



The

INDIAN



PANORAMA

15 YEARS

EVER TRUTHFUL

# 1 Indian American Weekly : Since 2006

VOL 15 ISSUE 20 • NEW YORK / DALLAS • MAY 14 - MAY 20, 2021 • ENQUIRIES: 646-247-9458 • info@theindianpanorama.com

www.theindianpanorama.news

12 OPPOSITION LEADERS WRITE TO PM MODI, DEMANDING FREE MASS VACCINATION, SUSPENSION OF CENTRAL VISTA PROJECT



In a joint letter to PM Modi, 12 opposition party leaders, including Sonia Gandhi, have demanded Central govt to provide foodgrains to the needy and Rs 6,000 monthly to the unemployed. - File photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi | Twitter @BJP4India

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a joint letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, May 12, 12 Opposition parties have urged the government to immediately begin a free, universal mass vaccination campaign across the country as the COVID-19 pandemic has "assumed unprecedented dimensions of a human catastrophe."

CONTD ON PAGE 36

# US lifts most mask guidance in key step back to post - Covid normalcy

Fully vaccinated Americans can ditch their masks in most settings, even indoors or in large groups.



Vice President Kamala Harris listens as President Joe Biden speaks on updated guidance on face mask mandates and COVID-19 response, in the Rose Garden of the White House, Thursday, May 13, 2021, in Washington. - Photo credit: AP Photo/Evan Vucci

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Joe Biden took his biggest step yet toward declaring a victory over the coronavirus pandemic - as public health officials said fully vaccinated Americans can ditch their masks in most settings, even indoors or in large groups.

"Today is a great day for America in our long battle with coronavirus," Biden said in the White House Rose Garden on Thursday, May 13, calling the US vaccination program an "historical logistical achievement."

The guidance shift Thursday, May 13, is a turning point in the fight against Covid-19 and comes as US caseloads fall and vaccinations rise. It signals a broad return to everyday life and is also a bet that any surge in spread from relaxed guidelines won't be enough to reverse progress in inoculations. The administration also used it as a further incentive for vaccination.

"The rule is very simple: Get vaccinated or wear a mask until you do," Biden said

READ FULL STORY ON PAGE 26

## Nassau County, Friends For Good Health, South Asian-American community Join together to Appeal for Aid to India

I.S.SALUJA

LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP): Nassau County officials and Friends For Good Health, on May 10, joined together with the South Asian-American community, civic, and religious leaders to announce a major aid campaign to help India which is facing an unprecedented health crisis on account of the third wave of the pandemic.

CONTD ON PAGE 36



Nassau County officials and Friends For Good Health, on May 10, joined together with the South Asian-American community, civic, and religious leaders to announce a major aid campaign to help India. Nassau County Legislator Rose Marie Walker addresses the gathering. Also seen in the picture are Bobby Kumar Kalotee, Chair, Friends For Good Health (front-3rd from left) and Nassau County Legislator Richard Nicoletto (right of the speaker). TIP photo

## Indian-origin workers allege 'forced labor' at BAPS Hindu temple in New Jersey

NEW JERSEY(TIP): Six former workers have accused operators of a major Hindu temple in Robbinsville, New Jersey, of trafficking hundreds of Indian laborers, camouflaged as religious volunteers while keeping them locked down in the very temple they were building.

The workers filed a federal civil lawsuit Tuesday, May 11, against Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha Inc., (BAPS) a Hindu religious organization, and several business entities, according to local media reports.

The New York Times which broke the story first, said the FBI agents and other law enforcement officials raided the



The lawsuit against Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam (BAPS) Swaminarayan Sanstha Inc., a Hindu religious organization has been filed by Mukesh Kumar, Keshav Kumar, Devi Laal, Niranjana, Pappu, and Brajendra. - Photo credit: New York Times

temple Tuesday, May 11, following the lawsuit accusing the temple of

CONTD ON PAGE 36



## Anupam Kher slams Indian government for the COVID crisis in the country

Says "There's More to Life than Image Building"

MUMBAI (TIP): Actor Anupam Kher has taken on the government of India over the handling of the coronavirus crisis in the country. He mentioned how it is important for the government to understand that there is more to life than image building and added that criticism is valid in a lot of cases. "I think the criticism is valid in lots of cases. Only an inhuman person will not get affected by the bodies floating," he said in reference to floating bodies in Ganga.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

Anupam Kher said that the criticism is valid in a lot of cases.



Andy Singh

516-441-7000  
16 E. Old Country Road  
Hicksville, NY 11801

E-mail: herman@omnimortgage.com



OMNI MORTGAGE CORP.  
Residential | Commercial | SBA Loans



Herman Singh

718-441-7000  
118-18 101 Avenue  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

Registered Mortgage Broker- NYS Dept of Financial Services  
Loans arranged thru 3rd party providers



**PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER:**

Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Chitagam Saluja

**CHIEF EDITOR:**

Prof Indrajit S. Saluja

**CONSULTING EDITOR :**

Deepak Dwivedi, Chairman,  
Bhaskar Group, Delhi

**ASSISTANT EDITOR:**

Bidisha Roy

**SPL. REPORTER UNO:**

H.S. Panaser

**GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:**

Om Parkash Malik

**DIRECTOR**

**ADMINISTRATION:**

Gauri Beri

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:**

Baldev Singh / BJ Videos  
Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction  
Jay Mandal,  
Mohammad Jaffer,  
SnapsIndia  
Mohammad Shahzad,  
Zia Khan,  
Nisha Rani  
Vaaho Photographers,  
Vijay Shah - Photo Journalist.

**CORRESPONDENTS :**

**SACRAMENTO:**

Parminder S. Aujla

**NEW YORK :**

Chitagam

**FRESNO:**

Tarlochan Singh

**DALLAS:**

Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon

**OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS**

**LONDON**

Nirpal Singh Shergill

**SPL CORRESPONDENT**

**DELHI BUREAU CHIEF:**

Chandan Singh

**CHANDIGARH:**

Manjit Sidhu

**LUDHIANA:**

A.S. Arora,

R.P.Sharma

**JAIPUR :**

Dr. Yashpaul Goyal

**DALLAS BUREAU CHIEF & VP**

Lovliien Kaurr

972-330-3139

editor@theindianpanorama.news

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419,  
Tel: 646-247-9458

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.news

**DISCLAIMER**

THE INDIAN PANORAMA ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CLAIMS MADE IN ADVERTISEMENTS. WE ONLY SELL SPACE. VIEWS PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPER ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE NEWSPAPER. ALL RIGHTS ARE RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IN WRITING FROM THE INDIAN PANORAMA IS PROHIBITED.

**-: GUEST COMMENTS:-**

**Covid corpses on Ganga**

Visuals of Buxar and Ghazipur expose bogey of a new India

Covid seems to have taken us back to the colonial times of pestilence and famines, when the poor just floated their dead down the nearest river. All the tall claims of a new India have washed up on the banks of the holy Ganga in Buxar in Bihar. Some say 48, others claim to have counted 150 bodies of suspected Covid victims on the Ganga at Chausa block in Buxar bordering Uttar Pradesh. The gruesome visuals leave us in no doubt, unless UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath disputes it to lock up those who have caught the corpses on camera. The officials on either side of the river are only trying to disown the corpses. Bihar's officials believe that these bodies must have drifted downstream from neighboring Ghazipur or further up, Varanasi. Tuesday's sighting of bodies at Ghazipur in UP leaves no doubt that villagers upstream are throwing their dead in the river, unable to afford their



*Covid seems to have taken us back to the colonial times of pestilence and famines, when the poor just floated their dead down the nearest river. File photo*

last rites.

This is the story of Covid hitting the Hindi heartland, particularly UP, which has lost four ruling party MLAs to the pandemic. Union Minister Santosh Gangwar had last week written an angry letter to Adityanath pointing out the glaring lapses, apathy of medical officers

and hoarding of oxygen cylinders. UP Minister and Lucknow MLA Brajesh Pathak, Bareilly MLA Kesar Singh (who later died), Mohanlalganj MP Kaushal Kishore, Basti MP Harish Dwivedi, Bhadohi MLA Dinanath Bhaskar, Kanpur MP Satyadev Pachauri and others have written similar letters expressing their inability to help their constituents. Jasrana MLA Pappu Lodhi released a video on social media of his wife lying on the floor of a Covid ward.

There are BJP MLAs who have no qualms about blaming UP's aggravated second surge on the state's panchayat polls and the Kumbh Mela. While they claim that things are getting better, there is no denying that the situation is dismal in UP. This is the real India of mindless politico-religious priorities with no health infrastructure, no advance planning for a known disease, no treatment and finally, no dignity for its dead. (Tribune, India)

**Dig out Covid truth**

The world must question China on bio-warfare documents

Over 34 lakh (3.4 million) people have succumbed to the coronavirus pandemic in the past year and a half, but the world is still awaiting conclusive answers to the all-important questions: Is Covid-19 a man-made bioweapon? Did the virus leak accidentally from a lab in Wuhan? Or was there no human lapse at all? Was it just a case of transmission from animals to humans? Media reports referring to Chinese documents allegedly obtained by the US State Department have turned the spotlight on sinister possibilities. The papers written by Chinese military scientists and public health officers in 2015 describe SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) coronaviruses, of which Covid is an example, as presenting a 'new era of genetic weapons'. According to the reports

published in the Australian and British media, the People's Liberation Army documents seem to fantasize that a bioweapon attack could cause the 'enemy's medical system to collapse'.

These 'revelations', predictably dismissed by China's state-run Global Times newspaper as an attempt to tarnish the country's image, have reignited the global clamor for getting to the bottom of the matter. It's a pity that the World Health Organisation (WHO), the UN nodal agency spearheading the fight against Covid-19, has not been able to bring us closer to the truth. A probe conducted by a team of experts from the WHO in Wuhan in January-February this year had dismissed as 'unlikely' the theory that the virus leaked from a lab. The investigation left a lot to be desired

amid allegations that the Chinese authorities did not offer 'full cooperation' to the visiting contingent.

China, which again finds itself under intense international scrutiny, needs to do a lot of explaining for the whys and wherefores of the 2015 documents. The WHO, on its part, has to ensure that a thorough investigation is conducted, making it incumbent on the Chinese government to keep the proceedings transparent. Reeling under the second wave of the pandemic, India should push harder for ascertaining the truth and fixing responsibility. With the Union Health Minister heading the WHO's Executive Board, India needs to use this platform effectively so that Covid-like catastrophes don't recur.

(Tribune, India)



**The Indian Panorama**  
**FOR FREE AT**  
[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news)



**Be a Vigilant Citizen**

Be a part of  
The Indian Panorama Team.  
There is so much the  
communities are  
uncomfortable about, or need.  
Share your thoughts with  
The Indian Panorama at  
editor@theindianpanorama.com



# Eid ul Fitr, the prime festival of 1.8 billion Muslims across the world was celebrated in Jersey City on May 13, 2021



Muslims praying at Lincoln Park in Jersey City



Muslims greet each other after Eid Namaz at Lincoln Park in Jersey City  
Photos / Mohammed Jaffer-snapsIndia

## CHANCELLOR PORTER LAUNCHES FIVE-BOROUGH FAMILY ENGAGEMENT FORUMS

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Schools Chancellor Meisha Porter announced, May 14, the launch of a five-borough family engagement tour to hear directly from school communities about their experiences over the school year, help answer questions and gather feedback on the Executive Budget and foster a discussion on school reopening for the fall. There will be a virtual forum held in every borough over the next four weeks, and all families are invited to participate.

"These family forums are critical to inform our plans for September and ensure our school communities are supported as we prepare for a strong reopening this fall," said Schools

**Over the next month, forums will be held in all five boroughs to gather feedback and answer questions from school communities on the Executive Budget and school reopening**

Chancellor Meisha Porter. "Now more than ever, we need to engage with and empower our families so that every voice is heard. I look forward to having these important discussions over the next few weeks and encourage all New York City families to participate."

"The infusion of additional federal and state funds are providing New York City's public schools with a unique opportunity to dream big about the summer and fall, from academic acceleration and STEAM enrichment to social emotional wellness and

technology," said Deputy Chancellor Adrienne Austin. "The upcoming Family Forums are an opportunity for us to hear directly from families and communities about how we leverage the additional resources of this moment to improve and expand educational experiences for all students. We want our students to thrive beyond recovery, and we look forward to partnering with local communities to get it right."

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))



"Now more than ever, we need to engage with and empower our families so that every voice is heard", said Meisha Porter

## Religious and political events major factors that accelerated COVID-19 transmission in India: WHO

**WHO SAID VIRUSES IN B.1.617 LINEAGE WERE FIRST REPORTED IN INDIA IN OCTOBER 2020**

**UNITED NATIONS (TIP):** The World Health Organisation has said a recent risk assessment of the situation in India found that "resurgence and acceleration" of COVID-19 transmission in the country had several potential contributing factors, including "several religious and political mass gathering events which increased social mixing".

The WHO, in its COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiological Update, published Wednesday, May 12, said that viruses in the B.1.617 lineage were first reported in India in October 2020.

"The resurgence in COVID-19 cases and deaths in India has raised questions on the potential role of B.1.617 and other variants (e.g., B.1.1.7) in circulation," the update said.

"A recent risk assessment of the situation in India conducted by WHO found that resurgence and acceleration of COVID-19 transmission in India had several potential contributing factors, including increase in the proportion of cases of SARS-CoV-2 variants with



Devotees gather at Har Ki Pauri ghat to offer prayers during Kumbh Mela 2021 in Haridwar. Photo / PTI File

potentially increased transmissibility; several religious and political mass gathering events which increased social mixing; and, under use of and reduced adherence to public health and social measures (PHSM). The exact

contributions of these each of these factors on increased transmission in India are not well understood," it said.

The update said that approximately 0.1% of positive samples in India have been sequenced and uploaded to GISAID to identify SARS-CoV-2 variants. GISAID enables rapid and open access to epidemic and pandemic virus data.

The WHO update said that "the prevalence of several VOCs including B.1.1.7 and B.1.612 sublineages increased concurrent to the surge in COVID-19 cases reported in India." "Since the identification of these variants through late April 2021, B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.2 accounted for 21% and 7% of sequenced samples from India," the update said, adding that preliminary analyses conducted by WHO using sequences submitted to GISAID suggests that B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.2 have a substantially higher growth rate than other circulating variants in India, suggesting potential increased transmissibility compared.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))



*Indian-origin wins hearts online for helping visually impaired man in Singapore*



*Gunasekaran Manikandan, an Indian-origin in Singapore has been lauded for helping a visually impaired elderly man to cross the road and then walk him to a polyclinic.*

**SINGAPORE (TIP):** An Indian-origin in Singapore has been lauded for helping a visually impaired elderly man to cross the road and then walk him to a polyclinic.

Gunasekaran Manikandan, who is working here as a land survey assistant, was working along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 6 when he noticed the elderly man who appeared to be visually impaired waiting by the road for a long time to cross it.

"The uncle told me that he wanted to see the doctor, so I walked him to the nearest polyclinic," said the 26-year-old Gunasekaran, a resident of Sivagangai in Tamil Nadu.

To Gunasekaran's surprise, his act of kindness on April 18 was captured by a member of the public and went viral on Facebook. The video has since attracted over 280,000 views.

"I saw it on my Facebook page during my lunch break after my friends shared (the clip) with me," The Straits Times quoted him as saying.

On Wednesday, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) posted on Facebook that Assurance, Care and Engagement (Ace) Group officers had tracked down the foreign worker by pinpointing the location using the video. They then handed him a token of appreciation.

The Ace Group, which was set up late last year as a division under the ministry, frequently hands out such goody bags to foreign workers involved in helping others.

When asked what he did with his reward, Gunasekaran said: "I shared them with my friends."

He added that his mother, father and brother and relatives back home were proud of him after watching the video.

While accompanying the elderly man had made the Indian national late for work, he said he would gladly do it again.

"Since I was young, my parents taught me to help people with disabilities. Everyone in my family is like that," he said.

## Indian-origin Sikh woman Pam Gosal becomes the first one to be elected as MSP in Scotland

**EAST DUNBURNSHIRE, SCOTLAND (TIP):** Pam Gosal has created history by becoming the first Indian Sikh to be elected a member of Scotland Parliament. Pam has been elected as Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) on a Conservative party ticket from West Scotland.

Pam Gosal has tweeted: "It's a privilege to be the first female MSP elected to the Scottish Parliament from an Indian background. Thank you to everyone who's supported me. Can't wait to get to work for the people of the West of Scotland."

Gosal helped her family business before working in local government prior to being elected to the Scottish Parliament.

Pam Gosal was born in Glasgow and spent most of her life in Scotland. She made her political debut as a parliamentary candidate from East Dunburnshire in the 2019 general election for the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party. Pam has



*Pam Gosal has created history by becoming the first Indian Sikh to be elected a member of Scotland Parliament*

accumulated over 30 years of knowledge and experience in the public, private and voluntary sectors, working on economic development, inward

investment, business, cultural, legal and regulatory policies in both Scotland and the UK.

Pam holds a BA, an MBA in Consumer Law and is currently pursuing a PhD. Pam has always been supportive of women and has received the 2015 Women Leader Business Award and the 2018 Public Service Award. Pam is the Deputy Chairperson of the Conservative Women's Organization of Scotland (CWO), a national group of Conservative men and women, and is actively working to encourage and support women to play an active role in the party.

She is also the director of the Conservative Friends of India Scotland (CFIS). The organization seeks to build strong ties between the Conservative Party and the British Indian community in Scotland. Pam is confident she will make new strides in her political career as a Scottish Conservative and Unionist advocate for British, Scottish and BAM women.

## Indian-origin entrepreneur, Rajesh Agrawal re-appointed London's Deputy Mayor for Business

**LONDON (TIP):** Indian-origin entrepreneur Rajesh Agrawal has been re-appointed as London's Deputy Mayor for Business by Mayor Sadiq Khan after he won a second term in local elections last week.

As Khan made "jobs, jobs, jobs" a top priority for his next term in office, Agrawal also committed himself to the agenda on Thursday and made a pledge to focus on a "fairer and greener recovery" for the UK capital from the coronavirus pandemic.

"I want to thank all Londoners for giving a decisive mandate to this administration. Past five years have been hugely challenging for London with uncertainty caused by Brexit and the biggest health, social and economic crisis caused by coronavirus," said 43-year-old Indore-born Agrawal.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated economic and social inequalities in our society. Young people, women and people from ethnic minorities have been disproportionately hit by the pandemic. As we work towards recovering from this crisis, our top priority is 'jobs, jobs & jobs'. We want a fairer and greener recovery," he said.

Agrawal, who is also the co-chair of the Labour Friends of India (LFIN) diaspora representative group of the



*Indian-origin entrepreneur Rajesh Agrawal has been re-appointed as London's Deputy Mayor for Business by Mayor Sadiq Khan after he won a second term in local elections last week, an indication of South Asian solidarity*

Opposition Labour Party, arrived in London in 2001 and went on to grow a small foreign exchange and money transfer enterprise into a multi-million-pound UK-headquartered business.

"London is a resilient city. It has overcome huge challenges in the past and it will do so again. Anyone who bets against London will lose their shirt," added Agrawal, Founder of RationalFX and Xendpay.

For his second term as Mayor of London over the next three years, Khan

has committed to working for all Londoners and bridging divides as he unveiled his top team this week reflecting much of the continuity of his first term.

"I look forward to working with them to deliver a better and brighter future for everyone who calls this amazing, diverse city home," said Khan, the Pakistani-origin Labor politician who became the first Muslim mayor of a European capital back in 2016 when he was first elected.

"I pledge to use this second term to do everything I can to build the bridges that bring us closer together and I will work tirelessly throughout the next three years with my team to deliver for all Londoners," he said.

On Thursday, Khan announced that GBP 900,000 of City Hall office funding will be invested in a successful police custody program that supports young adults to stay away from violence alongside the Metropolitan Police.

"I'm concerned that we could see an increase in violence this summer as lockdown measures continue to be eased so I'm not only working with the Met Police to suppress violent activity at a local level but focusing on prevention programs that divert Londoners away from violence," he said.



# Indian American group deploys volunteer response team for vaccination in Philadelphia: FEMA

WASHINGTON (TIP): An Indian American non-profit organization has deployed a volunteer response team to support a vaccination center in Philadelphia that administers up to 6,000 doses of the anti-COVID vaccine each day, a federal agency has said.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in a statement on Friday, May 7, said the Philadelphia center is the second federally supported community vaccination center in the nation to benefit from Hindu Swayamsevak's (HSS) service.

Sewa International and 25 other organizations of the Indian American community in the greater Philadelphia region are working closely with the HSS to offer support, it said.

The HSS has named its campaign "Sewa With FEMA," the statement said.

"Now more than ever, volunteers of Sewa International and Hindu Swayamsevak (HSS) are impassioned to invest in the US vaccination efforts as India's COVID-19 case rates rapidly increase and its supply of oxygen tanks



*Sewa International and 25 other organizations of the Indian American community in the greater Philadelphia region are working closely with the HSS to offer support*

and medical resources decrease," FEMA said.

Sewa and HSS have deployed 351 volunteers at the CCVC and 21 volunteers at the Esperanza Community Vaccination Centre, it said, "They are incredibly eager to be here, and they have the drive to volunteer for a community that some of them are not even a part of," said Justice Colbert, emergency

management specialist at FEMA Region III.

"They show up ready to help Philadelphians with a positive attitude and learn everything they can about emergency management so they can transfer their skills to future disaster deployments," she said.

Over one dozen Indian American volunteers arrive daily to provide non-clinical support at the vaccination center, such as wheelchair escort assistance and traffic control, FEMA said.

"We are honored to serve in this national cause of ending the COVID-19 pandemic and sincerely thank the FEMA Region III team for giving us an opportunity to serve our brothers and sisters in Philadelphia," said Mukund Kute, president of PA East Division of HSS.

"We have distributed USD 55,000 worth of PPE kits, food and masks since early April 2020. We will continue to support FEMA until we beat COVID-19," he added.

# Indian American philanthropist urges Indian Americans to support family and friends in India

WASHINGTON (TIP): Describing the current COVID-19 crisis as the biggest India has ever faced, an eminent Indian American philanthropist and venture capitalist from Silicon Valley has urged the diaspora community to help support the Indian people.

India has been severely affected by the unprecedented second wave of the coronavirus and hospitals in several states are reeling under the shortage of health workers, vaccines, oxygen, drugs and beds.

"This is the biggest crisis India's ever seen. So, what I urge them to do is two things: One is make sure you support your family and friends in India. But this is the one time that everybody should do more," Indiaspora founder M R Rangaswami, an entrepreneur and philanthropist who lost his sister in Chennai due to COVID-19, told the media.

Silicon Valley-based Rangaswami said that he has been working around the clock to galvanize as many funds and resources as the diaspora community from the US and other parts of the world can do for the people in India, which is experiencing the worst ever public health crisis post-independence.

"This is the one time that we should give more than what we can; more than what we think; more than what we want to do. This kind of crisis doesn't come across every day," Rangaswami said in



*Indiaspora founder M R Rangaswami, an entrepreneur and philanthropist who lost his sister in Chennai due to COVID-19, has urged Indian Americans to support family and friends in India*

response to a question.

Indiaspora, a network of eminent diaspora leaders, has raised over USD 2.5 million. Over the weekend, he was part of a "Help Tamil Nadu Breathe" campaign that raised USD 1.5 million.

In addition, Rangaswami has been involved in multiple campaigns to raise funds for India, which he says is crucial to saving lives not only in India but also in the region and the world.

"The problem is if India doesn't contain it, it's going to hit Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, many countries around India. This could cause a big human toll and economic toll.

"We don't want to be solving this in three months in America," he said, adding that the variant of COVID-19 in India is much more contagious and damaging to people.

Rangaswami said that the diaspora in

the US has done very well in getting to the US administration to make them see how important this is not just for Indian Americans but for the US and the world as well.

Members of the diaspora community are in close touch with different people in the administration, he said.

The community leaders are also in touch with the Indian side, he said as he appreciated the recent decisions of the Indian government to waive and reduce various taxes including import duty and GST.

"That was a big deal. Things like that are happening. Now the diaspora is also calling for maybe a waiver of the FCRA (Foreign Contribution (Regulations) Act) rules which prevents sub granting of money... so that we can have friction free-flowing of money to the last mile," he said.

Noting that the diaspora community is closely observing the developments in India, Rangaswami hoped that it would soon slow down.

"We don't know when they will reach their peak. But we all in general, our prayers are with them, our thoughts are with them, our support is for India, and we will keep all that this goes away," he added.

After recording over four lakh fresh cases for four consecutive days, India witnessed a single-day rise of 3,66,161 COVID-19 cases on Monday and 3,29,942 infections on Tuesday.

## INDIAN AMERICAN CONGRESSWOMAN PRAMILA JAYPAL APPEALS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR INDIA AMID COVID-19 SURGE



*"India needs our help and it's our moral responsibility to rise to the challenge. This is a global pandemic and until we crush the virus everywhere, we cannot fully recover," Ms. Jaypal said on Friday, May 7.*

WASHINGTON (TIP): Indian American Congresswoman Pramila Jaypal has issued an urgent appeal to raise funds for India, which is experiencing one of the worst outbreaks of COVID-19.

"India needs our help and it's our moral responsibility to rise to the challenge. This is a global pandemic and until we crush the virus everywhere, we cannot fully recover," Ms. Jaypal said on Friday.

Pramila Jaypal, who was recently in India to visit her family before the surge spiraled out of control, said all the funds raised would go to three initiatives.

First is the WISH Foundation, which works round-the-clock to set up COVID-19 care centers. Second is GiveIndia, which supports families, living in poverty that have lost a loved one often the sole breadwinner with direct cash payments of ₹ 30,000.

Third is EdelGive Foundation, which in coordination with Goonj and Jan Sahas, works to provide migrants and vulnerable population cash support, food and health supplies, the Indian American Congresswoman said.

Talking about her recent visit to India, she said, "The cases had started ramping up, and my parents who are 80 and 90 years old were both diagnosed with COVID-19 just weeks after receiving their first dose of a vaccine."

"They both ended up in the hospital and have recovered but I shudder to think what would have happened had they not been vaccinated, or had they gotten sick at the height of the surge we're seeing now, she said.

Describing the situation in India as dire, Ms Jaypal said hundreds of thousands of new COVID-19 cases are confirmed every day. "There are no hospital beds open. There is no oxygen supply left. People are dying before they can even get to a doctor," she said.



# Indian American Wife unable to attend husband's funeral in US due to travel ban

EDISON, NJ (TIP): During these grief-stricken times, tragedy has hit hard an Indian family in the US.

Edison, New Jersey, resident Kiran Shukla's husband, Jitendra Shukla, passed away in a New Jersey hospital on Monday, May 10 due to liver failure, while she was in Mumbai attending to her Covid struck relatives.

Shukla, who is on an H-4 visa for spouses, is now struggling to get back to her US home to attend her husband's funeral. But she cannot do so due to restrictions imposed on May 4 on travel from India in the grip of a deadly pandemic surge.

Kiran had been trying to fly back to the US since her husband was hospitalized a week ago, but she could not do so as she is on an H-4 visa that's not stamped on her passport.

Her i539 is valid only till June 2021. Due to stamping requirement and the travel restrictions, she was unable to be with her husband during his last moments.

Kiran had travelled in February to Mumbai, India, to attend to her ailing father. While her father passed away last month, there was more bad news in store as a couple of days ago; her 35-year-old brother-in-law too succumbed to Covid in India.

The couple have a 20-year-old-son, a US citizen, who is in the US. While parents of US citizens even on work visas are allowed to enter the United States, Kiran is finding it difficult to travel back as her passport needs stamping.

Friends back in the United States are trying to help the family as Kiran understandably is in a state of shock.

Speaking to the media, family friend Aparajita Yaduvanshi said, "We want her to travel back as soon as



Edison, New Jersey, resident Kiran Shukla's husband, Jitendra Shukla, passed away in a New Jersey hospital on Monday, May 10 due to liver failure, while she was in Mumbai attending to her Covid struck relatives.

possible. Currently another family friend is traveling from within the US to help her son with the last rites."

Kiran also fears that since she is on an H-4 visa and her husband was on H-1B, her status may be invalidated with her husband passing away.

The couples had lived in the US for 20 years and were expecting to get their green cards in a few months, Yaduvanshi said. But her husband's sudden death has thrown things in a state of flux and the family does not know what awaits them next.

Kiran was on H4-EAD and was working in a bank. However, she left her job in February when she had to travel to India to attend to her family.

Immigration consultant Netra Chavan says, "It's not even a week since this travel ban and we are already

experiencing such heart-breaking stories."

"President Biden's immigration advisors instead of helping legal immigrants are hurting the soul of people who are law-abiding, tax paying residents of the US."

"Penalizing and issuing partial travel bans for US residents on visa, who have jobs, homes and families in the USA has become a new trend," she says.

"And Presidents in power seem to hold a magic wand named executive orders every time to stop even the re-entry of legal immigrants/non-immigrants even for those who have a visa stamped on their passport, but not a US born child changing their destiny forever."

"Especially during pandemics, when all the air-travelers are following US Covid protocols, why only legal immigrants/non-immigrants' re-entry is banned?" Chavan asks.

"Biden said 'Build Back Better-2021'", she says, "Can White House show empathy for all the people including legal residents while being flexible on rules for H-1B's, H-4s, L-1s, L-2s, etc. and be strict on following Covid19 protocols."

"It's time to start e-services within USA as well as at US missions world-wide for online submission of applications and uploading documents," Chavan says.

"After all we are in an advanced tech-savvy AI world reaching Mars," she says hoping immigration advisors would help fix the broken US immigration system instead of jeopardizing talented lives and careers in this endless green card wait."

During this tragedy, the Shukla family also has to deal with the added stress of legalities of their visas. They hope authorities would look into their case and help ease out their tragic situation.

## INDIAN AMERICAN CHARGED WITH MOTHER'S SEXUAL ASSAULT & MURDER IN NEW YORK



NEW YORK (TIP): An Indian American man has been charged with sexual assault and murder of his 65-year-old mother on the eve of Mother's Day in Jamaica, Queens, in New York, according to prosecutors.

Pushkar Sharma, 28, was arraigned Monday afternoon in Queens Criminal Court before Judge Toko Serita on a complaint charging him with two counts of murder in the second degree and sexual abuse in the first degree.

Judge Serita ordered him to return to court on May 24. If convicted, Sharma faces up to 25 years to life in prison.

"What should have been a celebration of Mother's Day became a brutal, tragic nightmare for a Queens family. The defendant in this horrific case allegedly choked, punched, sexually assaulted and killed his mother in their home," Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz said.

Between 8:00 a.m. and 8:40 a.m. on Saturday, Sharma, of Winchester Blvd. in Jamaica, Queens, approached his

mother, Soraj Sharma, from behind, placed his hands around her throat and then began to choke and punch her multiple times in the face, Katz said.

They struggled for several minutes, falling to the floor as he allegedly continued to punch and strangle his mother. He then allegedly sexually assaulted his mother and continued to strangle her until she lost consciousness.

According to the charges, immediately after killing his mother, Sharma went up to his room, retrieved his wallet and keys and walked to the police precinct and reported his criminal actions.

Sharma told police he woke up the morning before Mother's Day "with an uncontrollable urge to hurt someone," according to a criminal complaint cited by the media reports. Sharma also told police "he continued choking her until he was pretty sure she was dead."

Soraj Sharma's daughter found her mother unconscious in the basement, police said. Medics rushed her to Long Island Jewish Hospital, but she could not be saved.

A neighbor, who only gave his first name, Kelvin, told the media that he knew Sharma had mental health problems, but he was stunned at the slaying. "The family was really nice and friendly. I am shocked to know that the son could've done this," he said.

## INDIAN DESCENDANT SHAKUNTALA HARAKSINGH THILSTED WINS WORLD FOOD PRIZE 2021

NEW YORK (TIP): Dr Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, a global nutrition expert of Indian descent has won the prestigious 2021 World Food Prize for her groundbreaking research in developing holistic, nutrition-sensitive approaches to aquaculture and food systems.

Thilsted's trailblazing research on small native fish species in Bangladesh led to the development of nutrition-sensitive approaches to aquatic food systems at all levels, from the farm to food processing to final consumers, resulting in improved diets for millions of the most vulnerable people in Asia and Africa, the World Food Prize said on its website.

"I am truly honored to receive the 2021 World Food Prize, and I am deeply humbled to be placed in such distinguished ranks as those of past laureates.

"Aside from personal joy and gratitude, as a scientist, I feel this award is an important recognition of the essential but often overlooked role of fish and aquatic food systems in agricultural research for development. Fish and aquatic foods offer life-changing opportunities for millions of vulnerable women, children, and men to be healthy and well-nourished," Thilsted, 71, said.

Thilsted, Global Lead for Nutrition and Public Health, WorldFish, has brought together interdisciplinary and international collaborators and drove transformations in aquatic food systems



Thilsted, who is a native of Trinidad and Tobago, is an Indian descendant

to deliver improved nutrition, resilient ecosystems and secure livelihoods for millions of vulnerable people across the globe, it said.

Nutrition-sensitive approaches place nutrition and public health at the core of how food is produced, processed, transported, priced, distributed and consumed.

Thilsted expanded the evolution of food systems from "feeding" to "nourishing" hundreds of millions of people who depend on fish and other aquatic foods as an integral part of their food and nutrition security, livelihoods and culture, it said.

Thilsted, who is a native of Trinidad and Tobago and a citizen of Denmark, was born in 1949 in the Caribbean island of Trinidad in the small village of Reform.

Most of the inhabitants, including her family, were descendants of Indian Hindu migrants brought to Trinidad to engage in agricultural labor.



# Indian-origin, Global Teacher Prize winner, Ranjitsinh Disale joins new student prize panel

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Indian-origin Ranjitsinh Disale, Global Teacher Prize 2020 winner has joined the new Global Student Prize Academy alongside the likes of Hollywood actors Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis.

Disale, a primary school teacher from the village of Paritewadi in Solapur district of Maharashtra who bagged the USD 1-million prize at the end of last year, will join the judging panel of the USD 50,000 sister award to the Global Teacher Prize launched by the Varkey Foundation with Chegg.org - the non-profit arm of education technology company Chegg.

The Global Student Prize has been created as a new platform to highlight the efforts of extraordinary students making an impact on learning and society at large.

"Students have limitless potential and the world at their feet, as long as the right education is made available to them and we let them know how valued they are," said Disale.

"The Global Student Prize has been launched to shine a light on their stories and hear their voices. I am so proud to join the academy and support such an inspiring cause," he said.

Disale joins actors Kutcher and Kunis as well as US women's national soccer team player Julie Ertz and her husband, Philadelphia Eagles tight end Zach Ertz, as



*Ranjitsinh Disale, Global Teacher Prize 2020 winner has joined the new Global Student Prize Academy alongside the likes of Hollywood actors Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis.*

members of the Global Student Prize Academy.

They have been chosen based on having a history of mentoring students in their studies or careers, having campaigned on behalf of student issues or having expertise in education and young people.

"I admire Chegg's passion for helping young people as they prepare to inherit an uncertain world," said Kutcher.

"It's important that we recognize and support deserving student role models at this time. I would urge students everywhere to consider applying before the 16 May

deadline," he said.

"This generation of students hold an increasingly uncertain future in their hands and so the importance of a good education has never been more important. Now more than ever, we must hear their voices," added Kunis.

Members of the Academy, which also includes education and NGO leaders from around the world, will pick the final winner of the Chegg.org Global Student Prize, expected to be announced in Paris in November.

"Students throughout the world during the pandemic have shown great strength, focus and determination to keep learning and keep fighting for their future. They deserve huge praise and recognition for never giving up," said Lila Thomas, Head of Chegg.org.

"Whatever the question, education is the answer. Now more than ever, we must shine a light on inspiring students who hold the future in their hands," added Varkey Foundation founder Sunny Varkey.

The prize, which has a closing entry date of May 16, will be narrowed down to a Top 50 shortlist and Top 10 finalists, with the winner chosen from the top 10 finalists by the Global Student Prize Academy.

It is open to students worldwide who are at least 16 years old and enrolled in an academic institution or training and skills program. Part-time students, as well as students enrolled in online courses, are also eligible.

## US CUSTOMS FINDS COW DUNG CAKES IN LEFTOVER BAGGAGE OF INDIAN PASSENGER AT AIRPORT



*Cow dung cakes  
Photo Source /Thinkstock  
(Photo for representation only)*

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The US Customs and Border Protection agents discovered cow dung cakes in a leftover baggage of a passenger from India at an international airport in the suburb of Washington DC, according to officials.

Cow dung cakes are prohibited in the US as they are considered to be

potential carriers of the highly contagious foot and mouth disease.

They were destroyed, the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) said on Monday, May 10.

"That is not a typo. CBP agriculture specialists found two cow dung cakes in a suitcase that was left behind after passengers from an Air India flight cleared CBP's inspection station on April 4," a media release said on Monday, May 10.

"Foot and Mouth Disease is one of the animal diseases that livestock owners dread most, has grave economic consequences, and it is a critical threat focus of Customs and Border Protection's agriculture protection mission," said Keith Fleming, Acting Director of Field Operations for CBP's Baltimore Field Office.

Cow dung is reported to be a vital energy and cooking source in some parts of the world. Cow dung has also been reportedly used as a skin detoxifier, an antimicrobial and as fertilizer. Despite these alleged benefits, cow dung from India is prohibited due to the potential introduction of Foot and Mouth disease, the CBP said.

According to the US Department of Agriculture, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is a worldwide concern as it can spread widely and rapidly and causes significant economic losses to livestock populations.

## Stimulus checks: IRS sends 1 million more payments in latest round

**WASHINGTON**

**(TIP):** Nearly 1 million more stimulus checks were disbursed this week in the latest batch of payments, according to the Internal Revenue Service, bringing the total number of payments in the third round to 165 million, including add-on payments for past stimulus checks.

Approximately \$388 billion in stimulus payments have been sent so far, about 86% of the \$450 billion earmarked for stimulus payments, the IRS said in a press release on Wednesday.

More than 500,000 payments were sent to people who previously didn't have information on file at the IRS but recently filed a tax return.

The ninth batch of payments also included more than 460,000 "plus-up" payments for people who had their third stimulus check calculated based on their 2019 tax return, but are now eligible for a bigger payment. This could be the case for people whose 2020 income was lower than their 2019 income or who had a baby or a dependent added to their 2020 return that qualified them for a larger payment.

About 500,000 of the payments were directly deposited into Americans' bank accounts, while the remainder of the payments were mailed as paper checks or prepaid debit cards.

The IRS will continue distributing the payments on a weekly basis. Future payments will go to individuals who previously didn't have their information on file with the IRS but have filed a return along with people who qualify for the "plus-up" payments.

This round is \$1,400 per eligible individual plus a \$1,400 bonus per dependent. Around 158.5 million households are expected to receive the third payment under the new stimulus deal, a tally that doesn't include plus-up payments, according to the White House.

*(Based on a press release)*



## Facing a surprise tax bill? Be sure to still file by May 17

**It's easy for most people to set up an online payment agreement with IRS**

**WASHINGTON(TIP):** The Internal Revenue Service, May 14, reminded taxpayers who owe 2020 taxes that there are different ways to pay through IRS.gov, including payment options for many people who can't pay in full.

**File by May 17**

The most important thing everyone with a tax bill should do is file a return by the May 17 due date, even if they can't pay in full, or request a six-month extension to avoid higher penalties for failing to file on time. Though automatic tax-filing extensions are available to anyone who wants one, these extensions don't change the payment deadline. It is not an extension to pay. Visit IRS.gov/Extensions for details.

Usually anyone who owes tax and waits until after that date to file will be charged a late-filing penalty of 5% per month. So, if a tax return is done, filing it by May 17 is always less costly, even if the full amount due can't be paid on time.

Free File is an easy, quick way to file that is available to anyone who makes \$72,000 or less and is available on IRS.gov.

**Pay what you can**

Interest, plus the much smaller late-payment penalty, will apply to any payments made after May 17. Making a payment, even a partial payment, will help limit penalty and interest charges. The fastest and easiest way to pay a personal tax bill is with Direct Pay, available only on IRS.gov. For a rundown of other payment options, visit IRS.gov/Payments.

The IRS urges taxpayers to first consider other options for payment, including getting a loan to pay the amount due. In many cases, loan costs may be lower than the combination of interest and penalties the IRS must charge under federal law. Normally, the late-payment penalty is one-half-of-one percent (0.5%) per month. The interest rate, adjusted quarterly, is currently 3% per year, compounded daily.

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



AS I SEE IT

# Election verdict a pushback for BJP policies

The BJP's defeat in West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu shows the limits of Hindutva. It shows regional parties can overpower Hindutva at the state level and hence the BJP cannot assume a natural monopoly over state politics.



BY ZOYA HASAN

**"What the pandemic has done, unlike the disaster of demonetization, is bring to the fore the BJP's incapacity for governance. It has shown the sheer incompetence of the majoritarian model of governance, which is just not suited for running a modern state. The administrative ineptitude is impossible to ignore even for those intoxicated by the right-wing's electoral successes."**

The results of the just-concluded Assembly elections give us an indication of ground-level political changes in the key states of Assam, West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. While it's important to understand the results in terms of state-specific factors, the overall political outcome indicates a successful assertion of local/regional politics against the majoritarian-authoritarian politics of the BJP. The centrality of the local is visible from the Lokniti-CSDS survey which underlines the primacy of local factors and state leaders with a mass base in determining the choices of voters. The reasons for this vary from state to state but the limits of Hindutva's expansionist politics and its agenda of polarization are apparent. This has decisively dashed the BJP's avaricious plans of conquering new territories.

These setbacks suggest that the polarizing rhetoric of Hindu nationalism doesn't thrive everywhere in India, especially in regions with a distinct culture, a history of social movements, strong secular tradition, and where vernacular languages hold primacy instead of Hindi. It showed how stunningly out of touch the BJP is from the political reality in these states where it was holding Uttar Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's road shows, chanting slogans of Jai Shri Ram, talking love jihad and trying to excite Hindus with anti-Muslim dog whistles. None of this seems to have worked. The BJP lost decisively in Kerala (not winning a single seat), its alliance lost in



Roadblocks: The BJP's plans to make inroads in certain states has suffered a setback. - Photo credit: PTI

Tamil Nadu (BJP won only four seats), and it lost spectacularly in Bengal (winning 77 seats, way short of 200 it boasted). The central point of the election outcome is that the majority of Hindus voted against the BJP to keep it out of power in three important states.

But this rebuff did not occur in the core areas of BJP's support base in northern and north western India and these will be tested in the polls in 2022. The RSS has changed the political discourse in these states, especially in UP. But it would be a mistake to presume that issues of unemployment, jobs, farmers' distress, regressive farm laws and the massive Covid mismanagement will not matter in India's most significant state. In addition to Covid, the continuation of the farmers' revolt, which began in November 2020, is likely to shift the balance of forces in many of these northern states, from Haryana to UP to Gujarat.

The gross mismanagement of the public health crisis in UP makes it one of the worst hit states with high caseload and fatalities. UP has an archaic and creaky medical infrastructure which is collapsing as Covid rages unchecked through the state with people running from pillar to post in search of hospital beds, including in the big cities of Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad and Banaras. The situation in villages and small towns is much worse. The virus has now reached rural parts where people are struggling to breathe.

However, the state government is claiming that it has the situation under control. This shows how completely unmindful it is of human suffering. Amid the surge of the virus, the Chief Minister has issued orders to set up help desks for the protection of cows in each district of the state and has directed that Covid-19 protocols are maintained at all

cow shelters, including stocks of equipment like oximeters and thermal scanners "for cows and other animals as well". The order comes while UP suffers from a crippling shortage of medical supplies and oxygen. Instead of tackling oxygen shortage, the government has slapped an FIR on a Lucknow city hospital, accusing it of spreading false rumors of shortage.

While people in the state are desperate for oxygen, its Chief Minister denies there's even a problem. The denialist rhetoric and the government's indifference to the crisis will impact the BJP's popularity in UP. A report in Mint pointed out that even hardcore BJP supporters and party workers are sharply criticizing the government's maladministration in WhatsApp groups in UP. The growing anger against the BJP leadership's handling of the Covid crisis has found resonance in the panchayat polls. Opposition parties have won close to 50 per cent of all seats contested and swept districts which are BJP strongholds. The BJP is losing ground in Ayodhya, Varanasi, Mathura and Gorakhpur which is an important development given how much political attention has been showered on these cities by the government.

But let's not forget that Modi and the BJP have the ability to turn things around. They did it after demonetization, sweeping UP in the 2017 Assembly elections even though everyone had predicted an adverse fallout for the party. However, the post-Covid situation is different. What the pandemic has done, unlike the disaster of demonetization, is bring to the fore the BJP's incapacity for governance. It has shown the sheer incompetence of the majoritarian model of governance based on a politics of hate and obscurantism which is just not

sued for running a modern state. It's not simply a failure of the Indian State but a failure of the BJP model of the State. The administrative ineptitude and the government's insensitivity are impossible to ignore even for those intoxicated by the right-wing's electoral successes.

The huge governance failure in UP, in contrast to Kerala, for example, reminds us during the worst crisis, that a governance model can make the difference between life and death, and the absolute criticality of a politics based on empathy, concern, planning and human development in comparison with one based on building religious places of worship and vanity projects such as the Central Vista in the Capital in midst of the calamitous second wave.

The BJP's defeat in West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu shows the limits of Hindutva. It shows regional parties can overpower Hindutva at the state level and hence the BJP cannot assume a natural monopoly over state politics. However, regional politics cannot counter the hold of Hindutva in UP which has been the BJP's pathway to power in 2014 and 2019. The Hindutva project has built an enduring communal majority in the Hindi heartland. Its overwhelming size and support in this region give the BJP an overwhelming advantage over its rivals. Therefore, majoritarianism and the claim of the majority to dominate have to be challenged in these states. The most effective way of doing this, apart from building big-hearted alliances, is to claim greater equality of rights of every section of the people and region, and not simply the inclusion of minorities through the revival of pluralism.

(The author is Professor Emerita, Jawaharlal Nehru University)



# Sectarian strife in Pakistan

Deobandi and Bareilvi alignments a challenge to governance and peace



BY G PARTHASARATHY

The two major schools of Islam, which emerged in the 19th century in the territories of present-day India, have traditionally been described as Deobandi and Bareilvi. The sects emerged from the efforts of many Muslim clerics and thinkers who fled from Delhi following their persecution by the British after the Mughal rule ended. Deobandi practices were widely adopted in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, and by virtually all Pashtuns in Afghanistan. The Deobandis thus established a firm foothold amongst the Pashtun population in both Pakistan and Afghanistan. Most importantly, while the Bareilvis remained content with their influence in the subcontinent, the Deobandis reached out to people in the Arabian Peninsula in the 19th century. This was an initiative that has paid rich dividends through Saudi financial backing of Deobandi organizations.

Thanks to the FATF and actions by the US and its allies, Pakistan is being squeezed to end support to such groups.

The most far-reaching decision by India's Deobandi leaders was to make common cause with the secular ideals of India, while supporting the struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi for India's independence. The main center for study and learning of the Deobandi school of Islam was and remains the Darul Uloom, located at Deoband in UP. While sections of the Bareilvi leadership initially shared the views of their Deobandi compatriots, those mainly living in Pakistan, eventually chose to support the Partition. On November 3, 2009, Jamiat-i-Ulama-i-Hind, a group of Deobandi scholars, dedicated to the welfare of Muslims in India, met at Deoband and condemned suicide bombings and attacks targeting innocent civilians. This amounted to direct criticism of Pakistan's propensity to use terrorism as an instrument of state policy.

The Bareilvi population in Pakistan's Punjab province soon found that it had little political space to operate in. The military extended support to groups like the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and the Afghan Taliban that worked jointly with the military establishment. While the JeM organized the attack on the



*DIVIDED: Tensions have led to the establishment of militant organizations like the Tehriq-e-Labaik that preach religious intolerance. - Photo credit: Reuters*

Indian Parliament in 2001, the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attack was masterminded by the LeT. Moreover, the ISI midwived the close relations of these groups with the Taliban in Afghanistan. The Bareilvis were soon finding that despite their influence and political support in Pakistani Punjab, they were losing political relevance in Pakistan. Ever since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Pashtuns, who are predominantly Deobandi, dominated the attention and patronage of the ISI, and, indeed, in the world. The Taliban also have what they believe to be Deobandi credentials and collaborate closely with Wahhabi-oriented groups like the LeT and the JeM.

Pashtun Deobandis in Pakistan's northwest and in southern Afghanistan became natural allies of Gen Zia-ul-Haq, after he overthrew and hanged ex-PM Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. General Zia brought in a new phase of 'Islamization' of politics and developed close relations with radical Islamic elements in Pakistan, most notably the Jamaat-e-Islami in Punjab and Sind, and the Pashtun Deobandis in the north. The Soviet Union then made the folly of invading Afghanistan, enabling the US to join Pakistan in waging a Saudi-backed, Deobandi-oriented jihad against the Soviet forces. Wahhabi-oriented organizations in Pakistan joined this jihad. The ISI developed links with the Jamaat-e-Islami in J&K and used this Deobandi-oriented force to facilitate its jihad in J&K.

Given Bareilvi practices of virtually worshipping the Prophet, Saudi Arabia treats them as heretics. According to Najam Sethi, the Editor of Pakistan's Friday Times, the Bareilvis in Pakistan, and particularly in the

**INDIA HAS DONE WELL TO ESTABLISH A BACK CHANNEL FOR TALKS WITH PAKISTAN'S MILITARY. A MAJOR RESULT HAS BEEN THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT FOR A CEASEFIRE ACROSS THE LOC IN J&K.**

majority Punjab province, have responded to critics by actions 'borne of the religious passion to defend and uphold the Prophet of Islam, from blasphemy by Muslims and non-Muslims alike, at home and abroad'. This led to the establishment of a politically oriented, militant organization called the Tehriq-e-Labaik, which soon swept across towns and villages, preaching religious intolerance in Pakistan's military-dominated Punjab.

The first victim was a Punjabi Hindu woman, Asia Noreen, popularly known as Asia Bibi, who was convicted and sentenced to death for allegedly making blasphemous comments. She was arbitrarily handed the death sentence by hanging - a verdict that was overturned by the Supreme Court in 2011. She, thereafter, immediately fled to Canada.

The Tehriq-e-Labaik attained notoriety, when one of its members, a security guard, assassinated the Governor of Punjab, Salman Taseer, for supporting Asia Bibi. The guard was treated like a revolutionary hero by the outfit. It now has substantial political clout in the Punjab province. It virtually brought Punjab to a standstill during recent demonstrations to demand the expulsion of the French ambassador, because of alleged disrespect shown in France to the Prophet.

Thanks to the threats of sanctions by the Financial Action Task Force and strong actions by the US and its European allies, Pakistan is being squeezed to end support to such groups. Pakistan is also realizing that faith alone cannot hold a nation together, especially in the face of sectarian differences. Neither the Tehriq-e-Taliban, which is now waging a low-intensity conflict within Pakistan, or even the Taliban leadership in Afghanistan has ever recognized the Durand Line as an international border.

India has done well to establish a back channel for talks with Pakistan's military. A major result has been the signing of an agreement for a ceasefire across the LoC in J&K. Pakistan's mercurial PM, Imran Khan, meanwhile, has rejected a proposal to import Indian agricultural products, which he had initiated and approved earlier. He certainly does not enjoy global popularity. The world has noted that it was General Bajwa who first met Crown Prince Salman in Saudi Arabia, before the Crown Prince gave an audience to Imran Khan last week. US President Biden is yet to meet or speak to Imran Khan.

*(The author is Chancellor, Jammu Central University & former High Commissioner to Pakistan)*

## Education in the Post- Pandemic New Normal



BY BIDISHA ROY

In the post pandemic 'New normal' era, undoubtedly everything is going to change forever. Amongst them, education is of utmost importance as it would shape the future of the world. But how? The tone was set by the panel discussion organized by Newmark J-School for their fellows prior to the EWA National seminar which helped structure my line of thinking as a journalist.

The first seminar I chose to attend was 'A Conversation with Education Secretary Miguel Cardona' because I was curious to know the Govts' upcoming plans for education policy.

While outlining the government's efforts

to help schools and students recover from the pandemic, Cardona said that to hit the reset button on things, they want to see more of 'natural authentic engagement of families.' Which triggered the immediate thought in my mind that - for proper 'family engagement', it's very crucial to know the cultural background of families in America because it's a country of immigrants. The upbringing of kids in an Indian family, for example, is totally different from that of an American family. So, bridging the cultural gap would be a key factor for this 'natural authentic engagement', isn't it? I asked Sec Cardona that question; and his answer was - 'Thank you for that question because it really highlights how our reopening efforts are not just about turning on the lights, it's not just about making sure we have enough PPE. We have to be trained or learn the cultural norms of different places, then we have to do that in order to serve the

students. So, Yes, that's exactly what it means. It means that in communities that have high concentrations of cultural norms, it's our responsibility and our privilege as educators to learn those norms, to help engage those families in ways that they're comfortable, so that their students can be successful."

One of the next sessions I attended which related to the same context was "Family Engagement in a Post-COVID Era." Experts explored how the role of families in education may shift as the pandemic changed the relationship of parents to their children's learning, and ways in which schools and others can support the change; but as we came out of that session, many of the questions remained unanswered. I would love to hear more about research and new thinking in this space, which I am sure will emerge slowly.

"What Pandemic-Driven Changes in



Education Will Last, and Why?" - was one more session I attended, as I was trying to gather answers about the future of international students from countries severely hit by COVID like India and Brazil. In this session as well, total clarity did not emerge which is understandable at this stage as the education fraternity is trying their best to cater to the new norm.

As a representative of ethnic media, I would definitely try to explore the unanswered questions further for the community that I serve with the information and understanding I gathered from the EWA national seminar.



# My bridge over troubled waters



BY PRABHU DAYAL

**"In his message to bridge lovers, Sundarshan said: "The Second wave of COVID-19 has witnessed severe damage to human life and its activities with its reeling negative effect for the past few months. Our fellow bridge players have been patiently waiting for this pandemic to ease out and only online bridge has been a soothing medicine to most of them." Moving beyond this, he also says: "In extreme cases for those suffering from COVID-19 infection, BFI under the current stressed environment will endeavor to seek financial assistance from its well-wishers towards meeting their medical needs so far as possible." Thus, the BFI has taken on two enemies at the same time-Covid and boredom. People like me can stay inside the safety of their homes and still enjoy themselves to the hilt. Sundareshan and his BFI team are Covid-warriors of a different kind, coming to our aid in these dismal times."**

Yesterday morning, I received the heartbreaking message that one of my closest childhood friends had been snatched away by Covid-19. Last week, it was a retired colleague who was



*Bridge is a wonderful game played with a pack of cards which can bring great cheer in these Covid-stricken times. - Photo Credit: Envato*

staying one floor above me in my apartment complex. The week before it was another dear friend with whom I had played a round of golf just a month earlier.

My Facebook page is also becoming an obituary column these days.

What is going on? Have the Chinese unleashed biological warfare on us, as some experts are saying? Or are we simply inept, incompetent and incapable of handling the situation created by the pandemic?

There are hundreds of opinions in the market. As regards the black market, it is simply thriving and making hay while the Covid- sun shines, conquering ever-newer horizons-antivirals, hospital beds, oxygen concentrators and even oxygen itself, which we always took for granted!

A few months back, most people had not heard of Remdesivir, but now they are exchanging WhatsApp messages on where it can be procured if the need arises.

Everyone is battle ready, so to say, but survival of the fittest can be a misleading axiom. Burning calories and developing six-packs may not save you. You will not know when, where and from whom you can get infected.

Survival of the cautious is the new 'mantra'. Lock yourselves indoors to keep the virus out of your lives; isolate yourself from the herd till there is herd immunity (another expression now getting embedded in our current daily lexicon).

However, this is easier said than done. Apart from mundane needs such as groceries, there is the problem of 'ennui'.

Staying indoors for days on end can be so boring! A near septuagenarian like me can read, watch TV, exchange WhatsApp messages-but is that all?

No, there is a wonderful game played with a pack of cards which is called bridge which brings great cheer to me and many others in these Covid-stricken

times like nothing else. Warren Buffet had famously said "Bridge is such a sensational game that I wouldn't mind being in jail if I had three cellmates who were decent players."

For the uninitiated, let me say that Bridge is the best intellectual exercise which doubles up as an engrossing game. You face new situations every ten minutes and make decisions based on what you think is rational. You weigh gain versus loss, doing calculations all the time while playing the hand you are dealt. The strategy involves deducing all the information you are provided by your hand and then keeping on adding to that base of information as things develop; you modify your approach as you get new information as the hand is played out.

Like bridge, chess is also regarded as an intellectual game. Comparisons are sometimes unfair, but let me recall that in 1996-97, there were two six-game matches between Gary Kasparov, the reigning world champion and Deep Blue, an IBM supercomputer. Kasparov won the first match, but Deep Blue won the next. Deep Blue's win was seen as a sign that artificial intelligence was catching up on human intelligence and could defeat one of the great intellectual champions of the human race. However, artificial intelligence has not been able to completely master the game of bridge, and human capability reigns supreme in this sport which has been described as a game that combines strategy, communication, creative deception, and of course, devilish tactics.

In these Covid-dominated times, how does one get the three other players needed for a bridge foursome? As they say, a friend in need is a friend indeed. My laptop provides the solution, for there are sites where you can register and play online bridge. I play on a popular site called 'Bridge Base Online', or simply BBO. I cannot describe in mere words how it has converted what would have been hours of boredom into fun-

**" BRIDGE IS THE BEST INTELLECTUAL EXERCISE WHICH DOUBLES UP AS AN ENGROSSING GAME**

**" YOU FACE NEW SITUATIONS EVERY TEN MINUTES, AND MAKE DECISIONS BASED ON WHAT YOU THINK IS RATIONAL**

**" YOU WEIGH GAIN VERSUS LOSS, DOING CALCULATIONS ALL THE TIME WHILE PLAYING THE HAND YOU ARE DEALT**

filled hours of enjoyment.

Of all the sporting bodies in India, one keeps hearing of the Board of Cricket Control (BCCI), but it has also been taken out of the action by Covid; the much-hyped IPL has been postponed indefinitely as BCCI looks on helplessly. In this grim scenario, a retired IAS officer Suresh Sundarshan, President of the Bridge Federation of India (BFI) has stepped in like a knight in shining armor, challenging the might of Covid and providing an amazing entertainment platform. Through his initiative, the Bridge Associations of various states have created several daily tournaments where people like me can play for as many hours as we want, competing for master-points and thoroughly enjoying ourselves without having to leave the safety of our homes.

In his message to bridge lovers, Sundarshan said: "The Second wave of COVID-19 has witnessed severe damage to human life and its activities with its reeling negative effect for the past few months. Our fellow bridge players have been patiently waiting for this pandemic to ease out and only online bridge has been a soothing medicine to most of them." Moving beyond this, he also says: "In extreme cases for those suffering from COVID-19 infection, BFI under the current stressed environment will endeavor to seek financial assistance from its well-wishers towards meeting their medical needs so far as possible."

Thus, the BFI has taken on two enemies at the same time-Covid and boredom. People like me can stay inside the safety of their homes and still enjoy themselves to the hilt. Sundareshan and his BFI team are Covid-warriors of a different kind, coming to our aid in these dismal times.

I would like to end with another quotation from Warren Buffet: "If I'm playing bridge and a naked woman walks by, I don't even see her." Well, I do bring a great deal of concentration when I play, but can we lesser mortals ever aspire to be a Warren Buffet?

Your guess is as good as mine!

*(The author is a retired diplomat)  
Courtesy / OPOYI*





# Indian American Forum

Join Us On ZOOM To Proudly Thank Our Wonderful Nurses

**Saturday, May 15, 2021 @ 5:45 PM**

ZOOM Meeting ID: 880 0586 6279

Passcode: 2021

## SPEAKERS



**Dr. Bobby K. Kalotte**  
Chairman, Friends For Good Health



**Tara Shajan RN MSN MBA PMHN-BC**  
Assistant Director of Nursing/ ANM



**Hon. Joseph Saladino**  
Supervisor, Town Of Oyster Bay

### ESTEEMED HONOREES

- Daisamma Mathew, RN
- Vida Oduro-McCue, RN
- Janice Pateres, RN
- Suda Sharma RN
- Dr Lydia Albuquerque DNP
- Jozly Punnoose RN
- Cini Jacob RN
- Rose Jean -Gilles RN
- Lyssy Alex RN
- Kunjamma Koshy RN
- Nina Gavan MSN, RN

**THANK  
YOU  
NURSES**



### Moderated By



**Beena Kothari**  
President, Gopio



**Dr. Renee Mehrra**  
Broadcast Journalist &  
Community Activist



**Aashmeeta Yogiraj**  
Jus Punjabi

For Additional Information Contact:

**Indu Jaiswal, RDN**

IAF Chair (516) 835-1474

**Mohinder S. Taneja**

PR Chair (516) 840-7968

**Shammi Singh**

Gala Chair (917) 862-1313

Ana Gulati (516) 795-1588

Nirmala Rametra (631) 269-1144

Vijay Goswamy (516) 731-5250

Dr. Binita Shah (516) 365-4073

Dr. Meena Jaiswal (516) 859-5392

Chandir Kumar (516) 476-1003

Dr. Urmillesh Arya (516) 606-2014 Inesha Joneja (917) 744-6665 Rocio Maini (516) 302-5185 Iyoti Gupta (516) 984-5220

Beena Kothari (631) 988-1280 Rohini Singh (516) 512-3576 Jaya Bahadkar (516) 216-5220 Pinky Rangi (516) 984-5859

A Non Profit Organization

[www.indianamericanforum.org](http://www.indianamericanforum.org)



**INDIAN AMERICAN DR. RUCHIKA TALWAR RAISES FUNDS TO SEND MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO INDIA**



*CNN reported that Dr. Ruchika Talwar, 28, a resident physician at the University of Pennsylvania, had raised \$5,00,000 so far to send medical supplies, including oxygen concentrators, to hospitals in India struggling to cope with the crisis.*

**PENNSYLVANIA (TIP):** Amid the frightening second wave of COVID-19 pandemic in the country, Indians abroad, already grappling with the emotional toll of losing loved ones half a world away, are pulling in resources themselves and through crowdfunding to help authorities back home fight the virus.

One of those trying to send help is Ruchika Talwar, 28, a resident physician at the University of Pennsylvania. On Friday, May 7, Talwar shared a screenshot of a report that was carried in CNN, which stated that she had raised \$5,00,000 so far to send medical supplies, including oxygen concentrators, to hospitals in India struggling to cope with the crisis.

Thanking all those who have trusted her with their donations, she added, "There's still so much work to be done." She also posted an update, which said, "Our Delhi concentrator shipment has made it through customs intact and is on the ground in India."

In another post, she shared a photo of the "shipment of concentrators and supplies on the ground in Delhi".

Talwar has been regularly posting updates on Instagram about how and where they are sending the much-needed medical supplies - Delhi, Ahmedabad, Kolkata. She said they plan to include rural areas as well. Earlier, on April 29, she had posted another update, saying that she and a group of other area doctors have raised nearly \$75,000 through donations. She outlined the reasons behind setting up the fundraiser, saying it was started to pay for the first shipment of 25 oxygen concentrators to India. "It was the most direct way to use every penny, without fees," she added.

India is facing an unprecedented crisis, with COVID-19 cases setting records for highest single-day figures globally. For more than a week, India has reported daily cases in excess of 3 lakh. The medical infrastructure is creaking under the pressure of patients and many of them are running out of oxygen. In such a situation, Indians around the world are responding to lend a helping hand through such grassroots initiatives.

On Friday, May 7, India saw more than 4,000 deaths linked to COVID-19 in a single day for the first time. In the last 24 hours, 4,187 people died, taking total deaths to 2.38 lakh. The country recorded 4.01 lakh cases on Friday, taking the active caseload to 37,23,446.

**Japanese tycoon planning space station visit, then moon trip**

**CAPE CANAVERAL, FL(TIP):** The Japanese fashion tycoon who's booked a SpaceX ride to the moon is going to try out the International Space Station first.

"Going to the ISS before the Moon," Yusaku Maezawa announced Thursday, May 13 via Twitter.

Maezawa has bought two seats on a Russian Soyuz capsule. He'll blast off in December on the 12-day mission with his production assistant and a professional cosmonaut.

"I'm so curious, What's life like in space?" So, I am planning to find out on my own and share with the world," Maezawa said in a statement.

He'll be the first person to pay his own way to the space station in more than a decade, according to Virginia-based Space Adventures, which brokered the deal.

A Space Adventures spokeswoman declined to divulge the cost. The company has sent seven other tourists to the space station, from 2001 to 2009.

Maezawa's trip to the moon aboard Elon Musk's Starship is tentatively scheduled for 2023. He'll fly around the moon - not land - with eight contest



*"I'm so curious, What's life like in space?" So, I am planning to find out on my own and share with the world," Maezawa said in a statement*

winners. Maezawa, 45, who founded an online retail clothing business, will be joined by photographer and assistant Yozo Hirano.

They will be escorted by Russian cosmonaut Alexander Misurkin, who's spent nearly a year aboard the space station on two separate missions. The launch is scheduled for December 8 from Kazakhstan.

Thursday's announcement comes amid a flurry of private space initiatives.

The Russian Space Agency announced Thursday that a Russian actress and movie director will launch to the space station in October for filming. The movie is tentatively titled "Challenge." In January, the first private mission to the space station from the US will bring three businessmen - from the US, Canada and Israel - who are paying about USD 55 million apiece.

They will launch aboard a SpaceX Dragon capsule from Kennedy Space Center and will be accompanied by a former NASA astronaut who now works for Houston-based Axiom Space, which arranged the deal. The company plans about two private missions to the space station a year.

Before the space station visits, SpaceX will launch its first private spaceflight with four people on board.

"This is truly a renaissance in human spaceflight," NASA's director of commercial spaceflight, Phil McAlister, told reporters Monday, May 10. "I think that is the perfect word for what we're experiencing." (Agencies)

**US regularly engages with Indian officials on human rights issues: Official**

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The US regularly engages with Indian officials at all levels, encouraging them to uphold human rights obligations and commitments, including the protection of minorities, in keeping with India's long tradition of democratic values and its history of tolerance, a senior State Department official in-charge of international religious freedom has said.

Speaking at a briefing on the 2020 International Religious Freedom Report released by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken presented at the State Department on Wednesday, Dan Nadel, the senior official for the Office of International Religious Freedom said American officials also meet continuously with civil society organizations, local religious communities, to hear their views and understand challenges and opportunities that they see.

The report took note of the message of "unity and brotherhood" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi after members of the Tablighi Jamaat last year were being targeted in the wake of the first wave of COVID-19 in the country.

"Prime Minister Modi tweeted on April 19, "COVID-19 does not see race, religion, color, caste, creed, language or borders before striking. Our response and conduct thereafter should attach primacy to unity and brotherhood.", " the State Department noted.

The India section of the annual report also mentioned the online address to the



nation on April 26 by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat in which he urged the people not to discriminate against anyone in the fight against COVID-19.

At the briefing, Nadel told US officials regularly engage with Indian government officials at all levels, encouraging them to uphold human rights obligations and commitments, including the protection of minorities, in keeping with India's long tradition of democratic values and its history of tolerance.

"We also meet continuously with civil society organizations, local religious communities to hear their views and understand challenges and opportunities that they see," Nadel said in response to a question on the general assessment of the US on the religious freedom situation in India.

"Because when laws are passed, when initiatives are undertaken that are done without effective consultation with these communities, it creates a sense of disempowerment; at times, of alienation. And the best way to address that is to engage in that direct dialogue between government and civil society, including religious communities," he said.

"So, with respect to India, I think there's genuine opportunities there for the government to address some of the concerns they hear from Indian civil society through greater dialogue and engagement," Nadel said.

India has previously rejected the US religious freedom reports, saying it sees no locus standi for a foreign government to pronounce on the state of its citizens' constitutionally protected rights.

Earlier, releasing the report, Secretary of State Blinken said that anti-Semitism was on the rise worldwide, including in the United States, as well as across Europe. It's a dangerous ideology that history has shown is often linked with violence.

"Anti-Muslim hatred is still widespread in many countries, and this, too, is a serious problem for the United States, as well as in Europe. We have work to do to ensure that people of all faiths and backgrounds are treated with equal dignity and respect. As this report notes, some countries have taken positive steps forward, and that, too, deserves comment," Blinken said.

Welcoming the report, the Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations (FIACONA) president Koshy George claimed that he is worried that the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities continues even during the coronavirus lockdown.

"Prime Minister Modi's silence on these critical issues is very disheartening," he said. (Source: PTI)



# COVID-19: Sewa spends USD 6 million on lifesaving equipment for India

**Sewa has so far raised USD 16 million for the initiative to supply aid material to India**

**HOUSTON (TIP):** Non-profit organization Sewa International said that it has spent over USD 6 million to procure lifesaving equipment in the last two weeks as part of its 'Help India Defeat COVID-19' campaign.

The equipment shipped to India from New York on May 7 included 260 oxygen concentrators, 1,000 oximeters and nine Bilevel Positive Airway Pressure machines, it said in a statement.

MedShare, a non-profit organization that sources and delivers surplus medical supplies and equipment to communities in need, donated the concentrators. The United Parcel Service Foundation partnered with Sewa International to ship them to New Delhi by air for free.

It has so far raised USD 16 million for the initiative to supply aid material to India. It raised USD 7.7 million from over 104,000 donors from its Facebook campaign and USD 4.2 million through its website.

So far, the organization has spent over USD 3.5 million to order 7,482 oxygen concentrators and procured 5,118 of them from various vendors in the US and elsewhere, it said.

Of these, Sewa has shipped 2,844 oxygen

concentrators and 2,084 of them have reached India. They are being distributed to government hospitals and COVID-19 care centers and hospitals run by Sewa's partner organizations.

It is planning to ship more than 6,000 additional oxygen concentrators to India in the next two weeks.

Sewa has spent over USD 6 million to procure lifesaving equipment in the last two weeks as part of its 'Help India Defeat COVID-19' campaign, it said.

"Shipping large quantities of medical equipment to another country from the US has a lot of logistical challenges. We are optimizing our shipments so that they reach India fast," Sewa's President Arun Kankani said.

Sewa has established a control room in Atlanta, and it is managed by 10 volunteers. They are constantly researching the availability of medical equipment, vendor credentials, price and other details to purchase them or find donors who can donate them, he said.

"We have received phenomenal support from across the US for our 'Help India Defeat COVID-19 Campaign'. Many corporates, hospitals and community organizations are calling us to offer help.

Sewa volunteers are working hard to connect the dots. We thank all those who have given help and continue to offer support to Sewa in this time of crisis," Kankani said.

The equipment has gone to Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, according to Sewa's Vice President for Disaster Recovery Swadesh Katoch.

"It's very important to save every life and I am confident that the equipment we have sent to India will ease the shortage of emergency equipment and help COVID-19 patients recover and enable families to protect their loved ones," Katoch said.

Sewa started its campaign to aid India on April 23, 2021, when it saw an alarming rise in the daily number of new COVID-19 cases and fatalities.

Describing itself as a "Hindu faith-based charitable non-profit," Sewa works in the areas of disaster recovery, education and development, and serves people regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability or national origin, it



The equipment shipped to India from New York on May 7 included 260 oxygen concentrators and 1,000 oximeters.

added.

India has been severely affected by the unprecedented second wave of the coronavirus and hospitals in several states are reeling under the shortage of health workers, vaccines, oxygen, drugs and beds. After recording over four lakh fresh cases for four consecutive days, India witnessed a single-day rise of 3,66,161 COVID-19 cases on Monday, which pushed its tally to 2,26,62,575, according to the health ministry.

The death toll due to the viral disease climbed to 2,46,116 with 3,754 more people succumbing to it, the ministry's data showed. (Source: PTI)

## NEW BILL AIMS TO GIVE STRUGGLING FITNESS AND WORKOUT STUDIOS A \$30B SHOT IN THE ARM



**WASHINGTON (TIP):**

Lawmakers put muscle behind legislation to help the fitness industry on Thursday, May 13, after a year of strict Covid-19 precautions, capacity restrictions, and forced closures.

Sens. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., and Jerry Moran, R-Kan.,

introduced the bipartisan GYMS Act, which would provide up to \$30 billion in grants to fitness and workout studios at risk of closing their doors permanently.

"Gyms and fitness facilities across the nation had to close their doors last year to help stop the spread of Covid-19," said Moran.

"Small businesses across the country have been hard hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and gyms are no exception - they've lost 1.4 million jobs along with tens of billions in revenue," Duckworth added. "I'm proud to introduce this bipartisan bill that will help ensure gyms and fitness centers have the resources they need to get to the other side of this pandemic."

Gym owners were optimistic earlier this year that the legislation, originally introduced in the House by Reps. Brain Fitzpatrick, D-Pa., and Mike Quigley, D-Ill., would be included in the nearly \$2 trillion Covid-19 relief package passed on a party-line vote in February, but that did not happen.

The renewed push gives the industry fresh hope of recovery as more people get vaccinated and the country opens up.

"This money will be a lifesaver to our gym and enable us to continue to serve the people of our neighborhood. Now more than ever our community understands the importance of developing health, happiness, and longevity," said Dale King, owner of a CrossFit gym in Portsmouth, Ohio, struck by the opioid epidemic. "This investment will aid my gym to become a center of fellowship through fitness and help individuals come back stronger than ever."

"As millions of Americans get vaccinated and begin returning to local businesses in droves, fitness centers still need federal support to recover from over a year of challenges," Quigley said in a statement.

## First active-duty service member arrested over Jan. 6 storming of the Capitol

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** A Marine Corps officer was arrested Thursday, May 13, over his involvement in the Jan. 6 insurrection, making him the first active-duty service member charged over the Capitol attack.

The Justice Department said in a statement that Maj. Christopher Warnagiris, 40, "violently entered the Capitol on Jan. 6, after pushing through a line of police officers guarding the East Rotunda doors."

He then allegedly used his body to prop a door open to allow more people to rush into the Capitol.

"When a U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) officer tried to pull the doors shut, Warnagiris refused and continued pushing it open. Warnagiris can be seen pushing the officer in an effort to maintain his position in the open door in security camera footage and publicly available video footage," the Justice Department said.

Warnagiris, of Woodbridge, Va., is stationed at Marine Corps Base Quantico. He is being charged with assaulting, resisting or impeding certain officers; obstruction of law enforcement during civil disorder; and obstruction of justice, among other charges.

He is slated to make his first court appearance Thursday afternoon.

The Marine Corps confirmed Warnagiris is an active-duty member. He joined the Marines in October 2002 and has deployed at least four times, including to Afghanistan and Iraq, according to his service records.

Warnagiris, whose specialty is as a field artillery officer, is currently assigned to the



The attack on the Capitol, Jan 6, 2021 - File photo

Marine Air-Ground Task Force Staff Training Program, which the Marines Corps website describes as training to "improve the warfighting skills of senior commanders and their staffs." His awards include three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, a Meritorious Service Medal and a Defense Meritorious Service Medal, according to the records.

"The Marine Corps is clear on this: There is no place for racial hatred or extremism in the Marine Corps," Maj. J.A. Hernandez, a spokesperson for the service, said in a statement. "Our strength is derived from the individual excellence of every Marine regardless of background. Bigotry and racial extremism run contrary to our core values." Hernandez highlighted the service's "multi-layered, policy-based approach" to screening new recruits, as well as Marine Corps policy prohibiting harassment, unlawful discrimination and "any type of abuse," including "supremacist activity."

**(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))**



*Govt asks SC to review order on state's role in defining OBCs*

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Union government on Thursday, May 13, moved the Supreme Court for a reconsideration of its May 5 judgment, which ruled that after a constitutional amendment in 2018, state governments have no power to draw up their own lists of backward classes.

By a 3-2 majority, the verdict -- which also unanimously struck down a state law granting reservation to the Maratha community in government jobs and education in Maharashtra -- had held that state governments must rely on the Centre to include or exclude any community for granting reservation to socially and educationally backward classes (SEBCs).

In its review petition, the Centre has contended that the judgment required a relook because there were errors apparent on the face of the record.

Since a review petition is usually decided by the judges in their chambers under the Supreme Court rules, the central government has asked for an open court hearing so as to be able to make oral submissions on the grounds of review.

A statement by the Union ministry of social justice and empowerment said: "The Constitution Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court has pronounced judgement dated May 5, 2021, involving interpretation of the provisions of the Constitution 102nd Amendment Act, 2018. As provided in the Supreme Court Rules, 2013, a review petition has been filed by the Union of India on May 13, 2021."

**Provide food, ration for stranded migrants, Supreme Court tells Delhi, UP, Haryana**

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Supreme Court on Thursday, May 13, directed Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to open community kitchens in the NCR for stranded migrant workers amid the current wave of Covid-19 and facilitate transportation for labourers who want to return home.

Passing a slew of interim directions to ameliorate the miseries of migrant workers facing difficulties in the wake of the recent surge in Covid-19 cases and restrictions imposed in several parts of India, the apex court directed that dry ration be provided to them in the national capital region (NCR) under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Scheme' or any other scheme by the Centre and governments of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

A Bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan and MR Shah said the Centre may also issue instructions to the Ministry of Railways to take necessary and adequate measures to cater to the needs of migrant workers.

The top court passed the order on an application filed by three activists who sought directions to the Centre and states to ensure food security, cash transfers, transport facilities and other welfare measures for migrant workers who are facing distress due to the curbs clamped in several parts of the country amid the pandemic. "NCT of Delhi, state of UP and state of Haryana (for the districts included in the NCR) shall open community kitchen at well-advertised places (in the NCR) for stranded migrant labourers so that they and their family members who are stranded could get two meals a day," the Bench said.



"NCT of Delhi, state of UP and state of Haryana (for the districts included in the NCR) shall ensure that adequate transport is provided to stranded migrant labourers (in the NCR) who want to return to their home," it said.

"Dry ration to migrant workers in the NCR under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Scheme or any other scheme be provided by the Union of India, NCT of Delhi, state of UP and state of Haryana utilising the public distribution system prevalent in each state with effect from May 2021," the Bench said.

**Govt: Virus will find new pathways, curbs the key**

The Centre on May 13 said the virus

would ultimately go to villages as its natural course was to look for vulnerable populations to infect.

VK Paul, who leads the government's Covid response team, said, "The virus will ultimately go to the villages. Finding new transmission pathways, when it does not find enough people to infect in cities, it will travel to villages. Containment is the key." Paul also said while it was known that the second wave would come, no modelling had indicated its size.

The remarks came on a day when government data showed a plateau in daily cases and positivity rate for three days but above 15 per cent positivity rate in 24 states.

*India receives shipment of ventilators, Remdesivir from European Union*

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Amid the COVID-19 crisis in India, an aircraft carrying a shipment of ventilators, Remdesivir and medical equipment from EU member states, arrived in New Delhi on Friday, May 14.

External Affairs Ministry (EAM) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi acknowledged the continued solidarity shown by European countries including Germany, Netherlands, and Portugal.

"EU solidarity and cooperation continues. Aircraft arrives carrying 223 ventilators, 25000 vials of Remdesivir and other medical equipment from Germany, 30000 vials of Remdesivir from Netherlands and 5500 vials of Remdesivir from Portugal. Value support of our European Union partners," EAM spokesperson tweeted.

Earlier today, India welcomed the arrival of 5.6 million masks/respirators that arrived from Kazakhstan to combat the deadly virus that has put a strain on the health infrastructure of the country.

"Further deepening our Strategic Partnership. Welcome shipment of over 5.6 million masks/respirators that arrived from Kazakhstan," Bagchi tweeted.



India has received support from several countries, including the US, Russia and the UK as it battles a deadly second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Singapore extends life-line to India in oxygen crisis**

India's mission oxygen with comprehensive partner Singapore began with a three sentence text message between external affairs minister S Jaishankar and foreign minister Vivian Balakrishnan on April 22 with

the second wave of pandemic leaving afflicted Indians breathless.

The SMS was followed by a telephone call between the two ministers as Jaishankar asked for medical oxygen and his Singaporean counterpart agreed with Prime Ministers of both countries kept in the loop. The Indian foreign minister asked his senior colleague defence minister Rajnath Singh to call in the Indian Air Force's heavy transporters to pick the first four cryogenic tanks from Singapore which were needed to pick up liquid medical oxygen from east India to Covid-19 hit north and western parts of the country.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh called up Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria, who was on a five-day official trip to France at that time, the same day in Paris. Leaving aside everything, Air Chief Bhadauria worked through the night to plan external and internal movement of transport planes. The entire transport fleet of IAF was placed on standby 24X7 with multiple sets of pilots as 'Mission Oxygen' began in earnest with a C-17 picking up four cryogenic containers from Changi in Singapore and reaching the transport hub of Panagarh in West Bengal. *Source: HT*



# Covid peak will come, virus can again emerge: Govt

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** As the country battles the second wave of COVID-19, the government on Thursday, May 13, said the virus may emerge again and so preparations have to be made at the national level in collaboration with states, infrastructure needs to be ramped up while curbs and appropriate behaviour must be followed.

Dismissing allegations that the government was unaware of the intensity of the second wave, NITI Aayog member (health) Dr V K Paul said, "We kept warning again and again from this platform that the second wave of COVID-19 will come.

"It was said that the seropositivity is 20 per cent, 80 per cent of the population is still vulnerable and that virus has not gone anywhere and other countries were also witnessing a resurgence."

At a press conference, Paul said, "The prime minister had conveyed the country about the emerging second wave on March 17 without creating panic and had said that we have to fight it."

"Was such a peak expected," he said, "well, no modelling can



predict the size of a peak as the unexpected behaviour virus is well known."

"So peak will come, the virus can again emerge, we know. So preparations have to be made at country level in collaboration with states, infrastructure has to be ramped up, containment measures have to be implemented and COVID appropriate behaviour has to be followed.

"We had not created panic... other countries have faced multiple peaks after all it's a pandemic," he said.

He said it is the nature of the

disease that it will ultimately go to villages.

This epidemiology is well known, Paul said as he urged people to follow COVID appropriate behaviour and embrace vaccination.

Joint Secretary in the Health Ministry Lav Agarwal said that plateauing in daily new COVID-19 cases and a slight decline positivity rate have been recorded in the country over the past three days, but added 10 states still have a positivity rate of more than 25 per cent which was "worrisome trend".

# SC commission begins two-day Bengal visit to probe violence

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) has directed the West Bengal police to take "stern action" on the perpetrators of violence against members of the community after assembly elections results were announced on May 2.

The commission, headed by Vijay Sampla, is in West Bengal for a two-day visit to carry out spot visits in the East Burdwan and 24 Paraganas districts where it received complaints of atrocities against Dalits.

Though the West Bengal government had earlier asked the NCSC to cancel the visit in view of the pandemic restrictions, the panel chose to go ahead with its inquiry into the cases of violence.

"We spoke to affected families in Nabagram village in East Bardhaman district. Many people were initially scared of recording their complaints. In many areas, people have fled their homes in fear," Sampla said.

The commission went to the house of a complainant, Ashish Khetrapal, in Nabagram and found it locked. They were later informed that Khetrapal was injured and was being treated in a nursing home. His statement was recorded wherein he gave details of the attack that left two members of his family dead.

The commission later met some of the affected people at the rest house in Kolkata.

"There, more than 25 complainants were heard in the presence of the district commissioner and SSP who were directed to take stern actions as per the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act," Sampla said.

# Probe ordered after bodies found buried on riverbank in UP's Unnao



**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Unnao district administration has ordered a probe after some bodies were found buried on the Ganga riverbank in Bighapur Patan tehsil area, officials said on Thursday, May 13.

The district administration swung into action after locals spotted bodies buried on Baksar ghat of the river. Some photographs of the bodies were seen on social media, they said.

"After the matter came to the light, a sub-divisional magistrate was sent to the spot for the probe. He will submit his report," Unnao district magistrate Ravindra Kumar said.

He said Baksar ghat is on the border of many districts including Raebareli, Fatehpur and Unnao and people go there for cremation.

"We will take appropriate action after seeing the situation. Directives have been issued that such a situation does not arise," the district magistrate.

Sub-divisional magistrate Dayashankar Pathak, who visited Baksar ghat with the circle officer, said they did not find bodies out in the open.

On the exact number of bodies buried on the riverbank, the sub-divisional magistrate said he was not aware of the number.

# Explain how film stars, politicians are procuring, distributing Remdesivir: HC to govt

**MUMBAI (TIP):** The Bombay High Court has asked the Union and Maharashtra governments to explain how some film stars and politicians were able to procure and distribute the anti-viral drug Remdesivir despite its shortages.

The order was passed during the hearing of PILs on the coronavirus situation on Wednesday but published on the HC website on Thursday, May 13, evening.

A bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G S Kulkarni said that as per previous orders of the Supreme Court and several high courts, Remdesivir was supposed to be allocated to states only by the Union government.

Advocate Rajesh Inamdar, lawyer of one of the petitioners, said while hospitals were running out of key drugs like Remdesivir and Tocilizumab, some celebrities and politicians were easily procuring and distributing them in response to pleas on Twitter.

The court said it did not want to come in the way of those helping COVID-19 patients, but it has to pass orders in accordance with law.

If Remdesivir is being allocated by the central government, "then how the same can be privately available for distribution at the hands of such political and film personalities", the court asked in the order.

"In our opinion, this would certainly amount to hoarding/illegal



stocking of such drug," it said.

Such a parallel system of distribution of anti-COVID drugs might cause "serious prejudice" to patients in urgent need, the high court further said.

Some unscrupulous persons too may take advantage of this for profiteering, the court said.

"Also, such personalities making the drug available privately, raises a grave question as to its equitable distribution in a system/regime which is set into motion for its allocation," the judges noted.

The Maharashtra government and Centre must file reply affidavits explaining how Remdesivir was being "parallely distributed by political and film personalities", the court said.

The replies are to be filed by May 19.

# Nightmare runs on in Goa hospital: 15 more die as oxygen dips

**PANAJI (TIP):** A day after the High Court of Bombay in Goa directed the state government to ensure there were no more deaths due to oxygen issues, Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), the state's largest Covid facility, reported 15 more deaths between 2 am and 6 am on Thursday, May 13, as oxygen supply pressure dipped, reported The Indian Express.

Relatives and resident doctors at GMCH made frantic calls through the night as the oxygen pressure started falling in the hospital's Covid wards around 1 am. One of the petitioners in the PILs filed in the High Court over Covid management said that after she received an SOS call, she reached out to the authorities, and that officials of the Health Department and police rushed over.

However, doctors said, oxygen pressure could be restored only in 20 minutes, which proved fatal for 15 patients.

The High Court had urged the government to ensure there were no more deaths due to oxygen on Wednesday, after Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said deaths of 26 Covid patients at GMCH in the early hours of Tuesday night have been due to oxygen issues. Told about the fresh deaths Thursday, the court said, "We are sorry."



# Indian personalities we lost to Covid

India is battling the worst health crisis of all time - rising COVID-19 cases, lack of oxygen and medicines. Amid all this, in fighting against coronavirus, India has lost several big personalities as well.

## Music composer Shravan Rathod



Shravan Rathod died of coronavirus-related complications on April 22, 2021. He breathed his last at a hospital in Mumbai. Rathod was 66. Shravan was a well-known music composer and a member of the famous duo of music directors, Nadeem - Shravan. The duo were

the most successful Bollywood music directors of the 1990s until the early 2000s.

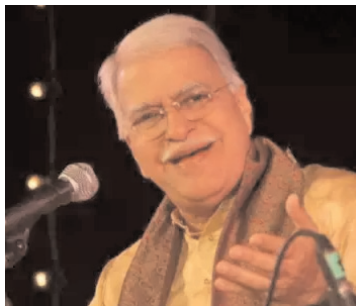
## Bollywood actor Satish Kaul



Popularly known for playing the role of Lord Indra in Mahabharata, actor Satish Kaul passed away due to coronavirus-related complications on April 10, 2021. He was admitted to Shri Rama Charitable Hospital of Ludhiana where he breathed his last at the

age of 74.

## Classical singer Pt Rajan Mishra



Classical singer and Padma Bhushan awardee Pandit Rajan Mishra passed away on April 25 due to a heart attack in Delhi. He was 70. Rajan Mishra of the famous musical duo Rajan-Sajan was undergoing treatment in Delhi's St. Stephen Hospital for

complications that developed after he was tested positive for coronavirus. He was associated with Banaras Gharana.

## Chandro Tomar aka Shooter dadi



Chandro Tomar popularly knowns as Shooter Dadi, passed away on April 30, 2021 at the age of 89. She was battling COVID-19 and was admitted to a Meerut hospital on April 26. Chandro was an octogenarian sharpshooter from the village of Johri in the

Bagpat district of Uttar Pradesh.

## Filmmaker KV Anand



Noted director and cinematographer KV Anand passed away on April 30, 2021 following a cardiac arrest at the age of 54. He was diagnosed with Covid-19. KV Anand was best known for Tamil films like Kana Kandaen, Ayan, Maattrraan, Anegan, Kavan and

Kaappa.

## Kannada film producer Ramu



Kannada film producer Ramu passed away due to COVID-19 on April 26, 2021. He was being treated at MS Ramaiah Hospital in Bengaluru, where he breathed his last. Ramu had produced more than 30 films under his Ramu Enterprises

banner and was married to superstar Malashree.

## TV Anchor Rohit Sardana



Renowned journalist and TV anchor Rohit Sardana died due to a heart attack on April 30. He was infected from COVID-19 and was undergoing treatment in the ICU of a private hospital in Noida. Rohit Sardana, who was recently tested positive for COVID-19

was rushed to a Noida hospital on April 29 after his condition deteriorated. The following morning, he had a cardiac arrest and died.

## Pranab Mukherjee



The former President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, passed away on September 1, 2020. Mukherjee had tested coronavirus positive in August and had undergone brain surgery at Army's R&R Hospital in New Delhi. However, his condition deteriorated over the

next few days and he ultimately passed away on September 1, 2020.

## Ahmed Patel



The senior Congress leader, who was known as 'party's troubleshooter' had also tested coronavirus positive this year. He was undergoing treatment in Gurugram but passed away November 25, 2020, after his health deteriorated due to COVID-19 complications.

## Tarun Gogoi



The 84-year-old longest serving CM of Assam had also tested positive for the deadly infection last year. He had recovered from the infection but passed away on November 23, 2020, after a four-month battle with COVID-19 and subsequent complications.

## Ashok Gasti

The senior BJP leader had tested coronavirus positive and admitted to Manipal Hospital on the Old Airport Road on September 2, 2020. However, he failed to recover from the infection and ultimately passed away on



September 17, 2020.

## Chetan Chauhan



Chauhan, a UP minister and former India cricketer, was another important leader who succumbed to COVID-19 this year. After getting infected by COVID-19, Chauhan also developed a kidney infection and passed away on August 15, 2020, in Gurugram.

## Govardhan Dangi



Govardhan Dangi was a Congress MLA from Madhya Pradesh's from Biaora in Rajgarh. He passed away on September 15, 2020, in Gurugram's Medanta Hospital at the age of 54 due to the novel coronavirus.

## Balli Durga Prasad Rao



Balli Durga Prasad Rao was a former MP from Tirupati who passed away at the age of 64. Rao had tested coronavirus positive and was admitted to Chennai's Apollo Hospital where he succumbed to COVID-19 on September 16, 2020.

## Kamal Rani Varun



Kamal Rani Varun was another UP Cabinet Minister who passed away due to COVID-19 complication on August 2, 2020. Rani had tested coronavirus positive on July 18 and was undergoing treatment at the SGPGI Hospital in the state capital Lucknow.

## P Namgyal



Senior Leh Congress leader and former Union Minister P Namgyal also passed away in June last year after contracting COVID-19. The 83-year-old was a three-time L a d a k h i parliamentarian and had served in the Rajiv Gandhi Cabinet.

## Raghuvansh Prasad Singh



Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, the former Union Minister who is credited for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), passed away on September 13, 2020, due to post COVID-19 complications.



# Celebrities who lost battle to virus

## Fashion designer Alber Elbaz



Fashion designer Alber Elbaz died from complications of COVID-19 in Paris on April 24. He was 59. The company behind the Moroccan-born Israeli designer's latest venture, AZ Factory, confirmed the sad news to The New York Times. The man whose work

was worn by celebrity clients including Beyonce, Natalie Portman, Harry Styles, Meryl Streep and more most notably served as the fashion director for Lanvin from 2001 to 2015.

## Joe Long



Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons bassist Joe Long (born Joseph Louis LaBracio) died on April 21 from complications of COVID-19, close friend Anthony Newell, a member of the Jersey Four tribute band of which Joe was the musical director, told

NJ.com. The New Jersey Hall of Fame member was 88. Former bandmates Frankie Valli and Bob Gaudio also confirmed Joe's passing in a statement. Another former Four Seasons bandmate, Tommy DeVito, also died from coronavirus complications in September 2020.

## Linda Torres



Former reality TV star Linda Torres, a good friend of the late Angela "Big Ang" Raiola who appeared on the VH1 reality series "Big Ang" and "Mob Wives," died at Staten Island University Hospital in New York — where she spent nine weeks — on April 1 from complications of

the coronavirus, Big Ang's sister Janine Detore told People magazine. Linda, 67, had been fighting breast cancer and was recovering from surgery to implant a chemo port. After developing a fever, she returned to the hospital, where she was diagnosed with COVID-19.

## Captain Sir Tom Moore



Captain Sir Tom Moore — the 100-year-old WWII veteran who catapulted to fame in 2020 when he helped raise more than \$43 million for Britain's National Health Service charities in the early days of the U.K.'s coronavirus lockdowns by walking more than

100 laps in the garden of his home in Bedfordshire, England — has died after being diagnosed with COVID-19, his family announced on Feb. 2.

## Larry King

Broadcast legend Larry King passed away at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles at 87 on Jan. 23, 2021 — just a few weeks after leaving the ICU



for a regular hospital room after facing breathing issues amid his battle with COVID-19 that began in December.

## Sekou Smith



On Jan. 27, news outlets reported that NBA reporter and analyst Sekou Smith, who covered the league for decades, had died from COVID-19 at 48. "We are all heartbroken over Sekou's tragic passing," read a statement from Turner Sports, which operates

NBA TV and NBA.com — where Sekou worked for the last decade-plus. "His commitment to journalism and the basketball community was immense and we will miss his warm, engaging personality."

## Barbara Shelley



British actress Barbara Shelley — who was best known for her roles in horror films like 1958's "Blood of the Vampire," 1960's "Village of the Damned" (pictured) and 1966's "Dracula: Prince of Darkness" — died from complications of the

coronavirus on Jan. 4, the BBC reported.

## Dawn Wells

Dawn Wells, who was best known for her role as Mary Ann on "Gilligan's Island," died in Los Angeles on Dec. 30, 2020, from complications of COVID-19. The actress was 82.

## Nick Cordero

Tony-nominated Broadway star Nick Cordero died on July 5 in a Los Angeles hospital from complications of COVID-19. He was 41. The singer-actor's wife, actress-dancer and Rockette-turned-fitness trainer Amanda Kloots, had chronicled his battle with the coronavirus and all the complications that followed — including the amputation of his leg due to clotting issues — over the previous 95 days.

## Charley Pride

Country music legend Charley Pride — a pioneer for Black artists in the genre and the first Black member of the Country Music Hall of Fame — died on Dec. 12 in Dallas from complications of COVID-19. He was 86. The Grammy winner, who was known for hit songs like "Kiss an Angel Good Morning" and "Is Anybody Goin' to San Antone," delivered his final performance at November's 2020 Country Music Association Awards, where he was given a lifetime achievement award.

## Carol Sutton



Actress Carol Sutton — who appeared in films and on TV shows including "Steel Magnolias," "The Pelican Brief," "Queen Sugar," "Treme," "Claws" and "Lovecraft Country" — died on Dec. 10 in New Orleans of COVID-19 complications, the city's mayor announced. She was

76. Mayor LaToya Cantrell praised Carol as being "practically the Queen of New Orleans theater, having graced the stages across the city for decades."

## Dave Prowse

Dave Prowse — the British character actor who

physically played Darth Vader (James Earl Jones provided the villain's voice) in the first "Star Wars" trilogy — died from complications of COVID-19 on Nov. 28. He was 85.

## Lynn Kellogg Simpers



Singer-actress Lynn Kellogg Simpers, best known for her starring role as Sheila in the original 1968 Broadway production of "Hair," died on Nov. 12 in a St. Louis hospital from COVID-19 complications. She was 77.

## Kenzo Takada

Paris-based Japanese designer Kenzo Takada died from coronavirus-related complications on Oct. 4, a spokesperson for one of the fashion visionary's brands confirmed in a statement: "It is with immense sadness that the brand K-3 announces the loss of its celebrated artistic director, Kenzo Takada. The world-renowned designer passed away on October 4th, 2020 due to COVID-19 related complications at the age of 81 at the American Hospital, in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France."

## Tommy DeVito

Musician and singer Tommy DeVito — a founding member of The Four Seasons and a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame — died in a Las Vegas area hospital on Sept. 21 from complications of the coronavirus, "Casino" actor Alfredo Nittoli confirmed on Facebook. The famed doo-wop star was 92.

## Bruce Williamson

Former Temptations lead singer Bruce Williamson died from complications of COVID-19 at his Las Vegas home on Sept. 6, 2020, TMZ reported the following day. Bruce, who became a Temptation in 2006 and performed with the group until 2015, was 49.

## Tom Seaver

Baseball icon Tom Seaver — who's widely regarded as one of the greatest Mets players of all time — died on Aug. 31 at his home in Calistoga, California, from complications of Lewy body dementia and COVID-19, his family confirmed to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

## Trini Lopez

Trini Lopez, who found fame in the 1960s with his mix of folk, Latin and rockabilly music — his biggest records were "If I Had a Hammer" and "Lemon Tree" — died on Aug. 11 at a hospital in Rancho Mirage, California, from complications of COVID-19. He was 83.

## Herman Cain

Herman Cain, a former Republican presidential candidate and former CEO of Godfather's Pizza, died from complications of COVID-19, his website announced on July 30. The co-chair of Black Voices for Trump and contributor for conservative media outlet Newsmax was 74.

## Roy Horn

German magician and entertainer Roy Horn, who came to fame as half of the duo Siegfried & Roy — and whose career was cut short when he was attacked by one of their famed white tigers on stage in 2003 — died in Las Vegas on May 8 from complications related to COVID-19, his rep confirmed. Roy, who was 75.

## Floyd Cardoz



"Top Chef Masters" winner Floyd Cardoz died on March 25 due to complications from the novel coronavirus. The 59-year-old celebrity chef, who cooked on dozens of TV shows, was admitted to a New Jersey hospital after he fell ill upon returning from a trip to Mumbai in March.



# India's Covid-19 tally crosses 24 million-mark with 343,144 fresh cases

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** India on Friday, May 14, registered 343,144 new Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, taking the country's total coronavirus infection tally past the 24-million mark. 4,000 new fatalities were recorded, taking the death toll to 262,317. The country's total case count has now reached 24,046,809, according to the Union health ministry's dashboard.

The active coronavirus cases currently stand at 3,704,893. This accounts for 15.65% of the total confirmed Covid-19 cases in the country. As many as 344,776 patients were discharged in the last 24 hours and so far, and 20,079,599 people in total have recovered from the viral disease, the health ministry's dashboard displayed. With this, the country's recovery rate stands at 83.2%, the government said.

The country has tested a total of 31,13,24,100 samples as of May 13. Out of this, 18,75,515 samples were tested for Covid-19 in the last 24 hours, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said on Twitter.

The Union health ministry has said that Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are among the states that account for 82.5% of the total active cases in the country.

Meanwhile, government advisor VK Paul has said that over 200 crore doses of Covid-19 vaccines will likely be available in India between August to December this year.

"Two billion doses (216 crore) will be made in the country in five months for India and for people of India. The vaccine will be available for all as we move forward. By the first quarter of the next year, the number is likely to be 300 crore," Paul added.



## Gap between two doses of Covishield extended to 12-16 weeks, says government

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Union government has accepted the recommendation for extension of the gap between the first and second doses of Covishield vaccine to 12-16 weeks. The present one is 6-8 weeks.

The Union Health Ministry said in a statement on Thursday that the decision was based on "available real-life evidence particularly from the U.K. The COVID-19 working group chaired by N.K. Arora recommended increasing the dosing interval to 12-16 weeks between two doses of Covishield vaccine while suggesting no change in interval of Covaxin vaccine doses."

The panel had also recommended that those infected with COVID-19 should be administered a vaccine after six months and people who had received plasma during treatment should get vaccinated at least after 12 weeks.

The Ministry said the recommendation of the COVID working group was also accepted by the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 (NEGVAC), headed by Dr. V.K. Paul, Member (Health), Niti Aayog, in a meeting on May 12.

At a press conference on Thursday, Dr. Paul said that the dosing interval extension had been recommended after a careful study without pressure from anyone and in consultation with the World Health Organization.

This is the second time in three months Covishield dosage intervals have been widened by the Health Ministry. In March, the States and Union Territories were directed to increase the gap from 28 days to six-eight weeks for better results.

## India expecting 200 cr vax doses by Aug-Dec, will cover 95 cr adults: Govt

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Amid a growing clamour for Covid vaccines and stock shortages across states, the Centre on May 13 said it was expecting that over 200 crore doses would become available in India between August and December this year, reaching up to 300 crore by the first quarter of 2022.

Noting that India had inoculated 32 per cent of its people aged 45 years and above with single dose as against 27 per cent in France, 34 per cent in Germany and 46 per cent in the US, top government advisers today said the rate of vaccine coverage in India was "a matter to be proud of".

Chairman of the empowered group on vaccines VK Paul projected the availability of 216 crore vaccine doses in India between August and December 2021, saying that the country would soon have enough stocks to cover 95 crore adults who would require 190 crore doses.

The projected availability of over 200 crore doses includes 75 crore doses of Covishield, 55 crore doses of Covaxin, 15.6 crore doses of Sputnik V (vaccines licensed in India) and stocks of the yet to be licensed vaccines — Bio E vaccine (projected availability of 30 crore doses between August and December); Zydus Cadila DNA vaccine (5 crore doses), Serum Institute's Novovax (20 crore), Bharat Biotech's nasal vaccine (10 crore), Gennova's messenger RNA vaccine (60 lakh doses).

Paul said 1.5 lakh doses of Sputnik V that arrived in India recently would become available in the market next week and domestic production of Sputnik would start by July. Zydus Cadila vaccine is in the last stage



trials and will apply for licensure soon.

"We expect over 2 billion doses to be made in India over August to December. Everyone will get vaccines. It takes time. Even the US, which had sufficient stockpiles, has inoculated only 46 per cent of its people aged 45 and above despite starting a month before India. We have covered one-third of our people over 45 years with a single dose. While we humbly accept all other narratives, this positive narrative is also a reality and we must feel proud of it," Paul said.

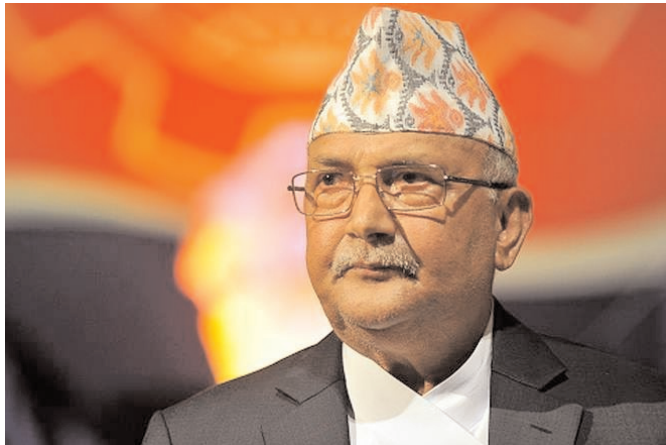
He defended the Centre's liberalised policy, saying it was drafted after states urged more say in the vaccine procurement.

"States wanted flexibility, they indicated this. There was also a demand for private sector availability of vaccines. That is why a liberal vaccine policy came. We now invite Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson and Johnson manufacturers to come and produce in India," said Paul.

Source: TNS



# K P Sharma Oli sworn in as Nepal Prime Minister



**KATHMANDU (TIP):** K P Sharma Oli was sworn in as Nepal's Prime Minister for the third time on Friday, days after he lost a vote of confidence in Parliament.

President Bidya Devi Bhandari administered the oath of office and secrecy to Oli, 69, at a ceremony at Shital Niwas, after he was reappointed to the post on Thursday night as the Opposition parties failed to secure majority seats in Parliament to form a new government.

Oli, the Chairman of CPN-UML, lost a crucial trust vote in the House of Representatives on Monday.

Oli will now have to take a vote of confidence at the House within 30 days, failing which, an attempt to form a government under Article 76 (5) of the Constitution would be initiated.

He previously served as prime minister from October 11, 2015, to August 3, 2016 and again from February 15, 2018, to May 13, 2021.

The president had asked the Opposition parties to

come up with the support of majority lawmakers to form a new government by 9 pm on Thursday after Oli lost the vote of confidence in the House on Monday.

Until Thursday, Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba, who got backing from CPN-Maoist Centre chairman Pushpakamal Dahal "Prachanda" was hopeful to get sufficient votes in the House to stake his claim as the next Prime Minister.

But as Madhav Kumar Nepal took a U-turn after his last-minute meeting with Oli, Deuba's dream to become the next Prime Minister was shattered.

The CPN-UML is the largest party with 121 seats in the 271-member House of Representatives.

At present 136 votes are needed to form a majority government.

If the parties fail to form a new government in line with Article 76 (5) or the Prime Minister elected under this provision does not secure the vote of confidence again, the sitting Prime Minister can recommend the President to dissolve the parliament and announce the date to hold general elections within the next six months.

Nepal plunged into a political crisis on December 20 last year after President Bhandari dissolved the House and announced fresh elections on April 30 and May 10 at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli, amidst a tussle for power within the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP).

Oli's move to dissolve the House sparked protests from a large section of the NCP led by his rival 'Prachanda'.

In February, the apex court reinstated the dissolved House, in a setback to Oli who was preparing for snap polls. PTI

## Sniffer dogs to identify Covid patients at Islamabad airport

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Authorities at the Islamabad airport have decided to bring in sniffer dogs to identify coronavirus-infected inbound travellers to the Pakistani capital city, the media reported on Friday.

A senior airport official told Dawn news that the well-trained sniffer dogs will detect the virus by smelling the odours generated by infected people.

Sniffer dogs can be used as a secondary screening tool for detecting Covid-19 infection, he said.

A team of experts have already visited the airport and have also selected a site to deploy the sniffer dogs.

Earlier, the health authorities in collaboration with the Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) has been using thermal scanners and Rapid Antigen tests to detect the infected travellers at the airport.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority has allowed airlines to operate at 30 per cent of their flights, reports Dawn news. --IANS

## 2 held in Bangladesh for plotting attack on Parl

**DHAKA (TIP):** The counter-terrorism police in Bangladesh have arrested two people for plotting an attack on Parliament and instigating others to join them, according to a media report.

The arrested persons have been identified as Abu Sakib, 22, a member of the banned militant outfit Ansar Al Islam, while the other Ali Hasan Osama is a radical orator.

Sakib opened a Facebook group and urged everyone to come with a sword and a flag with Islamic phrases to attack the parliament building, bdnews24 said in a recent report. However, no one responded to his request. PTI

## Afghan police say Kabul mosque bombing kills 12 worshippers

**KABUL (TIP):** A bomb ripped through a mosque in northern Kabul during Friday prayers and killed 12 worshippers, Afghan police said.

Spokesman Ferdaws Faramarz said the mosque's imam, Mofti Naiman, was among the dead. Another 15 people were wounded. The bomb exploded as prayers had begun. No one claimed responsibility for the bombing, but initial police investigations suggest the Imam may have been the target, Faramarz said.

A worshipper at the mosque, Muhibullah Sahebzada, said he had just stepped into the mosque when the explosion went off. Stunned, he heard the sound of screams, including children, as smoke filled the mosque. Sahebzada said he saw several bodies on the mosque floor and at least one child was among the wounded.

It appeared the explosive device had been hidden inside then pulpit at the front of the mosque.

"I was afraid of a second explosion so I came immediately to my home," he said.

An image circulating on social media showed three bodies lying on the floor of the mosque, which showed minor damage. The explosion comes on the second day of a three-day ceasefire announced by the warring Taliban and Afghan government. The pause was for the Islamic festival Eid-al-Fitr, which follows the fasting month of Ramadan. Until now many of the attacks in the capital have been claimed by the local Islamic State affiliate, but both the Taliban and government blame each other.

The most recent attack last week killed over 90 people, many of them pupils leaving a girls' school when a powerful car bomb exploded. The Taliban denied involvement and condemned the attack. The relentless violence comes as the US and allied NATO forces continue with their final withdrawal from Afghanistan after nearly 20 years of war. AP

## Indian-origin family in Singapore faces hate crime



Singapore police is investigating a hate crime against an Indian-origin family for not wearing a mask during the pandemic

**SINGAPORE (TIP):** Singapore police is investigating a hate crime against an Indian-origin family for not wearing a mask during the pandemic, a media report said on Thursday, May 13, days after a man of Chinese ethnicity was arrested for allegedly assaulting a woman of Indian-origin.

Police are investigating a 47-year-old man for public nuisance and uttering words with deliberate intent to wound the racial feelings of others in relation to an incident, which took place at Pasir Ris Beach Park, the Singapore Police Force (SPF) said on Thursday.

Preliminary investigations revealed that on May 2, at about 6 pm, the man had allegedly uttered offensive remarks towards an Indian-origin family and confronted a male member of the family for not wearing his mask at Pasir Ris Beach Park, police said in a news release, according to the reports.

Police did not identify the ethnicity of the man who made the alleged remarks.

In the video released by media earlier, the 47-year-old is seen shouting at another man. He accuses the man of not wearing a mask and of breaking social distancing rules and asks where he served his National Service (a compulsory service for Singaporeans).

The alleged perpetrator also says, "this is my country" and "you are spreading the virus" during the exchange, according to a report.

Police investigations are ongoing, and the man is assisting with investigations, SPF said.

The offence of public nuisance carries a jail term of up to three months, a fine of up to SGD 2,000, or both.

Offenders who utter words with deliberate intent to wound the racial feelings of any person face up to three years in prison, a fine of up to SGD 5,000, or both.

Last Friday, police arrested a 30-year-old man of Chinese ethnicity for allegedly assaulting a 55-year-old woman of Indian-origin.

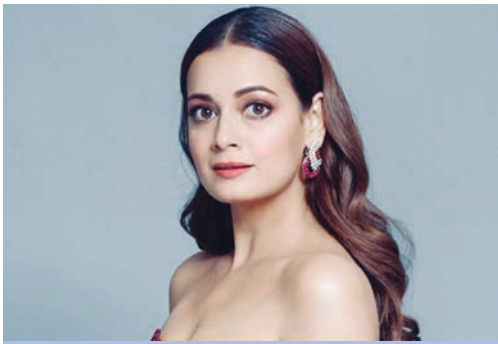
The man was arrested "for public nuisance, uttering words with intent to wound the racial feelings of others and voluntarily causing hurt", the SPF said on Tuesday.

The woman was walking along a walkway at Choa Chu Kang Drive at about 8.45 am on May 7 when she was confronted by a Chinese couple who told her to wear her mask properly as a safety measure for the public in fight against COVID-19, said the SPF of the case earlier this week.

Law and Home Affairs Minister K Shanmugam has also told parliamentarians that Singapore will fail if the country allows racism and xenophobia to become prevalent.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and ministers have also condemned the attack on the woman who was brisk walking, one of the exercises for which wearing a facemask is exempted.





## Dia Mirza says *Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein* is sexist

Bollywood actor Dia Mirza made her debut in movies with the 2001 film *Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein*, and her journey in the entertainment industry has had several ups and downs. In an interview with Brut India, the actor opened up about her early days in the film industry and the rampant sexism that existed those days.

Dia said, "People were writing, thinking and making sexist cinema, and I was a part of these stories. *Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein* has sexism in it." She also gave an example stating that during those times, a makeup artist could only be a man, and the job of a hairdresser could only be done by a woman.

She continued, "When I started working in films, there were at best only 4 or 5 women on any given film crew with a unit strength of over 120, sometimes 180 people. There would just never be any female representation on a film crew, so the gender ratio was skewed. Nobody really cared about it. We live in a patriarchal society, and it is an industry that is largely led by men. So there is rampant sexism. And I think for a large part, it is not even conscious sexism because there are so many men who are writers, who are directors, who are actors, who are not even aware of their sexist thinking."

# Sunny Leone's journey from Bigg Boss to a top entertainer in Bollywood

When she entered the mainstream Hindi film industry, she was placed under a lot of scrutiny for her past career in the adult film industry, and her future in India had a big question mark on it. However, almost 10 years down the line, she has shrugged off the judgement and misogynist gaze on her and has established herself as an unapologetic entertainer and performer in the industry. We are talking of Sunny Leone, who is celebrating her 40th birthday today, and on this special occasion, let's take a look back at her journey in Bollywood.

After her stint in *Bigg Boss* season 5, she made her Bollywood debut with Pooja Bhatt's erotic thriller *Jism 2*. Although the film failed to perform well, and Leone was still under the scanner for the industry she came from, the film catapulted her into fame and she bagged her second, *Ragini MMS 2*. The song *Baby Doll* became a huge hit and pretty much sealed Sunny's position among the most sought after performers in Bollywood.

It was also at this point in her Bollywood career when she openly admitted that she doesn't regret anything she has done earlier, which was a powerful statement considering how she was still not free from the objectification.

Moving forward, she appeared in a couple of dance numbers including in films like *Shootout at Wadala*, *Hate*



*Story 2*, and *Balwinder Singh Famous Ho Gaya*. Her subsequent films like *Jackpot* or *Kuch Kuch Locha Hai* failed to make a mark, but others including *Ek Paheli Leela*, or *Mastizaade* again brought her to the spotlight. Meanwhile, she also made her debut in the South film industry with the 2014 Tamil film *Vadacurry*, the Kannada film *DK* where she appeared in an item song, and *Luv U Alia* where she did her second Kannada song. After a couple of more films that generally opened to

mixed to negative reviews, she generated a wave with the song "Laila Main Laila" from the Shah Rukh Khan starter film *Raees* in 2016.

After this, she expanded her horizon to the Marathi and Bengali film industry as well. The Marathi film industry saw her in the song *Kuth Kuth Jayacha Honeymoon La* from the film *Boyz* while she made her Bengali debut with the song "Chaap Nishna" in Swapan Saha's *Shrestha Bangali*.

Source: News18

## Saif Ali Khan to play Ravana in *Adipurush* opposite Prabhas

One of the most awaited films that the audiences are looking forward to is undoubtedly *Adipurush* starring Prabhas, Saif Ali Khan and Kriti Sanon. In a recent interview Saif has opened up about how excited he is to play Ravana in Om Raut's directorial, a pan India mythological magnum opus film. The actor said he will be training hard along with Prabhas to look bulkier than he actually is.

"He (Om Raut) is going to make me larger than I am, but again, that might be giving it away. There will be some trickery involved, but a lot of it is real. He wants us to train and look particularly tough. The point is that Ravana is India's Satan, he's the demon king. And I guess what drives him is vanity. He is the personification of vanity. Everything comes from there – the doom that he prays for, the kingdom that he wants. His whole outlook is just incredibly incredibly clouded, blind and vain. He is a monster. He is strong and fun to play, in that sense. The whole point of the story is to overcome the monster," Saif told *Film Companion* in an interview.

Saif then spoke about what the audiences can expect from the film's story. He said, "That's what story is about. It's about Lord Rama overcoming him. The stronger he is, the more of an achievement it is for the hero (to defeat him). So he is dressed up in dazzling clothes. He's got an array of weapons. He's got a tremendous amount of knowledge and power. He is vain. He says some outrageous things so I still talk to my director saying, 'Oh no.' I will tell you one thing though – I do have ten heads at points, which is one of the cool things. It is wonderfully presented. Om is a student, apart from being a very good director. He has a very exciting vision on this."

Source: Indian Express



## Salman asks fans to watch *Radhe* on right platforms

Ahead of the release of *Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai*, actor Salman Khan on Wednesday made an appeal to his fans to shun piracy and watch his much-awaited film on the right platform.

The action-drama was initially scheduled to arrive in cinema halls but due to the surge in Covid-19 cases in the country, the makers decided to release *Radhe* on DTH services, OTT platform and in select theatres on May 13 on the Eid festival.

"No piracy in Entertainment. .. #Radhe," Salman captioned a short video on social media.

It takes the hard work of several people to make one film and it hurts a lot when some take the route of piracy to watch the final product, said the 55-year-old actor in the clip. "I want a commitment from all of you that you will enjoy films on the right platform. So this Eid we want a commitment from the audience - no piracy in entertainment," he added.







## Wonder Woman 1984 digital premiere on Amazon Prime Video

Filmmaker Patty Jenkins's 'Wonder Woman 1984' starring Gal Gadot, Kristen Wiig, Chris Pine and Pedro Pascal among others is all set to premiere on Amazon Prime Video. The highly anticipated Hollywood superhero drama Wonder Woman 1984, this May 15 is joining the exciting list of superhero flicks available on the OTT giant.

The film will be available to Indian audiences in four languages - English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

The action-packed title is the ninth instalment in the DC Extended Universe and is set against the backdrop of the 1984 Cold War. The film follows Diana Prince (Gal Gadot) and her past love Steve Trevor (Chris Pine) as they face off against the terrifying Max Lord (Pedro Pascal) and Cheetah (Kristen Wiig).

Warner Bros. Pictures Presents an Atlas Entertainment/Stone Quarry Production, a Patty Jenkins Film, produced by Charles Roven, Deborah Snyder, Zack Snyder, Patty Jenkins, Gal Gadot and Stephen Jones. Rebecca Steel Roven Oakley, Richard Suckle, Marianne Jenkins, Geoff Johns, Walter Hamada, Chantal Nong Vo and Wesley Collier are the executive producers.

## Priyanka Chopra, Nick Jonas raise \$1 million for Covid relief in India

Like several other celebrities, Priyanka Chopra and her husband Nick Jonas came forward to help India fight its battle against Covid-19. Priyanka and Nick started a fundraiser in association with GiveIndia to help raise funds for people affected by Covid-19 in the country. They have been able to successfully raise \$1 million (Rs 7,36,28,200). The couple has now raised the fundraising target to \$3 million (Rs 22,08,80,100).

More than 14,000 donors have contributed to Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas's fundraiser. The money raised is already being deployed to help people with oxygen concentrators and vaccine support.

Thanking everyone for their contributions, Priyanka wrote, "Through some of the darkest days in our history, humanity has once again proven that we are better together. @nickjonas and I are so humbled by your support and by the outpouring of help for India from so many parts of the world. Over 14,000 good Samaritans opened their hearts and helped us raise \$1 Million in these trying times. Countless others helped us spread the word to expedite the process. All the money raised is already being deployed across the country in the form of Oxygen Concentrators, Vaccine Support and so much more. We can all continue to help so let's not stop here. We're raising the fundraising target to \$3 Million and we know that with your help and support, we can achieve this too. Thank you all for your support and thank you @give\_india for the incredible work you are doing on ground (sic)."



## Angelina Jolie admits being picky about dating partners

Hollywood star Angelina Jolie quips she has been single "for a long time" because she is too picky about partners. Jolie divorced Brad Pitt in 2019, and the former couple have six children -- Maddox (19), Pax (17), Zahara (16), Shiloh (14), and the twins Knox and Vivienne (12).

Asked if she has a list of 'nos' when it comes to finding a new guy to date, she said: "I probably have a very long list (of 'nos'). I've been alone for a long time now."

Jolie can be a worrier, but she's thankful she doesn't need to fret about her "cool" children because they are all "very capable", reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She told E! News: "I have six very capable children. Of course, you wake up and you just feel like, 'I've got to make sure they're OK. I've got to make sure they're mentally OK,' but honestly I think a few years ago it switched and they're thinking, 'I've got to make sure mom's OK.'"

"We're such a team so I am very, very lucky. I'm always the one who worries but I don't worry about them. They're cool people."

She shared that playing PTSD-stricken fire fighter Hannah Faber in her new film "Those Who Wish Me Dead" had been a "very healing" experience for her: "I am drawn to people who have been through something and are broken and then find their way forward and overcome it. As an artiste, it's very healing to play people like that. She's been very healing for me, because you just get so broken and then you stand back up," she said.



## Scarlett Johansson to receive 'Generation Award'



MTV has announced that the prolific Scarlett Johansson best known for her portrayal of Black Widow in Marvel Cinematic Universe is the latest recipient of the 'Generation Award' at the 2021 MTV Movie and TV Awards that is going to be held on Sunday. Scarlett made her debut in the fantasy comedy North in 1994 and hence she is an integral part of showbusiness for over 26 years with many blockbusters and critically acclaimed feathers in her cap. Generation Award suffices of stars who have been definitive in the generation they belong to and have managed immense influence through their filmography to have made a strong impact on the minds of the audiences.

Some of the previous stars who have received the awards are Sandra Bullock, Jim Carrey, Tom Cruise, Johnny Depp, Robert Downey Jr., Jamie Foxx, Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, Mike Myers, Chris Pratt, Adam Sandler, Will Smith, Mark Wahlberg, and Reese Witherspoon to name a few. The award will celebrate the year's highest-rated films and television shows and Marvel's WandaVision is leading the game with five nominations. The Boys, The Mandalorian, and Emily in Paris are also some of the shows being highlighted at the award night.



# FTH HONORS VICTIMS OF ANTI-ASIAN HATE CRIMES

BY MABEL PAIS

For the Asian/Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month of May, Flushing Town Hall on May 21 at 7 p.m. presents a special concert "Jihye Lee Quintet: Rest in the Arms of Motherlands," honoring the victims of recent anti-Asian hate crimes.



The Jihye Lee Quintet - Photo / Courtesy FTH

The Jihye Lee Quintet will perform live from the stage at Flushing Town Hall for an all-virtual audience on Friday, May 21. The GRAMMYS describe Jihye Lee's music as "luminous and personal." For any viewer who wishes to make a donation, Flushing Town Hall's virtual event doubles as a fundraiser for the Korean American Family Service Center's Rainbow House Shelter.

The livestream event honors Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and includes a special dedication to the women who were killed in the Atlanta, Georgia spa shootings in March.

"We are proud to present Jihye Lee's all-female, Korean jazz quintet to share their message and music with our diverse audience," says Ellen Kodadek, Executive & Artistic Director. "Flushing Town Hall will continue to bring people together through the arts and ensure that artists of all backgrounds and traditions have a home on our stage. We are very much looking forward to featuring Jihye Lee's incredible talent. 50% of donation proceeds will go to support Korean American Family Service Center."

The concert, titled "Rest in the Arms of Motherlands," will feature Lee's original compositions, as well as her arrangements of well-known songs. The quintet features Lee's vocals alongside Hayoung Lyou (keys), Haeun Joo (piano), Jeonglim Yang (bass), Dayeon Seok (drums).

**"AT FLUSHING TOWN HALL, WE ARE RESPONDING TO THE RECENT RISE IN HATE CRIMES AS BEST WE KNOW HOW -- THROUGH THE ARTS. OUR MISSION IS TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER BY PRESENTING ARTS AND CULTURE FROM AROUND THE WORLD. THE ATLANTA KILLINGS WERE WIDELY UNDERSTOOD TO BE DRIVEN BY RACISM AND MISOGYNY." - ELLEN KODADEK, EXECUTIVE & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

"Among the eight victims of the recent tragedy in Atlanta, six of them were Asian women, including four Koreans -- immigrants who courageously came to America for better lives. They innocently got killed, and left their loved ones behind," says Jihye Lee. "Motherland was the word that came to my mind. After many struggles and defeats, burdened lives are resting now. The souls are comforted in the loving arms of their motherlands."

**PROGRAM  
Friday, May 21 at 7:00 PM (ET)**

Jihye Lee Quintet: Rest in the Arms of Motherlands FREE with Suggested Donation in support of Flushing Town Hall and KAFSC Rainbow House Shelter

An all-female, Korean jazz quintet led by composer, arranger, and vocalist Jihye Lee performs a virtual concert live from the stage at Flushing Town Hall honoring Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and featuring an elegy for the victims

**"KAFSC (KOREAN AMERICAN FAMILY SERVICE CENTER) IS THE CHINJUNG (MOTHER'S HOME) FOR HUNDREDS OF IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, AND CHILD ABUSE THAT KAFSC SERVES EVERY YEAR. WE JOIN FLUSHING TOWN HALL, THE JIHYE LEE QUINTET, AND ALL THE VIEWERS IN DEDICATING THIS PERFORMANCE TO ALL THOSE LOST IN RECENT TRAGEDIES. MAY THEY REST IN POWER." - JEEHAE FISCHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF KAFSC**

**"AMONG THE EIGHT VICTIMS OF THE RECENT TRAGEDY IN ATLANTA, SIX OF THEM WERE ASIAN WOMEN, INCLUDING FOUR KOREANS -- IMMIGRANTS WHO COURAGEOUSLY CAME TO AMERICA FOR BETTER LIVES. MOTHERLAND WAS THE WORD THAT CAME TO MY MIND. AFTER MANY STRUGGLES AND DEFEATS, BURDENED LIVES ARE RESTING NOW. THE SOULS ARE COMFORTED IN THE LOVING ARMS OF THEIR MOTHERLANDS." - JIHYE LEE, PERFORMER**

of anti-Asian hate crimes. To learn more visit [flushingtownhall.org/event-detail.php?id=95](http://flushingtownhall.org/event-detail.php?id=95)

## PERFORMERS

To learn more about the concert and the performers, visit [flushingtownhall.org/event-detail.php?id=95](http://flushingtownhall.org/event-detail.php?id=95)

## TICKETS, DONATIONS

Flushing Town Hall's event will be presented free of charge with a suggested, pay-what-you-can donation. Fifty percent of the funds raised will support the nonprofit, global arts presenter and fifty percent will be donated to the Korean American Family Service Center (KAFSC) in support of their Rainbow House Shelter, which provides comprehensive and culturally competent services to women and children in crisis. Visit [flushingtownhall.org](http://flushingtownhall.org) for tickets or to donate in support of the nonprofit.

## FLUSHING TOWN HALL

Flushing Town Hall (FTH) has a redesigned website: [flushingtownhall.org](http://flushingtownhall.org). The new site improves access to online events, educational programming, artist services, and rental availability. As always, it remains a great source for information about the history and mission of the organization, as well as important contact and community engagement information.

A majority of Flushing Town Hall's "FTH At Home!" virtual programming is presented for free to the general public but donations in any amount are appreciated to support the artists and the nonprofit cultural organization as they continue to provide programming and entertainment across New York and the world. To learn more about FTH, visit [flushingtownhall.org](http://flushingtownhall.org)

## ARTS ED NEWARK SUPPORTS #StopAsianHate

BY MABEL PAIS



Stop Asian Hate - Photo / Courtesy Arts Ed Newark

**LIFE IS PRECIOUS  
LOVE IS LOVE  
RACISM IS RACISM**

**Message from Executive Committee Members:**

*We know that racial and ethnic discrimination is not new, but we are now seeing dramatically increased violence against the Asian community, across the country. Many of us who identify as Asian are often uncomfortable speaking out about our own emotions so you may not hear your Asian friends publicly talking about it. But please know that we are angry. We are scared. We are tired. We need healing. It's comforting to know that Arts Ed Newark stands together to condemn any acts of violence against any community.*

*Furthermore, we commit to protect, promote, embrace, and celebrate all of our differences. This journey is both joyful and uncomfortable, but we believe that life is richer when experienced through the multi-faceted lens of a diverse community.*

**Will you join us in this commitment?"  
"What can you do to help?"  
Ask yourself**

Do I believe that all people are of infinite value?  
Do I believe that I do not have the right to belittle or dehumanize a person, through words or actions?

Do I believe that a person's uniqueness (be it physical, mental, cultural, spiritual or sexual) can never be used as a weapon against them?

Check-in with your Asian friends. Many of us in the Asian community are uncomfortable speaking out about the troubles we face, but it is still helpful to be asked. You may just get a deep sigh in response, but know that the fact you asked brought healing and comfort

Reject assimilation as the norm. Create an environment around you that makes it comfortable for your Asian friends to embrace their deep cultural histories (enjoy ethnic food, speak with a different accent, etc.)"

**Watch this long but insightful video:** [youtu.be/14WUuya94QE](https://youtu.be/14WUuya94QE)

- Chiho Okuizumi Feindler & Jee-Hoon Krska, Arts Ed Newark Executive Committee Members

For more information and resources on education, donations, and mental health, visit: [artsednewark.org/post/stop-asian-hate](http://artsednewark.org/post/stop-asian-hate)

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



**NJ BEAT**

BY MABEL PAIS

**THE NEWARK MUSEUM**

**Community Day: Art Extravaganza**  
Saturday, May 15, 10:30am - 8pm EST, FREE  
[newarkmuseumart.org/community-day-art-extravaganza](http://newarkmuseumart.org/community-day-art-extravaganza)  
**Forget everything you thought you knew about art!**

**T**oday we are going to dive into all the wacky, unique, and wonderful ways people create. Delight in an artist who makes masterpieces out of pancake batter, step into the world of illusion makeup, or even try your hand at making unconventional art of your own. Enjoy a virtual walk-through Newark looking at incredible wall murals. You will walk away from this event finding art everywhere in brand new ways!

**All programs are on the following platforms unless otherwise noted:**

**Community Day: Art Extravaganza**  
**10:30am - Let's Get Messy**

Have you ever wanted to make art with food? Join educators from the Children's Museum of Manhattan as they show you how to create an edible portrait! Spend 45 minutes getting messy and having fun, while making art using items from around your house. Register at [eventbrite.com/e/lets-get-messy-registration-149734386581](http://eventbrite.com/e/lets-get-messy-registration-149734386581)

**12pm - Painting with Pancakes**

Sizzle sizzle, art comes to life on the pancake griddle! In this event, you can bet we will be playing with our food. Watch an artist from Dancakes create art using pancake batter. Dancakes is the premiere pancake art company filled with friendly, interactive, and very talented pancake artists. Register at [eventbrite.com/e/painting-with-pancakes-registration-149736789769](http://eventbrite.com/e/painting-with-pancakes-registration-149736789769)

**2pm - Dress Like A Work of Art**

Some artists paint on a canvas, but Ariel Adkins paints on her clothes! Enjoy this virtual experience where Ariel takes us through her unique process of creating outfits that completely mimic a work of art or natural surroundings. Some of her colorful, one-of-a-kind creations include a jumpsuit of Claude Monet's "Waterlilies" and a skirt of "The Ten Largest" by Hilma af Klint.

Find Ariel on Instagram @artfullyawear and don't miss this artful experience. Register at [eventbrite.com/e/dress-like-a-work-of-art-registration-149738406605](http://eventbrite.com/e/dress-like-a-work-of-art-registration-149738406605)

**4pm - Video Drop: See It To Believe It: Makeup By Marissa**

You won't believe your eyes. Artist @makeupbymarissaa shows you how she creates an illusion out of her looks inspired by The Newark Museum of Art's collection. Watch as she turns her face into a work of art!

**7pm - Murals in the Brick City**

Experience a virtual tour of a variety of murals across the City of Newark. Your knowledgeable guide from Have You Met Newark ([haveyoumetnewark.com](http://haveyoumetnewark.com)) will dive into the history of each mural, discuss the subject and meaning, and interview some of the talented artists behind the works. They'll also share some tips for visiting the murals on your own in the future and where to grab a bite, a drink, or shop after. Register at [eventbrite.com/e/murals-in-the-brick-city-registration-149727564175](http://eventbrite.com/e/murals-in-the-brick-city-registration-149727564175)

**FROM NJPAC**

**REGINA CARTER: Listening Party**  
**May 15, 2021 @ 2 PM, Free**

Have you ever heard a performance or recording that had such a profound effect on you, you listened to it over and over again?

**R**egina Carter hosts an afternoon "listening party" featuring the faculty of NJPAC's Geri Allen Jazz Camp and the music that holds a special place in their hearts. Hear what recordings, musicians, soundtracks and concerts grabbed hold of them and wouldn't let go-leading them to the engaging world of jazz and improvisation.

**Hosted by Regina Carter (violin), Artistic Director of Geri Allen Jazz Camp**

Featuring esteemed Geri Allen Jazz Camp faculty members:

Carla Cook (vocals), Marion Hayden (bass)  
Allison Miller (drums), Ellen Rowe (piano)  
Bruce Williams (saxophone)

To register, visit [eventbrite.com/e/listening-party-with-regina-carter-registration-152879599999](http://eventbrite.com/e/listening-party-with-regina-carter-registration-152879599999)

AND

**VALERIE SIMPSON: Music, Mentors & Motown**  
**May 18, 2021 @ 7 PM, Free**

**THE BRILLIANT SINGER-SONGWRITER ON HER LIFE AND THE WOMEN WHO HELPED SHAPE IT**  
**JOIN VALERIE AND NJPAC PRESIDENT & CEO JOHN SCHREIBER for an hour of words and music**



Valerie Simpson - Photo /Courtesy NJPAC

Valerie Simpson, of the songwriting, producing, and recording duo Ashford & Simpson, brought a string of timeless hits to the world, from "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" to "Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing," "I'm Every Woman," and, of course, "Solid." From the 1960s to the present day, Simpson has not only performed and recorded her own work but written songs for Ray Charles, Diana Ross, Chaka Khan, Aretha Franklin, and many more. Valerie's work has had an outsize influence on the world of music for decades.

**But who influenced her?**

Join Valerie and NJPAC President and CEO John Schreiber for an hour of words and music that will focus on the iconic women who made Valerie the genre-defining artist she is, including Maya Angelou, Nina Simone, and Cicely Tyson. Valerie will share her memories of them, and of her decades in the business, including her time in Motown and her performing career with her husband and musical partner Nickolas Ashford.

This virtual conversation with music is part of a new series at NJPAC: Every month, a special guest visits our virtual theater to talk about their own favorite artists - and share a few indelible songs. NJPAC's John Schreiber joins our featured guest in a wide-ranging discussion, taking a deep dive into timeless music and tales of the legendary artists who brought it to life.

To RSVP, visit [njpac.tfaforms.net/145?id=a2F4o00000dlHSEAY](http://njpac.tfaforms.net/145?id=a2F4o00000dlHSEAY)

**FROM NEWARK ARTS**

**HARRIET TUBMAN MONUMENT: Final Designs**  
**Submission Deadline: May 24, 2021, Free**



Artist finalists (clockwise from top left): Abigail Dawn DeVille, Dread Scott, Jules Arthur, Vinnie Bagwell, Nina Cooke John)

Photo / Courtesy NewarkArts.org

*The monument will serve as encouragement to our present and future generations, allowing them to draw inspiration from the artists who will put a modern view on Ms. Tubman's life and works." - Mayor Ras J. Baraka*

**T**he City of Newark held a national open call for artists for a new monument honoring Harriet Tubman, the heroic abolitionist who made Newark an important stop on the Underground Railroad as she personally led enslaved African-Americans out of the South to freedom. The monument of Tubman will be installed in downtown Washington Park to replace the statue of Christopher Columbus that was removed in the summer of 2019.

Five finalists were announced in March 2020, each of whom was commissioned to create a conceptual design for the new monument. In October 2020, the City of Newark announced that it will install the new monument. The City will also rename Washington Park to Tubman Square in 2022 when the new monument will be installed.

The winning design will be selected by a jury of art experts, historians, and community stakeholders led by the City of Newark's Arts and Cultural Affairs Director Fayemi Shakur. The jury members' names and bios can be found at [drive.google.com/file/d/18X93zkdwqXaCs9115FGbgLRcdWZoFNsb/view](http://drive.google.com/file/d/18X93zkdwqXaCs9115FGbgLRcdWZoFNsb/view)

To read about the 5 finalists, their designs and websites, visit [storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/45af9aea62184a4290d1a7d6d50e71f6?mc\\_cid=020af718be&mc\\_eid=01b11e6403](http://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/45af9aea62184a4290d1a7d6d50e71f6?mc_cid=020af718be&mc_eid=01b11e6403)

Enjoy viewing the designs and submit your comments about the 5 designs by May 24, 2021, for the jury to consider during their review, at [storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/45af9aea62184a4290d1a7d6d50e71f6?mc\\_cid=020af718be&mc\\_eid=01b11e6403](http://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/45af9aea62184a4290d1a7d6d50e71f6?mc_cid=020af718be&mc_eid=01b11e6403)

**BEST PRACTICES: PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR ART**  
**May 18, 2021 @ 5 PM, Online Workshop, Free**

Learn the best practices to photograph your artwork with any type of camera. This webinar will introduce you to techniques you can apply using both natural and artificial lighting sources. Anthony Alvarez and Colleen O'Neal will walk you through some of the common pitfalls and easily avoidable mistakes made when photographing artwork. Technical aspects of post-production will also be introduced such as color balance, cropping, and sizing images for social media and submissions. This workshop is open to all levels and will be followed up in the summer with a workshop designed for advanced photographers to home in on the art of art copy. Learn more about the studio, visit [newarkartistdatabase.org](http://newarkartistdatabase.org).

Register at [newarkartistsdatabase.org/events/best-practices-photographing-your-art-with-anthony-alvarez-colleen-oneal/?mc\\_cid=020af718be&mc\\_eid=01b11e6403](http://newarkartistsdatabase.org/events/best-practices-photographing-your-art-with-anthony-alvarez-colleen-oneal/?mc_cid=020af718be&mc_eid=01b11e6403)

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





## MAN STABS 5 AT NEW ZEALAND SUPERMARKET; 3 CRITICALLY WOUNDED

**Five people have been rushed to hospital, three in critical condition after a stabbing attack at a supermarket in the New Zealand city of Dunedin. Police have apprehended the suspect.**

**DUNEDIN (TIP):** Aman began stabbing people at a New Zealand supermarket Monday, wounding five people, three of them critically, according to authorities.

Police said a suspect had been arrested and taken into custody after the incident at a Countdown supermarket in the city of Dunedin. Two supermarket staff members were among those wounded.

People in the store at the time told local media that it was a chaotic scene as people began screaming and running toward the exits. They said some brave shoppers had tried to stop the man and pin him down.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said the motivation for the attack had not been established but police didn't have any evidence to suggest it was domestic terrorism.

**“NEEDLESS TO SAY THAT SUCH AN ATTACK IS HUGEY CONCERNING, AND I DO WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE REALLY EARLY REPORTS OF COURAGEOUS ACTS BY BYSTANDERS WHO HAVE TAKEN ACTION IN ORDER TO PROTECT THOSE AROUND THEM,” ARDERN SAID. “OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THIS ATTACK.”**

Ardern said five people had been taken to Dunedin Hospital with stab wounds or related injuries.

Health authorities said three of the wounded had been admitted to the intensive care unit, a fourth person remained in the general ward at the hospital and the fifth person had been treated and released.

“We are shocked and devastated by the events in our Dunedin Central Store this afternoon,” Countdown said in a statement. “Our priority right now is our injured team members and caring for our wider team in the wake of this extremely traumatic event. We are deeply upset that customers who tried to help our team members were also injured.”

Police said they would be releasing more details on the incident later Monday. (Indiatoday)

# Israel fires artillery into Gaza, Palestinian rocket attacks persist

**GAZA/JERUSALEM (TIP):** Israel fired artillery and mounted more airstrikes on Friday against Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip amid constant rocket fire deep into Israel's commercial centre.

As hostilities entered their fifth day, with no sign of abating, the Israeli military said in a statement shortly after midnight that air and ground forces were attacking the Hamas-run enclave. Rocket barrages from Gaza swiftly followed.

Although the statement gave no further details, Israeli military affairs correspondents who are briefed regularly by the armed forces said it was not a ground invasion, and that troops were firing artillery from Israel's side of the border.

Residents of northern Gaza, near the Israeli frontier, said they had seen no sign of Israeli ground forces inside the enclave but reported heavy artillery fire and dozens of airstrikes.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday the campaign "will take more time". Israeli officials said Hamas, Gaza's most powerful militant group, must be dealt a strong deterring blow before any ceasefire.

The U.N. Security Council will publicly discuss the worsening violence between Israel and Palestinian militants on Sunday, diplomats said after the United States earlier objected to a meeting on Friday.

The sound of artillery fire and explosions echoed across northern and eastern parts of Gaza into early Friday morning.

Witnesses said many families living in areas near the border quit their homes, some seeking shelter at United Nations-run schools.

Violence also spread to mixed communities of Jews and Arabs in Israel, a new front in the long conflict. Synagogues were attacked and fighting broke out on the streets of some towns, prompting Israel's president to warn of civil war.

At least 109 people were killed in Gaza, including 29 children, over the previous four days, Palestinian medical officials said. On Thursday alone, 52 Palestinians were killed in the enclave, the highest single-day figure since Monday.

Seven people were killed in Israel: a soldier patrolling the Gaza border, five Israeli civilians, including two children, and an Indian worker, Israeli authorities said.

Worried that the region's worst hostilities in years could spiral out of control, the United States was sending in an envoy, Hady Amr.

Truce efforts by Egypt, Qatar and the United Nations had yet to deliver a sign of progress.

U.S. President Joe Biden called on Thursday for a de-escalation of the violence, saying he wanted to see a significant reduction in rocket attacks.

After Sunday's Security Council meeting was announced, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations tweeted: "The U.S. will continue to actively engage in diplomacy at the highest levels to try to de-escalate tensions." Militants fired rocket salvos at Tel Aviv and surrounding towns on Thursday, with the Iron Dome anti-missile system intercepting many of them. Communities near the Gaza border and the southern desert city of Beersheba were also targeted.

Five Israelis were wounded by a rocket that hit a building near Tel Aviv on Thursday.

Netanyahu said Israel has struck a total of close to 1,000 militant targets in the territory.

## UN MEETING DELAYED

Diplomats said the United States, a close ally of Israel, objected to a request by China, Norway and Tunisia for a public, virtual meeting of the U.N. Security Council on



Friday to discuss the violence.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters such a meeting would be better next week to allow time for diplomacy in hopes of achieving a de-escalation.

Standing beside a Gaza road damaged in Israeli airstrikes, Assad Karam, 20, a construction worker, said: "We are facing Israel and COVID-19. We are in between two enemies." In Tel Aviv, Yishai Levy, an Israeli singer, pointed at shrapnel that came down on a sidewalk outside his home.

"I want to tell Israeli soldiers and the government, don't stop until you finish the job," he said on YNet television.

Israel launched its offensive after Hamas fired rockets at Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in retaliation for Israeli police clashes with Palestinians near al-Aqsa mosque in East Jerusalem during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

Several foreign airlines have cancelled flights to Israel because of the unrest.

## 'DISRUPTING' HAMAS

Brigadier-General Hidai Zilberman, the Israeli military's chief spokesman, said attacks on militants' rocket production and launching sites were "disrupting Hamas' activities", but still not to the point of stopping the barrages.

He said between 80 and 90 militants had been killed in Israeli attacks.

Zilberman said Israel was "building up forces on the Gaza border", a deployment that raised speculation about a possible ground invasion, a move that would recall similar incursions during Israel-Gaza wars in 2014 and in 2009.

Israeli military affairs correspondents have said however that a major ground incursion is unlikely, citing high casualties among the risks.

Hamas armed wing spokesman Abu Ubaida responded to the troop buildup with defiance, urging Palestinians to rise.

"Mass up as you wish, from the sea, land and sky. We have prepared for your kinds of deaths that would make you curse yourselves," he said.

So far some 1,750 rockets have been fired at Israel, of which 300 fell short in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli military said. The hostilities have fuelled tension between Israeli Jews and the country's 21% Arab minority who live alongside them in some communities. Jewish and Arab groups attacked people and damaged shops, hotels and cars overnight.

Although the unrest in Jerusalem was the trigger for hostilities, Palestinians are frustrated by setbacks to their aspirations for an independent state in recent years, including Washington's recognition of disputed Jerusalem as Israel's capital. On the Israeli political front, Netanyahu's chances to remain in power after an inconclusive March 23 election appeared to improve significantly after his main rival, centrist Yair Lapid, suffered a major setback in efforts to form a government. Reuters



# Japanese tycoon planning space station visit, then moon trip

**CAPE CANAVERAL (TIP):** The Japanese fashion tycoon who's booked a SpaceX ride to the moon is going to try out the International Space Station first.

"Going to the ISS before the Moon," Yusaku Maezawa announced Thursday via Twitter.

Maezawa has bought two seats on a Russian Soyuz capsule. He'll blast off in December on the 12-day mission with his production assistant and a professional cosmonaut.

"I'm so curious, What's life like in space?" So, I am planning to find out on my own and share with the world," Maezawa said in a statement.

He'll be the first person to pay his own way to the space station in more than a decade, according to Virginia-based Space Adventures, which brokered the deal. A Space Adventures spokeswoman declined to divulge the cost. The company has sent seven other tourists to the space station, from 2001 to 2009.

Maezawa's trip to the moon aboard Elon Musk's Starship is tentatively scheduled for 2023. He'll fly around the moon — not land — with eight contest winners.

Maezawa, 45, who founded an online retail clothing business, will be joined by photographer and assistant Yozo Hirano. They will be escorted by Russian cosmonaut Alexander



Misurkin, who's spent nearly a year aboard the space station on two separate missions. The launch is scheduled for December 8 from Kazakhstan.

Thursday's announcement comes amid a flurry of private space initiatives.

The Russian Space Agency announced Thursday that a Russian actress and movie director will launch to the space station in October for filming. The movie is tentatively titled "Challenge." In January, the first private mission to the space station from the US will bring three businessmen — from the US, Canada and Israel — who are paying about USD 55 million apiece.

They will launch aboard a SpaceX Dragon capsule from Kennedy Space Center and will be accompanied by a former NASA astronaut who now works for Houston-based Axiom Space, which arranged the deal. The company plans about two private missions to the space station a year.

Before the space station visits, SpaceX will launch its first private spaceflight with four people on board.

"This is truly a renaissance in human spaceflight," NASA's director of commercial spaceflight, Phil McAlister, told reporters Monday. "I think that is the perfect word for what we're experiencing." (AP)

## SPAIN IS ON TRACK FOR HERD IMMUNITY: PM PEDRO SANCHEZ

**MADRID (TIP):** More than two-thirds of Spain's 47 million people will have been vaccinated against COVID-19 by mid-August, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Thursday.

The vaccination rollout has sped up over the past weeks and Spain is due to receive 13 million doses of Pfizer vaccine next month, Sanchez told a conference in Madrid.

"We are on track for herd immunity: 33 million compatriots will be vaccinated by mid-August," he said, using the term for when most of a population is immune to an infectious disease.

A growing number of people over 60-years-old are now getting their second shot, with more than 40% already fully inoculated, and vaccination has also started for those over 50.

At least three regions - Comunidad Valenciana, Castille and Leon, and Catalonia - have said they would start vaccinating people aged 40-50 by mid-June.

Spain has reported 79,208 deaths from COVID-19 and more than 3.5 million cases since the beginning of the pandemic. But the number of cases per 100,000 people over 14 days has fallen to 174, from 523 in mid-January.

If the trend upholds, masks could stop being mandatory outdoors by July or August, the leader of the northwestern region of Galicia, Alberto Nunez Feijoo, said. Reuters

## ISRAEL KILLS HAMAS COMMANDER

**GAZA/JERUSALEM (TIP):** Israel said it killed 16 members of the Hamas armed wing in Gaza in a barrage on Wednesday and Palestinian militants rained rockets into Israel as Washington said it would send an envoy to try to calm their most intense hostilities in years.

At least 56 people have been killed in Gaza since violence escalated on Monday, according to the enclave's health ministry. Six people have been killed in Israel, medical officials said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the brigade commander for Gaza City was among senior members of the Islamist militant group who had been killed. "This is just the beginning. We'll hit them like they've never dreamed possible," he said.

Hamas confirmed the death of the commander and of "other leaders and holy warriors" in a statement. Its leader Ismail Haniyeh added: "The confrontation with the enemy is open-ended." Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz said Israel would continue with strike. — Reuters

## MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD IN RACE FOR IRAN PRESIDENCY

**TEHRAN (TIP):** Iran's former hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad registered on Wednesday to run again for the Islamic Republic's presidency, raising the possibility that the populist leader who rapidly advanced Tehran's nuclear programme to challenge the West could return to the country's top civilian post.

Ahmadinejad's attempt to run again in 2017 disregarded the words of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who had warned the firebrand, Holocaust-questioning politician his standing for office would be a "polarised situation" that would be "harmful for the county." This time, however, Khamenei seemingly isn't directly challenging the candidacy of the 64-year-old former Tehran mayor, who joins a wide-open election to replace the relatively moderate President Hassan Rouhani.

A council Khamenei oversees ultimately will determine if Ahmadinejad and other hopefuls can run in the June 18 poll. Ahmadinejad previously served two four-year terms from 2005 to 2013. — Agencies

## School shooting in Russia kills 9 people; suspect arrested

**MOSCOW (TIP):** A gunman attacked a school on Tuesday morning in the Russian city of Kazan, sending students running out of the building as smoke poured from its windows. At least nine people were killed — seven eighth-grade students, a teacher and another school worker — and 21 others were hospitalised, Russian officials said.

Footage released by Russian media outlets showed students dressed in black and white running out of the building. Another video depicted shattered windows, billowing smoke and sounds resembling gunshots in the background. Dozens of ambulances lined up at the school's entrance after the attack and police fenced off access to the building.

Russian media said while some students were able to escape, others were trapped inside during the ordeal. All students were eventually evacuated to nearby day care centres and collected by their families.

Officials said the attacker has been arrested and police opened a criminal investigation into the shooting. Authorities immediately put additional security measures into place in all schools in Kazan, a city 700 kilometres (430 miles) east of Moscow.

Rustam Minnikhanov, governor of the Tatarstan republic where Kazan is the

capital, said four boys and three girls, all eighth-grade students, died, as well as a teacher and another school worker.

"The terrorist has been arrested, (he is) 19 years old. A firearm is registered in his name. Other accomplices haven't been established, an investigation is underway," Minnikhanov said after visiting the school.

According to Tatarstan health officials, 21 people were hospitalised with wounds after the attack, including 18 children, six of whom were in "severely grave condition".

Authorities announced a day of mourning on Wednesday to honour the victims of the shooting and cancelled all lessons in Kazan schools.

While school shootings are relatively rare in Russia, there have been several violent attacks on schools in recent years, mostly by students.

In response to Tuesday's attack, authorities in several Russian regions ordered sweeping security inspections at schools.

Russian media said the shooter was a former student of the school who reportedly called himself "a god" on his account on the messaging app Telegram and promised to "kill a large amount of biomass" on the morning of the shooting. AP



*UK anxious about Indian coronavirus variant*

Britain's government is anxious about the spread of the COVID-19 variant first detected in India and rules nothing out to tackle a sharp rise in cases of it, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Thursday, May 13.

Johnson has laid out what he describes as a "cautious but irreversible" route out of lockdown for England, with the next step planned for next week. He has warned that new mutants, such as the B.1.617.2 variant, pose a risk to that plan.

Government agency Public Health England (PHE) said the total number of confirmed cases of the variant had more than doubled in the past week to 1,313 across the United Kingdom.

Officials fear the variant, one of three first found in India, is at least as transmissible as the so-called Kent variant identified in southeast England last year, which fuelled Britain's second wave of infections.

*SL to quarantine all inbound travellers for 14 days*

Sri Lankan authorities have decided to quarantine all inbound travellers for 14 days even if they are fully vaccinated against Covid-19 as a new variant has been spreading across the island nation, according to the Health Ministry.

In a statement on Thursday, May 13, the Ministry said that all travellers including Sri Lankan citizens, foreigners, tourists and diplomats, will have to undergo the mandatory 14-day quarantine period in designated centres in order to detect any virus carriers, reports Xinhua news agency.

In addition, all incoming passengers would also be subjected to a PCR test on arrival, as well as at the end of their quarantine period.

*Ontario extends stay-at-home order*

Ontario, Canada's most populous province, has announced the extension of its stay-at-home order against Covid-19 for two more weeks till early June.

"The situation is slowly trending in the right direction. Make no mistake, we're not out of the woods yet," Ontario Premier Doug Ford said at a press conference on Thursday, May 13.

Ford added that the extension is for Ontario to have "the most normal July and August as possible", Xinhua news agency reported

"As much as we're seeing a decline, which is good, everyone is moving forward, we're getting the vaccines into people's arms, but we just can't risk it. Just hang in there, we aren't asking a lot, just a couple more weeks," he said.

The order, which was set to expire on May 20, has now been extended to June 2.

# Global Covid-19 caseload tops 160.8 mn

WASHINGTON (TIP): The overall global Covid-19 caseload has topped 160.8 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 3.34 million, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

In its latest update on Friday, May 14, morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload and death toll stood at 160,825,974 and 3,340,130, respectively.

The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 32,852,543 and 584,478, respectively, according to the CSSE.

In terms of infections, India follows in the second place with 23,703,665 cases.

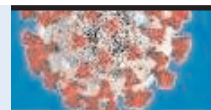
The other worst countries with over 3 million cases are Brazil (15,433,989), France (5,902,343), Turkey (5,083,996), Russia (4,857,303), the UK (4,460,405), Italy (4,139,160), Spain (3,598,452), Germany (3,578,125), Argentina (3,242,103) and Colombia (3,067,879), the CSSE figures showed.

In terms of deaths, Brazil comes second with 430,417 fatalities.

Nations with a death toll of over 100,000 are India (258,317), Mexico (219,089), the UK (127,912), Italy (123,745), Russia (112,795) and France (107,411).

Source: IANS

## TRACKING THE VIRUS



### GLOBAL

Cases | Deaths  
**160,825,974** | **3,340,130**

### INDIA

Cases | Deaths  
**24,046,809** | **262,317**



## US lifts most mask guidance in key step back to post Covid normalcy

President Joe Biden took his biggest step yet toward declaring victory over the coronavirus pandemic -- as public health officials said fully vaccinated Americans can ditch their masks in most settings, even indoors or in large groups.

"Today is a great day for America in our long battle with coronavirus," Biden said in the White House Rose Garden on Thursday, calling the US vaccination program an "historical logistical achievement."

The guidance shift Thursday, May 13, is a turning point in the fight against Covid-19 and comes as US caseloads fall and vaccinations rise. It signals a broad return to everyday life, and is also a bet that any surge in spread from relaxed guidelines won't be enough to reverse progress in inoculations. The administration also used it as a further incentive for vaccination.

"The rule is very simple: Get vaccinated or wear a mask until you do," Biden said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced the change in guidance while citing growing evidence that vaccines are effective against variants and outside of clinical trials, and fully vaccinated people are at low risk to spread the virus to someone else.

"Anyone who is fully vaccinated can participate in indoor or outdoor activities, large or small, without wearing a mask or physical distancing," said CDC Director Rochelle Walensky. "If you are fully vaccinated, you can start doing the things that you had stopped doing because of the pandemic. We have all longed for this moment when we can get back to some sense of normalcy."

The CDC guidance spelled out ample exceptions, however,



that signal the era of masks isn't over yet. The agency still recommends fully vaccinated people wear masks on "all planes, buses, trains and other forms of public transportation," as well as in health care settings, correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and where required by state and local governments, or businesses.

And masks are still recommended for people who are partially vaccinated -- those who've not yet waited two weeks from their final dose -- or who haven't gotten a vaccine, including children. The announcement was first reported by the Associated Press.



## R & R Dental Lab

86-24 Whitney Ave. Elmhurst, NY 11373

Tel. (718) 533-1611; (347) 808-7258

Email: rbarua1953@gmail.com



- We make all kinds of Acrylic, Metal and Flexite Dentures, applying high quality technology by experienced technicians.
- We repair, reline night guards etc.
- We do delivery and pick up. Quick delivery on the same day.
- EMERGENCY new dentures SAME DAY service

**We are in Dentures Work for the last 40 years.**  
We **GUARANTEE** full satisfaction



## SONU INSURANCE AGENCY INC.

**Insurance, Money Transfer, Tax Preparation**

**Specializing in:**

- Auto ● Home ● Business
- Construction
- Workers Compensation

TAX PREPARES- PERSONAL RETURNS (1040)  
MONEY TRANSFER: Send money to India, Pakistan, Bangladesh



**MASTER MOHINDER SINGH**  
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson  
Licensed Mortgage Loan Originator  
Cell: 646-523-5092

**CALL TODAY**  
**OPEN 9 AM to 6 PM**

**113-09 101st Avenue (Opposite Gurdwara),  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419**  
**Phone: 718-847-1878/ 1885 Fax: 718-847-1879**  
**Email: sonuinsurance@yahoo.com**



77 North Broadway Hicksville, NY 11801  
127-24 101 Ave. Richmond Hill, NY 11419  
(516) 932-3400  
www.hprealty1.com

- Residential & Commercial Real Estate
  - Single Family, Multi-family, Investment properties
  - Hotels/Motels, Gas Stations, Restaurants
  - Relocation Assistance - brokers licensed in
  - New York and Indiana
- Insurance Services
  - Home Life and Health
- Mortgages (provided by affiliate lenders)
  - New Purchase Refinance
  - Hard Money Loans Business/SBA Loan

**ARE YOU BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS?  
IS THE BANK GIVING YOU A HARD TIME FOR MORTGAGE DEFERRAL OR FORBEARANCE?**

**STOP FORECLOSURE!**

**CALL THE EXPERTS AT HP REALTY FOR MORTGAGE RELIEF ASSISTANCE**



**Pal Singh Dhillon**  
Licensed Real Estate Broker  
QA Software Engineer, E-Pro Certified  
Notary Public  
**(516) 304-2630**

**Jeet Dhillon**  
Licensed Real Estate Broker  
New York and Indiana

**(516) 830-0352**

**hprealty1@gmail.com**





# Healthy foods every woman must eat

While eating healthy is essential for both the sexes, men and women have different dietary requirements. Here are some foods that every woman must include in her diet.

## Lentils

These little legumes are an amazing source of fibre, protein and importantly for women, iron. Female athletes, pregnant women and girls in their teens are more susceptible to becoming anaemic; but even if you don't fall into one of those three categories, it's important that you naturally up your vitamin intake through iron-rich foods. What's more, research has proven that lentils and the like can also protect against cancer, lower cholesterol and help regulate hormones - alleviating symptoms of PMS and the menopause. If lentils aren't your cup of tea, try black beans or chickpeas as an alternative.

## Tomatoes

Ladies if you love tomatoes, you're in luck - they hold secret healing powers. Rich in the powerful antioxidant, lycopene (the reason behind their red pigment), tomatoes help fight free radicals and protect against cell damage. A natural SPF, they help keep the skin well equipped for those sun's pesky rays (alongside sun block of course). Adding to that, there's research to suggest that tomatoes can also protect against the effects of breast cancer, says Rutgers University. In a study of 70 postmenopausal women who followed a tomato-rich diet plan, they found that after 10 weeks the participants showed a 9 per cent increase in levels of adiponectin (a fat/blood sugar regulating hormone), which helps lower their risk of breast cancer.

## Cooked Spinach



It was Popeye's go-to snack for good reason - this leafy green is an amazing source of iron, both helping to improve the quality of the blood and restore energy. It's also high in folic acid, making it the ultimate pregnancy superfood. If you're popping tins of spinach, cook it rather than eat it raw. You get the same amount of micronutrients in each serving, but when heated, the vitamin content of spinach is better absorbed into your system, providing higher levels of vitamins A and E, protein, calcium, and important carotenoids like beta-carotene and lutein. Step aside broccoli, we've a new favourite green.

## Cauliflower

It's been sitting on your dinner plate for years, but little did you know what magic it was working on your body.. Cauliflower is high in a whole host of vitamins: A, C, K; it's a rich source of calcium, helps reduce cancer risks, and promotes weight loss too - providing a flavoursome crunchy snack to fill-up on at only 25

calories a cup! It's also emerged as a culinary God send amongst gluten intolerant foodies, who crave a Friday night pizza without the terrible bloating and stomach ache alongside. If you're steering clear of carbs, a cauliflower pizza base is a tasty, nutritious option that's super easy to rustle up.

## Cranberry Juice

A staple in any woman's fridge is cranberry juice. Not just for the vitamin and minerals it provides - (it's an excellent source of vitamin C and manganese!) but for its medicinal properties too. Unfortunately ladies, biology dictates that we are more susceptible to Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) and that up to half of all women will experience a UTI during their lifetime. Thanks to its proanthocyanidin content - a 'unique molecular structure' that exhibits 'potent bacterial anti-adhesion activity,' says The State University of New Jersey; cranberry juice offers the perfect treatment to help keep UTIs at bay.



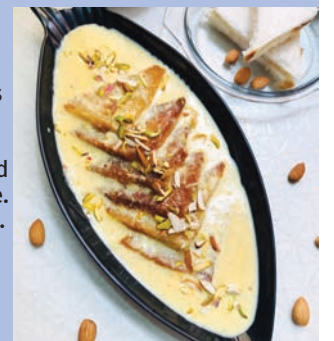
By Tript Arora

## CONNOISSEUR'S CHOICE



## Shahi Tukda

The word Shahi tukda can be broken down into two words i.e. Shahi & Tukda. Shahi means Royal and Tukda is a piece. Shahi tukda is a rich Mughlai Dish made with fried bread dipped in sugar syrup and enriched with thickened milk i.e. rabri and topped with dry fruits. It was supposed to have originated in Pakistan. Some believe it originated in Egypt and was made with leftover bread. There are many stories regarding the origin of this delicious dessert. It is also said that Mughal Emperors enjoyed their iftar meals in the month of Ramadan. So this dessert surely held a special place in Royal families. The name itself says Royal piece of dessert.



## We Need

For Rabri: 1 Litre Full fat Milk, 3 Tbsp Sugar, 3 Green Cardamoms, 20 Almonds, Few strands of Kesar, 2 Tbsp Vanilla Custard Powder,

For Tukda: 5 Slices of White Bread, 1 Cup Pure Ghee

For Sugar Syrup: ½ Cup of Sugar, ½ Cup of Water, Some thinly sliced Pistachio and Almonds to garnish.

## Here We Go

Soak Almonds in water overnight or at least for 5 to 6 hours. Peel them in the morning and keep aside

Take a thick bottomed vessel. Add 1 litre of milk to it. Put it on medium flame. When the milk starts boiling reduce the flame to low and let it boil. Meanwhile keep on stirring it with a ladle. Scrap the milk sticking to the sides. You can do your other cooking side by side to utilize the time as this process will take around 30 minutes.

Add Cardamoms, peeled Almonds, a few strands of Saffron and ½ tsp of sugar to a grinder jar. Make a fine paste. Add a little milk if necessary for the process.

Add this paste to the boiling milk along with sugar. Keep on stirring otherwise the thickened milk will stick to the bottom.

Dissolve 2 tbsp of vanilla custard powder in 2 tbsp of cold milk. Add this to the thickened milk. This will enhance the taste as well as expedite the process of Rabri.

Boil the milk for another 2 minutes till the custard is cooked. Switch off the flame and let it cool on its own.

Heat 1 Cup pure ghee in a pan on medium flame. Meanwhile remove the sides of the bread with a knife Now cut each slice diagonally. Shallow Fry these slices in the gher till golden brown on both sides. Keep aside.

Add ½ Cup sugar to ½ Cup water. Put it on low flame. Keep on stirring till the sugar dissolves. Keep it on flame for some more time till sugar syrup thickens a bit.

Dip the fried slices in sugar syrup and coat them with sugar syrup on both sides. Don't leave the slices in syrup. Just coat the slices and take them out on a plate otherwise it will become soggy.

Arrange these slices in a dish and pour rabri over them. Decorate them with slices of almonds and pistachio. You can serve it both hot & cold.

Preparation Time : 10 minutes

Cooking Time : 40 minutes

Serves : 6

Pro Tips: Use 2 days old bread for this recipe as fresh bread will get soggy.

Keep on stirring the milk otherwise it will stick to the bottom. Fry the bread in pure desi ghee as it will provide the richness to the dish.

You Can reach me at: [www.triptasfoodtunnel.com](http://www.triptasfoodtunnel.com)  
Email : [triptasfoodtunnel@gmail.com](mailto:triptasfoodtunnel@gmail.com).  
Instagram: @triptasfoodtunnel

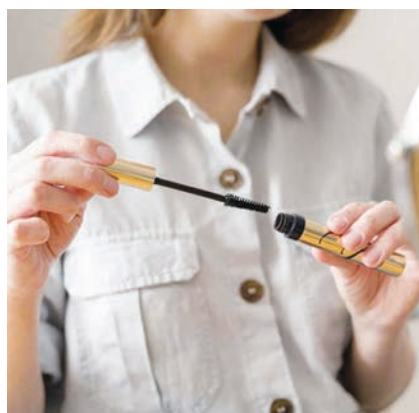
## Use your old mascara in these ways

### As a spoolie

On days you want to keep your eyebrows all-natural and thick, this old mascara wand will come to use. Use it instead of a spoolie. You can use it as is or use it with an eyebrow gel or petroleum jelly. Brush back your eyebrows with this wand and get those natural and fuller eyebrows.

### Keep baby hair off your face

We all know the struggle, those baby hair can really ruin any hairdo. Taming these flyways can be a little tricky but with a mascara wand, you can do it in a jiffy. Pick some petroleum jelly with the wand and then brush your baby hair with the wand. This will keep those hair in place and help you rock that



hairstyle.

### Pamper your eyelashes

To be honest, how often do you think of pampering your eyelashes? We mostly forget about it but it's

really important. Our eyelashes too deserve some attention. An easy way to nourish them is by applying some castor oil on them. You can dip your old mascara wand in some castor oil and then use it to curl your lashes. Do this at night before going to bed so that the oil stays overnight and gives you thick and fuller eyelashes.

### Exfoliate your lips

Our lips are exposed to polluted air, dust, dirt everyday and it all starts to build up. It is important to clear off all these dead layers from time to time. Apply a lip balm, scrub or petroleum jelly over your lips and using your wand, start exfoliating your lips. The bristles of the wand will help you exfoliate and give you soft and hydrated lips.



# Obese girls at higher risk of cardiovascular disease in adulthood: Study

A new study has found that girls are more likely than boys to develop metabolic alterations associated with obesity, such as high blood pressure and excessive blood levels of cholesterol and triglycerides (dyslipidemia).

The study was conducted in Brazil on 92 adolescents. The findings of the study were published in the journal *Frontiers in Nutrition*.

The study was conducted with FAPESP's support by scientists affiliated with the University of Sao Paulo's Biomedical Sciences Institute (ICB-USP) and the Medical School of Santa Casa de Misericordia de Sao Paulo (FCM-SCMSP).

According to the authors, the obese girls displayed a pattern of lipid profile alterations not seen in girls without obesity and a higher propensity to develop cardiovascular disease in adulthood.

"We found that girls have a much greater tendency to undergo the alterations typical of obesity, such as elevated blood pressure and dyslipidemia. In our study, they had augmented levels of triglycerides and LDL, so-called 'bad cholesterol', while HDL, 'good cholesterol', was lower than in eutrophic [normal weight] girls," said Estefania Simoes, first author of the article.



The lipid profile of the obese boys included in the study displayed no significant differences from that of normal-weight boys, according to the researchers.

Childhood obesity is a growing concern among health authorities and scientists in the field. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that some 340 million children aged 5-19 worldwide were overweight or obese in 2016. It is well known that childhood obesity is associated with a higher likelihood of metabolic disorders and cardiovascular disease in

adulthood.

A substantial amount of research shows this, but the differences between boys and girls in terms of the effects of obesity have not been studied in depth.

"We compared obese and non-obese girls and boys aged 11-18, simultaneously addressing anthropometrics, lipid and lipoprotein profile, and hormone and neuropeptide levels, with a special emphasis on sex-dependent responses. To our knowledge, this is the first study to take this multifactor approach," Simoes said.



## Cooling therapy breathes life into newborn 11 minutes after he was born

As the second Covid wave is sweeping across Karnataka, here's a heart-touching story of the baby soldier, who took his first breath, a whopping 11 minutes after he was born.

Bengaluru North's Rainbow Children Hospital revived the baby that was born floppy, which in other words means he couldn't breathe at birth, couldn't cry, didn't have a heartbeat rate and no sign of breathing movement at all.

The hospital's consultant, Dr Pradeep Kumar disclosed that the baby was born normal but with a very poor APGAR score. "After taking note of this condition, we immediately used every medical intervention technique including newborn resuscitation technique after which the baby's heartbeat came up in one minute but it took 11 minutes for this baby to take its first breath," he explained.

According to him, the APGAR score is a test given to newborns soon after birth. This test checks a baby's heart rate, muscle tone, and other signs to see if extra medical care or emergency care is needed. The test is usually given twice: once at one minute after birth, and again at five minutes after birth.

He added that when this newborn was born with challenging conditions, a team of doctors in Rainbow Hospitals diagnosed the baby with Stage-2 Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy. So to cure him, these experts used the 'Therapeutic Hypothermia method', which is also called the 'whole body cooling method'.

Dr Kumar said that this was a very rare scenario and is observed only in two per cent of live births but contributes for 20 per cent of neonatal deaths.

"Prenatal Asphyxia happens because of decreased blood flow from mother to the placenta and to baby, impaired oxygenation to the baby, reduced gas exchange across the placenta and increased foetal oxygen requirement," he claimed. Talking about the procedure, and the mental state of the parents, the Neonatology and Paediatrics consultant, Dr M. S. Sreedhara, who treated the baby right from day one stated that parents were in a state of emotional shock, despair and denial. "As clinicians, in addition to giving the best clinical care to the infant, we counselled the parents in such a way that they understand the clinical condition of the baby. We made sure they are ready to accept and face the short term and long-term challenges," he explained.

Source: IANS

## How can we stop the next pandemic? Here's what WHO panel recommends

A new global system should be set up to respond faster to disease outbreaks to help ensure no future virus causes a pandemic as devastating as COVID-19, an independent World Health Organization review panel said on Wednesday, May 12.

The experts found crucial shortcomings in the global response in early 2020—including a delay in declaring an emergency, a failure to impose travel restrictions and an entire "lost month" when countries neglected to respond to warnings—that let the virus quickly spread into a crippling pandemic.

To address those problems, the WHO should be given the power to send investigators swiftly to chase down new disease outbreaks, and to publish their full findings without delay.

"It is critical to have an empowered WHO," panel co-chair and former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark told reporters on the launch of the report "COVID-19: Make It the Last Pandemic".

Co-chair Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a former president of Liberia, said: "We are calling for a new surveillance-and-alert system that is based on transparency and allows WHO to publish information immediately."

Health ministers will debate the findings at the WHO's annual assembly opening on May 24. Diplomats say the European Union is driving reform efforts at the UN agency though this will take time.

"We look forward to working with our member states to discuss the recommendations of this panel



and the other committees to build a stronger WHO," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

The panel urged the WHO and World Trade Organization to convene governments and drugmakers to hammer out an agreement on voluntary licensing and technology transfers to boost vaccine production. If a deal can't be reached in three months, then a so-called TRIPS waiver on patents should apply, it said.

Clark called for "banging heads together" to get a commitment to secure licenses along with tech and knowledge transfers.

"Let's be clear about this. We're dealing with pharmaceutical companies in the North that have the technology," Johnson Sirleaf said. Source: Reuters

PAGE SPONSORED BY

### DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



**DR. SATISH ANAND**  
Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, AAPI National  
E-Mail: sanandmd@gmail.com

**GITANJLI ANAND**  
Former President, India Association of Long Island (IALI)  
E-mail: gitanjlianand@gmail.com



## Nearly a fifth of Earth's surface transformed since 1960

Whether it's turning forests into cropland or savannah into pastures, humanity has repurposed land over the last 60 years equivalent in area to Africa and Europe combined, researchers said Tuesday, May 11.

If you count all such transitions since 1960, it adds up to about 43 million square kilometres (16.5 square miles), four times more than previous estimates, according to a study in Nature Communications.

"Since land use plays a central role for climate mitigation, biodiversity and food production, understanding its full dynamics is essential for sustainable land use strategies," lead author Karina Winkler, a physical geographer at Wageningen University & Research in the Netherlands, told AFP.

Plants and soil -- especially in tropical forests -- soak up about 30 percent of manmade carbon pollution, so large-scale landscape changes could spell success or failure in meeting Paris Agreement temperature targets.

The 2015 climate treaty enjoins nations to stop global heating at "well below" two degrees Celsius, and 1.5C if possible.

The planet has already warmed 1.2C above the preindustrial benchmark, enough to unleash a crescendo of deadly storms, sea level rise and other impacts.

Since 1960, Earth's total forest cover has shrunk by nearly a million km<sup>2</sup>, while areas covered by cropland and pastures have each increased by roughly the same extent, the study found.

Source: AFP

## How to speed up your Wi-Fi connection on a Windows PC

With the onset of a second wave of the COVID 19 pandemic, many people are confined to lockdowns across various regions in India. And work from home will remain the norm, so users will need to be prepared. One good way to make sure you don't run into connectivity hiccups during work hours from home is to make sure your connection is working at peak speeds. Here are 4 ways to speed up your Wi-Fi connection speeds on Windows 10.

### Disable background apps

A good way to make sure your bandwidth is not being wasted in tools you're not going to be using is to disable the Windows 10 apps that you will not be using regularly. To do this, head over to Settings > Privacy and in the section on the left, scroll all the way down to Background Apps and turn the service off for the apps you don't plan on using often.

### Deactivate Windows update

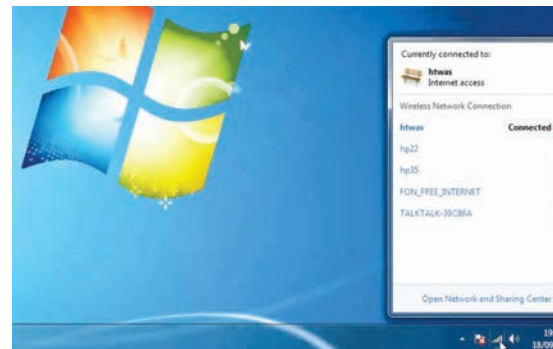
Windows 10 has the ability to automatically download and install updates in the background. While the feature may be useful for some, it also means Windows is constantly monitoring its servers looking for new updates. These updates will even start downloading when you may be working, thereby affecting your download speed.

To disable Windows Automatic Update, users can go to Settings/ Update and Security and choose Advanced Options. Here you can 'pause' updates until a particular date. Also, go back to the Windows Update page and on the panel on the left, choose Delivery Optimisation.

Turn off the main toggle and you'll also prevent local downloading of updates within your LAN network, saving more precious bandwidth.

### Flushing your DNS

Flushing your DNS is a lot like clearing cache memory, except it is for your DNS server. To



flush your DNS, simply open the command prompt first by right-clicking on the Start button and choosing Command Prompt. In the Command Prompt screen, type "ipconfig/flushDNS" and press Enter. This should flush your DNS.

### Change Wi-Fi channel

Your Wi-Fi router may be fast as is your broadband connection. However, if you're living in crowded spaces like flats, chances are you and someone else's Wi-Fi router are sending and receiving data over the same frequency, eventually affecting peak speeds. In such a scenario, it is a good idea to change your Wi-Fi channel.

To do this, you will first need to use a tool like Wifi Analyzer to determine what connections are using what Wi-Fi channels near you. You can even use Wifi Analyzer apps on your phone in the same area and while on the same connection.

Once you have figured out what would be the most apt channel for you to switch to, open up your Wi-Fi router's configuration settings and navigate to where you can change your channel. Change it to the desired Wi-Fi frequency. Note that the Wi-Fi settings will be different for routers of every brand and you will first have to figure out how to open up and navigate through your Wi-Fi's configuration and settings pages.

Source: Indian Express

## Instagram lets users list their pronouns on profiles

Facebook-owned Instagram has announced to let users add up to four pronouns to their profiles, which they can then display publicly or only to their followers.

It's another way to express yourself on Instagram and the feature is now available in a few countries today with plans for more. The company, however, did not specify which countries have this feature at the moment.

"Now you can add pronouns to your profile with a new field. It's another way to express yourself on Instagram and we've seen a lot of people adding pronouns already, so hopefully this makes it even easier. Available in a few countries today with plans for more," said Vishal Shah, VP of Product at Instagram. People can fill out a form to have a pronoun added, if it's not already available, or just add it to their bio.

The news comes at a time when a coalition of 44 US Attorneys General has signed a letter to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg urging Facebook not to launch "Instagram for Kids", citing mental health and privacy concerns.



## Google is preparing new 'desktop sharing hub' in Chrome

Google is testing a new Chrome feature known as 'Desktop Sharing Hub' or 'Chrome Sharing Menu'.

In essence, the company wants to streamline all the many ways you can share content from Chrome and place it into one simple interface, Android Central reported.

As spotted by Chrome Story, once this new hub is enabled, users will be able to do actions like generating a QR code, sharing to devices, casting a tab and other actions that revolve around sharing the current page to another person or device from a centralised location.

According to the report, it currently exists just behind a "sharing-hub-desktop-omnibox" flag in Chrome Canary and can only be used on Chrome 92.

While Chrome had been more or less stable before 2020 (barring user interface updates), Google has been working on improving productivity features in its more recent releases, the report said.

Things like renaming windows, tab groups, and now sharing hub will go a long way in making Chrome the browser to use, it added.

The company will also be bolstering its Chromebook offerings with any Chrome updates like this Chromebooks recently gained a "phone hub" feature. Source: IANS



## Singapore researchers control Venus flytraps using smartphones

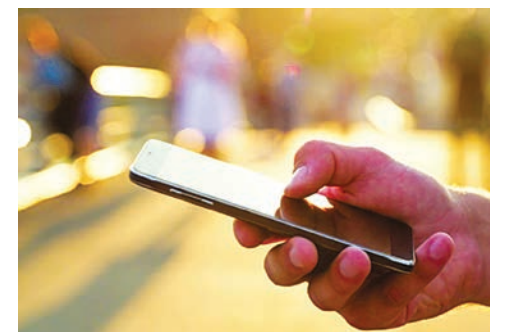
Researchers in Singapore have found a way of controlling a Venus flytrap using electric signals from a smartphone, an innovation they hope will have a range of uses from robotics to employing the plants as environmental sensors.

Luo Yifei, a researcher at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University (NTU), showed in a demonstration how a signal from a smartphone app sent to tiny electrodes attached to the plant could make its trap close as it does when catching a fly.

"Plants are like humans, they generate electric signals, like the ECG (electrocardiogram) from our hearts," said Luo, who works at NTU's School of Materials Science and Engineering.

"We developed a non-invasive technology to detect these electric signals from the surface of plants without damaging them," Luo said.

The scientists have also detached the trap portion of the Venus flytrap and attached it to a robotic arm so it can



when given a signal, grip something thin and light like a piece of wire.

In this way, the plant could be used as a "soft robot", the scientists say, to pick up fragile things that might be damaged by industrial grippers, as well as being more environmentally friendly.

Communication between humans and plants is not necessarily entirely one-way. The NTU research team hopes their technology can be used to detect signals from plants about abnormalities or potential diseases before full-blown symptoms appear.





## Jack Ma's Ant posted \$3.4 billion profit after IPO halt

Ant Group Co.'s profit rose to \$3.4 billion in the December quarter after Chinese regulators thwarted its record initial public offering and told it to scale back its sprawling business.

Billionaire Jack Ma's fintech giant contributed nearly 7.2 billion yuan to Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.'s earnings, a company filing showed Thursday. Based on Alibaba's one-third stake in Ant, that translates to 21.8 billion yuan (\$3.4 billion) in profit, up 50% from 14.5 billion yuan in the previous three months. Ant's earnings lag one quarter behind Alibaba's. Ant declined to comment.

The tally underscores the earnings powers Ant boasted before authorities demanded China's largest fintech company fold its financial business into a holding company, curtailing its growth prospects. Regulators have issued a battery of proposals that threaten to curb Ant's dominance in online payments and scale back its expansion into consumer lending and wealth management.



## GoAir rebrands itself as Go First

After being in the skies for 15 years, Wadia Group-owned GoAir has rebranded itself as 'Go First' as the airline focuses on ultra-low-cost business model amid the aviation industry grappling with pandemic headwinds.

The announcement on Thursday also comes amid reports that the airline was preparing for an initial share sale to raise funds for its ambitious expansion plans. The Go First as ULCC (ultra-low-cost carrier) would operate single aircraft type across its fleet, which currently has both Airbus A320 and A320Neos (new engine option) planes in operation, it said.

# Google wins cloud deal from SpaceX for Starlink internet

Google has won a deal to provide cloud services to Elon Musk's SpaceX, which has launched a slew of Starlink satellites to provide high-speed internet, it said on Thursday.

SpaceX will set up ground stations within Google's data centers that connect to the Starlink satellites, enabling fast and secure internet services via Google Cloud, the search giant said.

This service is expected to be available in the second half of 2021 for enterprise customers, the company said.

The deal comes at a time when demand for cloud-computing services has soared, with players like Microsoft Corp and Amazon.com Inc dominating the market. Cloud companies have also tapped into the telecoms sector, thanks to a jump in demand for 5G connectivity.

Google's cloud business accounts for about 7% of its total revenue, as of the latest earnings report.

Last October, Microsoft won a similar deal from SpaceX to connect its Azure cloud computing platform to Starlink.

Privately held SpaceX, known for its reusable rockets and astronaut capsules, is ramping up satellite production for Starlink, a growing constellation of hundreds of internet-bearing satellites that Musk hopes will generate enough revenue to help fund SpaceX's interplanetary goals.



## Bitcoin recoups some losses from Musk's Tesla u-turn

Bitcoin regained some of the losses sustained after Elon Musk said that Tesla would stop accepting the digital tokens as payment for its cars, and was trading at nearly \$50,000 on Thursday, May 13.

The price of the world's largest cryptocurrency dropped 17% from around \$54,819 to \$45,700, its lowest since March 1, in just under two hours following Musk's tweet on Wednesday.

Bitcoin later recovered about half of that drop and was trading at around \$49,265 at 1119 GMT, while Ether, the second-largest cryptocurrency, which

had dropped 14% to a low of \$3,550, rose above \$4,000 before dipping back to around \$3,700. An announcement by Tesla on Feb. 8 that it had bought \$1.5 billion of bitcoin and that it would accept it as payment for its electric vehicles has been one factor behind the digital token's surging price this year.

But Tesla Chief Executive Musk has faced pressure about the environmental impact of bitcoin since the announcement.

"We are concerned about rapidly increasing use of fossil fuels for Bitcoin mining and transactions, especially coal, which has the worst emissions of any fuel," Musk tweeted.

## India's factory output falls almost 10% in FY21

The Covid-19 pandemic shrunk India's factory output by almost 10% in 2020-21, the biggest shock to manufacturing activity since 1982-83, the earliest period for which Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data is available.

To be sure, the headline annual IIP number hides the complete collapse in industrial activity due to the 68-day-long complete lockdown which was imposed on March 25, 2020, and a subsequent patchy recovery. Even though the March IIP numbers, which were released on May 12, have a strong base effect, they suggest it might have been a good month for the economy.

Retail inflation data for April, however, suggests that the headwinds to rural demand might create additional problems for the economy, which has been ravaged by the second wave of Covid-19 infections.

The IIP grew by 22.4% in March 2021 over the corresponding month last year. This huge spike needs to be seen in the context of an 18.7% contraction in March 2020. Because IIP numbers underwent large contractions in the six-month period beginning March 2020—the numbers were 18.7%, 57.3%, 33.4%, 16.6%, 10.5% and 7.1% from March 2020 to August 2020—the base effect will continue to cloud IIP numbers up to August.

But the number also makes one thing clear—industrial activity more than regained last year's level in March, although the raging second wave and lockdowns imposed in most states and Union territories could see a different story in May and June. The March recovery holds across use-based and economic activity-based comparisons, with consumer non-durable category showing the biggest improvement.

The Nomura India Business Resumption Index (NIBRI), which peaked at 99.3 in the week ending February 23, just 0.7 points below pre-pandemic levels of activity, was slightly lower but stable in March with weekly values ranging from 95 to 94.6. It fell sharply from its April 4 value of 90.7 to 75.9 in the week ending April 25. It has since fallen to 64.5 in the week ending May 9.

## Reconsider ties with crypto exchanges, RBI tells lenders

The RBI is informally urging lenders to cut ties with cryptocurrency exchanges and traders as the highly speculative market booms, despite a Supreme Court ruling that banks can work with the industry, sources said.

The guidance comes as India is crafting a law to ban cryptocurrencies and penalise anyone dealing in them, which would be among the most sweeping crackdowns on the new investing fad in the world. But with the Covid crisis engulfing the country, no one is sure when such a Bill may be passed, adding to investors' confusion.

The RBI in 2018 had forbidden banks from dealing in all transactions related to bitcoin and other such assets. That diktat was challenged by the crypto exchanges and in March 2020, the Supreme Court overturned the RBI ban and allowed lenders to extend banking facilities to them. With investors continuing to rush into the hot new asset class, however, regulators appear to be gearing up for another try.

Thousands of new users are piling into the system every day at a time when the prices of major digital currencies have been on the rise. There are over 10 million crypto investors in India with total holdings of over 100 billion rupees (\$1.36 billion), according to industry estimates. No official data is available.





## Shree Ganeshaya Namah

VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR  
BEJAN DARUWALLA

By Vedic Astrologer  
Nastur Bejan Daruwalla  
is available for astrological  
consultations.

He can be reached at  
info@bejandaruwala.com  
and on phone

**+91 8141234275**  
for astrological  
queries

[www.bejandaruwala.com](http://www.bejandaruwala.com)



Chirag Bejan Daruwalla with his father late Bejan Daruwalla

**TIP brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope from the World's most trusted Vedic Astrologer Nastur Bejan Daruwalla.**

**WEEKLY HOROSCOPE**  
May 17 to 23 2021

**ARIES:** Ganesha says You will be awarded for your creativity regarding a project that you have been working on throughout this week. Which will set a very beautiful example for all your colleagues this week. Take each step with caution as you move forward with this huge opportunity. No major issues in your health will arise this week except slight anxiety in the end of the week due work-related stress and pressure might arise. Do not worry about these issues, take help of home remedies and try to relax as much as you can. Meditation and yoga will help you a lot this week hence make sure it is a part of your daily routine this week.

**TAURUS:** Positive energies are on a rise as the Saturn turns in your sign's favor this week. This week will be a roller coaster ride for you and you will be looking for stability which will be a big for you this week. Otherwise, you will be stuck wasting a lot of time worrying about how people perceive you. You will enjoy a lot with your partner this week if you try to sort out unresolved issues. It would be good for you to be patient and most importantly be kind towards your partner the entire week.

**GEMINI:** You will give the expected results when it comes to speculations you made in your business this week. You just have to make sure that you are determined to tread ahead without making any impulsive decisions because it can seriously harm you this week. If you're single, you may have some profound realizations this week which will lead to you becoming more confident and outgoing. Priorities yourself this week and try to find things that you're passionate about and people who make you happy this week. If you're looking to find a new partner, Venus is dominant in your sign this week and will help you in all matters related to love and relationships.

**CANCER:** Your adjusting nature and leadership skills will help you move past any hurdles without much effort this week. Use the tremendous energy you have this week to focus entirely on yourself this week, focus on your health, spirituality, goals and aspirations. Although you will be loved by your partner, you won't have time for them this week. You should focus on yourself only this week. Your health will be mildly upset throughout the week due to your bad eating habits. You may suffer from the problems in your business related to finances as well. Taking professional help rather than neglecting the issue is advisable. You need to be focused on all aspects of your life this week and work equally hard to achieve everything you aspire to this week. Make sure you eat the correct food and take really good care of yourself this week as well.

**LEO:** You are feeling mentally elated this week. Your happiness is the due to a successful accomplishment of yourself made work that you worked really hard on. Practicing gratitude for what you already have will be easy as your personal life is getting better; a feeling of serenity guides you throughout the week. Venus will bring love and the moon will bring fortune in your fate this week. You will realize how beautiful this week was for you as the week goes on. Your business will reach new heights and you will have great financial freedom this week as well.

**VIRGO:** Your tendency to jump on conclusions might not let you enjoy this week. You need to focus on being mentally and emotionally strong this week. Your contacts and your PR are your knight in shining armor this week and will save you from falling behind in your business and keep you afloat financially. Take time off to do small kind and loving gestures for your partner because you won't be able to spend much time with your partner this week. It's important for you to make your partner feel loved and cared this week as well. You will experience a new sense of responsibility and maturity in yourself this week which will give you the confidence you need to survive this week.

**LIBRA:** You will experience a lot of beauty in your life this week, you might get what you're trying to accomplish in this week itself. A feeling of serenity guides you throughout the week. Your health is doing great; this week is the week you should decide to make it even better. Also exercise regularly and go for a long walk every day this week because you require the physical activity to improve your physical and mental health this week. Professionally you have a lot of work piled up this week that you need to finish and hence you need to be ready and capable of it, physically, mentally and emotionally.

**SCORPIO:** You will be much focused and mostly achieve whatever you want in you want within this week. You will be helpful, generous and spend your money smartly and you are extremely careful in spending on right things only. Which might help your partner as they might be facing financial crisis this week. Do not worry about the future. Living in the moment will help you. Negative energies are quite mild this week and you won't face any major obstacles this week. You will not experience any significant inconveniences this week other than some minor health problems. You need to take time to hydrate and be physically active, your health will start deteriorating if you don't take out time for it and it might become a major problem in the future.

**SAGITTARIUS:** You will experience a great amount of love and care this week. This week is a love filled week for you. As you spend your time in new adventures and exploring nature throughout the week. Your health will be amazing this week as well. Although you need to start eating more nutrients foods to feel better than you do right now. You will realize this week that your stamina is really high because you will have to do a lot of physically exhausting jobs this week. You will have immense support from your business partner this week as well. After a long tiring week, you will feel extremely happy and satisfied with the efforts you have made to keep yourself and your family happy and financially safe.

**CAPRICORN:** You will have a great week this week. Even though there are major positive things that will happen this week. Sweet little gestures made by your loved one will keep you happy and satisfied throughout the week and will make you happier. Your health is on its way to improvement as well this week. Your love life is going pretty well, it is the right time to say the things you need to say, for you to be able to start thinking about your future. Luck is by your side in matters of love; you shall definitely receive what you want; hence, go through the week with confidence and no fear.

**AQUARIUS:** You will be very engrossed in your business and your work this week. Try to spend as much time as you can do what you love this week. Enrolling in learning classes will consistently keep you productive which would be a good decision you make this week. Although this is not a very loving and affectionate kind of week both of you are progressing in your own way which is working out great for your relationship this week. Your happiness and peace will improve your health this week. This is a great week for you to go on a long walk, eat healthy drink lots of water and reflect on your past positively.

**PISCES:** You will have great self - confidence this week that is helping you navigate through difficulties a lot better and faster this week. You might think that your trust is broken by someone that is very close to you. As the week goes by you will come to realize that it was only a misunderstanding and things will just workout fine between the two of you. You will receive a lot of help from those who genuinely care for you this week. New prospects will arise in your business as well, helping you become financially strong. Taking care of your mental and physical health will be very beneficial for you this week. Hence, make sure you do not overwork to the point of being mentally exhausted and tired.



**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE**  
May 17 to 23 2021

**May 17 :**

Ganesha says you will have a great day today when it comes to being creative and innovative. You won't socialize much today but you won't mind that either. You will make sure that everyone around you is happy and you will try your best to make your loved ones happy today because you're in a good mood today and you want to spread the joy and cheer around. Make sure you take care of your health today as well.

**May 18 :**

You will have a day full of celebrations today. You might think that today will be boring but as the day starts you will begin to understand how much fun today has been. You will enjoy yourself to the fullest today because luck is in your sign today. You will have to be responsible and work as well today. You will have to make sure that you finish your work and then enjoy it because you will be in trouble if you do not finish your work before the deadline today.

**May 19 :**

If you are looking for someone special today, you might as well find them because Venus is extremely strong in your sign today hence today will be all about receiving love for you be it romantically or

from your friends and family. Make sure you make the correct use of the privilege you have today and help those in need. Doing any act of philanthropy will make you feel very good about yourself and it will also highly benefit you soon.

**May 20:**

You might feel a little low at the beginning of the day today as events of the past few days have left you feeling sad, confused, and bored. A new career opportunity will spark a ray of hope in your life today which will bring you back from the sad mood to being happy and hopeful. You will also become more social today once you start to feel better which will make your friends and family very happy with you. You might as well focus on becoming the best version of yourself today because you need to be ready and capable for this career opportunity as well.

**May 21:**

You will have a lot of free time at your hand today. It is up to you to either focus on yourself and works hard on improving your health and your finances. You might face some trouble when it comes to your work and business because you won't acquire any new clients today which will trouble you in the back of your mind today. You need to stay focused on trying your best in getting new clients and not giving

up and feeling disappointed as you might have poor luck today, but it won't last long, and you will soon have new opportunities and options to explore.

**May 22**

You will face some difficulties when it comes to maintaining peace at home. You might come across some people who will test your anger to the core today. You might give in and lose your temper today which will only because you more harm. Be stronger than those who are provoking you today and make sure you work your way towards it. You might want to focus on being a resilient and smart person today and focus only on yourself. Remove yourself from any situation immediately if you feel that you're getting angry or upset.

**May 23 :**

Your work life will be the most positive part of your day. A very productive day is on its way for you today. You will have a lot of work to do, which you will thoroughly enjoy. As you have been working hard since the past few days you will see exponential growth today. Being the down to earth person that you are, you will continue to work hard despite it being your birthday. You will like it this way as your work has always been a celebration to you.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMAH ||



**Know/Buy your Lucky Gemstones**

From the House of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

To buy any Gemstone, visit [www.BejanDaruwalla.com](http://www.BejanDaruwalla.com)

Contact us for all kind of Astrology Services

Call/ Whatsapp **+91 8141234275**

Email: [info@bejandaruwalla.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwalla.com)



World Famous Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



Nastur Bejan Daruwalla



**LADOO MATRIMONIAL**

ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇ ਹੀ ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇ RISTHE HI RISTHE

We Provide Worldwide Services



**Jetander Sapra**

212-470-7175, 516-309-0236

ladoomatrimonial@gmail.com

jetandersapra@gmail.com

261-03, Hillside Ave, Floral Park-11004

[www.ladoomatrimonial.com](http://www.ladoomatrimonial.com)

**Indian Visa Center**

VISA / OCI PIO / PASSPORT  
APPLICATION ASSISTANCE CENTER

349 S. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801

**DEEPAK BANSAL**

Email: [deepakbansalny@gmail.com](mailto:deepakbansalny@gmail.com)

Cell: 516.304.8808 Fax: 516.218.8009

WE THANK OUR CUSTOMERS FOR THEIR TRUST & LOYALTY

26 YEARS OF EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE



**INDO US EXPRESS, INC**

HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK

WORLDWIDE COURIER FREIGHT-FORWARDER  
DOMESTIC & LOCAL DELIVERY

CALL US AT: 212-447-5720 or FAX 516-932-3750

ALTERNATE NUMBER: 347-538-7041

OR EMAIL US: [INDOUSEXPRESS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:INDOUSEXPRESS@GMAIL.COM)

[www.indousexpress.com](http://www.indousexpress.com)

GREAT SERVICE, 7 DAYS A WEEK, 365 DAYS A YEAR!

CALL ABOUT OUR SPECIAL RATES

TO INDIA/WORLDWIDE

Do you want to succeed in a very rewarding career?

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

**IS HIRING**

Do you want to capitalize on your ability to produce?

**COME CHECK IT OUT!**

CALL MR. ROHAN HANDA 718-286-1132 | 516-435-6120



Rohan Handa  
Executive Partner  
New York Life

Conveniently located at:  
95-25 Queens Blvd., 4th Floor  
Rego Park, N.Y. 11374



Get  
to the  
Point



*The* **INDIAN PANORAMA**

EVER TRUTHFUL

A DELIGHTFUL READING EVERY WEEK

**Widest Coverage**

Your Trusted Partner in Business

**The Indian Panorama**

P.O. Box No. 190067, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419, Tel: 646-247-9458  
Dallas Edition - P.O. Box 121695, Arlington, TX 76012

[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news)



**The Indian Panorama  
FOR FREE AT**

[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news)



# Parashurama Jayanti

**The literal meaning of Parshurama is Rama with parshu, which is an axe. He was a devotee of Lord Shiva who gave him his mystical weapon parshu. He is the sixth incarnation and the warrior form of Lord Vishnu. This year, his birth anniversary will be celebrated on Friday, 14 May**

Parashurama Jayanti, which marks the birth anniversary of Lord Parshurama or Parshurama avatar, is observed on Akshaya Tritiya which falls on the third day of the full moon phase or Shukla Paksha in Vaishakh month. This year, it will be celebrated on Friday, 14 May. Parshurama was the sixth incarnation and the warrior form of Lord Vishnu.

Akshay Tritiya tithi will begin on 14 May at 5:38 am and end on 15 May at 7:59 am.

According to Hindu beliefs, Parashurama is immortal and is still living on Earth, unlike Lord Vishnu's other avatars. Hence, he is not worshipped like the other gods.

On Parashurama Jayanti, devotees start the day by wearing traditional clothes after taking a holy bath before sunrise. They observe fast on this day which starts from a night before. The devotees worship Lakshminarayan, a form of Lord Vishnu, and offer tulsi leaves, chandan, kumkum, fresh flowers, according to Jagran. The day is also believed to be the beginning of Tretayug.

The literal meaning of Parshurama is Rama with parshu, which is an axe. He was a devotee of Lord Shiva who gave him his mystical weapon parshu. His parents were rishi Jamadagni and princess Renuka.

## Parashurama: The Brahma Kshatriya

Lord Parashurama was born to Rishi Jamadagni and Devi Renuka. Rishi Jamadagni was a Brahmin sage and his wife Renuka was a Kshatriya. Rishi Jamadagni and Renuka performed penance for several years towards Lord Shiva so that the sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu would be born to them. Lord Shiva granted them the boon and Vishnu incarnated as their fifth, and youngest, child and was named Rambhadra.

By birth, Rambhadra was a brahmin but he had the aggression and valor of the warriors (Kshatriyas) and that's why he was renowned as a Brahma Kshatriya. He strove immensely to learn warfare and archery from wherever he could and became the fiercest warrior of his time. He even undertook a severe penance for Lord Shiva and asked for his ax as a boon. Lord Shiva tested him multiple times and when he passed all tests, he was granted the celestial weapon (also known as parshu). It was then that his name was changed from Rambhadra to Parashurama.

According to the Hindu scriptures, seven different beings were given the boon of being immortal.

Rishi Vyasa, Lord Hanuman, Vibhishana, Mahabali, Ashwatthama, Kripacharya, and Lord Parashurama are the seven beings that were given the boon of being immortal. It is said that Lord Parashurama still resides in the Mahendragiri mountains which are located in present-day Odisha.

There are other lands associated with Parashurama as well. Legends say that once Lord Parashurama threw his battle ax into the sea. The power of the ax was such that the whole western coast started to rise because of that. That region is the present-day Malabar Konkan coast. The area of Goa (Gomantak) leading up to Kanyakumari (Kerala) was reclaimed from the sea with the help of Parashurama. This is why this Malabar-Konkan region, and the western coast of Kerala, is called as Parashurama Bhumi or Kshetra.

There is a temple dedicated to Lord Parashurama in South Goa as well. The legend also says that Parashurama brought 64 brahmin families from north and settled them in Kerala to make up for the killing of Kshatriya kings.



## Why Lord Parashurama beheaded his mother and Parashurama Kund

One of the most popular stories about Lord Parashurama was that he beheaded his mother. But there's a symbolism of righteousness and following the direction of your master that one can learn from it. Devi Renuka was considered a powerful being because of her devotion to her husband. It is said that she had the power to bake a pot from the river sand, in which she would collect water every day for her husband's daily rituals.

One day, while going towards the river, she saw the reflection of a beautiful celestial being (Gandharva) and lost her balance in the water. Because of that, she lost the power of making the pot and couldn't collect the water. Sage Jamadagni got to know of this via his intuition and ordered his sons to behead their mother. When the other two sons refused, he turned them into stone. When Jamadagni turned to Lord Parashurama, he beheaded his mother with his ax.

Sage Jamadagni was pleased with Parashurama's righteousness and asked him for two boons. Lord Parashurama asked his father to restore the lives of his mother and brothers and Sage Jamadagni granted him that.

The legend says that the act of beheading his own mother was so heinous that the ax got stuck to Parashurama's hand. Even after Renuka came back to life, the ax remained stuck in his hand. The sages in that time advised him that he needed to cleanse off the heinous deed by washing his hands in the Lohit River.

Parashurama walked to the Lohit River, located in present-day Arunachal Pradesh, and washed his hands at the river bank. As soon as he touched the water, the ax got detached from his hands. Because of this, the site became a place of worship and since came to be known as the Parashurama Kund.

## The story of Khanda Parshu

Once, to test the skills and prowess of his disciple Parashurama, Lord Shiva engaged him in a battle.

The fight between the master and disciple continued for 21 days. At one point, the trident of Lord Shiva flew towards Parashurama. To save himself from the trident, he attacked Lord Shiva with his ax which hit the lord on his head. Lord Shiva was impressed with the warfare skill of his disciple and embraced him happily. Lord Shiva also preserved the scar that the ax left on his forehead as a mark of his disciple's skills. And since that day, he came to be renowned as Khanda Parshu.

Parashurama Jayanti is celebrated every year on the Tritiya of the Shukla Paksha (the third day after the new moon of April). Devotees of Lord Vishnu fast on this day to seek the lord's blessings. Just like Lord Parashurama lived a life of righteous valor, the devotees are rewarded with the strength for the same.

### PAGE SPONSORED BY

**ARISH K. SAHANI**

Serving Since 1972

Please Call or Write for Your Insurance Needs

**Arish K Sahani (Father)**

**Shiv Sahani (Son)**

**Priya Sahani Sood (Daughter)**

**718 - 271 - 1906**



[arish.sahani@gmail.com](mailto:arish.sahani@gmail.com)

"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?"

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

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



CONTD FROM PAGE 1

## Anupam Kher slams Indian government for the COVID crisis in the country

Anupam Kher, who is often viewed as a strong supporter of the Narendra Modi-led government, told NDTV that it is important to hold the government responsible for what is happening around. "It is important to hold the government responsible for what's happening. Somewhere they have slipped. It is time for them to understand that there is much more to life than just image building maybe," he said. Anupam also took on the opposition and said, "But for another political party to use it for their gain, I think that is also not right. I think we should, as people, get angry."

Kher also mentioned that these are difficult times and added, "There are problems, pain, anger, frustration, that's obvious... Lot of people say, 'You are always so optimistic', but I say there's no other way out for me. Our lives haven't been smooth sailing. It is just that this situation has happened on a world level."

Meanwhile, Kher has also come forward to help amid the coronavirus crisis in the country. The actor has started Project Heal India which aims to support the needy amid the pandemic. For this, Kher has collaborated with Dr Ash Tewari, urology (chair) at New York's Mount Sinai Hospital, and Baba Kalyani, managing director of Bharat Forge Ltd.

## Nassau County, Friends For Good Health, South Asian-American community Join together to Appeal for Aid to India

Friends for Good Health International and Merchant Industry of India announced that the aid campaign will send funding for ventilators, personal protective equipment, medical supplies, and vaccinations. Local leaders are recommending if people want to donate supplies or PPE, they bring them to their local Indian-American or South-Asian prayer center or community group.

They include: National Association of Indians in America, AIPAC, FIPA, Global Federation of Indian Physicians Association, Gujrati Samaj, Sikh Cultural Society of America, International Punjabi Welfare Council New York, RANA, Arya Samaj of Long Island, Hindu Community Center Queens, Rajasthan Medical Association of Indians in America, Indian American Forum, Friends for Good Health, India Association of Long Island, Nargis Dutt Foundation, IDPUSA, LILC, Rotary Hicksville South, Rotary Jericho Sunrise, Asamai Temple, Arya Samaj of Long Island, AAPIQLI, Gurudwara Glencove, Hicksville, Plainview Gurudwara, Sai Mandir Hicksville and Gurudwara Shaheeda Levittown.

Meanwhile, India on Monday, May 10, reported more than 366,000 new infections and 3,754 new deaths. And it does not have the medical infrastructure to deal with the influx. It is a sad story of

overcrowded hospitals and a desperate lack of medical supplies, PPE and ventilators.

Those with the World Health Organization on Monday, May 10, named the variant discovered in India as the fourth COVID variant, but say the vaccines are effective in protecting people from it. Vaccine supply, however, is also an issue in the country.

Friends For Good Health International Chair Bobby Kalotee who put together the meeting said no cash is being collected, and that only medical equipment is sought to be shipped to India to destinations where it is the most required, and appealed for generous donations.

## Indian-origin workers allege 'forced labor' at BAPS Hindu temple in New Jersey

exploiting them and paying the equivalent of roughly \$1.20 an hour.

"We were first made aware of the accusations early this morning, we are taking them very seriously and are thoroughly reviewing the issues raised," Matthew Frankel, a spokesman for BAPS said in a statement cited by local Asbury Park Press.

"We're very surprised by this. They've had a great relationship with the town. They've been a great corporate citizen," Robbinsville Mayor Dave Fried was quoted as saying of the temple in a phone interview with the Asbury Park Press.

"I've certainly never seen anything that would give me pause during my visits there. This is absolutely very surprising."

The township later also issued a formal statement Tuesday, acknowledging "federal law enforcement activity" but denying knowledge of "any labor issues that may have been present."

"The Township was aware of temporary housing on the site and conducted inspections of that housing in April and June of 2020, until in-person inspections were suspended due to Covid-19," the statement read. "As to not interfere with this ongoing federal investigation, the Township will have no further comment."

The laborers' passports were taken "as soon as they left the airport at JFK" and "Security guards in BAPS uniforms were stationed at the temple premises where the workers lived and worked," according to the complaint.

The workers alleged that they were paid only \$450 per month, of which they received \$50 in the US and the rest were deposited in rupees in their accounts in India. They also that their pay was cut if they spoke to outsiders or if they did not follow rules like wearing helmets and a swami "called the workers 'worms,' thus exacerbating the psychological coercion the workers experienced."

The workers were forbidden from talking with temple visitors, under pain of losing their already "meager" wages, according to the complaint. "Supervisors told the workers that they police would arrest them if they left," the complaint states. The defendants deliberately sought out workers from the "Scheduled Caste," or "Dalit," as well as "other

marginalized communities in India," according to the complaint.

One of the workers, a man named Moham Lal, "died while he was subjected to forced labor at the temple, and the Defendants retaliated against other workers who organized to demand, among other things, that Moham Lal's remains to be treated according to his - not the Defendants' - religious rituals and that the Defendants improve working conditions," according to the complaint.

Altogether, "the workers spent years building, improving upon, and maintaining the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir," or temple, according to the lawsuit.

The workers' lawsuit also named three New Jersey residents - Bharat Bhai, Pankaj Patel and Kanu Patel - who allegedly employed or supervised workers at the temple.

The lawsuit alleged that those who recruited and supervised them "weaponized" the caste system to "coerce" the men from Dalit castes because of their vulnerabilities in India.

Their 42-page case document alleges that they were made to work at the temple for more than 12 hours a day, seven days a week with days off only occasionally for which they were paid less than \$1.20 an hour, an amount far less than the state minimum wage that was \$10 in 2019 and \$11 in 2020.

Their court papers, however, say that they were instructed while applying for their visa to tell the US embassy staff that they were going to the US for "volunteer work at the temple" and "would be performing the work as a service to the deities" even though they assert that they were not members of BAPS. According to the court document, although came to the US with an R-1 visa, which is granted to missionaries and religious workers, they did not perform any religious work and instead were made to do "dangerous" manual work at the temple.

The men filing the case are Mukesh Kumar, Keshav Kumar, Devi Laal, Niranjana, Pappu, and Brajendra.

## 12 opposition leaders write to PM Modi, demanding free mass vaccination, suspension of Central Vista project

This is the second joint letter by the opposition parties in less than ten-days to the government. In an earlier letter on May 3rd, the parties had asked the government to ensure uninterrupted supply of medical oxygen and free vaccinations.

The signatories of the letter include Chief Ministers Mamata Banerjee, M K Stalin, Uddhav Thackeray and Hemant Soren. Congress president Sonia Gandhi, JD(S) leader H D Deve Gowda, NCP patriarch Sharad Pawar, Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav, National Conference leader Dr. Farooq Abdullah, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, CPI general secretary D Raja and CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury are the other signatories.

The parties complained that all their previous attempts to draw the



government's attention, both independently and jointly, had come to naught.

"Without going into all the acts of commission and omission by the Central government that have brought the country to such a tragic pass, we are of the firm opinion that the following measures must be undertaken on a war footing by your government," they said.

The government should procure vaccines centrally from all available sources - global and domestic. "Immediately begin a free, universal mass vaccination campaign across the country. Invoke compulsory licensing to expand domestic vaccine production," they noted.

The budgetary allocation of ₹35,000 crore for vaccines should be immediately spent, the parties said. As of now, only close to ₹5,000 crore had been spent.

## 'Scrap Central Vista project'

The parties demanded that the construction of the Central Vista project should be stopped forthright and instead the money used to procure oxygen and vaccines.

"Release all money held in the unaccounted private trust fund, PM Cares to buy more vaccines, oxygen and medical equipment required," they stated. They reiterated the demand of giving a basic sustenance allowance of ₹6000 a month to the vulnerable families who have lost their jobs during the pandemic. First raised by the CPI(M), this demand has been raised by the Opposition parties since last year when the pandemic first hit.

They demanded that free foodgrains should be distributed to the needy, with nearly one crore tons of grains present in the Central godowns.

Lastly, they reiterated the demand of repealing the farm laws.

"Though it has not been the practice of your office or government, we would appreciate a response to our suggestions in the interests of India and our people," the letter stated.



Home to the mighty Brahmaputra, Assam is the gateway to northeast India (NE) with its main city Guwahati flaunting its one major railway station and an international airport. But unlike what many think, Guwahati is not the only place to visit in the mystic land of Assam. The biggest city and a commercial hub, Guwahati does have several tourist destinations but the entire length of Assam is filled with countless places to visit which will definitely compel you to prolong your stay in this part of the world.

Being the centre of trade in NE, Assam (particularly some towns) is an assembly point for people from all its neighbouring states. So apart from getting a glimpse of the microcosm of NE, a traveler can indulge in some wildlife adventures in Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park; pay a visit to world's largest river island Majuli and go for a heritage walk among the monuments of Sivasagar. Assam's cleanest town Tezpur is known for its association with some of the episodes from The Mahabharata. If you are looking for some spiritual solace, don't miss out on Hajo, an epitome of communal harmony, the Kamakhya shrine and the Vaishnavite monasteries of Barpeta.

**JATINGA**

Assam is often associated with mysteries and mythical tales and the hill village of Jatinga is just another page in the book of Assam's unsolved puzzles. A sleepy hamlet in the North Cachar Hills (a district in Assam), Jatinga is located at a distance of 9 kms from Haflong, the district headquarters. Take a bus ride to Haflong from Guwahati and from there on you can take local conveyance to reach this mystic village. The most bizarre phenomenon that Jatinga witnesses, is the annual mass bird suicide which is yet to find any conclusive scientific explanation. From September to November every year, hundreds of birds commit mass suicide just after sunset - they move down from the sky, plunging to their deaths by crashing into buildings and trees. One possible reason behind this is the theory that the birds get disoriented by the late monsoon season amid wind and dense fog.

**HAFLONG**

District headquarters of North Cachar Hills (a district in Assam), Haflong is one of the best hill stations in Assam. This beautiful town is located 310 km southeast of Guwahati and there is a regular flow of buses to Haflong. The best time to visit Haflong is from October to April and this is the time when the azure blue hills and the green rivers of this town are in their full glory. Thanks to the magnificent valleys, adventure sports options like gliding, paragliding and trekking can be availed by the adrenaline junkie. For the tranquility seeker, we suggest Haflong Lake, one of the largest natural water bodies of Assam. Spend a day sitting by its banks and indulging in occasional boat rides which will take away your travel fatigue.

**DIGBOI**

Located in the eastern most district of Tinsukia, Digboi is a historic place in Assam. This town is synonymous with crude oil and is called the Oil City. And there is a reason behind this title - this is the place where crude oil was discovered in late 19th century and in 1901, the town got its own oil refinery, which happens to be the oldest of its sort in Asia. The refinery is still in operation and a heritage

# Assam: Hidden charm of the North-East



chaser gets the chance to witness a living legend in action here.

But you will be utterly wrong if you think that oil is all that Digboi is in store. Around 45 km northwest of the town, there is the Dibru Saikhowa Wildlife Sanctuary, famous for its rich coterie of flora and fauna. The 18 - hole Digboi Golf Course is another place to visit that offers leisurely walks during the non - tournament season. Digboi War Cemetery will take you back to the dark days of World War II when the Japanese army stormed into Assam. In a nutshell, this town is a queer blend of nature, natural resources, wildlife and British era mementoes making it an unconventional tourist destination.

**ASSAM TEA GARDENS**

Who hasn't heard about the world renowned Assam tea? And what could be better than spending some time in one of the many tea estates in the state? The history of Assam tea goes back to the mid 19th century and the colonial charm is still prevalent in some of the oldest estates. The climate and land quality of Assam is not only conducive for tea plantation but also offer a dream run for travelers who are into eco - vacations. Not to mention tea lovers who are ready to go the extra mile to see their favourite beverage in its birth place! Tea gardens are found in almost all the districts of Assam but the ones in Jorhat and Dibrugarh districts stand apart from the rest. Both these places are easily accessible from Guwahati and we suggest you pay a visit to Gatoonga Tea Estate (Jorhat), Thengal Manor

(Jorhat), Burra Sahib Bungalow (Jorhat) and Mancotta Tea Estate (Dibrugarh). These gardens are situated off the city borders so we suggest you hire a cab and return to your hotel only late evenings. But in case you are willing to spend a night in the silence of the tea hedges, we recommend pre - booking in the commercial bungalows in and around the estates.

**POBITORA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

This wildlife paradise along the Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park form the holy trinity of one-horned rhinoceros preservation in Assam. Located in Morigaon district of the state, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is just 50 kms away from Guwahati. Home to an immense land mass of muddy marshland, which is conducive for rhino habitat, Pobitora attracts thousands of visitors annually. The constant effort of the park authority is visible from the fact that this place has the highest density of Indian rhinos in one location! Apart from rhinos, a safari in this forest will give you the opportunity to see Asiatic buffaloes, leopards, wild bears, civet cats and wild boars in their natural habitats. Birdwatchers will have a field day here with numerous species of resident and migratory birds, earning Pobitora the title of Bharatpur of the East! You can return to your hotel in Guwahati after a day of jungle safari as this place is well connected by the road network. But if the traveler in you is not satiated, you can pre - book rooms in the resorts outside the entrance of the sanctuary.





## Powar becomes women's team head coach again

The appointment of former India spinner Ramesh Powar as India women's cricket team head coach came as a surprise on Thursday after the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) chose him for the post, replacing WV Raman. The CAC, comprising Madan Lal and Sulakshna Naik interviewed eight candidates for the post, before picking Mumbai-based Powar.

The 42-year-old Powar was the head coach of the team in 2018 before he and ODI captain Mithali Raj became embroiled in a public spat. The fight began after Raj was dropped from the T20 World Cup semi-final against England, a match that India eventually lost.

What followed was a saga of leaked emails and notes from team meetings, Twitter rants, accusations and counter-accusations and a letter from Raj to BCCI detailing alleged "discriminatory" and "humiliating" behaviour that she faced from Powar during the World Cup.

Powar retaliated, accusing Raj of "putting her interest first" instead of the team's.

Soon after the World Cup ended, Powar was removed from his position. The controversy revealed deeper rifts in the team too, as T20 captain Harmanpreet Kaur and vice-captain Smriti Mandhana wrote fervent appeals to the BCCI to reinstate Powar as coach.



## Serena suffers shock loss in 1,000th match

Serena Williams, playing the 1,000th Tour-level match of her glittering career, suffered a shock 7-6(6) 7-5 defeat by Argentina's Nadia Podoroska in the the Italian Open second round on May 12.

Playing her first competitive match in nearly three months, the 23-time Grand Slam champion twice came back from a break down but struggled on her first serve.

It was the American's 149th defeat in her 1,000 career WTA matches.

World No. 2 Naomi Osaka also crashed out, losing 7-6(2) 6-2 to American Jessica Pegula.

# Protests outside, struggles inside: Man U loses to Liverpool

**MANCHESTER (TIP):** While United supporters again protested against the owning Glazer family — facing riot police and new steel barriers to guard the entrances — the game against Liverpool went ahead as planned after being called off 11 days earlier when some fans were able to storm the pitch.

United might have wished it hadn't, losing 4-2 for its first home defeat against its fiercest rival since Jürgen Klopp took charge of Liverpool six years ago after Diogo Jota scored twice.

Not only was this United's third game since Sunday — with this rearranged fixture squeezed into the week — but the players had to get to the stadium much earlier than usual after being unable to leave their hotel on May 2 due to the protests at Old Trafford.

"The players handled the situation well," United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said. "None of them have been complaining. They have got on with it. The preparations have been different. We're not going to make an excuse of that."

He also downplayed the sloppy defensive display, which was more demoralizing than impactful given United has a four-point cushion in second place with two games remaining.

"Football would be really boring if no one made a mistake," Solskjaer said. "You try to eradicate them and work on them."

For Liverpool, which was playing its first game since its reign as champion was officially ended by Manchester City, the win means the reset target of just



Manchester United need more than a couple of signings this summer. Trent Alexander-Arnold was sensational for Liverpool, if not England.

making the Champions League is still a possibility. With three games remaining, Liverpool is four points behind fourth-place Chelsea with a game in hand.

"I like the timing, we needed it tonight the most," Klopp said of finally winning at United. "We always play to win we just didn't see it often this season."

While United is unbeaten on the road, this was a sixth loss of the Premier League season at a home that will have the fans back inside next week for the

first time since before the pandemic in March 2020. Never before in the Premier League has United conceded as many as 27 home goals in a season.

It was a Liverpool defender, though, who helped United go ahead when Nat Phillips accidentally helped to divert the shot from Fernandes into the net.

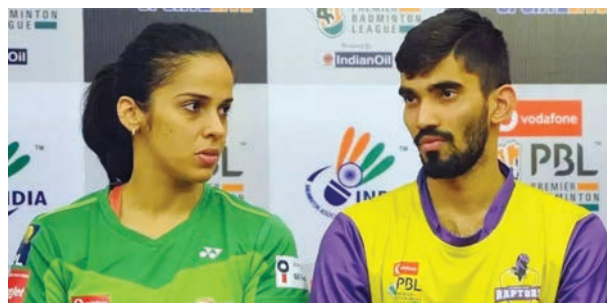
"We started quite slow," Phillips said. "We knew, despite the things that were happening at the start, we had an extra gear. So I didn't feel too worried."

## Last qualifier cancelled, Saina, Srikanth Tokyo dream over

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** London Olympics bronze-medal winner Saina Nehwal's hopes of making it to the Tokyo Olympics, already fading in recent weeks, virtually ended after the last qualifying event, the Singapore Open, was cancelled on May 12.

Tournament organisers Singapore Badminton Association (SBA) and the Badminton World Federation (BWF) jointly agreed to cancel the tournament, which was scheduled for June 1-6. This was the last tournament offering Race To Tokyo ranking points before the Olympics qualifying deadline ends on June 15.

"In the interests of all players, tournament personnel and the local community's health and safety, the event has been cancelled. BWF can confirm the tournament



will not be rescheduled," BWF said in a statement. "All attempts were made by the organisers and BWF to provide a safe tournament environment for all participants. However, rising Covid-19 cases globally led to complex challenges in managing inbound travel."

The chances of Saina and leading male player Kidambi Srikanth qualifying for the Olympics depended on the Singapore Open after the Malaysian Open (May 25 to 30) was postponed five days ago. After the postponement

of the Malaysian Open, Badminton Association of India (BAI) had reached out to BWF, seeking clarity on the qualification scenario. With Singapore suspending all flights from India, it was unlikely that the Indian players could be able to participate in the Singapore Open.

The top-16 players on the Race to Tokyo rankings would qualify automatically for the Olympics. Currently, Saina is at the 22nd spot among the women and Srikanth at the 20th place in the men's list.

## Nadal rallies past Shapovalov in Rome

When it comes to long, gruelling clay-court battles, nobody is better than Rafael Nadal.

Nearing his 35th birthday, the Spanish great showed he's still got the stamina to withstand much younger challengers in a 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (3) comeback win over 22-year-old Denis Shapovalov on Thursday, May 13, that secured him a spot in the Italian Open quarterfinals.

Nadal roared back from 3-0 down in the second set and then saved two match points on his serve at 6-5 in the third.

Nadal, who will be aiming for a record-extending 14th French Open title next month, was also pushed at times in a straight-set win over 19-year-old Jannik Sinner that ended late Wednesday.

Then there was his long three-set victory over Stefanos Tsitsipas — another 22-year-old — in the Barcelona Open final last month.





# EAST WEST OPTICIANS



**\*Eye Exam**  
**\*Contact Lens**  
**\*Eye Glass**  
**\*Sunglass**

Authorized Dealer of  
Rayban, Prada, G.A.,  
Versace, Flexon  
& Much More.....

**MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED**



263-18 Hillside Avenue, Floral Park, N.Y. 11004  
Phone: 718-335-6000; 718-533-6664  
Phone / fax: 718-457-5988, Phone /Text:718-514-0025

Order Online: [www.eastwestopticians.com](http://www.eastwestopticians.com)  
Email: [anilguptaus@yahoo.com](mailto:anilguptaus@yahoo.com)  
Mon to Sat : 12.00 P.M to 7.00 P.M. Sunday with Appt.

## Full Service Unisex Salon

# Rita's Beauty Parlor

**THREADING SPECIALIST**  
**SPECIALIZING IN :**

- Eyebrow Threading
- Ayurveda Herbal Facials • Mini Facials
- Full Body Waxing • Brazilian Waxing
- Bridal Makeup • Mehendi
- Unisex Hair Cuts and Hair Styling
- Fruit Based Color Highlights and Ladies Body Massage

Soothing Relaxing Atmosphere  
Quality Services  
High on Hygiene & Sanitized Parlor



Open Tuesday to Sunday  
10.00 am to 7.30 pm

454 S BROADWAY, HICKSVILLE, NY 11801  
516-622-9300 / 347-608-9424

Email: [ritabeautyparlor@aol.com](mailto:ritabeautyparlor@aol.com)  
[www.ritasbeautyparlor.com](http://www.ritasbeautyparlor.com)

**Call now**  
and say coupon TIP50FF  
to avail discounts  
**BOOK ONLINE APPOINTMENT**

## Dr. Frederick M. Ruffen Audiologist

**Restoring your ear power**

**CELEBRATE THE SOUNDS OF YOUR LIFE**




**\*Hearing Aid Evaluation \* Hearing Aid Repair**  
**\*Tympanometry \* Ear Wax Removal**

- Complete Audiological Evaluations
- Tympanometry and Acoustic Reflex Testing
- Hearing Aid Evaluations
- Advanced Ear Mold Selection Skills
- Swim Plugs, Musician Plugs, etc.
- Wide Selection of Hearing Aids
- Hearing Aid Accessories
- Assistive Listening Devices
- Amplified Telephones
- Complete Hearing Help Care for Hearing Aids
- Quarterly Cleanings and Hearing Aid Checks
- Hearing Aid Repair, Loss/Damage and Loaner Services
- Yearly Evaluations
- Computerized Expert Fitting of Hearing Aids

If you are missing the sounds of your life call to schedule a **FREE** hearing screening.  
**TOLL FREE: 1-800-924-7413**

**LOCATIONS**

<b>Nassau University Medical Center</b> 2201 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow, NY 11554 Phone: 516-296-2704 Fax: 516-572-8885	<b>30 Roosevelt Street,</b> Glen Cove, NY 11542 Phone: 516-759-0008 Fax: 516-759-0013	<b>680 Broadway,</b> Massapequa, NY 11758 Phone: 516-541-4353
--	--	--

**OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT / WALK INS WELCOME**

## ATLAS ROLL OFF CORP.

# DISPOSAL SITE

**OPEN Monday - Friday 6.30 AM to 4.00 PM**  
**Saturday 6.30 AM to 1.00 PM**

For construction Debris,  
Demolition & Cleanouts



Located at 895 Essex Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208  
Just 5 minutes from JFK

## Roll Off Dumpster Service

10, 15, 20, 30 & 40 Yards

Serving all the five boroughs of New York Since 1983  
NYC BIC LIC #711

Reasonable low rates \*\* All major credit cards accepted

# 718-345-6451





## A World without Childhood Blindness



Only by doing good can one benefit  
-Rig Veda

An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh to prevent avoidable childhood blindness

Vision of Dr. V.K. Raju, the Eye Foundation of America and Goutami Eye Institute

- \* 3.5 million + served
- \* 350 thousand + surgeries
- \* 30 thousand + on children



**Message from Peter J. McDonnell, M.D. Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University, USA on the occasion of laying the foundation stone on December 10, 2020**



"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MO, I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"



**POST SURGERY**



**PRE SURGERY**

Triplets Prasanth, Susanth and Nisanth, who were treated by Goutami Eye Institute three years ago and gifted vision for life, as ROP babies under GEMROP (Goutami Eye tele Medicine Retinopathy Of Prematurity).

- Treating disease and vision problems
- Performing free cataract surgeries
- Screening infants and children
- Distributing glasses and visual aids
- Conducting Research
- Providing Education

Be a part of the movement. Donate now at [www.eyefoundationofamerica.org](http://www.eyefoundationofamerica.org)  
Tax Exempt # 55-0621735

The work by the Eye Foundation of America team started in 1977 and has spread from India to 21 different countries. Additionally, EFA focuses on teaching and training of health professionals who receive the Foundation's support at every level.  
<https://youtube/B23VvUaloN4> <https://youtube/KiCzqLQe2VE>

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

To know more about the work of Eye Foundation of America or to donate, visit [www.eyefoundationofamerica.org](http://www.eyefoundationofamerica.org)

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनिः Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah,  
सर्वे सन्तु नरिमायाः । Sarve Santu Niramayah  
May all be prosperous and happy!  
May all be healthy!

The Eye Foundation of America  
695, West View Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505  
Phone: 304-599-0705  
[www.eyefoundationofamerica.org](http://www.eyefoundationofamerica.org)