological unit of AOU Maggiore della Carita, Novara, Italy.

However, the protective effect of vitamin B3 is short-acting, so it should be consumed no later than 24 to 48 hours before sun exposure, she said during the 29th European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology virtual conference.

Non-melanoma skin cancers are the most common malignancies and are increasing worldwide.

The main risk factor is UV radiation exposure, which damages the DNA, increases ROS production, activates local inflammation, and depletes cellular energy, leading to genomic instability and cell death.

Mutation in novel coronavirus may have made it more contagious: Study

The novel coronavirus is accumulating genetic mutations, one of which may have made it more contagious, according to a study involving more than 5,000 Covid-19 patients in the US.

The research, published in the journal *mBio*, however, did not find that these mutations have made the virus deadlier or changed clinical outcomes.

The researchers noted that the mutation, called D614G, is located in the spike protein that pries open our cells for viral entry.

"The virus is mutating due to a combination of neutral drift -- which just means random genetic changes that don't help or hurt the virus -- and pressure from our immune systems," said Ilya Finkelstein, associate professor at The University of Texas at Austin, US.

The researchers noted that during the initial wave of the pandemic, 71 per cent of the novel coronaviruses identified in patients in Houston had this mutation.



When the second wave of the outbreak hit Houston during the summer, this variant had leaped to 99.9 per cent prevalence, they said.

This mirrors a trend observed around the world, according to the researchers.

The reason why strains containing this mutation outcompete those that didn't have it may be that natural selection would favour strains of the virus

that transmit more easily, the researchers said.

However, some scientists have suggested another explanation, called "founder's effects." In that scenario, the D614G mutation might have been more common in the first viruses to arrive in Europe and North America, essentially giving them a head start on other strains, according to the researchers.

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Google to allow Meet users replace background with image

Google has started rolling out a new feature that will allow users of its Meet video conferencing platform to replace their background with an image of their choice.

They can either use Google's hand-picked images, which include office spaces, landscapes, and abstract backgrounds, or upload their own image.

"Selecting your own picture is not available to participants of meetings organised by Education customers," Google said.

Google said that the feature will initially work on ChromeOS and on the Chrome browser on Windows and Mac desktop devices.

Support on Meet mobile apps will be "coming soon", the company said.

Google starts rolling out Categories in Google Messages

Google Messages is one of the fundamental apps that is available on almost all Android smartphones. Over the years, Google has improved this service by adding support for a host of features including RCS and reaction emojis among others. Now, Google has started rolling out support for another major feature in the service -- Categories.

Android Police reports that Google has started rolling out support for Categories feature in Google Messages for SMS messages. Several Google Messages users have started sharing screenshots of how the company is making their message experience better by sorting them into various categories.

Samsung to replace its Daily feed

Samsung, last year, replaced Bixby Home with a new content discovery platform called Samsung Daily. Now, almost a year after making the change, the South Korean electronic giant is tweaking this platform further.

As per a report by Sam Mobile, Samsung is planning to replace Samsung Daily by a new service called Samsung Free. The company has started sending notices to its Galaxy smartphone users informing them about the change.

In the message to its users, Samsung said that the change is a part of the company's strategy to deliver quality content to its users. In addition to that, the company also highlights some of the changes that it will be making to Samsung Daily for paving the way for Samsung Free. This includes the ability to navigate using a multi-tab structure and availability of content including news in a new format.

Mysterious radio signal spotted in Milky Way for first time

Fast radio bursts (FRBs) are some of the most energetic — and most brief — blasts of light in the universe. These mysterious radio wave pulses flash through space a thousand times a day, occasionally brushing past Earth and its vigilant telescopes. FRBs appear and disappear in milliseconds, yet pack more energy than the sun unleashes in three days. Some FRBs repeat over days or months. Most travel hundreds of millions of light-years to reach Earth. And none have ever led back to a definitive source in the cosmos — until now.

In a series of three papers published on Nov. 4 in the journal *Nature*, researchers from the United States and Canada report the detection of an FRB that originates not in some far-flung galaxy, but 30,000 light-years away in the northern sky of the Milky Way. Not only is this the first FRB ever detected within our own galaxy, but also the first to originate from a known object in the universe — in this case, a highly-magnetized stellar corpse known as a magnetar.

This burnt-out star — named SGR 1935+2154 — provides the first concrete evidence of the origins of FRBs after more than a decade of mystery, Daniele Michilli, a co-author of one of the new studies, told *Live Science*.

"This is the most powerful radio burst ever detected in our galaxy, which is exciting on its own," Michilli, an astrophysicist with the FRB-hunting Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment (CHIME), said in an email. "But now we finally have evidence of at least one object that can produce FRBs. Magnetars were already one of the main candidates, so it is a nice confirmation of our theories."

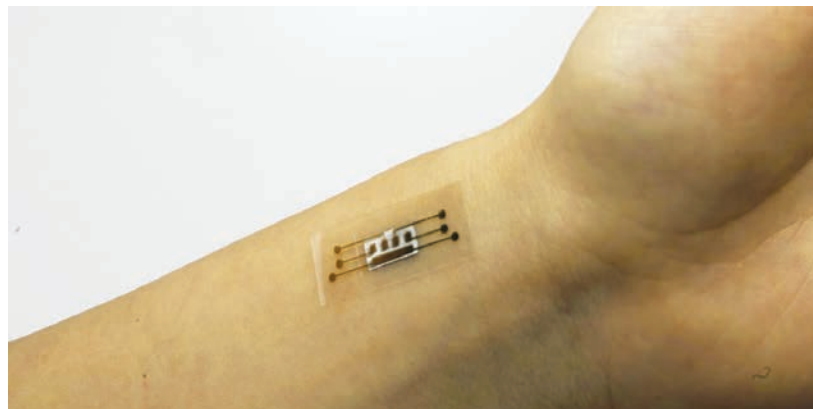
Nestled in the bosom of a supernova remnant (the gassy



graveyard left behind by a blown-apart star) in the constellation Vulpecula, SGR 1935+2154 first caught scientists' attention in 2014 when it began flinging powerful X-ray and gamma-ray pulses in Earth's direction. As the outbursts continued, astronomers identified the object as a magnetar.

Magnetars are a type of neutron star — the collapsed core of a once-mighty star that packs about twice the mass of Earth's sun into a ball no wider than a city. When those balls are surrounded by a particularly strong magnetic field — trillions of times stronger than Earth's — scientists call them magnetars.

Researchers invent flexible and highly reliable sensor



Guided by the theory of contact mechanics, a team of researchers from the National University of Singapore (NUS) came up with a new sensor material that has significantly less hysteresis. This ability enables more accurate wearable health technology and robotic sensing.

The research team, led by Assistant Professor Benjamin Tee from the Institute for Health Innovation & Technology at NUS, published their results in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* on 28 September 2020.

When soft materials are used as compressive sensors, they usually face severe hysteresis issues. The soft sensor's material properties can change in between repeated touches, which affects the reliability of the data. This makes it challenging to get accurate readouts every time, limiting the sensors' possible applications.

The NUS team's breakthrough is the invention of a material which has high sensitivity, but with an almost hysteresis-free

performance. They developed a process to crack metal thin films into desirable ring-shaped patterns on a flexible material called polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS).

The team integrated this metal/PDMS film with electrodes and substrates for a piezoresistive sensor and characterised its performance. They conducted repeated mechanical testing, and verified that their design innovation improved sensor performance. Their invention, named Tactile Resistive Annularly Cracked E-Skin, or TRACE, is five times better than conventional soft materials.

"With our unique design, we were able to achieve significantly improved accuracy and reliability. The TRACE sensor could potentially be used in robotics to perceive surface texture or in wearable health technology devices, for example to measure blood flow in superficial arteries for health monitoring applications" said Asst Prof Tee, who is also from the NUS Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

Scientists develop electronic patch to monitor, treat heart disease

Researchers have developed a patch made from rubbery electronics that can be placed directly on the heart to collect information on its activity, temperature, and other indicators—an innovation that may help look out for cardiac arrest in vulnerable individuals.

According to the scientists, including those from the University of Houston (UH) in the US, while pacemakers and other implantable devices are used to monitor and treat irregular heartbeats, these are mostly made with rigid materials that can't move to accommodate a beating heart.

They said the novel patch, described in the journal *Nature Electronics*, marks the first time bioelectronics have been developed based on fully rubbery electronic materials that are compatible with heart tissue, allowing the device to solve the limitations of previous implants.

"For people who have heart arrhythmia or a heart attack, you need to quickly identify the problem. This device can do that," said Cunjiang Yu, a co-author of the study from UH.

In addition to the ability to simultaneously collect information from multiple locations on the heart, the scientists said the patch can harvest energy from heartbeats, allowing it to perform without an external power source.





ED files chargesheet against ex-ICICI Bank chief Chanda Kochhar

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a chargesheet in a Mumbai court against former ICICI Bank chief Chanda Kochhar, her husband Deepak Kochhar and Videocon Group MD Venugopal Dhoot in a fraud case.

The court is yet to take cognizance of the chargesheet. According to people quoted by news agency PTI, the chargesheet or the prosecution complaint was filed on Tuesday under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The ED had launched a probe into money laundering after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered a case of corruption against the Kochhars. The CBI had initiated an inquiry in 2017 against the couple after allegations surfaced that ICICI had sanctioned a credit facility of about Rs 3,250 crore to various entities in contravention to the rules and policies.

SBI records 52% jump in profit in second quarter

State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender by assets, said on Wednesday profit jumped 52% in the second quarter as bad loan provisions fell, with retail credit growth returning to pre-pandemic levels as economic activity picks up.

SBI's results underscore a recovery in consumer demand during India's festive season as the bank's retail loans grew more than 14.5%, although regulatory measures aimed at helping borrowers - including a one-time loan restructuring - are likely to slow the banking sector's recovery.

Several public sector banks as well as their private rivals in the country have seen profits increase as bad loan provisions dropped or interest income rose. Sanctions and disbursements for SBI during the second quarter were significantly higher than last year across most retail products, the bank said in a statement. Home loans, which constitute 23% of domestic advances, grew 10.34%.

"SBI's operating performance has come above expectations, driven by lower cost of deposits," said Rajiv Mehta, executive vice-president at brokerage Yes Securities.

US manufacturing near 2-yr high; road ahead difficult

U.S. manufacturing activity accelerated more than expected in October, with new orders jumping to their highest level in nearly 17 years amid a shift in spending toward goods like motor vehicles and food as the COVID-19 pandemic drags on.

The survey on Monday (Nov 2) from the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) was the last piece of major economic data before Tuesday's bitterly contested presidential election. But the outlook for manufacturing is challenging.

While the coronavirus crisis has boosted demand for goods complementing the pandemic life, a resurgence in new cases across the country could lead to authorities re-imposing restrictions to slow the spread of the respiratory illness as winter approaches, which could crimp activity. Government money for businesses and workers hit by the pandemic, which boosted economic growth in the third quarter, has dried up.

"Manufacturing rebounded strongly with fewer restrictions on economic activity and stimulus efforts, but the path forward will be more difficult as the economy continues to cope with the pandemic," said Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The ISM said its index of national factory activity increased to a reading of 59.3 last month. That was the highest since November 2018 and followed a reading of 55.4 in September.

A reading above 50 indicates expansion in manufacturing, which accounts for 11.3% of the U.S. economy. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the index rising to 55.8 in October.

The jump in activity, however, likely overstates the health of the manufacturing sector. A report from the Federal Reserve last month showed output at factories dropping 0.3% in September and remaining 6.4% below its pre-pandemic level.

Manufacturers and suppliers said last month they "continue to operate in reconfigured factories" and with every month



were "becoming more proficient at expanding output."

Though sentiment among manufacturers remained upbeat, there were two positive comments for every cautious comment, a slight decrease compared to September.

The outcome of Tuesday's vote is expected to lead to a brief period of uncertainty. President Donald Trump is trailing former Vice President and Democratic Party candidate, Joe Biden, in national opinion polls.

Stocks on Wall Street were trading higher following their steepest weekly loss. The dollar was steady against a basket of currencies. U.S. Treasury prices rose.

Fifteen industries, including apparel, food, furniture and transportation equipment reported growth last month. Textile mills and printing reported a contraction.

Manufacturing's continued recovery will likely keep the economy floating, with growth expected to slow sharply in the fourth quarter after a historic 33.1% annualized rate of expansion in the July-September period.

Jack Ma's wealth drops \$3 billion after Ant Group IPO freeze

Jack Ma was poised to become Asia's richest person with Ant Group Co.'s initial public offering. Instead, his net worth tumbled almost \$3 billion and both retail and institutional investors who were betting on a big first-day pop are in limbo.

Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.'s U.S.-traded shares slid 8.1% in New York, the most since January, 2015, after Ant said its listings in both Shanghai and Hong Kong have been suspended. The Hong Kong stock fell as much as 9.3% in early local trading.

Ma, a 56-year-old former English teacher who co-founded Alibaba with \$60,000 and turned it into China's largest e-commerce company, would have leaped up the wealth rankings with Ant's planned \$34.5 billion share sale. At the IPO price, his stake was worth \$27.4 billion.

The stock sale was the most anticipated in years, attracting at least \$3 trillion in orders for its dual listing. The stampede for shares had fueled predictions of a big first-day jump and sparked a frenzy among individual investors in China clamoring for a piece. The IPO would also have boosted the fortunes of a group of early investors and employees, with more than a dozen other people slated to become billionaires.

Ma owns 4.2% of Alibaba, which holds about a third of the fintech company that was expected to begin trading on Thursday, (Nov 5). The Shanghai stock exchange suspended Ant's listing after Ma was called in for "supervisory interviews" by related agencies, it said in a statement on Tuesday (Nov 3). Soon after, Ant said the Hong Kong offering was frozen.



India's services activity grows in October for first time in 8 months

Activity in India's dominant services industry, expanded for the first time in eight months in October as demand surged, but pandemic-hit firms continued to cut jobs, a private survey showed.

The findings, coupled with a similar survey on Monday which found Indian manufacturing growth expanded at its fastest pace in over a decade, suggest a recovery in Asia's third-largest economy is under way.

The Nikkei/IHS Markit Services Purchasing Managers' Index climbed to 54.1 in October from September's 49.8. It was the highest reading since February and comfortably above the 50-mark separating growth from contraction.

"It's encouraging to see the Indian service sector joining its manufacturing counterpart and posting a recovery in economic conditions from the steep deteriorations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic earlier in the year," Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit, said in a release.

"Service providers signalled solid expansions in new work and business activity during October. They were also more upbeat about the outlook, though hopes of output growth in the year ahead were pinned on a COVID-19 vaccine."

A sub-index tracking overall demand showed it expanded for the first time since February but new export business remained firmly in contraction territory as restrictions imposed across the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic hammered foreign demand.

That led firms to cut jobs for the eight straight month, the longest streak on record.

"Survey participants indicated that workers on leave had not returned and that a widespread fear of COVID-19 contamination continued to restrict staff supply," De Lima added.

The composite PMI, which includes both manufacturing and services, rose to 58.0 last month, its highest since January 2012, from September's 54.6.

Shree Ganeshaya Namah



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Chirag Bejan Daruwalla with his father late Bejan Daruwalla

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

Weekly Horoscope November 9 - November 15, 2020

ARIES: Ganesha says let me start with a quote that is relevant in this context. 'We cannot solve all our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them,' said Albert Einstein. You have created several problems for yourself by thinking in circles. Now you are trying to get out of the spot with the same reasoning. It won't work. You will have to reinvent yourself and look for out-of-the-box solutions.

TAURUS: You realize that you have to get down to the hard slog, and this period grounds you. You have the knowledge. Now you tweak it with some imagination and get about solving your problems. There is money to be made, and work calls. There is a lot pending, and deadlines loom large. There are altercations, temper tantrums and mood swings. But you get through all the mundane challenges of life and strike it rich. Ganesha holds your hand.

GEMINI: There is fire in your belly with the force pushing you. You are a different person now. You see a goal and you go all out to get there. You realize this and there is no stopping you. You bushwhack the opposition and steam ahead like an Indian locomotive from the Perambur coach factory. There are ego drives, passions, and hard work. You impress with your drive, determination and daredevilry. Ganesha is thrilled.

CANCER: You started in a torpor, undid all the rust around you, and then screeched ahead of the opposition. You had a late start, but then caught up with the opposition and left them behind by a distance. You scorch the tarmac and end up trumps. You follow the advice of Steve Jobs in an address to Stanford University: 'Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking.'

LEO: You are moving powerfully ahead, and secretly too. You have a point to prove and nothing will stop you. You take short cuts and may be tempted to use unethical methods to get to your goals. You believe that the end justifies the means. There could be brushes with the law and unwarranted altercations. Passions touch raw heights. There could be several dalliances of the flesh and the heart.

VIRGO: This is a trying period. You come up against several roadblocks and challenges. You widen your social circle and meet up with people you would not normally associate with in the everyday run of life. There are maudlin moments too, and you take a back seat and watch the world go by. You go searching for a guru, look for salvation in mantra, tantra and yantra and spend time in old-age homes or looking after street children or even stray animals.

LIBRA: You are steadfast, and zooming ahead. You like the fragrance of greenbacks and succumb to its lure. There are money and honey, awards and accolades. Freelancers widen their base. There is success and you are pleased. You prepare a nest egg for the family. There is also new love. Those in committed relationships bond ethereally. Singles play the field. Ganesha watches.

SCORPIO: You are on steady ground and power away. You are like a batsman in the slog overs of the IPL simply feasting on the bowling, even if it is the best attack in the world. On the work front, you go through all details and job descriptions with a magnifying glass. Family life is steady and children bring joy. You have found firm ground and do your best to hold on to it. Ganesha is happy.

SAGITTARIUS: You are turbo-charged and powering away. There is fire in your belly. There could be international travel. You make money but also spend it with consummate ease. There are several affairs of the heart but you are simply unable to hold on to one, for a variety of reasons. You know that you have the same number of hours per day that Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, Albert Einstein and others who made a success of their lives had.

CAPRICORN: 'Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain but it takes character and self-control to be understanding and forgiving,' said Dale Carnegie. You are in an emotional phase. You take to the arts, take time off and visit art galleries, amusement parks, or go for a long walk through the woods. You want to get away from it all and come back refreshed and rejuvenated. The rat race is getting to you.

AQUARIUS: Your mind is everywhere. It doesn't lodge itself in one house; it occupies them all. You could be networking furiously. You ensure that there are food and fire for the mind, but, I am afraid, in the mood you are in, the body may be neglected. Money slips through your fingers, along with old friendships. New vistas open up and you are reinvented.

PISCES: Your mind is still the knave. It is the joker in the pack of cards. It is a drunken monkey short-circuiting your best intentions. Often, the influences of period can spill over to the next. Your mind wanders like a puppy that has lost its leash. Faced with unfamiliar terrain, you get into a shell like a crab and retreat into your inner world. Money continues to slip through your hands as your inner turbulence drives you nuts. Ganesha holds your hand.

Birthday Horoscope November 9 - November 15, 2020

NOV 9: Ganesha says mental powers are acute. Actions are decisive. People enjoy bringing intellectual and physical skills into play. If these energies aren't sufficiently channeled, they veer into criticism and bickering.

NOV 10: A spirit of generosity fuels an easy, fun, maybe lucrative give-and-take. At any rate, it's possible for everyone to have a good time and get what he or she needs or wants.

NOV 11: Travel, writing, publishing, academic goals are all favored by lunar patterns. Your interest in people, places, and things at a distance proves rewarding. But keep your eye on the details.

NOV 12: Conflicting considerations and clashing egos could make it hard to do anything in concert with a group. You'll probably find you get more done working on your own and depending on others less.

NOV 13: Fact-finding missions are apt to be successful. Without fail, call upon whatever expertise you need during this frame of availability.

NOV 14: Interesting and resourceful friends are ready to help and to share in good times. You'll likely receive more than one invitation to mix and mingle.

NOV 15: Time and energy are prone to being wasted in lofty, idealistic, but basically misguided and wasteful pursuits. Stay realistic and grounded.

AHOI ASHTAMI

Also known as Krishna Ashtami, Ahoi Ashtami is celebrated on the eighth day of Krishna Paksha of the Kartik month. On this day Hindu women keep a fast for the welfare and long life of their children. This year, the festival will be observed on November 8

Ahoi Ashtami is a day when Hindu women keep a fast for the welfare and long life of their children. Also known as Krishna Ashtami, the festival is celebrated on the eighth day of Krishna Paksha of the Kartik month.

This year, Ahoi Ashtami will be celebrated on November 8.

The festival, also known as Ahoi Aathe, is mainly celebrated by the Baniya-Marwari community in North India.

Ahoi Ashtami story

As per the story behind the observance of fast and celebration of the festival, once there lived a king named Chanderbhan. All his children died in early age. One day, he went to a forest along with his wife and decided to die there near Badrika Ashram. The couple stopped eating food and the days went on. One day, a prophet told them that they had committed sins in their past life and those sins were responsible for the suffering in their present life. He advised them to keep fast on Ahoi Ashtami day in the Hindu month of Kartik and seek Goddess Ahoi's blessings keeping a nirjala (without water) fast.

Both the king and the queen observed the fast with full devotion. As a result, they were blessed with many healthy children in the following years and they happily lived long. Since then, the Ahoi fast became a ritual for Hindu women on the same tithi every year.

Ahoi Ashtami vrat and rituals

Women wake up early in the morning on Ahoi Ashtami day, and take a bath. They paint an image of Ahoi mata with a cub on a clean wall. Many people use readymade picture calendar of Ahoi Ashtami too. Then place a mud or silver pot filled with water and a moli (sacred red thread) tied around the neck of the pot on the left side of the Ahoi image. A glass of water is also kept to be offered to the sun after the puja. A bowl full of wheat grains, and other food stuff such as sugarcane, singhara, chana, sorghum and wheat flour halwa or meethe poore are offered.

At dusk, the story of Ahoi Ashtami is recited in front of the Ahoi Mata image. At the time of reciting the story, a few wheat grains are kept in one hand and they are tied in the same stole, dupatta or saree pallu worn by the women at the time of prayers after the story is over. The glass of water is offered to sun. Once stars rise in the sky, women break their fast after offering the pot water and the wheat grains tied in the saree pallu to the stars. The women then drink water offered by their children, following which they eat satvik food without onion and garlic.

Ahoi Ashtami significance

Believers say childless couples should take a holy dip in 'Radha Kund' at Mathura dhaam on this sacred day. They should observe a nirjala fast till stars appear in the sky and follow all rituals religiously. Those who already have children keep this fast in the belief they will be blessed with long and healthy life.

Ahoi Ashtami katha

The famous katha of Ahoi Mata is recited on this day. The story goes like this. Once upon a time, there was a woman who lived in a village with her seven sons. Ahead of the festival of Diwali, the woman decided to renovate her house. She went to a forest to bring soil. When she was digging the soil with



an axe near a den, the axe fell on a cub accidentally killing it on the spot. She felt very bad and sorry. She gathered the soil quietly and brought it home with a heavy heart. Within a year, all her seven sons died one by one. The woman went into depression. One day she narrated this story to a group of old women in her village. The village women told her that she had atoned half of her sin by confessing it in front of them. They suggested her to keep Ahoi fast on Ahoi Ashtami day and pray to Goddess Ahoi. The woman did the same for a few years, and was said to have got all her seven sons back.

Ahoi Ashtami Puja Vidhi

Ahoi Ashtami puja preparations are supposed to be done before sunset.

- Firstly an image of Ahoi Mata is drawn on the wall. The image of Ahoi Mata should consist of eight corners or Ashtha Koshtak owing to its association with Ashtami tithi. A picture of Sei or cub is also drawn.
- A holy 'Kalash' filled with water is placed at the left of Maa Ahoi's picture on a wooden platform. A Swastik on the 'Kalash' is drawn and a sacred thread (Moli) is tied around the Kalash.
- Thereafter, Rice and Milk are

offered to Ahoi Mata along with Vayna or cooked food which includes Poori, Halwa and Pua. Grains such as Jowar or raw food (Seeda) are also offered to Maa Ahoi in the Puja.

- The eldest female member of the family, then narrates Ahoi Ashtami Vrat Katha to all the women of the family. Each woman is required to hold 7 grains of wheat in their hand while listening to the Katha.
- Ahoi Ashtami Aarti is performed at

the end of the Puja.

■ In certain communities, Ahoi Mata of silver known as Syau is made and worshipped. After the Puja, it can be worn as a pendant with two pearls of silver in a thread.

■ After completion of the Puja, women offer Argha to the stars or the moon depending upon their family tradition from the holy Kalash. They break their Ahoi Mata Vrat only after the sighting of the stars or after moonrise.

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PONDICHERRY: THE FRENCH RIVIERA OF THE EAST

Pondicherry, officially known as Puducherry, and commonly referred to as just Pondy, is one of the seven Union Territories of India which is bounded by the southern state of Tamil Nadu. This former French colony is a perfect amalgamation of the traditional Indian sensibilities and French architecture, making it a dreamy escape that offers the best of both worlds.

The streets of the French Quarter of Pondicherry, also known as White Town, are dotted with charming mustard-yellow colonial structures with bougainvillea laden walls. These are interspersed with cosy cafes and chic boutiques that offer delectable French cuisine and beverages. Simply strolling down these streets, can give the traveller an insight into the fairytale charm of Pondicherry.

Topped with authentic French bakeries, bohemian stores and cobblestoned paths that are delightful for a leisurely stroll or a bicycle ride, Pondicherry has a lot to offer. So head on down to this dream town of the Indian Coast and chug a few beers (at the Union Territory prices; bid adieu to state taxes) or just read a book in one of the quaint cafes.

Come explore the boulevards and rues (the French word for streets) of Pondicherry that will ultimately take you down to the gorgeous seaside promenade, and witness the Bay of Bengal playfully splashing the shores of the famous Rock beach.

Paradise Beach

Paradise Beach, also known as Plage Paradiso, is situated in Chunnambar, close to Pondicherry town. Adorned with the golden sand, this famous and highly sought after beach is always swaying in a cold sea breeze. This is a little-isolated beach, and to reach here, you have to take a ferry across the backwaters, which takes around 20-30 minutes. The sand of the paradise beach is extraordinarily soft and grainy - and a walk along the entire beach is fantastic.

Part of the fun in reaching the beach is the beautiful ferry from the boathouse - the backwaters on the way to the beach are green and have thick mangrove forests. Especially after the monsoons, the backwaters are fresh and green. You can spot a lot of birds while on the ride - and photography enthusiasts would relish the opportunity to get some great photos here.

Auroville

Located around 15 km from the city of Pondicherry, Auroville is located in Tamil Nadu and was founded in 1968 by Mirra Alfassa, a disciple of Aurobindo and fondly known as the 'Mother' of Sri Aurobindo Society. This place is the epitome of tranquillity and proves as the perfect escape for the ones in search of peace. The best way to experience Auroville ashram is to actually just sit in one of the cafes, and talk to some of the residents here about their experience of living in the city.

Scuba Diving

Packed with enchanting marine life, Pondicherry offers an amazing adventure of scuba diving off the country's East Coast. A dive into the sea will let you explore the rich life comprising of beautiful natural coral reefs and other exotic creatures such as manta rays, kingfish, sea snakes, lionfish, butterflies, crustaceans, moray eels and many more. Apart from that, if it is your lucky day you might even spot whale sharks, even sharks, dolphins and



turtles. You also have an option of enjoying the dive at an artificial reef and experience the thrill of the activity making Pondicherry an irresistible diving destination.

Aurobindo Ashram

Located in the White Town of Pondicherry, Aurobindo Ashram has been named after its creator- Sri Aurobindo Ghosh. The foundation of this ashram was laid on 24th November in the year 1926 when he was surrounded by his disciples all over after he retired from politics and settled in Pondicherry. This ashram was set up with the aim of helping people attain moksha and inner peace. Thousands of tourists from all over the country visit the ashram to experience and achieve spiritual knowledge. The ashram is by far one of the wealthiest ashrams in the world. Also, the ashram does not have any branches and solely exists in Pondicherry.

Arikamedu

Situated within a half hour drive of the French colonial town of Pondicherry, Arikamedu is an ancient Roman trade centre hidden from the eyes and ears of the commonplace Tamil tourism. Its name has been taken from the Tamil word- 'Arikanmedu' which means 'eroding mount'. Very little is known about any Indo-Roman ties in the Before Christ era, but with the discovery and excavation of Arikamedu, extensive proofs were unearthed. This port town was occupied by the people of Rome, Cholas, and French serving as a very famous maritime centre from 1st century BC to 2nd century AD. The glass bead manufacturing factory of Arikamedu is called the mother of all bead centres in the entire world.



Saudi Arabia to host Formula One night race in 2021

Saudi Arabia will host a Formula One race next year, a move aimed at attracting well-heeled globe-trotting visitors and raising the kingdom's profile internationally as a tourist destination.

The kingdom said on Thursday, Nov 5, it will host the race in November 2021 in the Red Sea city of Jeddah, using scenic roads along the coast.

Gulf locales including Manama, Bahrain, and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, already host F1 races, which see A-list Hollywood stars, royals, billionaires, ministers and social media influencers gather for days of partying, discreet talks and deal-making.

Last year, 21 cities hosted races, but that has been scaled back this year because of the coronavirus pandemic. Some cities in 2020 have hosted multiple races. Concerns about large crowds amid the pandemic have also caused most races to be held without fans.

Lewis Hamilton wins at Imola as Mercedes clinch constructors' title

Lewis Hamilton took a record-extending 93rd career win at the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix on Sunday as his Mercedes team clinched an unprecedented seventh successive Formula One constructors' title in one-two formation.

The six times world champion took the chequered flag at Imola 5.783 seconds ahead of team mate Valtteri Bottas, who started on pole position. Australian Daniel Ricciardo finished third for Renault.

Hamilton also banked a bonus point for fastest lap, extending his lead over Bottas to 85 points with four races remaining. The Briton could clinch the drivers' title in Turkey in two weeks' time.



Kohli, Rohit continue to dominate ICC ODI rankings

India skipper Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma continued to dominate the ICC ODI rankings for batsmen by occupying the top two positions, while pacer Jasprit Bumrah remained static at the second spot in the bowler's list behind New Zealand pacer Trent Boult.

IPL 2020

Defending champions MI storm into final, beat Delhi Capitals by 57 runs

DUBAI (TIP): Defending champions Mumbai Indians reached their sixth Indian Premier League final after beating Delhi Capitals by 57 runs in the first Qualifier on November 5. Batting first, MI scored 200/5 riding on half-centuries from Suryakumar Yadav (51) and Ishan Kishan (55). Hardik Pandya also scored 37.

In reply, Delhi Capitals finished on 143/8, with Jasprit Bumrah taking 4/14.

Earlier, Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma, already in the midst of a debate over him continuing to play in the IPL despite being dropped for the tour of Australia due to a hamstring injury, was dismissed off the first ball he faced. Sharma's sequence scores in the IPL is 0, 4, 9, 35, 5, 35, 6, 70, 8, 80 and 12, for a total of 264 at an average of 24, scored at a strike rate of 126.31.

It seemed that Sharma's dodgy hamstring may have played a part in his dismissal as, facing an off-break from R Ashwin, he didn't move his front foot enough to cover the spin and was adjudged lbw.

But Sharma's failure did not matter as Yadav's near-flawless half-century was complemented by Pandya's fireworks as Mumbai Indians put up 200/5 in 20 overs.

Yadav smashed a 38-ball 51 to lay a



foundation that was enough for Pandya to capitalise on as he struck five sixes in his 14-ball-37.

Before Pandya, Kishan played the ideal anchor with a priceless 55 off 30 balls, adding 60 runs for the sixth wicket with Pandya in only 3.5 overs.

While Ravichandran Ashwin (3/29 in 4 overs) shone brightly with some clever

bowling, Shreyas Iyer's captaincy left a lot to be desired due to negative tactics in his handling of his pacers.

Starting with left-arm seamer Daniel Sams (0/44 in 4 overs) backfired badly, while Kagiso Rabada (0/42 in 4 overs) and Anrich Nortje (1/50 in 4 overs) also had a forgettable day in office. In all, Mumbai Indians hit 15 fours and 12 sixes.

Nadal earns his 1,000th win in an empty and silent stadium

PARIS (TIP): Becoming only the fourth man to reach 1,000 match wins should have drawn deafening cheers and a standing ovation for tennis great Rafael Nadal. Instead, he reached his milestone amid a cathedral-like silence Wednesday in a 20,000-seater stadium left completely empty because of the coronavirus pandemic.

There was only a fist-bump from Feliciano Lopez, after Nadal beat him 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4 in a subdued atmosphere more worthy of a library study area than a sports arena. "The real feeling, the personal feeling is completely different," Nadal said. "It makes a big difference that the court is empty."

The 34-year-old Nadal joins towering company in Jimmy Connors (1,274), Roger Federer (1,242) and Ivan Lendl (1,068) as the only men's 1,000-club members since the Open era began in 1968.

"I know it is a very special number, one thousand," Nadal said, adding: "Even if it's not the same to celebrate something like this without a crowd."



Foden recalled by England but Greenwood yet to return

LONDON (TIP):

Manchester City midfielder Phil Foden has been recalled for England's tripleheader of matches this month but Manchester United forward Mason Greenwood remains out of the squad. The duo made their debuts in September's Nations League game against Iceland before being sent home from Reykjavik for breaching UEFA's biosecure coronavirus bubble rules by meeting women at the team hotel. They were left out of the squad for games in October as punishment.

Foden has since scored three times in six Premier League games and was recalled by Southgate as England faces Ireland in a friendly next Thursday, before heading to Belgium and welcoming Iceland to London as the Nations League group concludes.

But there is no space for Greenwood despite Southampton striker Danny Ings being injured.

"We are looking at the balance of the squad positionally firstly," Southgate said on Thursday. "Phil has had a lot of football with his club most recently and Mason has had less game time with United."

"I have had a good chat with (United manager) Ole (Gunnar Solskjaer) about his development and I feel it is better for him to stay at the club at the moment, to develop over the next few months. But they are both available, there was no carryover from September; that is done. Both are available for selection and are going to be very good players."

United goalkeeper Dean Henderson is the only player in Southgate's 29-man squad who has yet to play for England.



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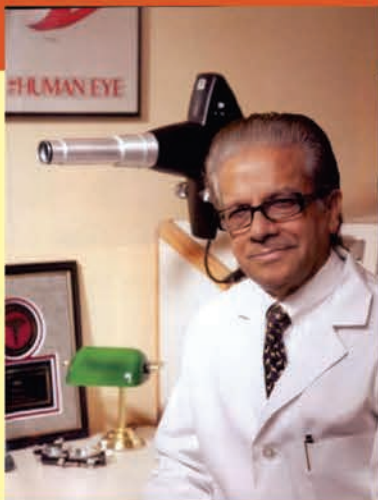
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