



The

INDIAN



PANORAMA

EVER TRUTHFUL

1 Indian American Weekly : Since 2006

15 YEARS

VOL 15 ISSUE 23 • NEW YORK / DALLAS • JUNE 04 - 10, 2021 • ENQUIRIES: 646-247-9458 • info@theindianpanorama.com

www.theindianpanorama.news

US VP Harris speaks with PM Modi, assures Covid vaccines to India

SOME OF 6 MILLION DOSES FOR 'SURGE' NATIONS TO BE SHIPPED TO INDIA

WASHINGTON (TIP): US Vice President Kamala Harris on Thursday, June 3, spokewith India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and three other world leaders and informed them that the US will begin sharing the first 25 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to their respective countries.

Harris and PM Modi further discussed strengthening efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The call was initiated by the American side, top government sources said. During the call, Harris stressed the Joe Biden administration's efforts to 'achieve broad global coverage, responding to surges and other urgent situations ad public health needs and helping as many countries as possible who

CONTD ON PAGE 40



US Vice President Kamala Harris on Thursday, June 3, spoke with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modiand assured him of Covid vaccines for India



Eager to involve Indian investigators and sites in global clinical trials: Anthony Fauci

WASHINGTON (TIP): Dr. Anthony Fauci, who is the head of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said that India and the U.S. must continue to collaborate on research related to SARS-CoV-2 as well as vaccines and adjuvants.

"We also are eager to involve Indian investigators and sites in global clinical trials to evaluate the safety and efficacy of various COVID-19 therapeutics," he added, referring to the need to step up joint research into the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

Speaking about lessons learned by the United States from the pandemic, Dr. Fauci said that it was necessary to implement "well designed and validated scientific approaches to guide effective public health and clinical practice". The



Speaking about lessons learned by the United States from the pandemic, Dr. Fauci said that it was necessary to implement "well designed and validated scientific approaches to guide effective public health and clinical practice".

U.S. has seen the highest number of COVID-19 cases (more than 34 million) in

CONTD ON PAGE 40

US CONGRESS TABLES BILL TO REMOVE PER-COUNTRY CAP ON GREEN CARD

WASHINGTON (TIP): A bipartisan legislation has been introduced in the US House of Representatives to eliminate the per country cap on employment-based green card.

The legislation was introduced by Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren and Congressman John Curtis, and it is likely to benefit Indian IT professionals anguishing over decades of green card wait. The Bill phases out the 7 per cent per-country limit on employment-based immigrant visa and raises the 7 per cent per-country limit on family-sponsored visa to 15 per cent. The Equal Access to Green cards for Legal Employment (EAGLE) Act, 2021, needs to be passed by the

CONTD ON PAGE 40



Eye Foundation of America
A World Without Childhood Blindness
Presents
EFA
FRIEND/FUND RAISER
Join us for some uplifting music, recognize distinguished ophthalmologists from around the world, and learn how EFA and Goutami Eye Institute have continued to aid the community during COVID.
CHIEF GUEST
Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia
JUNE 5, 2021
Eye Foundation of America, AAPL, GAPIO, and Rotary on 5th June, 2021 at 9 AM EST (USA)
www.EyeFoundationofAmerica.org
SEE PAGES 3-6

A LEAF FROM RECENT HISTORY- OPERATION BLUE STAR

SEE PAGES 8-9-10

The INDIAN PANORAMA
will bring out a special profusely illustrated edition on July 2 to mark the Independence Day of America on 4th of July

Articles and advertisements for the edition may please be e-mailed by June 25, 2021 to salujaindra@gmail.com
For any question, please call 646-247-9458.

Supreme Court of India throws out sedition case against Journalist Vinod Dua: upholds right to criticize government



Vinod Dua, senior journalist vindicated - File photo

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court of India, on Thursday, June 3, quashed an FIR registered by the Himachal Pradesh Police against senior journalist Vinod Dua last year for his comments critical of the government's handling of Covid-19 lockdown on YouTube.

"We are of the firm view that the prosecution of the petitioner for the offences punishable under Sections 124A and 505 (1) (b) of the IPC would be unjust.

CONTD ON PAGE 40

OMNI MORTGAGE CORP.
Residential | Commercial | SBA Loans

Andy Singh
516-441-7000
16 E. Old Country Road
Hicksville, NY 11801
E-mail: herman@omnimortgage.com
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

The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL**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.

-: COMMENT :-

Get out and Vote



PROF. I.S. SALUJA

New York City Primary Election is just two weeks away. Is the Indian American community fully prepared to exhibit its strength? Well, some believe, its isn't. Some others claim it is better prepared now than before. They cite the number of Indian origin candidates who have thrown their hats in the electoral ring. But does the number of Indian American candidates in the electoral fray indicate the enthusiasm of voters? Well, again, many say "No".

The Indian American community has never been enthusiastic about voting in the elections. But for the committed voters in both the parties, very few have ever bothered to know the candidates, or support them, and much less go to polling station to cast their "valuable"

vote.

The question is why the community would give political donations, and yet not vote? It may be, partly because the community does not find any of the several candidates in the electoral battle strong enough to win. They prefer not to "waste" their time in campaigning or casting their vote. This despondency has been explained repeatedly by many in the Indian American community. They have to understand that it is not always a candidate from your own community who should be considered good enough to represent you, but it could be anyone. If the community backs a candidate, the candidate will feel obliged to take care of the community. It is a question of owning your candidate.

The Indian American community

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY,

JUNE 22, 2021. POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 6AM TO 9PM.

EARLY VOTING PERIOD IS

JUNE 12, 2021 - JUNE 20, 2021.

must realize that they are a force to reckon with, being the highest earning, on an average, and one of the highly educated in the US, with ideas to influence the outcome of any election, at least at the local level. But it is also subject to one and the only condition-provided they exercise their right to vote. A right they must exercise as responsible citizens.

So, folks, you have choices. Go in for early vote which opens on June 12. Or, wait till you get to the polling station on June 22. And, yes, be careful about the new Ranked Choice voting system which allows you to list your preferences. It will help to get hold of a person who is conversant with information on the system. Whatever, let your voice be heard. Do vote.

-: GUEST COMMENT :-

Sedition law must go

British-era clause can't be used to fix activists, journalists

After over seven decades of Independence, India is struggling to get rid of the sedition law - widely misused against activists and journalists. In view of its 'chilling effect', the Supreme Court has decided to examine the archaic Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in the context of media freedom after the filing of sedition cases against journalists in Andhra Pradesh. According to Section 124A, a person commits sedition if he/she brings or attempts to bring in hatred or contempt or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law in India. It attracts life imprisonment.

After Independence, sedition was proposed in the Constituent Assembly as one of the grounds to restrict freedom of speech and expression. But KM Munshi opposed it, saying that if sedition were allowed to stay, 'an erroneous impression would be created that we want to perpetuate 124A of the IPC or its meaning which was considered good law in earlier days.' After the Constitution came into force, the Punjab High Court in Tara Singh Gopi Chand v. the State

(1951) declared Section 124A unconstitutional. Once described as 'highly objectionable and obnoxious' by Nehru, Section 124A continues to be on the statute book, thanks to the First Amendment piloted by him that added 'public order' to Article 19(2) as a ground to restrict free speech.

It was on the basis of public order in Article 19(2) that the SC, in Kedarnath Singh's case (1962), upheld the validity of Section 124A. However, the court restricted its scope to some extent. In Balwant Singh's case (1995), it let off two men accused of raising anti-India slogans, hours after Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984, saying that raising of slogans a couple of times - which neither evoked any response nor any reaction from the public - couldn't attract sedition. The court's comment about possible filing of sedition cases against news channels for showing a body being thrown into a river indicates that the problem runs much deeper. Many countries, including the UK and Australia, have abolished the sedition law. It's time for India to follow suit.

(Tribune, India)



Eye Foundation of America Friend/ Fundraiser on 5th June, 2021

Eye Foundation of America will hold a friend/ fundraiser on June 5, 2021. It will be a virtual event, being co-hosted by Eye Foundation of America, AAPI, GAPIO and Rotary. The virtual event will start at 9 PM EST.

Speaking with The Indian Panorama, Eye Foundation of America founder and chairman Dr. VK Raju, an eminent ophthalmologist said that the event has been planned as a mix of scholarly deliberations and entertainment.

US Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia will be the chief guest.

U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) was sworn into the United States Senate on November 15, 2010 to fill the seat left vacant by the late Senator Robert C. Byrd. For Senator Manchin, serving as West Virginia's Senator is truly an honor and a privilege.

Born and raised in the small coal



Joe Manchin, US Senator West Virginia

mining town of Farmington, W.Va., Sen. Manchin grew up learning the values that all West Virginians share - family, common sense, fairness and hard work. From his days as a state legislator to his six years as Governor to his current role, Senator Manchin has always been committed to his philosophy of "retail government" - in other words, connecting with all of his constituents and making service to them his top

priority. Throughout his public life, he has never let politics or ideology stand in the way of commonsense solutions. Instead, he believes that only by putting politics aside and working hard to bring people together can we do what is right for West Virginia and the nation.

As a Senator, Joe Manchin is committed to bringing this same spirit of bipartisanship to Washington. As he has done throughout his entire life, he remains committed to working with Republicans and Democrats to find commonsense solutions to the problems our country faces and is working hard to usher in a new bipartisan spirit in the Senate and Congress.

Legislatively, job creation is Senator Manchin's top priority, and he believes that government should act as a partner, not an adversary, in helping to create the environment that produces good American jobs. Senator Manchin

currently serves as the Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and also serves on the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Armed Services, and the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs - four critical committees that tackle the important work of addressing our nation's energy needs, overseeing discretionary spending, standing up for our Veterans, and defending our nation.

Eye Foundation of America will be honoring distinguished ophthalmologists from around the world. They include Dr. Gullapalli N. Rao, Dr. R. D. Ravindran, Joel S. Schuman, Dr. Pradeep Y Ramulu, Dr. Peter J. McDonnell, and Dr. SS Badrinath.



Dr. Gullapalli N. Rao

Dr. Gullapalli N. Rao is the founder - Chair of L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, and Former President of Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis and former Chair and President of the

International Agency for the prevention of Blindness "

Among his numerous accolades, he received Doctor of Science, university of Melbourne and International Blindness Prevention award from American academy of ophthalmology. He is a Padma Shri and was elected in 2017 to the Ophthalmology Hall of Fame by American Society of cataract and refractive surgery and in 2020 honored by the All-India Ophthalmological Society by the institution of "Gullapalli N Rao -AIOS Annual Lecture " (one among the first five honorees). He published over 200 scientific articles in peer reviewed journals.

The eye Foundation of America, along with our Collaborating organizations, is thrilled to honor this great physician, scholar, and humanitarian.



Dr. R. D. Ravindran

Dr. R. D. Ravindran is the chairman of Aravind Eye Care System, Madurai. He is an outstanding surgeon and leader with numerous accolades. In 2015, he was one among the "100 Compassionate leaders" of SALT magazine.

Dr Ravindran started his practice under G. Venkata Swamy the founder of Aravind Eye care system in 1987. Every time Aravind opens a new center he was identified to be the chief and thus has vast hands-on experience in science of building and replicating hospitals. He served as a regional co-chair of the International Association for prevention of blindness, and the Board member of Vision2020: The right to sight-India since 2008. He has numerous scientific publications and reviewer of many Ophthalmic journals.

He has numerous leadership positions in International prevention of Blindness organizations.

The eye Foundation of America, along with our Collaborating organizations, is thrilled to honor this great physician, scholar, and humanitarian.



Joel S. Schuman

Joel S. Schuman, MD, FACS is the Elaine Langone Professor and Vice Chair for

Research in the Department of Ophthalmology and Professor of Neuroscience & Physiology at NYU Langone Health, NYU

Grossman School of Medicine.

He is Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Electrical & Computer Engineering at NYU Tandon School of Engineering and Professor of Neural Science in the Center for Neural Science at NYU College of Arts and Sciences.

He chaired the ophthalmology department at NYU Langone Health, NYU Grossman School of Medicine 2016-2020 and at University of Pittsburgh/UPMC 2003-2016.

At Tufts University 1991-2003 he was Residency Director and Glaucoma and Cataract Service Chief. Dr. Schuman and his colleagues were first to identify a molecular marker for human glaucoma, published in Nature Medicine in 2001. Continuously funded by the National Eye Institute as a principal investigator since 1995, he is an inventor of optical coherence tomography (OCT), used world-wide for ocular diagnostics.

Dr. Schuman has published more than 400 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles. Dr. Schuman has received numerous awards and is a 2012 Champalimaud Award Laureate.

The Eye Foundation of America, along with our collaborating organizations, is thrilled to honor this great physician, scholar, and humanitarian.



Dr. Pradeep Y Ramulu

Dr. Pradeep Y Ramulu MD, PhD is a glaucoma specialist and the director of Glaucoma division, Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University. He is well known for his exceptional basic and clinical research in glaucoma. He received awards from American academy of ophthalmology, American Glaucoma Society, and most recently Pisart Award from Lighthouse Guild.

He is fluent in English, Spanish and Telugu languages. He vast expertise in cataract surgery, glaucoma surgery and pediatric glaucoma. He has varied research interests in Visual disability and

Rehabilitation, Aging and Vision. He has numerous publications in peer reviewed scientific journals.

The Eye Foundation of America, along with our collaborating organizations, is thrilled to honor this great physician, scholar and humanitarian.



Dr. Peter J. McDonnell

Dr. Peter J. McDonnell is the director of Wilmer Eye Institute at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore. He received numerous national and International awards for

teaching, research, and leadership. He belongs to the society of Heeds Fellows, Doheny Society of scholars, Hall of Fame, ARCS Foundation.

He is editor of the Ophthalmology Times. He is President of National Alliance of Eye and Vision research. He is specialist in Corneal diseases and surgery, Dr. McDonnell is an International Leader in Corneal Transplantation, Laser refractive surgery and treatment of Dry Eye.

The Eye Foundation of America, along with our collaborating organizations, is thrilled to honor this great physician, scholar and humanitarian.



Dr. SS Badrinath

Dr. SS Badrinath is Founder and Chairman of Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai. He is an elected fellow of National Academy of Medical Sciences and Padma Bhushan. After

finishing Retina Fellowship under Charles Schepens at Retina Service of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Boston returned to Chennai and introduced outstanding Vitreo - Retinal service in India and

trained numerous retinal surgeons.

Dr. Badrinath is not well. We wish him health.

On top of it all, Eye Foundation of America has in attendance the famous band Trio Solace from New York to keep the guests entertained.



Trio Solace Musicians/ Band

For further information, visit

www.EyeFoundationofAmerica.org

EYE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

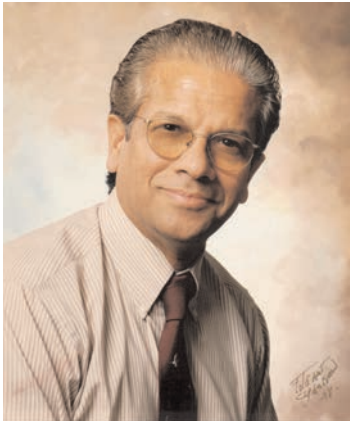
Dedicated to elimination of avoidable blindness in children worldwide

BY PROF. INDRAJIT S SALUJA



The Eye Foundation of America is dedicated to the elimination of avoidable blindness in children worldwide, and, in India. Dr. VK Raju, an internationally reputed ophthalmologist, is founder and president of the Eye Foundation of America.

Late Arthur J Pais, a senior journalist with India Abroad recorded his impressions of Dr. VK Raju in the publication's August 21, 2009, edition which I have always rated as one of the best profiles I have ever read. I am tempted to quote from it.



Dr. VK Raju, an internationally reputed ophthalmologist, is founder and president of the Eye Foundation of America

Dr. VK Raju has received many honors for his humanitarian work in saving the eyes of the poor not only in India but in half a dozen countries from Iraq to America, but the emotions he felt for Srinu Maddula, who earned his Doctorate in Pharmaceutical studies from Rutgers University in 2009 and began working for a major company, and who presented his first



Srinu Maddula with mother



Srinu Maddula with grandparents

It was in 1979 that Maddula had corneal transplants to both eyes, at the age of 2. His family had travelled to Morgantown, West Virginia, Raju's home for more than three decades (now four decades). The surgery was free and most of the other expenses were borne by Raju. Now, it was time for Maddula to pay him back.

"You feel blessed when something like that happens", he said, referring to Maddula's gesture.

Maddula who is the poster boy of the Eye Foundation is deeply attached to Dr. Raju and the Foundation. He is now actively involved as one of the EFA Board members and is a regular and generous donor.

EFA began its work in 1979 in Morgantown, West Virginia, USA. EFA grew out of his earlier work providing services and treatment near his birthplace in Rajahmundry, a town in Southeast India's Andhra Pradesh. Raju organized teams to go to remote areas and deliver eye care in areas where there otherwise were none. These traveling clinics were known as "eye camps." (Eye camps remain a standard part of the Foundation's services today.)

Raju dedicated virtually all the spare time he had outside his busy ophthalmological practice in West Virginia and used his own funds to cover many of the expenses. Eventually it became apparent that the lack of accessible, affordable eye care was very large and shared by an enormous number of people worldwide. In order to battle avoidable blindness on a global scale and to gain strength by partnering with other organizations, Raju created the 501 © 3 nonprofit organization that we know today as the Eye Foundation of America.

Today, Foundation has grown far beyond its original size and scope but never outgrew the vision of its founder, who continues to look ahead. EFA has built modern eye hospitals and trained ophthalmic assistants and other personnel to carry on our work. We provide workshops and fellowships for physicians and medical students throughout the world. We also conduct research to find better ways of preventing blindness, to learn how to distribute Vitamin A efficiently.



Dr. VK Raju speaking at Rotary Club of Calcutta Centennial Celebrations in Kolkata, Jan 1, 2020

His team has done wonders, considering the tremendous work done by them.

- * 2.5 million+ outpatients
- * 350 thousand+ eye surgeries
- * 30 thousand+ on children

This is completed by the Eye Foundation of America team since 1977 in India and 21 other developing countries. Additionally, the Eye Foundation of America lays great emphasis on teaching and training of health professionals who receive the Foundation's support at every level.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are as many as 1.4 million blind children worldwide who are affected. WHO reports that eighty percent of the world's 45 million blind people live in developing countries. The Eye Foundation of America's (EFA) mission is to go where the need is greatest - often rural and remote areas of developing countries where there is no medical care or where the cost of the care is prohibitive.

EFA provides medical eye care and treatment that is both affordable and accessible to all on equal terms, with the goal of eliminating avoidable blindness, especially in children. They take extra steps to ensure that our treatment is of the highest quality-comparable to that provided by the best hospitals in the world. EFA also delivers that care in ways that maintain each patient's self-respect and dignity.

EFA has treated Native Americans, wounded refugees in war-torn Afghanistan and Iraq, and have built eye hospitals in India-one with a wing devoted exclusively to children. They work in more than 14 countries and plan to extend that reach in the years ahead.

Although the Eye Foundation of America serves people of all ages, they have a special place in their heart for children because it is they who have the most to lose. Visually impaired or blind children grow up without the same advantages as sighted children.

CONTD ON PAGE 5

CONTD FROM PAGE 4

Unable to read and write, they often cannot support themselves as adults and become a burden on their families and communities.

The Eye Foundation of America's Goutami Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh sponsors a free 6-month certificate program that trains local young men and women to become ophthalmic assistants. They pay them a living stipend during training and often hire graduates to staff hospitals. The career training helps them support themselves in places where jobs are difficult to find. Eighty percent of the graduates come from poor families.



Eye Foundation of America's Goutami Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh conducts workshops and other programs to teach its staff about new medical techniques and equipment

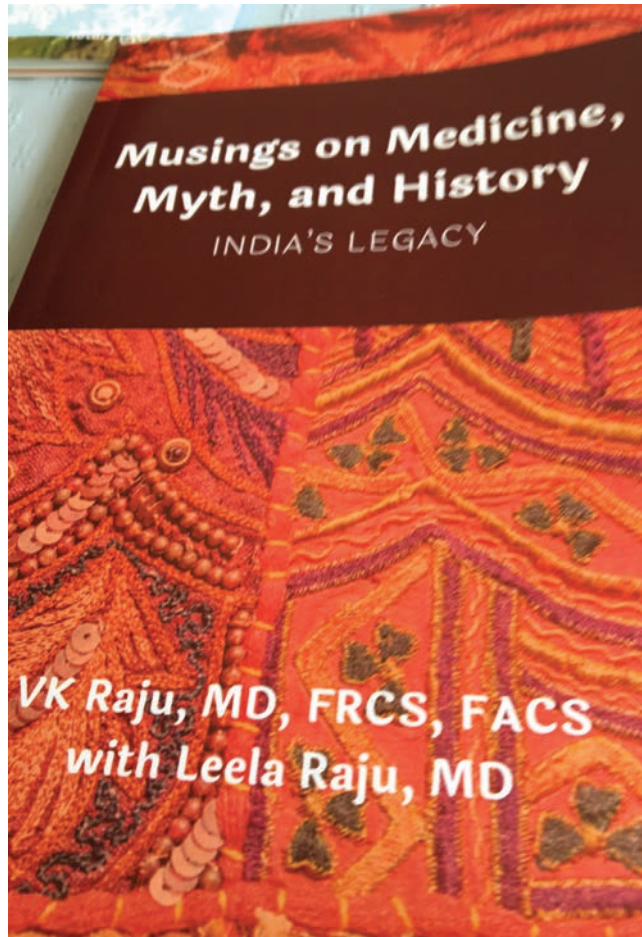
The Goutami Eye Institute conducts workshops and other programs to teach its staff about new medical techniques and equipment. This program has been expanded to include physicians and medical practitioners from all over the world. Some workshops provide Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits. Fellowships available through Goutami Institute allow postgraduate physicians from India to further their education.

The commitment of Goutami towards training and education in eye care is spread across medical and non-medical spheres. Long-term fellowships for young post-graduates and Short-term fellowships and observer ship for practicing ophthalmologists and periodic Continuing Medical Education programs with eminent national and international faculty are available for medical fraternity.

Training of Key Informants, like teachers, medical practitioners, primary health care workers, etc., in identifying and referring people, especially of children, with eye problems is done periodically.

Education of community on avoidable causes of blindness and visual impairment is undertaken in the form of patient information series on different eye ailments and through health talks.

It is to achieve this end that Dr. Raju, in collaboration with his daughter, Dr. Leela Raju, authored a book "Musings on Medicine, Myth, and History - India's Legacy". It is a masterpiece to be read by everyone who would like to know how medicine and surgery came out of India.



An avid reader and a writer, Dr. Raju has authored dozens of articles and also written books, the first being "Musings on Medicine, Myth and History- India's Legacy".

For his monumental work, Dr. VK Raju has been profusely recognized, honored and awarded. The latest recognition came his way early this year when he was admitted to Toledo University Global Medical Missions Hall of Fame for his efforts to eradicate blindness.

Dr. Raju has traveled round the world, attending conferences and meetings; speaking at various national and international meets; interacting with great minds to find solutions to the problems of health, particularly blindness among children. Most of his time is spent in traveling.

He is a keen student of history and admires the great historian Padma Bhushan Dr. Romila Thapar who he recently visited in Delhi and interacted with her on many issues of mutual interest.



Dr. Raju, a keen student of history, with the legendary historian Padma Bhushan Dr. Romila Thapar on one of his visits to Delhi

At the speed and the zeal, with which Dr. Raju is working to fulfil his mission of life to eradicate preventable blindness among children, it can be expected that he will set up more medical facilities, apart from the Goutami Hospital he is running at Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh, India. Of course, he alone cannot do it. He will need cooperation of government of India and people. Government of India could play a contributory role by providing certain facilities to set up such medical centers. And people can contribute their bit by donating liberally to a humanitarian effort of great significance. I learn, Dr. Raju is already working on a plan to have a series of medical facilities in various States of India. It will be worthy of all lovers of humanity to chip in to support a historic mission of The Eye Foundation of America.

Meet The Team



VK Raju, MD
President and Founder



Leela Raju, MD
Secretary and Education Coordinator



Sam Stone
Board Member, Legal Counsel



Srinu Maddala
Board Member



Sam Maddala
Board Member



Ashok Raju
Board Member



David Raese
Board Member



Sekhar Vemparala
Board Member



Sanku Rao
Board Member



Rajeev Rai
Board Member



Kathy Martin
Board Member

Advisory Board

Joseph Swiger
Indira Majumder MD
Abnash Jaen MD
Mukund Modak
Janani Krishna MD

The Eye Foundation of America Team.

The Eye Foundation of America Team consists of extremely dedicated people who are totally passionate about the cause that Dr. Raju has espoused of preventing avoidable blindness among children of the world.

(The author is chief editor of the weekly English newspaper 'The Indian Panorama')



Eye Foundation of America

A World Without Childhood Blindness
Service | Teaching | Research

Presents

EFA

FRIEND/FUND RAISER

Join us for some uplifting music, recognize distinguished ophthalmologists from around the world, and learn how EFA and Goutami Eye Institute have continued to aid the community during COVID.

CHIEF GUEST

Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia



AWARDEES



Join us at

Eye Foundation of America, AAPI,
GAPIO, and Rotary on 5th June,
2021 at 9 AM EST (USA)

Fourth Of July Fireworks Poised for Full NYC Return: Mayor de Blasio

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Expect more fireworks as New York City marks its first Fourth of July under newly lifted coronavirus restrictions.

An announcement is coming soon about the return of Macy's annual July 4 fireworks show, Mayor Bill de Blasio said.

De Blasio played coy with details but teased the show won't be like last year's pared-down affair that was spread across multiple nights and boroughs.

"Obviously, things are moving in the right direction to be able to have something much more like we've had historically, but we still have to be smart about it," he said Tuesday. "We have to structure it for this kind of transitional moment we're in."

The city is entering what de Blasio has dubbed the "Summer of New York City" - a time when COVID-19 levels have fallen to the point that restrictions can lift and life returns to a pre-pandemic normal. He has

envisioned most restrictions, aside from a handful, melting away in the summer heat by July 1.

The return of Macy's fireworks shows to a mass gathering format could be an important symbolic victory for the city. The Macy's website for the show includes a video that implores people to "look up."

"This Fourth of July we look up to a brighter future for everyone, everywhere," the video states.



The "Summer of New York City" could see the return of a full, restriction-less July 4 fireworks show, Mayor Bill de Blasio teased.

Nassau County Executive Curran Unveils Newly Redesigned Park Dedicated to Champion of 9/11 Responders



Laura Curran (extreme right) at the unveiling ceremony of Detective Luis G. Alvarez Memorial Park in Oceanside, May end.



Curran with officials, family of the late Detective Alvarez and neighbors - Photos / Courtesy Nassau County

MINEOLA, NY (TIP): Nassau County Executive was joined by the family of the late 9/11 champion Detective Luis G. Alvarez, elected officials, Nassau County Police Department, members of the NYPD and other distinguished guests to officially unveil Detective Luis G. Alvarez Memorial Park in Oceanside, May end.

It is with great honor that we officially rename Terrell Avenue Park after the late 9/11 patriot and champion of first responders, Detective Luis G. Alvarez. We owe Det. Alvarez an enormous debt of gratitude and it is my sincerest hope that this newly redesigned park will forever serve as a tribute to his life, a reminder of his sacrifice and a

tranquil spot for his family, neighbors and community to enjoy.

Retired NYPD Bomb Squad Detective and leading champion for September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, Det. Luis G. Alvarez passed away in June 2019 at 53 after a battle with cancer stemming from his assignment at Ground Zero. Det. Alvarez transfixed the nation just weeks before his death with his testimony alongside activist and comedian Jon Stewart, to extend the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act. His advocacy resulted in the passage of the "Never Forget the Heroes: James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act" which provides funding through the year 2092.

MEET THE GOOD SAMARITAN NIKHIL MEHTA

Nikhil Mehta is a 17-year-old young gentleman currently a rising junior at Smithtown High School East, Long Island, New York. He is taking several college-level courses, maintaining a 4.55 GPA, attained AP Scholar with Honor Award, and is part of the National Honor Society. At school, he is the Director of the Linked Elderly Outreach Program, a program dedicated to relieving the isolation of the elderly during Covid 19 and is a nationally awarded writer. He loves to cook and can play a mean tune on the violin; at the same time, his tennis serves are to be watched out for. His goal is to encourage his generation to take part in humanitarian work and raise empathy.

He has grown up seeing his grandparents' Kanak and Prabha Golia's philanthropic work and has been deeply inspired to do so in his life as well. He has his non-profit organization called Blossom Charity, whose mission is to help others in need. At such a young age, he has been raising funds to help educate the underprivileged. He has made a team effort to help the slums in Delhi. He has brought hope for the kids who have no hope. During the Covid-19 pandemic, he created a Covid-19 Guide to educate the children on preventing the spread of Coronavirus. He had helped the elderly connect to their families when they were isolated by donating iPads to nursing homes. He was awarded by the Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone for Dedication to Community Service. He received the highest President's Volunteer's Service Award in 2020. Nikhil was given the prestigious opportunity to speak at the Indian consulate about "The Importance of Empathy and Compassion: Raising Awareness for Today's Youth."

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Nikhil realized how this dreaded disease had affected America. He had been home with his brother and sister all year, not going to school. He didn't get to see his grandparents, who live in Indore and have not been able to see them for over two years. Moreover, recently Nikhil saw his uncle-Dr. Ajay Lodha, pass away from Covid-19, leaving him quite emotional. Nikhil was touched by what is going on as the pandemic is sweeping India at a staggering pace. With over



Nikhil believes in the dictum: "we can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone."

200,000 cases daily, he witnessed the COVID pandemic bringing India to its knees with the hospitals overwhelmed, and people especially in rural areas and villages, in dire need. "I couldn't breathe, seeing the suffering." Seeing pictures of long hospital lines and sick people, and many people gasping for air was the reason behind his inspiration - "Oxygen on Wheels."

Nikhil was motivated to join in the effort to help India "breathe

better." Oxygen on Wheels is a free service to provide oxygen support inside a specially designed bus to needy patients in the rural villages of Jodhpur and patients. They are waiting for admission to the hospitals. These buses can hold up to 4-5 patients with oxygen concentrators. They are positioned outside the hospitals; or a central location in the rural villages. He ran this idea through his grandparents, got their blessing, and connected with his uncle Prem Bhandari, who turned his wish into a reality. It took a team effort, however within 24-72 hours; Nikhil's Uncle was able to get the first van with four oxygen concentrators on the road to rural villages. Nikhil was able to raise funds from his friends, family, and, most of all, the community. They now have added two more vans. Nikhil was lucky enough to speak to the Honorable Chief Minister of Rajasthan, propose his ideas, and request assistance to further the cause. With support from the government, Oxygen on Wheels program is escalated to the entire state of Rajasthan. He also discussed his future project to create an Ambulance system throughout the rural villages, where people have to walk miles to get healthcare. Nikhil's goal is to make the future of his underprivileged rural villages better.

He wants to make a difference. He is a Youth Ambassador for the Rajasthan Foundation. He also strongly feels that one needs to have a sense of identity and connect with their hometown and country. "I have a sense of attachment and belonging due to the environment in our house and community." The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us how connected the world is. Given these challenging times, it is our duty and responsibility to help each other and extend ourselves. He quotes a famous saying, "we can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone."

AS I SEE IT

37th anniversary of Operation Blue star: The game is for power not for Punjab



BY PRABHJOT
SINGH

The Sikhs, a global community, have every reason to nurse a grouse both against the Congress - for engineering attack on their sancta sanctorum besides depriving the State of its rightful territorial and rivers water rights - and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for not assuaging their hurt psyche without taking any action to mitigate it.



The Golden Temple at Amritsar. The White building on the right is the Akal Takht Sahib which was severely damaged in the Indian military action.

Thirty-seven years after the traumatic Operation Blue Star, Punjabis in general and Sikhs in particular, continue to ponder what makes all ruling parties at the Centre to betray them.

All agitations in this border State have ended in trading of power without anything being said about its long-standing demands, be it territorial rights, dams and water works, prime institutions and its people.

Sikhs have been in the habit of hawking newspaper headlines for reasons that extend beyond the geographic boundaries of their motherland for whose independence they made nearly 80 per cent of the total sacrifices.

Of late some of the world leaders while eulogizing the contributions this minute minority community has made in the Corona pandemic went to the extent of saying that there should be a gurdwara - Sikh temple - everywhere to look after the suffering humanity.

It is that institution of gurdwara that

IT WAS ON JUNE 1 IN 1984 THAT THE INDIAN ARMED FORCES LAUNCHED A MILITARY ACTION ON THE GOLDEN TEMPLE COMPLEX, ALLEGEDLY TO NEUTRALIZE THE SIKH MILITANTS LED BY SANT JARNAIL SINGH BHINDRANWALE. THE OPERATION LASTED 10 DAYS, RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF HUNDREDS OF INNOCENT PILGRIMS INSIDE THE COMPLEX, BESIDES EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO THE HIGHEST SEAT OF THE SIKH TEMPORAL POWER SHRI AKAL TAKHT SAHIB AND THE HISTORIC RAMGARHIA BUNGAS. INDIAN MILITARY CLAIMED IT HAD LOST 700 SOLDIERS BESIDES A FEW HUNDRED WOUNDED. -EDITOR

has been making the Sikh community seek answers from the Central Government in India in general and the national political parties in particular.

Questions about the attack on their sancta sanctorum have either been ignored or they remained mired in controversies.

The Sikhs, a global community, have every reason to nurse a grouse both against the Congress - for engineering

minorities Muslims and the Sikhs. Though he did not say in many words that while the Hindus got India and the Muslims Pakistan, the Sikhs had to swallow false promises.

After partition, their agitation for a Sikh Homeland ended in a truncated State they got which was without a capital, most of its dams and water works and many Punjabi speaking areas.

While they were still trying to come out of the trauma of the two partitions, came the Operation Blue star. Whatever are the causes or reasons behind the "Dharam Yudh" morcha that made the Sikhs launch a struggle to get autonomy for States after adopting the Sri Anandpur Sahib resolution of August 1977.

Journalists are eyes and ears of a society as they play a critical role in preserving democracy. They are mandated to act as watchdogs in liberal democracies as while weaving their stories, they not only understand the importance or significance of Rule of Law but also keep the public good above everything else. While judging a journalist or his or her work, especially in the context of Punjab, it is important to understand the trying circumstances in which they worked.

The State had the longest spell of President's rule besides promulgation of draconian laws to contain militancy. A State that was once acknowledged as the sword arm or sports arm of the country besides serving as the food bowl of the



Indian Military inside the Golden Temple

Agreed violence has no place in any civilized society in general and liberal democracies in particular; Punjab has never been at peace with itself for a continuous period of 30 or more years. To be precise, Sikhs have always been at war, if not with the powers at the Center, then among themselves. And even in their struggle, political, religious or social, they have always pioneered a number of initiatives, both in and outside India. It is here where the role of journalists, as members of the fourth estate, becomes crucial in highlighting injustices done to the State or its people,

country is now tottering at brink.

Some experienced journalists, both from within and outside the country, would invariably use objectivity and verification combined with storytelling skills to make a subject both credible and newsworthy. But journalists from Punjab remain a suspect in the eyes of the Centre. Punjab has had more spells of curfew than any other State in the country. It is not to suggest that what a journalist writes has general acceptance. Objectivity itself is subjective. Like

CONTD ON PAGE 9

CONTD FROM PAGE 8

everything else, criticism of journalistic works often has political dividends. Increasing attacks by politicians on the credibility of a journalist or a media house have often been part of a conscious strategy to weaken both the accountability and credibility of journalism in general and a journalist in particular.

Of late, we all have been a witness to a collapse of the notion that politically relevant facts can be discerned by news professionals, reiterating the general belief that journalists are no more apolitical leaving their readers uncertain about ingesting the messages communicated to them as credible. These changing perceptions and thoughts apart, there are old timers who are continuing to discharge their role as torchbearers. They religiously follow professional ethics and discharge their duties as ears and eyes of the society they represent. Recently I reviewed a book by one of my friends, Jagtar Singh, for The Tribune, an institution with which I remained associated for 37 years.

As a veteran journalist and columnist, Jagtar Singh, remained an eyewitness from the very beginning of the fight for Sikh Homeland, to the present.

His latest book "The Khalistan Struggle: Rivers on Fire" is the story of militant struggle in the border state of Punjab. It tells students of history as to what sparked this struggle, which were the people in the beginning and how this discourse shaped up as a fight for a separate Sikh state.

actions, as these were the incidents as these shaped the discourse at crucial moments.

For Sikhs, it is not only their emotive bondage with the institution of gurdwara in general and the sanctum sanctorum in particular but has acted as a catalyst to prove to the world that the Sikh gurdwara which the Indian defence forces attacked with mortar, grenades and guns in 1984, are the shelter homes for those in distress.

And these spiritual centers-cum-shelter homes do not discriminate with beneficiaries on the grounds of their ethnicity, colour, creed, religion or language. No Sikh would ever take or accept any attack on its place of worship.

Most of those who have done work or written essays on developments in Punjab since 1947 have documented their works well. However, a few important revelations made in the book, including one about the assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, need corroboration. The author says that the names of all those who gunned down Indira Gandhi and those who were part of the design to kill her were in public domain. At least three more people besides all those known names were part of the plan to avenge Operation Bluster.

This revelation has not been substantiated as he mentions that one of the three names - Manbir Singh Chaheru - purchased a plot in Mohali for Bimal Kaur Khalsa, wife of Delhi Police Sub Inspector Beant Singh, one of the two assassins who killed Indira Gandhi. It appears to be a post-action (assassination) association that brought

dismissed, as corroboratory evidence may have remained unexplored.

Ministers of Punjab and Haryana.

When the Barnala government



A picture of destruction

Incidentally I covered most of the militant actions, including assassinations of Indira Gandhi and Beant Singh, besides Operation Bluestar, Kapuri Morcha and the Dharam Yudh morcha.

Coming to the emotive issue of rivers' waters, it has been proved that the State Assembly ever ratified none of these awards. The assembly took up the issue twice, first during the Akali Government of Surjit Singh Barnala that annulled the 1981 award, and the second by the Congress Government of Capt Amarinder Singh that set aside all water agreements. It may sound strange that none of these Legislative

annulled the 1981 award (Indira-Darbara award), the State Assembly simultaneously endorsed the Rajiv-Longowal accord that mandated for setting up of a Tribunal to resolve the waters' sharing problem. And the Tribunal so set up - Eradi Tribunal - after submitting its interim report in 1987, failed to give its final report even after 24 years costing the state exchequer several crores.

When we talk of Punjab Rivers' waters issue, reference to Riparian principle or law becomes imminent. Going by Encyclopedia Britannica, "In property right doctrine pertaining to properties adjacent to a waterway that (a) governs the use of surface water and (b) gives all owners of land contiguous to streams, lakes, and ponds equal rights to the water, whether the right is exercised or not. The riparian right is un-sufructuary, meaning that the landowner does not own the water itself but instead enjoys a right to use the water and its surface."

Going by the basic philosophy of the Riparian Law or principle, the actual rights rest with the people who live adjacent to waterways. Intriguingly, in case of Punjab, the actual beneficiaries were uprooted and the State or the center claimed ownership rights over the waters. And select powerful people, holding high positions both in the state and the center, forget about the water awards without ever getting to the beneficiaries, the people, for their endorsement.

Now coming back to the Operation Blue star, after 37 years, there is no credible or authentic version of the whole unfortunate episode that reveals actual drills of the operation, exact total casualties, the fate of the archives, artifacts, books and documents that were there in the SGPC museum damaged during the attack on Operation Blue star.

Complicity of other powers, including the British government, in the events leading to the Operation Blue star, is still to be told.

(Prabhjot Singh is a former Chief of Bureau of The Tribune. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)



The Akal Takht Sahib bore the brunt of the military action

Not only this, several other books about the Sikh religio-political discourse in synergy of both the peaceful and militant struggle from the earlier days, have taken up only selective militant

Bimal Khalsa in contact with Manbir Chaheru and Damdami Taksal. All said and done, it was the religious hurt that made Beant and Satwant kill Indira Gandhi. The revelation cannot be

pronouncements could become effective. The issue has been once again thrown open by the Apex Court necessitating the Centre to get back to the rigmarole of holding meetings with the Chief

'Operation Blue Star - Counterbalancing Terror - results in boomeranging horrible pain'



BY RAVI BATRA

THE 1984 OPERATION BLUE STAR WAS THE BIGGEST INTERNAL SECURITY MISSION EVER UNDERTAKEN BY THE INDIAN ARMY. OPERATION BLUE STAR WAS INDIRA GANDHI'S SOLUTION TO THE HAYWIRE GOING LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN PUNJAB. OPERATION BLUE STAR WAS CARRIED OUT BETWEEN JUNE 1 AND JUNE 10, 1984, IN AMRITSAR.-EDITOR

Leadership requires making choices - picking between not "good" and "bad," but "bad" and "worse." This Op-Ed is aimed at policymakers - to abandon counterbalance as a pillar of statecraft, and it's noisy and genie-out-of-the-bottle progeny: state-sponsored Terrorism. It doesn't work, and is very painful at the bitter end. Being "right," and winning by "right means" permits an end - as a civil "trial by jury" does daily in our courts even for losers. Nations, however, continue to exercise "might is right," when it really never was - given its lingering "tail".

MY TAKEAWAY: don't use counterbalance; it's sexy upfront, and painful as a nightmare divorce in the end. Recently, Kurds in Syria bear witness - as some of them became Terrorists against Turkey.

then cause the local government's twin executives to sign on after the fact to make it operational, all so we may extricate ourselves from a war we cannot lose, nor win by civilized standards in a place where our values are alien to the local ecosystem. My takeaway: don't use counterbalance; it's sexy upfront, and painful as a nightmare divorce in the end. Recently, Kurds in Syria bear witness - as some of them became Terrorists against Turkey.

Well, let's go back to 1971 - when the Blood Telegram sent from Dhaka was ignored in China-loving Richard Nixon's Washington DC - and Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, moved to save the remaining Hindus in now-Bangladesh from genocidal demise. India secured a striking victory in short order that exceeded expectations and was decisive to boot. Pakistan was unhappy, to state the obvious. Nations have found that sponsoring Terror is attractive - because it is what I call - war on the cheap. Pakistan enjoyed such sponsorship as a rejoinder. India's Punjab and Kashmir border Pakistan, and cross-border Terror-support in Sikh-rich Punjab was easier, as Sikhism's founder, Guru Nanak's immortal roots remain in Pakistan - a matter of great importance even now while celebrating His 550th Birthday in Nankana Sahib, Lahore Pakistan via opening the visa-free Kartarpur Corridor - thanks to P. M. Imran Khan and P. M. Narendra Modi - which nations and people of goodwill celebrate.

So after 1971, Pakistan's cross-border sponsorship was for Khalistan to be born - perhaps, as a nation for a nation - with three Sikh leaders Shabeg Singh, Balbir Singh, and Amrik Singh turned separatists, who were allegedly taught tactics more familiar to Terror in Pakistan. As a result, India suffered a porous border and a porous state in Punjab and Kashmir, such that India's sovereignty would be an afterthought if not stopped. Mrs. Gandhi decided to fight fire with fire, and allegedly "sponsored" a genuine Sikh leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. Ultimately, he and his armed supporters came under threat of arrest, being uncontrollable by Delhi, and took refuge in the Golden Temple - the holiest Harmandir Sahib - and Operation Blue Star was born in June 1984 to turn back the hands of time and Statecraft's expediently sexy counterbalance pillar. When first trying to peacefully end the stalemate and get the innocent pilgrims released failed over two days, as the separatists were armed with even Chinese-made grenade-launchers, on June 5th military force was initiated to forcibly evict Terrorists from the house of worship. That goal would be tough enough without religion being implicated; but attacking the holiest Sikh Gurdwara - a sanctuary - with

10,000 booted soldiers was successful in a military sense, but a failure by all other metrics. Harmandir Sahib was severely damaged, ancient scripts and artifacts forever lost in the "firefighting fire." Thereafter, while the Indian Government rebuilt it, the Sikh community tore it down and rebuilt it afresh - perhaps, as we recently tore down our newly built embassy in Moscow and rebuilt it anew.



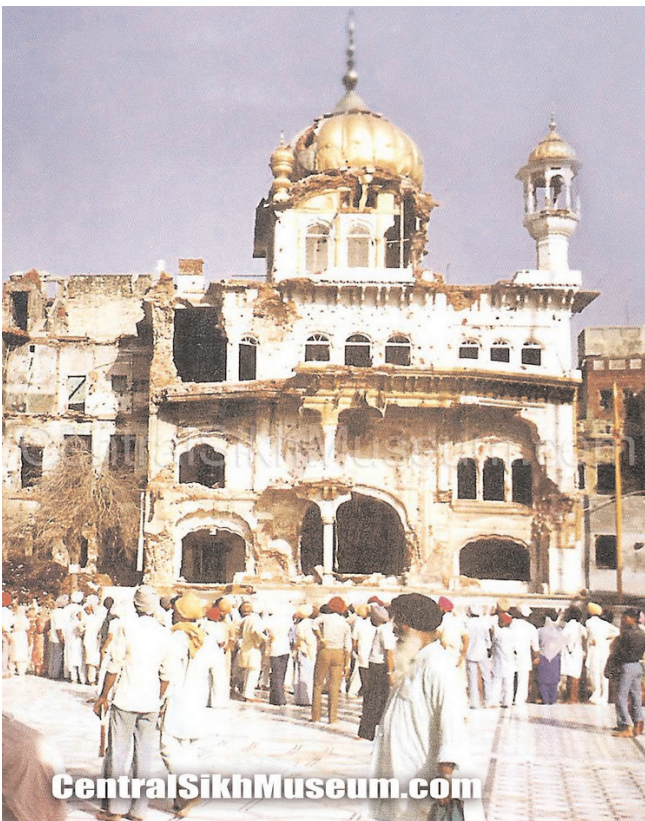
The historic Ramgarhia Bunga damaged in the Operation Bluestar - Photo / Courtesy Central Sikh Museum.com

The price of counterbalancing Pakistan's punishment - trying to create Khalistan for loss of her East Pakistan - was that Mrs. Gandhi was assassinated on October 31, 1984 by her favorite bodyguard, Beant Singh, and Satwant, both Sikhs - whom she insisted upon keeping. What followed was nothing short of a bloodbath - known as the Anti-Sikh Riots or worse - where even innocent Sikhs were hurt, injured and even killed and some members of the Indian Congress party were allegedly directing the Sikh-killings in an opportunistic manner - a stain that India has dealt with (and still has to remedy) as we did for interning loyal Japanese-Americans after Pearl Harbor some 40 years later.

Recall in 1988, President Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act to compensate more than 100,000 Japanese-Americans who were incarcerated in internment camps during World War II. The Law offered a formal apology and paid \$20,000 in compensation to each surviving victim.

Leadership requires making choices - picking between not "good" and "bad," but "bad" and "worse." This Op-Ed is aimed at policymakers - to abandon counterbalance as a pillar of statecraft, and it's noisy and genie-out-of-the-bottle progeny: state-sponsored Terrorism. It doesn't work, and is very painful at the bitter end. Being "right," and winning by "right means" permits an end - as a civil "trial by jury" does daily in our courts even for losers. Nations, however, continue to exercise "might is right," when it really never was - given its lingering "tail." A lesson China will learn from its current collective and sequential miscalculations: Tibet, Uighurs, OBOR with AIIB, exporting Wuhan Virus (lab-engineered as it has the Spike Glycoprotein (S) spliced off the 2003 SARS Bat viruses and transplanted onto the surface of the AIDS virus in 2019 - see, my April 14, 2020 "Open Letter to POTUS et al" in public domain -

CONTD ON PAGE 11



The Akal Takht- the symbol of the supreme temporal power of the Sikhs, was destroyed in the Operation Bluestar
Photo / Courtesy Central Sikh Museum.com

The enemy of my enemy is my friend; or so goes the saying, lovingly followed by policymakers seeking a shortcut to victory for several millennia. Indeed, counterbalancing continues as a steady pillar of statecraft the world over. It matters not that ultimately it doesn't work, and backfires with a painful boomerang.

Recall President Ronald Reagan's "Freedom Fighters" in Afghanistan who we trained and equipped to fight the then-USSR's excursion in Afghanistan to an unhappy exit. Then, after 9/11, when we were in hot pursuit of its mastermind OBL and ended up in Afghanistan - our Freedom Fighters became the Taliban we were fighting against. 40 years and lots of blood and treasure we have spent, only to make a recent Jello gelatin flexible peace-deal with the Taliban, and

Despairing India needs a JP for this century



BY YOGENDRA YADAV

“It's the eighth year of a charismatic Prime Minister. The economy is in a shambles, with low growth, high unemployment and rising inflation. Doubts are giving way to disillusionment, disappointment to anger. The imperious political dispensation treats popular protests with disdain.”

It's the eighth year of a charismatic Prime Minister. The economy is in a shambles, with low growth, high unemployment and rising inflation. Doubts are giving way to disillusionment, disappointment to anger. The imperious political dispensation treats popular protests with disdain.

No, I am not depicting Narendra Modi's India. This fragment, nearly half a century old, is from Indira Gandhi's India. The date June 5, 1974 was a turning point in the history of the Bihar movement. Jayaprakash Narayan or JP gave a call for 'Sampoorna Kranti' or total revolution at a massive rally in Patna that day. Sampoorna Kranti became the rallying cry of the Bihar movement. Slogans like "Sampoorna kranti ab naara hai, bhavi itihaas hamara hai" reverberated during that famous challenge to Indira that led to the Emergency and, finally, the ballot revolution of 1977.

Does that lapsed ideological lingo of a bygone era hold some relevance for us today? I think it does. That is why the Samyukt Kisan Morcha's decision to observe June 5 this year as Sampoorna Kranti Diwas holds a deep historic significance.

In my previous birth as a student of public opinion, attitude and behavior, one thing never ceased to surprise me: the optimism of the Indian public. No matter how horrid the reality on the ground, a

question about expectations of the future always got an overwhelming positive response. The analyst in me found this intriguing. The political animal in me found this frustrating.

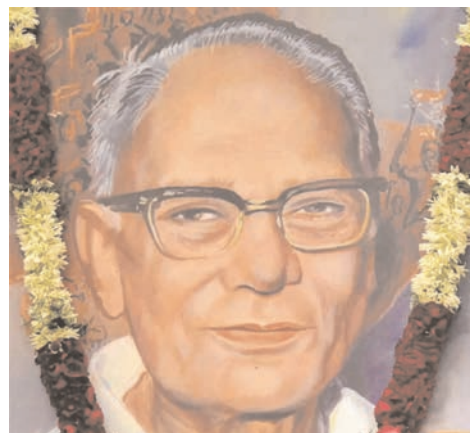
Looking back, I think this naïve optimism may have been the oxygen that kept democracy alive despite all odds.

That optimism is under threat today. Take three recent examples. Mahesh Vyas of the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy reports that the share of households that expected a rise in their income over the next one year had come down to just five per cent in April this year, compared to 30 per cent in 2019, when the economy was already in a bad shape. On the same day, FICCI's Business Confidence Survey - no good indicator of popular mood - reported a nosedive in its index of business confidence. More to the point, Yashwant Deshmukh - no critic of Modi government - writes that the CVoter poll found 80 per cent Indians in a state of despondency, saying they do not think anything is on the right path.

Hope is the most scarce commodity in today's India. Loss of hope is an indicator of the loss of faith in the Modi government. But this is also a challenge to the Opposition and democratic system. India desperately needs hope.

This is not a challenge of crafting a positive political communication. This is not about coining a smart political slogan, or a new 'jumla'. Indians have been through that. They believed in "achhe din" and have seen the reality. They still yearn for hope, but one that is believable, that maps on to the ground, that shows a path and offers a vehicle. This is what ideologies do. An ideology provides a frame to understand the present, diagnose what is wrong with it and identify seeds of change. It offers a utopia, an imaginary future destination that we must strive for. And it traces a path from the present to that imagined future with the help of agents of change and their strategies.

It is not fashionable to use this word in the 21st century, after the collapse of political systems that foregrounded their ideologies. But let us not delude ourselves: those who call themselves non-ideological are also purveyors of an ideology, the



Ahead of his times: Jayaprakash Narayan insisted that a revolutionary transformation must be non-violent. Photo / Courtesy PTI

ideology of status quo. We don't need that. India needs a forward-looking ideology that provides a frame for instituting hope.

This cannot be done by any of the existing ideologies. We have lived for far too long in the 21st century with the carcasses of ideologies of the 19th century. They were already outdated by the second half of the 20th century; they make no sense in the 21st. This applies as much to the ideologies of the Right as it does to the Left. These ideologies received from the past force square pegs of a new reality into prefabricated round holes. They fail to incorporate new ideas, new issues, new energies.

Instead of integrating various ideas, we turn to patchwork ideologies like Gandhian Socialism or hyphenation like Ambedkarite-Feminism or absurd labels like Left-Liberal. No wonder these ideologies or their combination do not generate the kind of hope that India needs today.

This is where JP's call for a total revolution comes in. By the time he gave this call in 1974, he had been through the entire spectrum of ideologies of his time. Beginning as a naïve nationalist in his childhood, he converted to Marxism-Leninism in his youth and was an ardent champion of the USSR. Disillusionment with communism in his 40s led him first towards democratic socialism and then towards Gandhi and Vinoba Bhave. Through the 60s, he advocated a communitarian ideology. His call for a total

We have lived for far too long in the 21st century with the carcasses of ideologies of the 19th century. They were already outdated by the second half of the 20th century; they make no sense in the 21st. These ideologies received from the past force square pegs of a new reality into prefabricated round holes. They fail to incorporate new ideas, issues and energies.

revolution was not one more stage in his intellectual journey; it was the summation of the entire journey and an attempt to integrate all the ideologies of the 20th century for our purpose.

JP was ahead of his times. Thus, the idea remained necessarily sketchy. He did not go beyond saying that total revolution entails a radical refiguring both of the system as well as the human being, that it meant a revolution in the political, economic, social, cultural as well as spiritual spheres. He insisted that a revolutionary transformation must be non-violent and cannot happen overnight.

Standing on his shoulders, we can do much better. We can incorporate ideologies that JP's wide spectrum did not encompass: Phule-Ambedkarite legacy, feminism, environmentalism. We can attend to issues that he did not quite grasp: caste, gender, ecology, information order.

We can discard many of the superstitions of the ideologies of the 19th century: the idea of a vanguard of history, and universal models of revolutionary transformation and one-stroke revolution.

Instead of deducing the picture of a good society from a universal utopia, we can anchor a new ideology in the values of the Indian Constitution. We can revolutionize the idea of revolution.

Creating such an ideology is one of the biggest challenges of our times. This is not just a challenge for political leaders and workers; this is a challenge for all social activists, intellectuals, academics and artists. Let this June 5 be the starting point of this difficult but necessary journey.

(The author is National President, Swaraj India)

CONTD FROM PAGE 10

'Operation Blue Star - Counter...

recently re-confirmed by former head of MI6) as a global Pearl Harbor, with its cover-up, followed not by an apology and compensation, but added belligerence in South China Sea and Hong Kong, and inter alia, converting diplomacy, a channel most useful during disputes and war, and instead burning it by making diplomats act as a "Wolf Warrior" commando doing battle. That our Hollywood celebrates Chinese-Americans and China is starkly in contrast to the steady anti-American diet fed by Chinese Communist Party leadership to her people. That is both strategic, as it is tactical - something President Trump, Secretary Esper, Speaker Pelosi and Leader McConnell ought

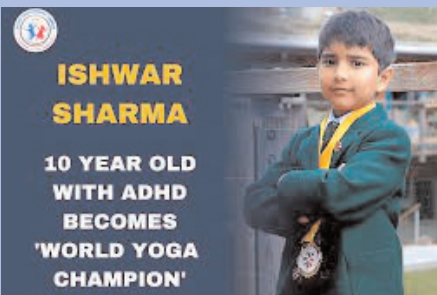
digest, as we too have our nation to defend in present time from folks we saw as friends, since Nixon, but who played us.

Disclosure: I legally represented Indian National Congress and Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, merely a loving wife, mother and daughter-in-law in 1984, when they were sued by a so-called entity, Sikhs for Justice, under the Alien Tort Claims Act in United States Federal Courts in New York - SDNY and EDNY. I successfully argued that India, where all events occurred and all actors reside, was ineligible for US courts to exercise extra-territoriality and it was for India to remedy this stain. The lofty U. S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals issued two orders in 2014 and 2015, respectively, agreeing to dismiss the cases pursuant to US law. Thereafter, Rahul Gandhi, adopting my legal filings, gave an interview to

Arnab Goswami confirming for the first time that "some" Congressmen were complicit in misconduct. SFJ's subsequent cases against then-PM Manmohan Singh and PM Narendra Modi were dismissed, based upon the precedents I secured, along with application of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, as Prime Ministers, as head of government, are so entitled - which neither INC or INC President Sonia Gandhi was so entitled. Now, SFJ is out of the media-rich harassing litigation, but, allegedly, based upon reports, may be subject to Foreign Agent Registration Act given its foreign supporters."

(The author is a senior attorney and Chair, National Advisory Council South Asian Affairs. He can be reached at ravi@ravibatraalaw.com)

INDIAN-ORIGIN BOY, A YOGA PRODIGY, WINS UK PM AWARD



ISHWAR SHARMA
10 YEAR OLD WITH ADHD BECOMES 'WORLD YOGA CHAMPION'

Ishwar Sharma, from Sevenoaks in Kent, started taking up Yoga when he was three years old after seeing his father practice daily and is a three-time World Yoga Champion.

LONDON (TIP): An 11-year-old Indian-origin boy from southeast England, who has led daily Yoga classes for 40 children across 14 countries during the coronavirus lockdown, on Tuesday, June 1, received UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's daily Points of Light award. Ishwar Sharma, from Sevenoaks in Kent, started taking up Yoga when he was 3 years old after seeing his father practice daily and is a three-time World Yoga Champion.

His autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) has propelled him to help children through Yoga, particularly those with special needs like himself. "You have brought the joy of Yoga to hundreds of children globally during lockdown. I was particularly inspired to hear how you have helped children with special needs enjoy the activity you enjoy and excel at," Johnson said in a personal letter to Sharma. The schoolboy's free online classes were already proving a success before the start of the coronavirus pandemic but expanded even further in recent months. His virtual sessions were seen as even more vital as he is passionate about promoting both the mental and physical health benefits of practicing Yoga.

"I am honored and humbled by this recognition. There have been unprecedented mental health issues amongst children due to the pandemic. I feel it is a recognition for Yoga as a discipline, which helps in balancing mental and physical health," said Sharma. "This award has motivated me to continue my endeavor to spread the message of Yoga all over the world. I do hope that Yoga and meditation will be included in the national school curriculum in the future," he said.

Ishwar Sharma is the 1,646th person to receive the UK Prime Minister's daily Points of Light award, which was first launched in April 2014 to recognize outstanding individuals making a difference where they live. Each day, an inspiring person is selected to receive the award to celebrate their remarkable achievements, including hundreds of volunteers who have been recognized for how they have served their communities through the pandemic. The UK Prime Minister makes daily announcements of the winners to celebrate, encourage and promote volunteering and the value that it brings to the country. The public is encouraged to write to 10 Downing Street with their suggestions for deserving candidates.

Indian-origin Student Gets 10-Year UAE Golden Visa

DUBAI (TIP): An Indian-origin student has received the UAE's coveted 10-year Golden Visa, which is mostly reserved for prominent global personalities, for her merit and excellent academic credentials, according to a media report.

Tasneem Aslam from Kerala received the Golden Visa in the exceptional student category and is allowed to stay in the country till 2031, media reported.

The UAE government in 2019 implemented a new system for long-term residence visas, enabling foreigners to live, work and study in the UAE without the need of a national sponsor.

These golden visas are issued for five or 10 years and will be renewed automatically.

"This is one of the best moments in my life. I feel privileged to achieve this and I am thankful to Almighty Allah. My parents' support has been enormous, and Insha Allah I hope to sponsor them in near future," Tasneem told the media.

Tasneem studied Islamic Sharia from Al Qasimia University in Sharjah and topped her class, which consisted of



Tasneem Aslam (standing left) from Kerala received the Golden Visa in the exceptional student category and is allowed to stay in UAE till 2031. Seen in the picture with his family.

pupils from 72 nationalities, with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.94 on 4.

Typically, the 10-year golden visa is targeted at wealthy individuals keen to offer the UAE significant investment in exchange for an opportunity to reside within the country.

Besides entrepreneurs, individuals

with specialized talent like doctors, researchers, scientists and artists can also apply for the visa.

Exceptional high school and university students are eligible for a 5-year residency visa in the UAE.

Recently, Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt also received the Golden Visa.

Indian-origin economist Kalpana Kochhar joining Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

WASHINGTON (TIP): Noted Indian-origin economist Kalpana Kochhar, who heads the Human Resources Department of the IMF, is retiring next month after serving for over three decades with the organization to join the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Kochhar, who served in various senior positions during her three decades at the International Monetary Fund, will retire on July 30, and will join as Director of Development Policy and Finance, at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the IMF announced on Wednesday.

"In her 33 years at the Fund, Kalpana provided a shining example of strong leadership and dedication to the Fund's mission. She brought a keen intellect and remarkable passion to her work and always focused her efforts on helping those we serve. Her work helped to shape the Fund and, while we wish her very best in her new role, she will be sorely missed," IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said. As Director of Human Resources, Kochhar oversaw the IMF's HR policies and the recruitment and retention of more than 4,000 IMF employees from nearly 150 countries based in Washington, DC, and in overseas offices.

In the past five years, she led the successful review and modernization of the IMF's compensation and benefits program, as well as the successful implementation of a large and complex human capital management IT system which helped to simplify, streamline and modernize HR at the Fund. "From start to finish, Kalpana provided the management team and the Executive Board with sound advice and displayed excellent judgment in all HR-related matters," Georgieva said.

"Throughout her career, Kalpana has pioneered change in the institution, particularly on gender and emerging market issues, while always exhibiting a positive and caring management style," she added. Georgieva said Kochhar's caring spirit was especially evident during the current health crisis.

"This caring spirit was especially evident during the current



Kalpana Kochhar will join as Director of Development Policy and Finance, at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

health crisis when, spurred on by her compassion, HRD worked hard to effect policy and other interventions to ensure that staff continued to feel a sense of belonging and connectedness. She leaves a distinguished legacy, and opened an admirable pathway for others to follow," Georgieva said. As Deputy Director in the Asia and Pacific Department (APD), she was responsible for setting up and executing the IMF's strategy for Asia, including guiding analytical work and policy advice to a

number of Asian countries to help promote economic growth, financial stability, and gender equality.

As Deputy Director in the Strategy, Policy, and Review Department (SPR), she led research and policy formulation on gender equity, income inequality, jobs and growth, and structural reforms. Before these roles, Kochhar was Assistant Director and Senior Personnel Manager in the Research Department. In between her Fund positions, Kochhar was seconded to the World Bank on a two-year stint as Chief Economist for the South Asia Region, lending her vast knowledge and experience on Asia to the Bank's work in the region. There, she pioneered work on trade and financial integration in South Asia and established a high-level advisory group of economists and foreign policy specialists from the region to assist the Bank in these areas, a media release said.

Kochhar started at the IMF as an Economist in 1988. Over the years, she built on her expertise in Asian regional matters with desk economist positions in Sri Lanka and the Philippines, and by leading work on Korea and Malaysia during the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s. Prior to joining the Fund, she was an Assistant Professor at George Washington University in Washington DC. Kochhar is also an accomplished author, and her research on Asia, gender, and a variety of development issues has appeared in numerous IMF working papers, Staff Discussion Notes, books, blogs, and publications including the widely circulated Finance and Development magazine, IMF said in a media release.

Indian American Student among Apple's Swift Student Challenge winners

PARMINDER AUJLA

SACRAMENTO (TIP): A 15-year-old Indian American student Abinaya Dinesh has created an app called Gastro at Home that offers people with gastrointestinal disorders a way to discreetly access information and resources.

The app which she plans to launch on the App Store this summer, has won her a place among a very special group of young people - 350 Swift Student Challenge winners from 35 different countries and regions.

They will be among the millions of global attendees at the Apple's 2021 Worldwide Developers Conference when it convenes for its second year in an all-virtual format, Apple announced Tuesday.

The winners were selected as part of Apple's annual WWDC student challenge, each demonstrating their coding and problem-solving skills by submitting an original Swift playground to earn a spot.

"Every year, we are inspired by the talent and ingenuity that we see from our Swift Student Challenge applicants," said Susan Prescott, Apple's vice president of Worldwide Developer Relations and Enterprise and Education Marketing.

"This year, we are incredibly proud that more young women applied and won than ever before, and we are committed to doing everything we can to nurture this progress and reach true gender parity."

In fact, Dinesh is among three young women who are not only using



Abinaya Dinesh (extreme right) has created an app called Gastro at Home that offers people with gastrointestinal disorders a way to discreetly access information and resources.

technology to solve real-world problems but are actively involved in teaching the next generation to do the same.

"They're simultaneously blazing their own trail while making sure others have the tools to follow in their footsteps - all before they've graduated high school," Apple said in a media release.

Dinesh has helped other young women learn the basics of programming and machine learning in her hometown of North Brunswick, New Jersey.

Passionate about the intersection of medicine and technology is something that became personal for her last year.

"I went to a gastroenterologist, and he diagnosed me with a pelvic floor disorder," said Dinesh, "but then told me nothing about how I was supposed to get better." In response, Dinesh created

Gastro at Home that offers people with gastrointestinal disorders a way to access information and resources, especially because those types of conditions can sometimes be sensitive to talk about.

"I think it's important that we keep pushing the boundaries of what's possible, because nobody is going to do it for us," she said.

Over the last year, Dinesh has also started her own nonprofit, Impact AI, to foster learning and ethical practices in artificial intelligence among young people. As part of it, she launched an eight-week high school program, called Girls in AI, to teach young women the basics of programming and machine learning. "I'm super big on teaching," said Dinesh. "Showing the next

generation that this technology exists and can lead to huge advancements in medicine and society is so important.

"And I'm proud that after the program was over, there were seniors applying to college who told me this experience changed what their major was going to be."

"After she graduates high school, Dinesh has her sights set on either medical school or a degree in computer science so she can keep finding new ways to use technology to advance the medical field.

"I think it's important that we keep pushing the boundaries of what's possible," said Dinesh, "because nobody is going to do it for us."

Among the other two special winners Gianna Yan, 16, and her sister Shannon created Feed Fleet, an app that pairs volunteers with at-risk individuals to deliver essential goods right to their doorstep.

Yan is also designing an app that will help students report incidents of sexual assault on school campuses, and another that assists with breast cancer self-examinations and detecting heart disease in women.

Damilola Awofisayo started her own hackathon and now teaches other young women how to code through workshops and fellowships.

The result is TecHacks, a nonprofit that describes its mission as "creating a supportive environment for girls everywhere to create, problem-solve, and showcase their talents alongside like-minded females to compete and work with."

Indian American Professor of Arabic Literature at University of Chicago wins 2020 Sheikh Zayed Book Award



Tahera Qutbuddin is the first person of Indian descent to win the prestigious international 2020 Sheikh Zayed Book Award

CHICAGO (TIP): Tahera Qutbuddin, an Indian American Professor of Arabic Literature at the University of Chicago has won the 2020 Sheikh Zayed Book Award for Arabic Culture in Other Languages.

Tahera Qutbuddin is the first person of Indian descent to win the prestigious international award. She was selected for

her new book, 'Arab Oration: Art & Function' released in 2019 by Brill Publishers.

The winners of the award commemorating the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founding President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, receive a career-changing \$200,000 (750,000 UAE Dirhams). The book was praised for its exceptional familiarity with classical Arabic literature and Dr. Qutbuddin's firm grasp on oral tradition studies and theories.

The oral tradition in the Arabic language is a strong and robust element of Arabic culture, but absent is a focus on women's oration. In her book, Qutbuddin fully explores that tradition in Arabic language, highlighting women's oration within multiple contexts," according to the citation.

She "runs a comprehensive examination of oration in the Arabic language, with its unique cultural and artistic characteristics. These characteristics

include influencing and engaging the audience, the use of photography, the dynamic pace and the occasional use of religious and literary quotations."

"This form of communication dates back to the pre-Islam oral tradition of Arabian Peninsula tribes and has undergone several phases of transformation over time until it has taken its modern, distinctive form, earning in the process a status as a genre of Arab heritage worthy of respect in its own right."

"The writer's exceptional familiarity with classical Arabic literature and her firm grasp on oral tradition studies and theories have enabled her to clearly articulate the various aspects of oration: structure, style, types and function (religious, political, intellectual, social or military)," it adds.

One of the world's leading prizes dedicated to Arabic literature and culture, the Award has brought recognition, reward and readership to outstanding work by authors, translators, publishers, and

organizations around the world since 2006.

Qutbuddin also serves on the editorial board of NYU Abu Dhabi's Library of Arabic Literature. She obtained her PhD and MA from Harvard University, USA, Tamhidi Magister and BA from Ain Shams University, Cairo, and high school diploma from Sophia College, Mumbai.

Her research focuses on intersections of the literary, the religious, and the political in classical Arabic poetry and prose. Her other publications include, 'Light in the Heavens: Sayings of the Prophet Mu'ammad' released in 2016, and 'A Treasury of Virtues: Sayings, Sermons, and Teachings of 'Ali' released in 2013.

She has received fellowship support from the Franke Institute of Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation.

READ MORE INDIAN ABROAD
STORIES ON PAGE 42

White House defends Dr Fauci over lab leak emails

WASHINGTON (TIP): The White House has defended the president's top coronavirus adviser, Dr Anthony Fauci, amid scrutiny of his recently released work emails.

Dr Fauci has been the face of the nation's Covid-19 response, drawing both praise and criticism.

"I'm very confident in Dr Fauci," President Joe Biden said on Friday, June 4.

But emails have raised questions on whether he backed Chinese denials of the theory that Covid-19 leaked from a lab in Wuhan.

A trove of Dr Fauci's emails covering the onset of the coronavirus outbreak were released this week to media under a freedom of information request.

Why are people talking about Dr Fauci's emails?

In one email sent last April, an executive at a health charity thanked Dr Fauci for publicly stating that scientific evidence does not support the lab-leak theory.

In an interview with CNN, Dr Fauci said the email had been taken out of context by critics and he had an "open mind" about the origin of the virus.

In his defense, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Dr Fauci had been an "undeniable asset".

In a daily press briefing on Thursday, she said: "The president and the administration feel that Dr Fauci has played an incredible role in getting the pandemic under control, being a voice to the public throughout the course of this pandemic."

Mr Biden reiterated his support after delivering remarks on Friday, when a reporter asked if he still had confidence in the infectious disease chief.

There is no proof Covid-19 came from a

lab, but Mr Biden has ordered a review into the matter that angered China, which has rejected the theory.

Chinese authorities linked early Covid-19 cases to a seafood market in Wuhan, leading scientists to theorise the virus first passed to humans from animals.

But recent US media reports have suggested growing evidence the virus could instead have emerged from a lab in Wuhan, perhaps through an accidental leak.

What did Fauci tell CNN?

On Thursday, Dr Fauci maintained there was nothing untoward in an email exchange between himself and an executive from a medical non-profit organization that helped fund research at a diseases institute in Wuhan, the Chinese city where Covid-19 was first reported.

The NIH, which is a US public health agency, gave \$600,000 (£425,000) to the Wuhan Institute of Virology from 2014-19 via a grant to the New York-based non-profit group EcoHealth Alliance, for the purpose of researching bat coronaviruses.

Peter Daszak, head of EcoHealth Alliance, emailed Dr Fauci in April 2020, praising him as "brave" for seeking to debunk the lab leak theory.

"Many thanks for your kind note," Dr Fauci replied.

Dr Fauci told CNN on Thursday, June 3, it was "nonsense" to infer from the email any cozy relationship between himself and the figures behind the Wuhan lab research.

"You can misconstrue it however you want," he said, "that email was from a person to me saying 'thank you' for whatever it is he thought I said, and I

said that I think the most likely origin is a jumping of species. I still do think it is, at the same time as I'm keeping an open mind that it might be a lab leak."

He added: "The idea I think is quite farfetched that the Chinese deliberately engineered something so that they could kill themselves as well as other people. I think that's a bit far out."

The face of America's fight against Covid-19

Allies of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) infectious disease specialist say Dr Fauci's messages show nothing more than a dedicated public servant navigating the early days of a once-in-a-century pandemic.

But conservative critics are suggesting Dr Fauci may have engaged in a cover-up, and even claim he perjured himself in testimony to Congress.

How has the lab leak theory gathered pace?

According to an investigation in Vanity Fair magazine published on Thursday, Department of State officials discussed the origins of coronavirus at a meeting on 9 December 2020.

They were told not to explore claims about gain-of-function experiments at the Wuhan lab to avoid attracting unwelcome attention to US government funding of such research, reports Vanity Fair.

Gain-of-function studies involve altering pathogens to make them more transmissible in order to learn more about how they might mutate.

The Wall Street Journal reported last month that three employees at the Wuhan Institute of Virology fell ill and were admitted to hospital in November 2019, just before the first reported Covid-19 cases.



Dr. Anthony Fauci - File photo

Days later, President Biden instructed US spy agencies to conduct a 90-day review into whether the virus could have emerged from a Chinese lab.

His administration had previously deferred to the World Health Organization for answers on how the pandemic began.

Why the lab-leak theory is being taken seriously

"I would like to see the medical records of the three people who are reported to have got sick in 2019," Dr Fauci told the Financial Times on Thursday. "Did they really get sick, and if so, what did they get sick with?"

He called on China to also release the medical records of six miners who fell ill after entering a bat cave in 2012 in China's Yunnan province.

Three miners died, and Chinese researchers later visited the cave to take samples from the bats.

"It is entirely conceivable that the origins of Sars-Cov-2 was in that cave and either started spreading naturally or went through the lab," he said.

Dr Robert Redfield, who led the Centers for Disease Control and

BARRETT, GORSUCH, KAVANAUGH SIDE WITH LIBERAL SUPREME COURT JUSTICES IN COMPUTER FRAUD CASE

WASHINGTON (TIP): Trump-appointed Supreme Court Justices Brett Kavanaugh, Amy Coney Barrett and Neil Gorsuch sided with liberal Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan Thursday, June 3, to endorse a narrow approach on how to apply a 1986 law against computer hacking.

The justices overturned the conviction of a police officer, Nathan Van Buren, who was paid to run a license plate search in violation of the police department's policy and, according to the federal government, the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act.

But Barrett, writing for the majority, said the officer technically did not access information he wasn't entitled to. Instead, he simply misused his access to information he was authorized to see. Therefore, the court said, the officer did not violate federal law.



Supreme Court Justices. (Seated from left): Associate Justice Samuel Alito, Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, Chief Justice John Roberts, Associate Justice Stephen Breyer and Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor, (Standing from left): Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh, Associate Justice Elena Kagan, Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch and Associate Justice Amy Coney Barrett. - File photo

"This provision covers those who obtain information from particular areas in the computer - such as files, folders or databases - to which their computer access does not extend," Barrett wrote in the majority opinion. "It does not cover those who, like Van Buren, have improper motives for

obtaining information that is otherwise available to them."

The vote breakdown pitted the three Trump-appointed justices and the court's three liberals against the three more senior Republican-appointed justices: Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito.

FACEBOOK SUSPENDS TRUMP FOR 2 YEARS IN RESPONSE TO OVERSIGHT BOARD RULING

The change is part of a series of responses to the Facebook Oversight Board's ruling on former president Trump

WASHINGTON

(TIP): Facebook said Friday, June 4, that it plans to suspend Trump for two years following his comments in the wake of the Capitol insurrection on January 6th and will only reinstate him" if the risk to public safety has receded. "

Facebook plans to announce that it will no longer automatically give politicians a pass when they break the company's hate speech rules, a major reversal after years of criticism that it was too deferential to powerful figures during the Trump presidency.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Education important pillar of India-US ties: Ambassador Sandhu

WASHINGTON (TIP): Education is an important pillar of India-US partnership, India's top diplomat in the United States said after a virtual meeting with the Chancellor of the University of California, Davis.

Good discussion this afternoon with Chancellor Gary May and his team on the big potential for knowledge and research partnership in agriculture, health, digital and climate change, said Taranjit Singh Sandhu, India's Ambassador to the US.

"Education is an important pillar of India-United States partnership," Sandhu said in a tweet after the meeting

with Chancellor May.

Chancellor May is known as a highly engaged educational leader with a passion for helping others succeed.

In 2015, the then President Barack Obama honored him with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mentoring students in science, technology, engineering and maths.

In 2021, he received the prestigious Lifetime Mentor Award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science for demonstrating extraordinary leadership to increase the participation of underrepresented groups in the fields of

science and engineering.

The university is located in the heart of the region which has historical ties with the US Sikh community, which includes many immigrants from Punjab.

Today, half of the Sikh population in the US resides in California.

To preserve the stories and history of the immigrants from Punjab and share their contributions to the state of California, the university has created an archive of videos, photos and other documents.

The ambassador's interaction with Chancellor May is part of his continuing outreach to US universities.



Indian Ambassador to the United States Taranjit Singh Sandhu - File photo

(Source: PTI)

TRUMP SHUTS DOWN HIS BLOG AFTER A MONTH BECAUSE SO MANY PEOPLE WERE MAKING FUN OF IT



Donald Trump has shut down his blog 'From the Desk of Donald J. Trump'

WASHINGTON (TIP): Back in March, after Donald Trump was banned from Facebook and Twitter for inciting an insurrection, his spokesperson Jason Miller appeared on Fox News and declared the following: "We're going to see President Trump returning to social media in probably about two or three months here with his own platform...this is something that I think will be the hottest ticket in social media, it's going to completely redefine the game, and everybody is going to be waiting and watching to see what exactly President Trump does. But it will be his own platform.... I can't go much further than what I was able to just share, but I can say that it will be big once he starts. There have been a lot of high-power meetings he's been having at Mar-a-Lago with some teams of folks who have been coming in, and...it's not just one company that's approached the president, there have been numerous companies. But I think the president does know what direction he wants to head here, and this new platform is going to be big and everyone wants him, he's gonna bring millions and millions, tens of millions of people to this new platform."

With a big pitch like that, you might have expected the ex-president to unveil a social network that at least appeared to be more robust than a simple blog on his website but in fact, that's exactly what Trump's "return to social media" "with his own platform" entailed. It was called

"From the Desk of Donald J. Trump," and the reason we're speaking of it in the past tense is because just a month after launching, the ex-president's blog, where followers could find typically unhinged statements on his burgeoning legal problems, has been shut down. And not just shut down but scrubbed of old posts, depriving supporters of an archive to scroll through during particularly tough times, when they want to be reminded that "almost 75 million" people voted for him (yet he still lost the election).

Why the sudden departure? While it's a difficult time for many a media company, according to The Washington Post, Trump closed up shop because so many people were, appropriately, making fun of it. Also, it had almost no readers:

Trump rolled out the blog last month after being absent from social media since January, but his effort to regain some of the attention he received with his headline-grabbing tweets largely failed. An adviser told The Washington Post's Josh Dawsey that the former president wanted to open a new "platform" and didn't like that this platform was being mocked and had so few readers. The individual spoke on the condition of anonymity to talk frankly about Trump's plans.

According to Washington Post analysis published last month, posts "From the Desk of Donald J. Trump," as of mid-May, had been shared to Facebook "on average fewer than 2,000 times a day-a staggering drop from last year, when his Facebook page fielded tens of millions of comments, shares and other interactions every week." In other words, his blog was a "stone-cold loser," which you might have thought would translate to hate-clicks but apparently didn't even do that.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Steven Olikara announces his US Senate Exploratory Committee for 2022

WISCONSIN (TIP):

Steven Olikara, the son of Indian immigrants living in Wisconsin, has just announced his US Senate Exploratory Committee for 2022 Wisconsin Senate election.

If he gets elected, Olikara, a Brookfield, Wisconsin native, entrepreneur and nonprofit leader, will be the only person of Indian origin in the US Senate.

"While the politicians have the food fight at the top, the people at the bottom are stuck," Olikara said in a press release. "That's why I'm calling on all Wisconsinites to join us in a movement to elevate a more inclusive, compassionate and honest form of politics."

Olikara is traveling across Wisconsin for a "Dignity Tour" that convenes Wisconsinites from all walks of life: groups of farmers, small business owners, factory workers, veterans, Indigenous communities, and people with disabilities.

The tour will guide an agenda for a more inclusive and compassionate form of politics that rejects the current system that pits people against each other, the release said.

"Olikara has devoted his life and career to bringing together people from opposite sides of the political divide," it said.

A graduate of Brookfield East High School and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Olikara launched the Millennial Action Project in 2013.

The multi-million-dollar national nonprofit trains elected officials to build coalitions that pass innovative laws to promote greater economic mobility, a cleaner environment and a healthier democracy.

For two years, Olikara hosted "Red & Blue Dialogues" across Wisconsin with political leaders and constituents from across the ideological spectrum, conversations that focused on issues including the future of work, higher education, and the environment.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel named it one of "10 big ideas to help fix Wisconsin's problems."

"We have to model the leadership we want to see," Olikara said. "Our democracy needs us. If we have the courage to stand up, organize and wake up from this dark moment in our politics, we will change the future of our state and our country."



If he gets elected, Olikara, a Brookfield, Wisconsin native, entrepreneur and nonprofit leader, will be the only person of Indian origin in the US Senate

NEPAL REPORTS FIRST DEATH FROM BLACK FUNGUS, 10 OTHERS INFECTED

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal has reported its first death from black fungus, while 10 others have been detected to be suffering from the deadly infection in various districts across the country, according to a media report on June 3.

A 65-year-old man died of black fungus, which is also known as mucormycosis, in Seti Zonal hospital in Kailali district, The Himalayan Times reported.

He was admitted to the hospital on May 31 and was diagnosed with black fungus on Wednesday. He died on Thursday.

However, his Covid-19 report was negative, Dilip Kumar Shrestha, Information Officer of the hospital, said.

The Ministry of Health and Population on Thursday confirmed 10 cases of black fungus from Nepalgunj, Birgunj and Kathmandu districts, the report said.

Out of the cases infected with black fungus, eight have contacted the authorities, while the rest are yet to approach, Dr Krishna Prasad Poudel, spokesperson in the ministry, was quoted as saying in the report.

Mucormycosis is a very rare but serious infection, the most likely cause of which is mucor mould (mucormycetes) that lives throughout the environment. The infection mainly affects people with low immunity due to some pre-existing health condition such as diabetes or cancer.

Meanwhile, the country extended the lockdown in the Kathmandu Valley till June 14 due to the spike in Covid-19 cases.

Nepal recorded 5,316 new cases and 101 deaths related to Covid-19 on Wednesday.

Nepal's number of Covid-19 infections has reached 571,111, while the number of deaths stand at 7,386. — PTI

DON'T SUPPORT OLI'S UNCONSTITUTIONAL ACTS: NEPAL OPPN TO STATE BODIES

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal's Opposition alliance on Sunday urged all state institutions not to support Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli government's "unconstitutional" and "anti-democratic" activities and expressed hope that the Supreme Court's verdict on the petitions against the dissolution of the lower house of Parliament would come in its favour, according to a media report. A Constitutional Bench of the Nepal Supreme Court on Friday heard 30 petitions against the dissolution of the lower house of Parliament and fixed Sunday as the next date of hearing. PTI

Pakistan govt to convert Havelis of Raj Kapoor and Dilip Kumar into museums

PESHAWAR (TIP): The ancestral homes in Peshawar of Bollywood legends Dilip Kumar and Raj Kapoor are now owned by the Pakistan's local government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, and will be converted into museums.

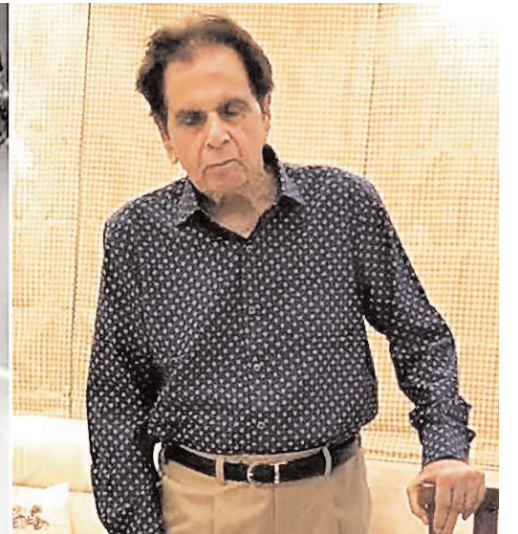
According to Pakistani media, ownership of both properties has been transferred to the director of KP's archaeology and museum department, the Peshawar deputy commissioner announced.

Raj Kapoor's home was constructed by Deewan Basheswarnath, the actor's grandfather, between 1918-1922. He was a police officer in British India. Though from today's Faisalabad in Pakistan, he remained posted in Peshawar for quite some time.

Prithviraj Kapoor, Basheswarnath's son, was one of Hindi cinema's first big stars. After making a name for himself in local plays, he moved on to Mumbai in the late 1920s for greener pastures.

Raj Kapoor was born on 14 December 1924 in the same house. Shakeel Waheedullah, head of the Cultural Heritage Council of Peshawar, said the family of the legendary actor returned to the house a few times before partition to sell it.

Dilip Kumar was born Muhammed Yusuf Khan in 1911. His house was built by his father, who was a fruit merchant. Waheedullah said that financial losses forced his father to migrate to Mumbai, where the family looked to accomplish more. Kumar's father sold his house in Peshawar in 1930 for a sum of Rs. 5,000.



Since then, it has been sold various times and is currently being used as a warehouse.

Last year, the veteran actor had expressed his gratitude in a tweet to a Pakistani journalist, asking his fans in Pakistan to send him pictures of his ancestral home.

His tweet said: "Thank you for sharing this. Requesting all in #Peshawar to share photos of my ancestral house." The KP Archaeology and Museums Director Abdul Samad said that the government would start restoration and rehabilitation of both badly damaged properties, before turning them into museums. He added that the directorate would also contact members of both families regarding the restoration work.

"In the past, only announcements were made, but no practical steps were taken but the current government took

possession of the houses after completing all legal procedures," Samad told the News. He added that the next step is to restore the two houses to their original condition and convert them into museums for which funds are available.

According to the government, Dilip Kumar's house was valued at Rs8.56 million in Pakistani currency while Raj Kapoor's home was valued at Rs10.5 million.

But Haji Lal Mohammad, the owner of Dilip Kumar's ancestral house, had refused to sell the house for Rs 8 million. He had demanded a minimum value of Rs 250 million for the property. Similarly, the owner of Raj Kapoor's ancestral mansion had also refused to sell the house for Rs 10 million fixed by the local administration. Ali Qadir had demanded Rs. 2 billion for the historic mansion. — IANS

Myanmar military court sentences two journalists to jail

BANGKOK (TIP): A military court in Myanmar has sentenced two journalists to two years in prison for their reporting, a move that has been decried by rights groups as the latest assault on the free press since the country's coup.

Aung Kyaw, 31, a reporter for the Democratic Voice of Burma, and Zaw Zaw, 38, a freelance reporter for the online news agency Mizzima, were convicted on June 3 by the court in Myeik, a city in southern Myanmar.

The two had been charged under a recently revised provision in the penal code with spreading misinformation that could incite unrest, a charge that critics say criminalises free speech.

The convictions are the latest moves against journalists since Myanmar's military overthrew the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in a February coup. According to Myanmar's Assistance Association for Political

Prisoners, about 90 journalists have been arrested since the takeover, with more than half still in detention, and 33 still in hiding. The coup sparked massive civilian protests against military rule that have been met with a brutal crackdown that has left hundreds dead.

The Democratic Voice of Burma and Mizzima are among five local media outlets that were banned in March from broadcasting or publishing after their licenses were cancelled. Like many other banned media outlets, both have continued operating.

A statement issued by the Democratic Voice of Burma said Aung Kyaw was arrested March 1 for reporting about anti-junta demonstrations in Myeik.

A statement from Mizzima said Zaw Zaw was detained about two months ago at his home while covering events for them in Myeik and Dawei, also in southern Myanmar.

The news agency said it "categorically opposes the two-year prison sentence handed to Zaw Zaw and calls for the immediate release of all journalists unjustly detained by the ruling junta, including Zaw Zaw and another four detained Mizzima journalists".

"Mizzima firmly believes that journalism and the right to freedom of expression is not a crime and that Mizzima and all independent Myanmar media outlets should be allowed to freely function in Myanmar," the statement said. Family members of both reporters were not allowed to attend their hearing at the military court, but were allowed to talk to them by phone for a few minutes after being sentenced. During their call, Aung Kyaw told his wife to tell the media that he would not appeal because he no longer believed in the law under military rule. AP

NEW YORK CITY ELECTIONS 2021

- WHO'S WINNING THE NEW YORK MAYOR'S RACE? EVEN POLLSTERS ARE CONFUSED.
- THE CITY'S NEW SYSTEM OF RANKED-CHOICE VOTING, ALONG WITH A CROWDED FIELD OF DEMOCRATS, HAS COMPLICATED EFFORTS TO DO COMPREHENSIVE VOTER SURVEYS.
- NONE OF THE THREE MAJOR PUBLIC POLLSTERS IN THE NEW YORK AREA HAVE DONE COMPREHENSIVE SURVEYS IN THE NEW YORK CITY MAYOR'S RACE.

NEW YORK (TIP): A New York Times report says much of the focus of the New York City mayoral race has centered on one or two perceived front-runners: Andrew Yang, the 2020 presidential candidate, and Eric Adams, the Brooklyn borough president.

But that perception is almost entirely based on what has been an unusually quiet polling season. None of the three major public pollsters in the New York City region have done comprehensive surveys in the mayor's race.

And of those big three pollsters - Quinnipiac University Poll, Marist College Institute for Public Opinion and Siena College Research Institute - two have no intention of conducting any such polls before the June 22 Democratic primary. At this point in 2013, the three pollsters had together put out more than a dozen independent horse-race polls on the Democratic primary.

This year, New York voters will have to continue to rely on polls from outfits with less of a New York track record, or on surveys released by parties with possibly ulterior motives, including mayoral campaigns and special interest groups.

The dearth of independent polls has a lot to do with what is arguably the biggest unknown in the race for mayor (aside from who the ultimate victor will be): how exactly the city's new system of ranked-choice voting will affect voter behavior.

For the first time in a mayoral primary, city voters will be able to rank up to five candidates in order of preference. When the Board of Elections begins tabulating the results, if no candidate receives more than 50 percent of first-choice votes, all votes for the lowest-performing candidate will be eliminated, and those voters' second-choice picks will be counted instead. The cycle continues until one winner remains.

It is unclear how well-acquainted voters are with the new system, or how they will behave once they get into the voting booth. Will they in fact rank up to five candidates, or just vote for the one they prefer? Will they even be familiar enough with the candidates to rank five of them?

"The reason we haven't seen a lot of quality polling is the ranked-order voting," said Lee Miringoff, the director of the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "There isn't a whole lot of track record as to the behavior voters are likely to pursue once they get into the voting booth."



The front runners: Eric Adams, Andrew Yang, Kathryn Garcia

Don Levy, director of the Siena College Research Institute, and Doug Schwartz, the associate vice president of the Quinnipiac University Poll, offered similar views on the challenges posed by ranked-choice voting.

"We worried about how hard it would be to be accurate," Mr. Levy said.

They voiced other concerns, too. Primaries are typically low-turnout affairs, which makes it hard for pollsters to find "likely voters" to survey. Voters are only just beginning to pay attention to the race. And many are presumably unaware that the primary will be in June, instead of September, as it has been in the past.

"If you just think of the arithmetic of doing polling, if it's harder to find people who are 'likely,' you're going to do lots and lots of phone calls," Mr. Levy said. "It's going to be more expensive. It takes more time. Instead of being able to do it in three polling days, it takes six or seven."

The ballot also has 13 Democratic candidates for mayor, and it is hard for pollsters to go through the whole list and then gather voters' second, third, fourth and fifth choices without the participant hanging up the phone.

All of those considerations make polling the race in a comprehensive way "friggin' expensive," said Neil Newhouse, partner and co-founder of Public Opinion Strategies, a Republican polling firm out of Virginia that surveyed the mayor's race - including all of the ranked-choice voting tabulations - for Manhattan Institute, a conservative think tank in New York.

In the poll, Mr. Yang received the most votes in the first round, but in the end, Mr. Adams triumphed.

"It's not predictive," Mr. Newhouse said. "It is the classic snapshot in time."

Six weeks before the 2013 primary election, the polls suggested that Bill de

Blasio, then the city's public advocate, was still trailing City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, who was long presumed to be the front-runner, and running neck-and-neck with William C. Thompson, the former New York City comptroller.

But then the polls began to indicate something surprising: a Mr. de Blasio surge. In the final stretch, the polls showed Mr. de Blasio gaining on Ms. Quinn, outflanking Mr. Thompson and ultimately winning the race.

"Christine Quinn was going to win, then Anthony Weiner was a player, Thompson was a safe choice and then bang - all of a sudden there's de Blasio," Mr. Levy said.

The mayor's race of 2021 is lacking much of that dramatic flair, and the absence of much independent public polling is not the only reason.

The pandemic has kept voters and candidates on video forums for much of the campaign. It has limited opportunities for the candidates and their issues to enter everyday discussion. But the lack of trusted public polling has left close observers without the sort of information they are accustomed to.

"I'm a fairly sophisticated observer and I don't know what the hell is going on with any degree of confidence," said Doug Muzzio, a professor of public affairs at Baruch College.

Independent polling can serve an important purpose, by informing the public and journalists of the relative strength of the candidates, and the influence that events have on their standing.

They can also serve a practical purpose for campaigns. Though campaigns have their own internal polling, more credible-seeming public polling can be useful in convincing reluctant donors that a candidate is in fact viable. It can also draw favorable

media attention and boost campaign-worker morale.

Siena did do one poll in conjunction with AARP that asked respondents who were 50 and older three questions pitting the Democratic candidates against each other. Marist is slated to do a poll to determine who can participate in the June 16 debate, yet it remains unclear if there will be horse-race questions, or just issue-based questions, said Mr. Miringoff, the director.

"It's going to be very difficult, if we do it," Mr. Miringoff added.

In the absence of much polling, New Yorkers have been left to cite polls from campaigns, special interest groups, and up-and-coming polling houses, whose polling methods make some traditionalists skittish.

Emerson College Polling, out of Boston, has done three polls in the race for mayor; the latest, which was released on Tuesday, suggested that Kathryn Garcia was in the lead.

Mr. Levy, of the Siena poll, said that Emerson has a "growing track record" and was "worth taking seriously." But he also raised concerns about Emerson's reliance on online panels of registered voters and its use of text messaging.

"The plus side of texting is people look at their texts," Mr. Levy said. "But are you going to hit a link in a text that you're not familiar with?"

Spencer Kimball, the director of Emerson College Polling, defended the approach, suggesting that it was "the future of polling."

According to Mr. Kimball, more than 90 percent of American adults have a cellphone, while only half the population has a landline. To rule out modern communication methods is to cancel out a significant, and growing, part of the voting population, he said.

"These folks that are using the live operators, that's great," Mr. Kimball said. "That's \$35,000 a survey and it's not perfect."

Not every member of the political class is mourning the absence of robust public polling in the election.

Mr. Levy said he and "every pollster" he knows is frustrated by the media's comparative attention to horse-race polling, and the relative inattention to polls they do the rest of the year, which focus on how participants feel about different issues.

"I like pre-election polling that at least touches on what issues are most salient to voters at the same time," he said. (Source: New York Times)

Govt sets up expert panel to fix national minimum wage

NEW DELHI (TIP): The government has constituted an expert group led by Prof Ajit Mishra, that will give recommendations on fixation of minimum wages and national floor minimum wage.

"The Ministry of Labour & Employment issued an order and has constituted the Expert Group to provide technical inputs and recommendations on fixation of Minimum Wages and National Floor Minimum Wages," a labour ministry statement said.

Minimum wage is different for different categories of workers.

National floor refers to the minimum level of wage that is applicable to all categories of workers across the country.

The group has been constituted for a period of three years from the date of notification.

To arrive at the wage rates, the group will look into the international best practices on the wages and evolve a scientific criteria and methodology for fixation of wages.

The expert group is chaired by Prof Ajit Mishra, Director, Institute of Economic Growth.

The members of the expert group include Prof Tarika Chakraborty, IIM Calcutta, Anushree Sinha, Senior Fellow, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), Vibha Bhalla, Joint Secretary, H Srinivas, Director General, V V Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNI).

DPS Negi, Senior Labour & Employment Advisor, Ministry of Labour & Employment is the Member Secretary.

Source: PTI

Govt investigators sent to get Choksi return from Dominica

NEW DELHI (TIP): A team of government investigators sent to Dominica in a private jet last week to bring back fugitive diamondaire Mehul Choksi returned to India on Friday, June 4, after it became clear that legal proceedings in the island's courts may last several weeks.

Publicly available flight data showed that the jet took off from Douglas-Charles airport in Dominica at 8.09pm local time on Thursday and was heading towards India via Madrid at the time of filing of this report. It is likely to land in New Delhi at 11pm on Friday. The investigators are on the flight, said people familiar with the developments.

"We have a strong deportation case against Mehul Choksi in Dominica but the whole legal process will take time," said an officer on condition of anonymity.

The team -- comprising two Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officers and representatives from the ministry of external affairs -- was rushed along with a cache of documents on evidence against Choksi in a hired Bombardier Global 5000 jet of Qatar Executive last Friday.

The officers were sent after Choksi, who fled India in 2018, was detained in Dominica on charges of illegally entering the island and Antigua Prime Minister Gaston Browne said the businessman should be deported directly to India.

For about seven days, the jet was parked at the airport to bring back Choksi, who is wanted in a Rs 13,500 crore bank fraud case. But the India-born businessman is currently involved in two separate legal proceedings in Dominica, pending which he cannot be repatriated, say experts.

A magistrate's court in the Dominican capital Roseau is hearing the government's charge that Choksi entered the country illegally. It will be heard next on June 14.

Last week, Choksi's lawyers moved the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, alleging



Fugitive businessman Mehul Choksi is seen arriving at a Dominican court on Wednesday in this file photo. (Antigua Newsroom)

that he was abducted and asking him to be sent back to Antigua. That habeas corpus petition was adjourned on Thursday after judge Bernie Stephenson said she will decide the next date of hearing after meeting both sides.

The Indian government felt the team was not required anymore and that foreign ministry officials based in the Caribbean can coordinate the legal formalities with Dominican authorities and the courts, said the people quoted above.

The team, they said, already briefed Dominican authorities about the charges and evidence against Choksi, which will be argued by local government prosecutors on India's behalf whenever the deportation case is taken up. India is not a party yet in either of the court hearings.

Choksi approached the high court in Dominica seeking bail in "illegal entry" case. The HC has adjourned the matter to Tuesday.

Source: HT

PM Modi speaks to Milkha Singh, wishes him speedy recovery

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday spoke to former Indian sprinter Milkha Singh and inquired about his health, reported ANI.

Modi wished the legendary athlete a speedy recovery and hoped he will be back soon to bless and inspire the athletes who are participating in the Tokyo Olympics.

Singh who is Covid-19 positive was admitted to the ICU in Covid Hospital of the PGIMER here on Thursday due to dipping levels of oxygen.

He has been kept under observation and is stable now. He was discharged from a private hospital earlier this week.

Milkha Singh was on Sunday discharged from a private hospital where he was getting treatment for Covid-19 infection even as he continues to be on oxygen support.

The 91-year-old was discharged in stable condition on the request of his family.



Zyklus Cadila first Indian company gets permission for clinical trials of Covid-19 antibodies cocktail

NEW DELHI (TIP): The only Indian company Zyklus Cadila which claims to have developed neutralising monoclonal antibodies (mAbs)-based cocktail for the treatment of Covid-19 has been permitted to conduct clinical trials by the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), according to sources.

"SEC gives a recommendation for the Phase I and II clinical trials of Zyklus Cadila's biological therapy ZRC-3308, a cocktail of two SARS-CoV-2-neutralising monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) that can emerge as one of the main treatments for mild Covid-19," the sources said.

These antibodies are made by cloning unique white blood cells. Domestic pharmaceutical major Zyklus Cadila has sought the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) permission recently to undertake clinical trials.

Zyklus said that its biological therapy ZRC-3308, a cocktail of two SARS-CoV-2-neutralising monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) can emerge as one of the main treatments for mild Covid-19.

Currently, some of the hospitals are administering the cocktail of two fast-acting anti-bodies - Casirivimab and Imdevimab, the batch of the Roche Antibody Cocktail drug arrived in the country on May 24. The cost of a single antibody cocktail is Rs 59,750

Another antibody cocktail that has received



permission is Eli Lilly and Company, India announced that it has received permission for restricted emergency use of its antibody drugs, bamlanivimab 700mg and etesevimab 1400mg, in India for the treatment of patients with mild to moderate coronavirus disease 2019.

Source: ANI

Digital tax row: US suspends additional tariffs on India

NEW DELHI (TIP): The US has backtracked from imposing penalties on six countries, including India, for introducing the digital services tax (DST) which it felt targeted its social media giants.

The US has decided to opt for negotiations for the next six months with these countries to work out a satisfactory solution. Making the announcement, US Trade Representative (USTR) Katherine Tai said the plan for retaliatory tariffs on some goods from six countries would be suspended till November 29 to provide additional time to complete the ongoing multilateral negotiations on international taxation at the OECD and in the G20 process.

"The US is focused on finding a multilateral solution to a range of key issues related to international taxation. It remains committed to reaching a consensus through the OECD and G20 processes. Today's actions provide time for those negotiations to continue while maintaining the option of imposing tariffs if warranted in the future," said Tai in a statement. The USTR holds that the DST is discriminatory and burdens US commerce. In March, Tai was unmoved by the arguments from Commerce Minister Piyush Goel. A day after their meeting, the USTR had said it would impose higher import duties on 45 categories of Indian imports equal to the \$55 million that New Delhi presumably earned from imposing 2 per cent DST.

Source: TNS

RBI keeps policy rate unchanged for 6th time in a row; cuts growth forecast to 9.5%

MUMBAI(TIP): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept its key policy rates unchanged on Friday, June 4, for the sixth consecutive time and at record lows, as it continued with its “accommodative stance to revive and sustain growth on sustainable basis” amid the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic. “The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted to maintain status quo ie repo rate remains unchanged at 4%. MCC also decided to continue with accommodative stance as long as necessary to revive and sustain growth on durable basis and to mitigate impact of Covid on economy,” RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said in Mumbai after MPC’s three-day meeting.

“The MPC was of the view that at this juncture policy support from all sides is required to gain the momentum of growth that was evident in the second half of 2021 and to nurture the recovery after it has taken root,” Das said.

RBI also held the reverse repo rate, the borrowing rate, unchanged at 3.35 per cent, Das added. The central bank also lowered its estimate for economic growth to 9.5 per cent for the current fiscal from earlier projection of 10.5 per cent due to the impact of the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic. The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and bank rates were also kept unchanged at 4.25 per cent, he also said.

RBI has cut the repo rate, its key lending rate, by a total of 115 basis points (bps) since March 2020 to soften the blow from the coronavirus pandemic. MPC, which is the RBI’s rate-setting panel, began its three-day deliberations on the monetary policy on June 1.



RBI governor Shaktikanta Das

The central bank last revised its policy rate on May 22, 2020, in an off-policy cycle to perk up demand by cutting interest rate to a historic low.

The RBI’s annual report, released last month, said that “the conduct of monetary policy in 2021-22 would be guided by evolving macroeconomic conditions, with a bias to remain supportive of growth till it gains traction on a durable basis while ensuring that inflation remains within the target”.

The report added that the central bank would ensure that system-level liquidity remains comfortable during 2021-22 is alignment with the stance of monetary policy, and monetary transmission continues unimpeded

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Besides, unchanged repo rate and reverse repo rate, the MPC decided to keep the bank rates the same too at 4.25 per cent.
- The economic growth forecast was cut to 9.5 per cent for the current fiscal from the previous 10.5 per cent, announced Das. Das said 18.5 per cent real GDP growth is expected in the first quarter, 7.9 per cent in the second quarter, 7.2 per cent in the third quarter and 6.6 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2021-22.
- RBI’s MPC has projected the consumer price inflation (CPI) at 5.1 per cent during 2021-22. RBI governor Das announced 5.2 per cent CPI in the first quarter, 5.2 per cent in the second quarter, 4.7 per cent in the third quarter and 5.3 per cent in the fourth quarter.
- Das especially commended the resilience of the farm economy, however, the dent in urban demand and spread of infection in rural India poses risks to the normalisation of the economy, he said. A normal monsoon, resilience of agriculture and farm economy, adoption of Covid-compatible business models and gathering momentum of global recovery can help revive the domestic economy when the second wave of coronavirus disease abates, the governor said.

while maintaining financial stability.

The Indian economy rose by 1.6% in the January-March quarter from the previous year but witnessed a contraction of 7.3% for the entire fiscal year, its worst in more than 40 years.

SC gives CBSE 2 weeks for evaluation formula

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on Thursday, June 3, set a two-week deadline for the Centre to come up with a “well-defined objective criteria” for the assessment of Class 12 students of the Central Bureau of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the Council for Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) following the cancellation of their examinations due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Attorney general KK Venugopal, who appeared for the Centre, shared an official communication intimating the court about the cancellation.

A bench of justices AM Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari said they were happy over the “in principle” decision to cancel the examinations, but asked the government why no decision was taken on the criteria of assessment. “...what will be the objective criteria to assess students? It has not been spelt out in your letter,” the bench said.

Venugopal said that the decision was pending as the government needed to determine whether to include the performance from Class 10 onwards, or restrict the assessment to Class 12 alone. “There is another issue of which subjects to assess. All this may take at least three weeks.”

Senior advocate JK Das, appearing for CISCE, sought four weeks to come out with a scheme. “This time, unlike last year, we have asked for data from all principals with regard to all subjects,” Das said. Venugopal, however, agreed to a two-week deadline after the court said that in the age of videoconferencing, a decision could even be taken overnight.

The court told Das that students were concerned about college admissions not just in India but abroad as well. “Impress upon your clients that this is a matter of urgent basis,” it said.

The Centre on Tuesday cancelled the CBSE Class 12 examinations and ended uncertainty for roughly 1.4 million students who were to appear in them.

The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi amid appeals by students and parents, who feared the exams could be a superspreader event particularly because those under the age of 18 are not eligible for vaccination yet. Hours later, CISCE also scrapped its Class 12 exams or ISE exams. The CBSE and ICSE Class 10 board exams were cancelled in April.

The Supreme Court on Thursday adjourned the matter to June 17, and said that it was mindful of the interest of students in schools affiliated to state boards, and will address their concerns after the objective assessment for CBSE and CISCE was settled. *Source: HT*

Boost for Navy as MoD clears Rs 43,000 crore project to build six submarines

NEW DELHI (TIP): Giving a fillip to the Navy, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) Friday, June 4, cleared a mega project to domestically build six conventional submarines equipped with state-of-the-art technology at a cost of around Rs 43,000 crore.

The submarines will be built under the much-talked-about strategic partnership model that allows domestic defence manufacturers to join hands with leading foreign defence majors to produce high-end military platforms to reduce import dependence.

The Ministry also approved proposals relating to the acquisition of various equipment for modernisation and operational needs of the armed forces amounting to Rs 6,000 crore.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The DAC is the Defence Ministry’s highest decision-making body on procurement.

“This is a landmark approval, being the first case processed under the Strategic Partnership model. This would be one of the largest ‘Make in India’ projects and will serve to facilitate faster and more significant absorption of technology and create a tiered industrial ecosystem for submarine construction in India,” the MoD said in a statement.

The government also said that from a strategic perspective, the decision will help reduce current dependence on imports and gradually ensure greater self-reliance.

According to PTI, the project will be implemented in a period of around 12 years and the final cost may go up depending on the weapons systems to be incorporated into the



stealth submarines.

The DAC also approved the issuance of the Request for Proposal (RFP) or tender to shipbuilder Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and state-owned Mazagaon Docks Ltd (MDL), the agency reported citing sources.

The council also extended the timelines for procuring urgent capital acquisitions under the delegated powers to the armed forces up to August 31, 2021. “This will enable the Armed Forces to complete their emergent and critical acquisitions,” the release said.

The Indian Navy plans to acquire 24 new submarines, including six nuclear attack submarines, to bolster its underwater fighting capability. It currently has 15 conventional submarines and two nuclear submarines.

India's daily Covid cases, deaths fall to 132,364 and 2713; tally tops 28.5 mn

NEW DELHI (TIP): India recorded 132,364 cases of the coronavirus disease in the last 24 hours, taking the nationwide infection tally to 28,574,350, according to the data from the Union ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW), updated at 8am on Friday, June 4. Also, in the same period, 2713 people succumbed to Covid-19, taking the related death toll to 340,702, the data showed.

This is for the first time after two days that India saw a marginal fall in its daily new cases of the viral disease. Since logging 127,510 fresh infections in the 24-hour period leading to June 1 -- the lowest single-day rise in more than two months -- the country reported 132,788 and 134,154 cases, respectively, in the next two days.

The number of tests conducted on June 3 stood at 2,075,428, the government-run Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) tweeted on Friday morning. While this is a decline from 2,159,873 tests on June, total 357,433,846 tests have been conducted till now, ICMR's figures showed.

The decline in daily cases has coincided with containing measures taken by governments at the state and



the Union Territory (UT) level. While this decline has prompted several state governments, like Delhi and Maharashtra, to announce measures to "unlock" or exit from lockdown or lockdown-like curbs, others have

announced an extension in restrictions to further break the chain of transmission of the virus.

However, as daily cases are still well above the 100,000-mark, the central government, on June 1, announced the

cancellation of class 12th board exams of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Within hours, the Council of Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (CISCE) announced the cancellation of its class 12th exams as well. Class 10th exams were scrapped in April when the second wave was at its peak.

SII applies to manufacture Covid vaccine Sputnik V

The Serum Institute of India (SII) has applied to the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) seeking permission to manufacture COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik V in the country, sources said on Thursday.

The Pune-based firm has also sought approval for test analysis and examination. Russia's Sputnik V vaccine is currently being manufactured in India by Dr Reddy's Laboratories.

"The Serum Institute of India (SII) put up an application to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on Wednesday seeking permission to manufacture the COVID-19 vaccine, Sputnik V, in India," a source said.

Lioness in Tamil Nadu zoo dies of coronavirus, 9 others infected

CHENNAI (TIP): For the first time in Tamil Nadu, a lion has died of coronavirus while nine others in the pride have tested positive for the infection at a zoo near here, an official said on Friday, June 4.

"It is for the first time that the big cats have tested positive for the virus in Tamil Nadu," the official told PTI.

The nine-year-old 'Neela', a lioness, which was in the safari area, succumbed to the virus on Thursday while nine of the 11 in the park tested positive for Covid-19, said officials of the Arignar Anna Zoological Park at Vandalur.

The park, spread across 602 hectares at Vandalur about 35 kms from the city, had remained shut with the Covid-19 enforced lockdown.

One of the major attractions in the city surrounded by dense flora and fauna, the park is home to several species of wildlife including star-tortoise, reticulated python, estuarine crocodile, Indian cobra, sambar, common otter, lion-tailed macaque, Asiatic lions and elephants, and chimpanzees.

The incidence of the lions getting infected came to light on May 26 when five lions, housed in safari park area, showed loss of appetite and occasional coughing, an official release from the park said.

Immediately, the in-house veterinary team swung into action to investigate and treat the animals.

On our request, a team of experts was also deputed by Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS) to join the veterinarians of Arignar Anna Zoological Park (AAZP) in investigating and deciding further course of treatment, the release said. Blood samples of the animals were collected and sent to TANUVAS and nasal swab, rectal swab and faecal samples of 11 lions were sent to National Institute of High Security Diseases (NIHSAD) Bhopal, one of the four institutes authorised to take up SARS CoV-2 testing in captive animals. Source: PTI

Govt books 300 million doses of new Indian jab

NEW DELHI (TIP): India made its first advance commitments for a coronavirus vaccine under development, announcing a Rs 1,500 crore deal with Hyderabad's Biological E to stockpile 300 million doses of its candidate that has shown promising signs but is currently in the last stage of clinical trials.

The commitment, announced by the Union health ministry on Thursday, June 3, represents the first time the government has placed an advance purchase order, which typically helps secure large volumes of doses, and has been a strategy used by countries that managed to procure doses early. "The arrangement with Biological-E is part of the wider endeavour of Government of India to encourage indigenous vaccine manufacturers by providing them support in research & development and also financial support," the ministry said in a statement.

The move comes a day after the Supreme Court pulled up the government for its vaccination policy and gave it two weeks to submit all files and notings that "reflect its thinking and the culmination" of its vaccination policy, which judges said appeared to be "arbitrary and irrational".

The criticism around the Covid-19 vaccination drive stems from an acute shortage of doses in the country, where under 19% of the 940 million eligible people have received at least one dose.

The order that the government disclosed on Thursday will help India get guaranteed access to large doses of the vaccines made by Biological E once the dose is approved. The amount committed will go towards development as well as stockpiling of the doses in advance, which will help push large quantities as soon as clearances are secured. The vaccine is likely to be marketed as Corbevax, according to names previously disclosed by the company.

The 300 million doses appeared to be the cumulative capacity that Biological E told the Centre it will be able to produce for the rest of 2021. Niti Aayog's VK Paul on



May 13 said the company's 300 million doses was among the 2.16 billion doses of various vaccines that the government was expecting to be available between August and December. It was not immediately clear when the 300 million doses will begin to become available since Phase III trials were only approved in late April, and the developers -- Biological E and its partner, Texas-based Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) -- are yet to release data from the Phase 1/2 studies.

Dr Peter Hotez, the dean of BCM's National School of Tropical Medicine and one of the scientists involved in the development, said in an interview to an Indian TV channel last month that clinical trials have shown there will be cross-protection against a number of variants of concern. The vaccine is made using a tried-and-tested platform that is also used in the development of the Hepatitis B vaccine, which Biological E has past experience of making.

In an interview to HT in January, BCM's Maria Elena Bottazzi said that the vaccine could particularly help inoculate children. "A hepatitis vaccine platform will also help be reassuring for paediatrics use since mRNA and viral vectors have never been used in children," she said. Source: HT

ERIC ADAMS UNVEILS 'WeRISE' AGENDA TO RAISE IMMIGRANT SAFETY AND EMPOWERMENT

NEW YORK (TIP): Front running mayoral candidate Eric Adams, on June 3, unveiled his "WeRISE" agenda to raise immigrant safety and empowerment, at a town hall for ethnic and community media. The Indian Panorama editor Prof. Indrajit S Saluja was one of the attendees.

Adams noted that New York City is "not only home to the United Nations; we are the home of people from every nation." A 2015-19 estimate from the U.S. Census Bureau showed that 36.8 percent of this city's residents - more than one out of every three - is foreign-born, living across the five boroughs.

"My Administration will lift up immigrants as high as Lady Liberty lifts her torch in our harbor, as a beacon of hope for all who come to our shores," said Eric Adams. "Too many of our neighbors live in the shadows, scarred by the abusive rhetoric and tactics of the Trump era and fearing a denial of their rights. The intimidating complexity of our City bureaucracy is compounded by the challenges that immigrants with limited English proficiency face in navigating everything from education to housing to healthcare. In addition to building on our existing efforts to increase civic engagement to new levels and foster the leadership of voices from every community, we will ensure that together WeRISE."

Adams announced that he would launch a \$50 million annual Immigrant Venture Fund for small businesses started by first- and second-generation New Yorkers, with a special weight toward businesses that support the immigrant community. According to a 2018 report from the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), 52 percent of the city's businesses are immigrant-owned. To pay for this Venture Fund, his administration would divert funds from the New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC)'s budget that are historically allocated for discretionary tax benefits and tax-exempt financing for major companies seeking City support.

Regarding immigrant safety, Adams declared that he would direct all city agencies to make their services accessible without putting immigrants at risk of law enforcement action, expand already existing legal services, and severely restrict cooperation between the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) - including ensuring that ICE is removed from all City buildings and facilities - until there is major federal reform, including the use of body cameras by all ICE agents. He also reaffirmed that he would combat hate crime with a zero-tolerance policy, including attacks targeting immigrant communities.

Noting that more than 150 different languages are spoken in the city, Adams said he would direct the NYPD to prioritize language justice for victims to

make it easier to safely report, as well as work in partnership with district attorneys to ensure that they have the resources they need to swiftly identify, apprehend, and prosecute those who prey on innocent New Yorkers through these cowardly acts. Additionally, his administration would take a more robust approach with the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes that includes rapid graffiti removal, support for expanded anti-hate curriculums in our public schools, and innovative cross-cultural dialogue initiatives like his "Breaking Bread, Building Bonds" program at Brooklyn Borough Hall that brings together everyday people each from all various ethnicities, identities, and faiths around a dinner and conversation.

Adams' "WeRISE" agenda also includes:

- Boosting funding for NYC Cares to expand outreach to immigrant communities and enroll them in the City's health plans for which they are already eligible;
- Creating one-stop-shop health centers in underserved communities, sited in NYCHA complexes and open storefronts that are accessible to any New Yorker - no matter their legal status in the U.S., as well as pairing safety-net hospitals with wealthier ones to share cost burdens;
- Prioritizing language justice, and funding it, with qualified City translators and stipend-based fellows expand language access for City services and resources.
- Enhancing the IDNYC program with extraordinary security to protect users, an improved MyCity platform that provides direct connection to social services through a single portal, and mandating access to this program for any person leaving Rikers Island and needing proof of identity.
- Using our leverage as a client to create a fairer economy for immigrants, rewarding businesses that hire local workers and benefit minority and female owners and workers - especially on City-financed projects.
- Hiring a Chief Diversity Officer to drive change on equity for minorities and women, and also create a tool to track the share of M/WBE contracts and how much the City is spending on those companies versus others in real-time.
- Bolstering City legal services battling discrimination in the workplace, such as cases of wage theft and unjust denial of Section 8 vouchers, as well as any other forms of harassment based on immigration status.
- Instituting a robust program for culturally aware professional development of educators.
- Opening a new Mayor's Office of

Community and Ethnic Media, to expand the resources they need to continue bringing vital information to New Yorkers.

"Eric is a proven champion for immigrants in our city," said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. "He knows that when they rise, we all rise. The focus that he will bring to empowering immigrants and keeping them safe, as shown in this plan, shows how committed he is to making the American Dream a citywide reality."

"New York City has always been a beacon of opportunity for immigrants to live, grow, and thrive," said Council Member Adrienne Adams. "We continue to welcome, with open arms, those who want to create better lives for themselves and their families. I am proud to endorse Eric Adams' immigrant empowerment plan, which will further help, protect, and support immigrants in New York City. We must continue to address the issues facing our immigrant communities to ensure that their voices are heard, and that they are safeguarded in all levels of government."

"Eric Adams' 'WeRISE' plan demonstrates that he totally gets that our greatest asset as New Yorkers is our diversity-but that diversity must be supported and nurtured in order for this City to grow," said Council Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo. "A lot of candidates are giving lip service to the value of our immigrant community, but few are backing it with a plan that is backed by experience except Eric Adams."

"As the first Haitian-American woman and first African-American woman to lead the largest Democratic County in our city, I am proud to support a mayoral candidate in Eric Adams who respects and values all our immigrant communities," said Assembly Member Rodneyse Bichotte-Hermelyn. "He sees us and he knows that combating inequality and injustice means lifting all of us up. From empowering our M/WBEs to battling hate crimes, I look forward to working with Eric in City Hall to support our immigrant neighbors."

"I thank Eric Adams for his strong support of immigrant entrepreneurship and defense of any New Yorker facing discrimination," said Council Member Peter Koo. "Eric is a true friend to immigrants, and his 'WeRISE' plan is the right plan to connect every New Yorker - no matter where they come from or what language they speak - to the City services and resources that will help them succeed."

"Eric Adams has been assisting individuals and families of immigrant New Yorkers for the past four decades, even in isolated neighborhoods many average New Yorkers didn't know existed," said Sheikh Musa Drammeh, head of the National Community Peacebuilding Commission. "His ability to build the largest and most diverse



Eric Adams spoke of his priorities to ethnic and community media on June 3 at a town hall. "I am a list guy. Look at the list of my work", he said. - File photo

networks of supporters is the result of the investment he has made in building relationships through public service. Every immigrant group thinks they know Eric Adams better than anyone else. Eric Adams is the only public servant that walks into any room anywhere in the city and knows half of them. He will be the most effective political leader to articulate and efficiently provide constituent services for the immigrant communities, because he knows them and their needs and they know him and his leadership."

"Mr. Adams is a long-standing friend of the Bangladeshi community," said Shamsul Haque, president of Rise Up New York. "He has visited dozens of Bangladeshi events, mosques, mingled with community leaders, and cultivated friendships. Seeing the recent spike in violent crimes, the Bangladeshi community feels the city is going back to the 1990's. Mr. Adams' campaign slogan, 'public safety is prerequisite to prosperity,' struck a chord with Bangladeshi New Yorkers. When public safety deteriorates, our families, friends, and neighbors will not be safe. People and businesses will leave the city, which will cause a decline in revenue."

"Every American should have the opportunity to pursue entrepreneurship," said Emil Skandul, immigrant rights advocate and entrepreneur. "The defining characteristic of the immigrant experience is the drive to build a better economic foundation for one's family in this country. For so many immigrants and first-generation Americans, entrepreneurship is their raison d'etre - a chance to control their future by working hard and smart. However, too often traditional networks of fundraising are the limiting factors for ventures. An Immigrant Venture Fund will establish a path toward achieving the American Dream."



‘Not a great film at all’ Salman Khan’s father on ‘Radhe’

Screenwriter and film producer Salim Khan has given negative reviews about his son, Salman Khan’s last movie ‘Radhe’. Salim Khan said that he doesn’t think ‘Radhe’ is a “great film at all” and feels ‘Bajrangi Bhaijaan’ was a ‘good and totally different’ movie.

Released on the occasion of Eid, ‘Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai’ has received poor reviews from critics and viewers after its premiere on ZEE5. Directed by Prabhu Deva, ‘Radhe’ has become Salman’s lowest rated on IMDb with a score of 1.8/10.

In an interaction with Dainik Bhaskar, when asked that viewers are feeling the repetition of Salman’s previous films in ‘Radhe’, Salim said in Hindi, “The film prior to this ‘Dabangg 3’ was different. ‘Bajrangi Bhaijaan’ was good and totally different. Radhe is not a great film at all, but commercial cinema has a responsibility that every person can get money. From artists to producers, distributors, exhibitors and every stakeholder should get the money. The one who buys the cinema must get the money. Due to this, the cycle of cinema making and business goes on. On this basis, Salman has performed. Stakeholders of this film are in advantage. Otherwise, Radhe is not that great a film.”

Manoj Bajpayee opts out of Indian remake of Hrithik Roshan starrer ‘The Night Manager’

Actor Manoj Bajpayee has opted out to play the villain in the Hrithik Roshan-led Indian remake of the British limited series, The Night Manager. He was about to play Richard Roper, played by Hugh Laurie in original – an arms dealer who disguises himself to be a business tycoon.

According to a daily, Manoj Bajpayee was in advanced talks with the makers for the series but due to the second wave of the pandemic, two of his productions got delayed. As a result, he realised that he won’t be able to match his dates with the rest of the starcast, and decided to bow out of the venture. The actor is currently shooting for a film in Uttarakhand and will pay attention to his pending projects after the shoot of the film.

While Hrithik Roshan has been roped in for playing Jonathan Pine in the show, the makers are in search of a new replacement for Manoj Bajpayee’s character.

The Night Manager is a British television serial directed by Susanne Bier and starring Tom Hiddleston, Hugh Laurie, Olivia Colman, David Harewood, Tom Hollander, and Elizabeth Debicki in pivotal roles. The series originally premiered on BBC One on February 21, 2016.



Case against Tiger Shroff and Disha Patani for flouting COVID-19 restrictions

Amid the growing concern in Maharashtra due to COVID-19, the state government imposed a lockdown-like curfew to curb the outspread of the deadly virus. The government further added that those found violating the rule-2 PM deadline for restrictions on the movement of people outside their houses without a valid reason, will have to face the consequences.

On Wednesday, June 2, Mumbai Police found Bollywood’s rumoured couple Tiger Shroff and Disha Patani floating the pandemic norms by roaming in the public place without a valid reason. The actors were spotted roaming near Bandra, Bandstand Promenade in the evening, hours after the 2 PM deadline. An FIR has been registered against them under section 188 of IPC for disobeying the order.

“A police team spotted Shroff roaming in the Bandstand area in the evening. When questioned, he couldn’t give a satisfactory reply to why he was roaming outside. Police took down his details and registered a case under section 188 (Disobeying the order of public servant) of the IPC,” the official said, adding it was a bailable offence and no arrest was made.

Reportedly, the duo was enjoying a drive after their gym session around Bandra. Disha was sitting in the front while Tiger at the back seat. The actors left after Mumbai police checked their Aadhaar Card and completed other formalities.



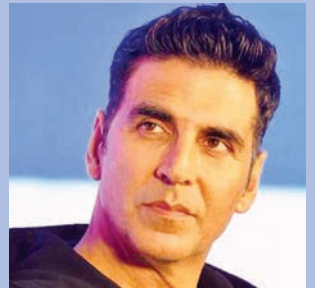
Akshay Kumar’s ‘Prithviraj’ threatened by Karni Sena, demands a change in title

Akshay Kumar’s ambitious project Prithviraj has

received a threat from the Karni Sena over its title. The YRF film is a biopic on emperor Prithviraj Chauhan and is directed by Chandraprakash Dwivedi. Filmmaker Surjeet Singh Rathore, president of the Youth Wing of the Karni Sena, has put up three conditions for the film. It even warned that if Akshay and Aditya Chopra do not accept their demand, they will face a situation similar to Sanjay Leela Bhansali during Padmaavat.

Sharing clippings of news articles on his Instagram page, Rathore wrote in Hindi that the organisation respects Akshay Kumar. He added that producer Aditya Chopra should respect the last ‘Hindu Samrat’ and use his name with the due respect. He warned that otherwise consequences would be the same as they were during Padmaavat’s release. And that YRF would be responsible for all the losses.

He put out his three conditions, which included, ‘screening of the film before its release’, ‘the film be shown to the Rajput society’, and the ‘title of the film to have the full name -- Veer Yoddha Samrat Prithviraj Chauhan’.





Matthew Perry Calls Off Engagement With Fiancee Molly Hurwitz

Just a week after the F.R.I.E.N.D.S Reunion, Matthew Perry began trending. The actor and his fiancée Molly Hurwitz have called off their engagement, People reports. "Sometimes things just don't work out and this is one of them," People quoted the 51-year-old actor as saying. Matthew Perry wished Molly Hurwitz, 29, the best in life and added, "I wish Molly the best." The couple began dating in 2018 and got engaged in November 2020. In an interview with the same news portal, confirming his engagement to Molly, Matthew Perry had said, "Luckily, I happened to be dating the greatest woman on the face of the planet at this time."

Matthew Perry was previously in a long term relationship with actress Lizzy Caplan - they parted ways in 2012. Matthew Perry frequently shared pictures of Molly on his Instagram profile when they were together.

Jodie Foster to receive honorary Palme d'or at Cannes Film Festival 2021

Veteran Hollywood actor and filmmaker Jodie Foster will receive the honorary Palme d'or at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival, the organisers announced Wednesday, June 2. Jodie will be a special guest of the opening ceremony on July 6 to collect her award, which recognises artistic career achievement and a commitment to major issues.

The 58-year-old actor said Cannes holds a special place in her career spanning over five decades. She first attended the film gala in 1976 as a teenager with Taxi Driver, which ultimately left with the Palme d'or, the highest prize awarded at the festival.

"Cannes is a festival to which I owe so much, it has completely changed my life. My first time on the Croisette was a defining moment for me. Showcasing one of my films here has always been a dream of mine," said Jodie in a statement.

A child prodigy, the actor is best known for her Academy Award winning turns in The Accused and The Silence of the Lambs, along with other notable titles like Sommersby, Panic Room and Flightplan.



Kate Winslet didn't let Mare of Easttown team edit her 'bulgy belly'

Our bodies aren't perfect; they change as we age and might not be flattering at every stage. It's a reality which the entertainment industry seldom addresses. They have the tools to edit those imperfections after all. One such offer was made to Kate Winslet by her Mare of Easttown director, Craig Zobel. However, the actress refused to let the team edit out her 'bulgy belly' from the sex scene in the new series.

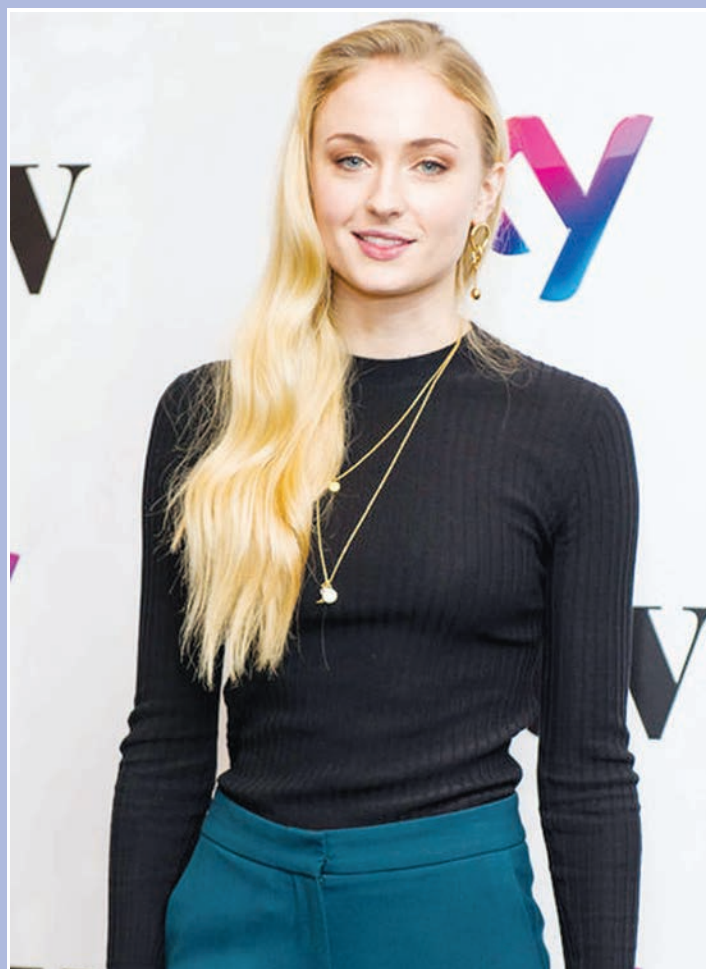
In Mare of Easttown, Kate Winslet plays a detective investigating a murder in a small town near Philadelphia. She is also a grandmother in the HBO Max series. In a recent interview, she revealed that a sex scene showed "bulgy bit of belly", which the director offered to remove. But her response to it was, "Don't you dare."

Kate also said that she sent back the poster of the crime drama twice as she felt it had been altered too much. The Oscar-winning actress told the New York Times, "I'm like 'Guys, I know how many lines I have by the side of my eye, please put them all back.' I said to my husband, 'Am I OK with that? Is it all right that I'm playing a middle-aged woman who is a grandmother who does really make a habit of having one-night stands?' He's like 'Kate, it's great.'"

The actress further added, "Listen, I hope that in playing Mare as a middle-aged woman - I will be 46 - in October I guess that's why people have connected with this character in the way that they have done because there are clearly no filters. She's a fully functioning, flawed woman with a body and a face that moves in a way that is synonymous with her age and her life and where she comes from. I think we're starved of that a bit."



Sophie Turner joins Colin Firth in HBO Max series The Staircase



Actress Sophie Turner has joined the upcoming HBO Max series The Staircase. She joins Colin Firth, Toni Collette, Parker Posey, Juliette Binoche, and Rosemarie DeWitt. Antonio Campos will also direct six episodes in the series.

According to Variety, "The eight-episode series is based on the docuseries of the same name as well as various books and reports about the case of Michael Peterson (Firth), who was accused of murdering his wife, Kathleen (Collette), in 2001. He claimed she died after falling down the stairs at their home, but police suspected he bludgeoned her to death and staged the scene to look like an accident. Turner will play Margaret Ratliff, one of Michael Peterson's adopted daughters."

The Staircase is written and executive produced by showrunners Antonio Campos and Maggie Cohn. It is a co-production between HBO Max and Annapurna Television.

TFF@20 LINEUP

BY MABEL PAIS

20TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL CELEBRATES RETURN OF LIVE EVENTS CULMINATING IN SPECIAL JUNETEENTH PROGRAMMING

"After a year of closed cinemas, canceled gatherings, and virtual everything, it is with joy and hope that we finally invite New Yorkers out of

The Tribeca Film Festival's 20th anniversary edition (TFF20) is a celebration of audiences reuniting with comedic, music-centered, and socially conscious films from diverse storytellers using art to illuminate and entertain. The Festival runs June 9-20, 2021, with live in-person events at outdoor venues across all New York City boroughs.

The features program includes 66 films from 81 filmmakers from across 23 countries. The line-up includes 56 world premieres, 1 international premiere, 4 North American premieres, 1 U.S. premiere, and 4 New York premieres. This year's program includes 15 directors returning to Tribeca with their latest projects, and over 60% of the feature films are directed by female, BIPOC, and LGBTQ+ filmmakers. This year's Festival received a record high of 11,222 total submissions across all categories.

Special curated Juneteenth programming highlighted throughout different verticals of the Festival will celebrate voices from the African Diaspora, with special emphasis on African-American artists, performers, filmmakers, and interdisciplinary creators.

The feature categories include 6 U.S. Narratives, 6 International Narratives, and 8 Documentary competition features. Additionally, the feature line-up includes 8 Spotlight Narratives, 11 Spotlight Documentaries, 13 Viewpoints, 3 Midnight, 7 Movies Plus selections, 3 Tribeca Critics' Week.

Many of the films will also be available for U.S. audiences to view online the day after they premiere in person through the Tribeca at Home virtual hub.

As previously stated, the 2021 Tribeca Festival Opening Night film will be "In the Heights," the screen adaptation of Lin-Manuel Miranda's Tony Award-winning musical, directed by Jon M. Chu.

For updates and more, Follow @Tribeca on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn and visit at tribecafilm.com/festival/#Tribeca2021

2021 FEATURE FILM Selection: U.S. NARRATIVE COMPETITION

Tribeca's U.S. Narrative Competition showcases extraordinary work from breakout independent voices and distinguished filmmaking talent. These world premieres will vie for the Founders Award for Best Narrative Feature, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Actor, and Best Actress.

The films vying for the competition are "Catch The Fair One," "God's Waiting Room," "Mark, Mary & Some Other People," "The Novice," "Poser," and "Queen Of Glory."

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

Over Tribeca's 20-year history, the non-fiction film selections have exhibited work from emerging and renowned filmmakers, including future Academy Award® winners. This year's films will compete for Best Documentary Feature, Best Cinematography, and Best Editing.

The films in the documentary competition are "All These Sons," "Ascension," "Blind Ambition," "Fathom," "The Kids," "Like a Rolling Stone: The Life & Times of Ben Fong-Torres," "On the Divide," and "The Scars of Ali Boulala."

INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE COMPETITION

The New-York based Festival breaks its geographical boundaries with the International Narrative Competition, welcoming filmmakers from abroad to join a global platform for contemporary world cinema. These films will compete for Best Narrative Feature, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Actor, and Best Actress.

The films in the international narrative competition category include "All My Friends Hate Me," "Do Not Hesitate," "Roaring 20's (Années 20)," "Souad," and "Wild Men (Vildmænd)."

SPOTLIGHT NARRATIVE

Anticipated premieres from acclaimed filmmakers and performers are the focus of the Spotlight Narrative section which continues to be a launching pad for the most buzzworthy new films. This year's Spotlight section will open with the world premiere of Pan Nalin's The Last Film Show.



India Sweets & Spices - Photo / TFF2021

In the spotlight narrative category, the films are "False Positive," "How It Ends," "India Sweets and Spices," "Italian Studies," "The Last Film Show," "No Man Of God," "Twelve Mighty Orphans," and "Werewolves Within."

SPOTLIGHT DOCUMENTARY

Documentaries consistently make waves at Tribeca as notable filmmakers and major stories are represented in this section through high-profile premieres.

In this category, the films are "A-ha the Movie," "Bernstein's Wall," "BITCHIN': The Sound and Fury of Rick James," (*Part of the Juneteenth programming), "A Choice of Weapons: Inspired by Gordon Parks" (*Part of the Juneteenth programming), "Lady Boss: The Jackie Collins Story," "LFG," "The Lost Leonardo," "The Price Of Freedom," "Roadrunner: A Film About Anthony Bourdain," "Stockholm Syndrome, and "Wolfgang."

VIEWPOINTS

Viewpoints, which includes narratives and documentaries, recognizes distinct voices in independent filmmaking by creating a home for bold directorial visions and embracing distinct characters or points of view.

Entering the viewpoints category are "7 Days," "Accepted," "as of yet" (*Part of the Juneteenth programming), "The Beta Test," "Building A Bridge," "The Conductor," "The Death Of My Two Fathers" (*Part of the Juneteenth programming), "The Justice Of Bunny King," "The Legend of the Underground" (*Part of the Juneteenth programming), "North By Current," "Perfume de Gardenias," "Sisters On Track," and "Wu hai."

their homes and back to the movies. Immersed in the city itself, Tribeca 2021 will bring once-in-a-lifetime big-screen experiences to filmmakers and audiences alike as we reconnect, re-imagine, and reopen through the shared experience of film." - Cara Cusumano, Festival Director & VP of Festival Programming.



7 Days - Photo / TFF2021

MIDNIGHT

Always surprising and boundary-pushing, Tribeca Midnight is the destination for the best in horror and genre discoveries: "Shapeless," "Ultrasound," and "We Need To Do Something."

MOVIES PLUS

Tribeca's unique Movies Plus events bring the film experience off the screen with live conversations and performances after each screening - "The Father of the Cyborgs," "The Neutral Ground" (*Part of the Juneteenth programming), "No Straight Lines: The Rise of Queer Comics," "The One and Only Dick Gregory" (*Part of the Juneteenth programming), "Paper & Glue, a JR Project," and "With/In." Each film is followed by a Q&A. "Reflection: a walk with water" is followed by a special performance.

TRIBECA CRITICS' WEEK

Tribeca Critics' Week is a section of the Festival that presents a curated slate of feature films from film critics including Eric Kohn (IndieWire), Hunter Harris and Tre'vell Anderson: "Ailey" (*Part of the Juneteenth programming); "The Ballad of a White Cow (The Ghasideyeh Gave Sefid);" and "Rita Moreno: Just a Girl Who Decided to Go For It."

2020 FESTIVAL SELECTIONS

After having their planned Tribeca 2020 premieres canceled, the feature films of the 2020 Festival have been invited back for long awaited in-person premieres in 2021.

Participating titles include "499," "All the Streets Are Silent," "The Art of Political Murder," "Asia," "Banksy Most Wanted," "Brian Wilson: Long Promised Road," "Clean," "Contactado," "Cowboys," "Dear Mr. Brody," "Enemies of the State," "Fries! The Movie," "Fully Realized Humans," "The God Committee," "Happily," "Harley," "Honeydew," "I Carry You With Me," "I Promise," "Ice Cold," "Jacinta," "Kiss The Ground," "Kubrick by Kubrick," "La Madrina: The [Savage] Life of Lorine Padilla," "Landfall," "Larry Flynt for President," "The Last Out," "Lorelei," "Love Spreads," "Marvelous and the Black Hole," "Materna," "Miracle Fishing: Kidnapped Abroad," "My Heart Can't Beat Unless You Tell It To," "No Future," "Not Going Quietly," "The Outside Story," "P.S. Burn This Letter Please," "Pray Away," "Ricky Powell: The Individualist," "She Paradise," "Simple As Water," "The Sit-In: Harry Belafonte Hosts The Tonight Show," "Socks on Fire," "The State of Texas vs. Melissa," "Stateless (Apátrida)," "Sweet Thing," "Television Event," "This Is Paris," "Through the Night," "Wake Up on Mars (Réveil sur Mars)," "Women In Blue," "Yusuf Hawkins: Storm Over Brooklyn,"

2021 SHORTS PROGRAM

The 2021 Tribeca Festival™ Shorts Program lineup includes 46 short films striking hopeful and optimistic tones from 20 countries worldwide. World Premieres account for 70% of the competition slate, which is the highest percentage in Tribeca history. The short films will be presented in eight programs: two documentaries, two narratives, two hybrids (including both narrative and documentary), one animation, and one New York shorts program. Additionally, the Festival will feature a special curated out-of-competition Juneteenth program and a live performance by Blondie, following the screening of "Blondie: Vivir En La Habana."

"As we curated these in-person programs, we thought a great deal about the challenges of the past year and what our audience has been missing; travel, music, dance, and fun," said Sharon Badal, Vice President of Filmmaker Relations and Shorts Programming. "Our programs are lighter, brighter and inspiring. They introduce unique new voices to our audience."

International storytelling continues to be celebrated in this year's Tribeca's Short Film Program, with 41 percent of its selections originating from 20 countries including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Qatar, Sweden, Sudan, United Kingdom, the United States and Wales.

The 2021 Tribeca Festival Shorts Program is: Acting Out

True stories about rebellion and reflection.
All World Premiere Program
"Virtual Voice," "Radical Love," "Coded" and "Miss Panama."

Animated Shorts Curated by Whoopi G

Imaginative storytelling and captivating craft.

"Try to Fly," "Navozande, the musician (Navozande, le musicien)," "Ashes (Popioty)," "Dirty Little Secret," "Death and the Lady," "Leaf Boat (Cwch Deilen)," "There are Bunnies on Fire in the Forest" and "Blush."

Art and Soul

Music and dance shorts that will soothe your soul.

"Unspoken," "RESIST: The Resistance Revival Chorus," "Silence," "19 Seventy Free: Part 1," "Thirsty" and "Blondie: Vivir En La Habana."

Go Big

Sports shorts with risk, reward and resilience.
"Kata," "The Queen of Basketball," "Nando," "Joe Buffalo" and "Learning To Drown."

Let's Fly Away

Miss traveling? Wander the world in these international shorts.

"How To Fall in Love in a Pandemic," "Peninsula," "The Kicksled Choir (Sparkekoret)," "Beautiful They" and "Grottaroli."

New York, New York 2021

So nice we did it twice!

All World Premiere Program.

"Liza Anonymous," "Cracked," "Leylak," "Esther In Wonderland" and "No Longer Suitable For Use."

Straight Up With a Twist

"Take a shot" on these wildly creative shorts.
"The Cocktail Party," "The Last Marriage," "Two Jacked," "Molly Robber," "The Bouncer (Poke)," and "Girl With a Thermal Gun."

Pursuing Happiness

These shorts navigate life's ups and downs.
"GraceLand," "Six Nights," "Magnolia Bloom," "Enjoy," "We Do This Once" and "The Angler."

Shining Stars

Enjoy these shorts celebrating Juneteenth.
"Waves," "Cherry Lemonade," "Magnolia Bloom," "Silence," "Enough" and "19 Seventy Free: Part 1."

Special Screenings

Blondie: Vivir En La Habana (After the Movie: A live performance by Blondie) and "Takeover."

Widen The Screen Program

Tribeca Studios and its partners give a platform to Black creators and filmmakers. This includes four documentaries from the Queen Collective, which returns for the third year, and four 8:46 films, a program that is new to the festival for 2021.

The Queen Collective Shorts:

The debut of four Queen Collective documentaries, created by four diverse young women, aimed at accelerating gender and racial equality behind the camera.



Change The Name - Photo / TFF2021

"Black Birth," "Change the Name," "Game Changer" and "A Song of Grace."

8:46 Films: SATURDAY MORNING

A collective of Black creative executives to produce four short films influenced by the length of time it took for George Floyd's life to change the world, reclaiming the story to build a legacy of hope.

"Cupids," "Pearl and Henry," "She Dreams at Sunrise" and "Slow Pulse."

Recipients of the Tribeca Festival awards for Best Narrative Short, Best Documentary Short, and Best Animated Short will qualify for consideration in the Academy Awards' Short Films category, provided the film complies with Academy rules. Tribeca also gives out a Student Visionary Award.

The 2020 Shorts Programs will be screened at the 2021 Festival and will include 64 short films in ten programs.

The 2020 Shorts Program is as follows:

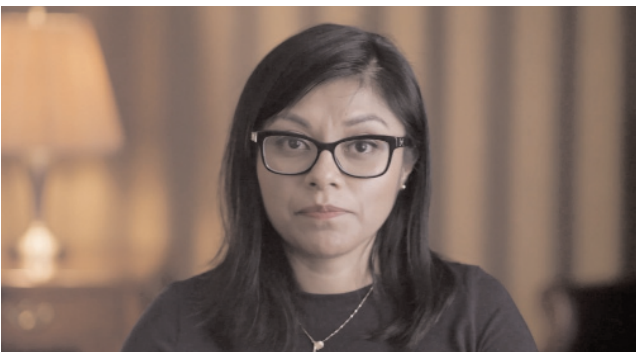
Animated Shorts Curated by Whoopi G

Imaginative storytelling and captivating craft. Suggested for those 14 and older.

"Grandad Was A Romantic," "Umbrella," "The Tiger Who Came to Tea," "Beyond Noh," "Kapaemahu," "Bathwell in Clerkentime," "Friends," "To Gerard."

Choose Your Battles

Docs about politics, perseverance and purses.



The Undocumented Lawyer - Photo / TFF2021

"Sixth of June," "USA V SCOTT," "The Undocumented Lawyer," "Shikaakwa," "Vote Neil," "Making The Case."

Don't Look Back

Some decisions are irrevocable.
"The Last Ferry from Grass Island," "No More Wings," "Burros," "The Cypher," "The Catch," and "Saria."

Live and Learn

Doc life lessons past, present and future.

"Mr. Somebody," "Solitary," "Float," "Betrayal," "Crescendo!," and "Unnúr."

LOL

Comedies that go off the rails.

"One Last Heist," "A Piece of Cake," "Query," "I Can Change," "Egg," and "John Bronco."

New York

All world premiere stories from the city we call home.

"Prelude," "Black Ghost Son," "Look At Me," "Gets Good Light," "Sloan Hearts Neckface," and "Tapes."

No Surrender

Docs concerning courage and conviction.
"On Falling," "Tall Tales with True Queens," "Akashinga," "Echoes in the Arctic," "T? Moko - Behind the Tattooed Face," and "My Brother's Keeper."

Rhythm of Life

Music infused docs with heart and soul.
"The Difference," "My Father The Mover," "Welcome to a Bright White Limbo," "When I Write It," and "Motorcycle Drive By."

Update Required

Out of this world Sci-Fi shorts.

"Carmentis," "The Light Side," "Abducted," "System Error," "A Better You," "TOTO," and "Jack and Jo Don't Want To Die."

Without Borders

Compelling dramas from here and abroad.
"Grey Zone," "Cru-Raw (Cru)," "Liliu," "Soup (Cyn)," "Blood and Glory," "The Black Veil," and "Vera."

The Queen Collective, Tribeca Studios and partners

This year's docs feature authentic and positive portrayals of diverse women in front of the camera and celebrate multicultural women storytellers and directors behind the camera.

"Tangled Roots," and "Gloves Off."

Stephan Jenkins of Third Eye Blind will perform after the screening of the 2020 Shorts Program Rhythm of Life at Brookfield Place New York.

Many of the films will also be available for U.S. audiences to view online the day after they premiere in person through the Tribeca at Home virtual hub.

PASSES AND TICKETS

Festival passes and tickets are available at tribecafilm.com/festival/tickets. For updates and more information on the Festival, visit tribecafilm.com/festival

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



SOUTH KOREAN DESIGNER CREATES 'THIRD EYE' FOR 'SMARTPHONE ZOMBIES'

SEOUL (TIP): A South Korean industrial designer has come up with a satirical solution for "smartphone zombies" who can't take their eyes away from their screen long enough to stop themselves walking into a wall or other obstacle.

Paeng Min-wook, 28, has developed a robotic eyeball he has dubbed "The Third Eye", which obsessive mobile phone users can strap to their foreheads so they can browse injury-free on the go.

The device, part of an artwork Paeng has called "Phono Sapiens", opens its translucent eyelid whenever it senses the user's head has been lowered to look at a smartphone. When the user comes within one to two metres of an obstacle, the device beeps to warn of the impending danger.

"This is the look of future mankind with three eyes," Paeng, a postgraduate in innovation design engineering at the Royal College of Art and Imperial College, told Reuters as he demonstrated use of The Third Eye around Seoul.

"As we cannot take our eyes off from smartphones, the extra eye will be needed in future."

Paeng's invention uses a gyro sensor to measure the oblique angle of the user's neck and an ultrasonic sensor to calculate the distance between the robotic eye and any obstacles. Both sensors are linked to an open-source single-board microcontroller, with battery pack.

Paeng's demonstration of the device in Seoul this week garnered attention from passersby.

"I thought he looked like an alien with an eye on his forehead," Seoul resident, Lee Ok-jo, said. "These days many young people can get into accidents while using their mobile phone. This would be good for them."

Paeng plans to develop a camera module for the Third Eye and a linked mobile phone application, but he has no plans to commercialise his invention - a stance that he might consider changing given potential demand.

"It is so cool and interesting," said 23-year-old Shin Jae-ik. "We can easily bump into each other on street while using smartphones. I may not need it now, but I'd like to buy it when they sell it later." Reuters

'Dead end': German cardinal offers to quit over church abuse

BERLIN (TIP): A leading German cardinal and confidante of Pope Francis, Cardinal Reinhard Marx, offered to resign as archbishop on June 4 over the Catholic Church's mishandling of clergy sexual abuse cases, declaring in an extraordinary public gesture that the church had arrived at "a dead end".

The archdiocese of Munich and Freising published Marx's resignation letter to the pope online, in multiple languages, and the cardinal said Francis had given him permission to make it public.

"It is important to me to share the responsibility for the catastrophe of the sexual abuse by Church officials over the past decades," the 67-year-old Marx wrote in the letter. But he also issued a challenge of sorts for his fellow bishops to use the opportunity of the scandal to save the church and reform it.

There was no immediate comment from the Vatican, where Marx sits on powerful financial and political bodies.

Marx, who led the German Bishops' Conference from 2014 until 2020, wrote that investigations during the last decade showed there had been "a lot of personal failures and administrative mistakes but also institutional or systemic failure".

In 2018, a church-commissioned report concluded that at least 3,677 people were abused by clergy in Germany between 1946 and 2014. More than half of the victims were 13 or younger when the abuse took place, and nearly a third of them were altar boys, according to the report.

Earlier this year, another report came out about the church officials' handling of alleged sexual abuse in the country's western Cologne diocese. The archbishop of Hamburg, a former Cologne church official who was faulted in that report, offered his resignation to the pope and was granted a "time out" of unspecified length.

Marx wrote in his letter that his offer



could also be seen as "a personal signal for a new beginning, for a new awakening of the Church, not only in Germany".

"I would like to show that not the ministry is in the foreground but the mission of the Gospel," he added.

Marx's offer to resign was an extraordinary gesture and laid bare the credibility crisis that the sexual abuse scandal created in Germany, as it has in other countries. To try to recover that credibility, Marx has spearheaded a process of reform and debate with the powerful German laity to address the structural problems that contributed to abuse being allowed to fester unchecked for decades.

But the so-called "Synodal Path" has sparked fierce resistance inside Germany and out, primarily from conservative bishops and priests opposed to opening any debate on issues such as celibacy, women's role in the church and homosexuality.

Resistance has also come from the

Vatican and bishops outside Germany, including culture warriors in the United States who have broken with church protocol to pen essays critical of the reform process under way in Germany.

In his letter, Marx made no mention of his status as a member of Francis' kitchen cabinet, a group of cardinal advisers who have been meeting regularly to draft a new reform of the Vatican hierarchy and who advise the pontiff on other matters.

Marx's offer to resign shocked Vatican watchers, who noted his closeness with the pope and important roles in the Vatican. In addition to his position as one of Francis' top advisers, he heads the Council for the Economy, the board of religious and laypeople who helps oversee the Vatican's finances.

Theologian Massimo Faggioli of Villanova University said he was saddened by Marx's offer to resign.

"But his decision sets the bar for many other church leaders in the Catholic Church today," Faggioli tweeted. — AP

Australia finds highly infectious Delta variant in Melbourne virus outbreak

SYDNEY (TIP): Australia's Victoria state authorities said on June 4 they had detected the highly infectious Delta Covid-19 virus variant for the first time in the latest outbreak in Melbourne, stoking concerns of a major spike in cases. The Delta variant, which has been classified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as among the four Covid-19 variants of concern due to evidence that they spread more easily, likely caused the latest devastating outbreak in India.

"It is a variant of significant concern," Victoria state Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton told reporters in Melbourne.

"The fact that it is a variant different to other cases it means it is not related, in

terms of transmission, with these cases." Sutton said the new variant had not been linked to any sequenced COVID-19 infections across Australia from hotel quarantine or elsewhere.

"It is a concern that it is not linked to other cases but we are chasing down all those primary case contacts ... and looking into where it might have been acquired," Sutton said.

The Delta variant was detected in two members in a family who travelled to neighbouring New South Wales (NSW) two weeks ago while likely infectious and visited several popular tourist locations in the state's south.

Sutton said it was "within the bounds of possibility" that the cases could have

contracted the Delta variant in NSW but that more tests would be needed.

NSW, Australia's most populous state, has not reported any locally acquired cases in a month. Victoria, Australia's second-most populous state, is battling to contain its latest outbreak - 64 cases since May 24 - after more than three months of no cases, placing tough restrictions on movement of people and shutting down large parts of its economy. The government has linked all the cases to a single traveller released from quarantine after testing negative. Melbourne is into a second week of hard lockdown after it was extended for another week until June 10, but some curbs elsewhere were eased in the state from Thursday night. Reuters

Hong Kong cracks down on Tiananmen commemorations, arrests vigil organiser

HONG KONG (TIP): Hong Kong police arrested on June 4 an organiser of annual vigils for the victims of China's 1989 Tiananmen crackdown on pro-democracy protesters, in what activists see as suppression of one of the city's most powerful symbols of democratic hope.

The arrest of Chow Hang Tung, vice-chairwoman of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, comes as thousands of police are expected to patrol the city's streets to prevent people from gathering.

The heightened vigilance from authorities was a marked departure from Hong Kong's cherished freedoms of speech and assembly, bringing the global financial hub closer in line with mainland China's strict controls on society, activists say.

The annual June 4 vigil in Hong Kong's Victoria Park, the world's largest, is widely seen as a symbol of the former British colony's democratic aspirations and desire to preserve its different way of life from mainland China.

"She only wanted to go to Victoria Park, light a candle and commemorate," Chiu Yan Loy, Executive Member of the Alliance, told Reuters, adding he believed the arrest was meant to strike fear into those planning to attend the vigil.

Senior superintendent Terry Law confirmed police arrested a 36-year-old member of the Alliance and a 20-year-old food delivery man for promoting an unauthorised assembly. It did not name the arrestees as per its usual practice.

Chow told Reuters this week before her arrest that June 4 was a test for Hong Kong "of whether we can defend our bottom line of morality."

"As long as they haven't said candles are illegal, we will light a candle," she



said.

The Alliance's chairman Lee Cheuk-yan is in jail for an illegal assembly.

Police have banned the vigil for the second year in a row, citing the coronavirus. It did not say whether commemorating Tiananmen would breach a sweeping national security law China imposed in 2020 to bring its most restive city onto an authoritarian path.

City leader Carrie Lam has not commented on commemorations, saying only that citizens must respect the law, as well as the Communist Party (CCP), which this year celebrates its 100th anniversary. June 4 commemorations are banned in mainland China.

Last year, thousands in Hong Kong defied the ban, gathering in the park and lining up on sidewalks with lit candles across the city, in what was largely a solemn event, bar a brief scuffle with police in one district.

"It is a battle against oblivion," exiled activist Sunny Cheung told Reuters by

text, adding the vigil "defines" Hong Kong as "the only beacon of liberty and truth under the CCP's governance."

"LIGHT A CIGARETTE"

Many plan to light candles again in their neighbourhood, if safe to do so. Some churches will be open for prayers.

Jailed activist Jimmy Sham said via his Facebook page he planned to "light a cigarette at 8 pm."

"We do not see the hope of democracy and freedom in a leader, a group, or a ceremony. Every one of us is the hope of democracy and freedom."

Activists Figo Chan and Leung Kwok-hung, known as Long Hair, both also in prison, plan to fast on Friday, Chan's Facebook page said.

Prominent activist Joshua Wong was given a 10-month prison sentence last month after pleading guilty to participating in last year's vigil, while three others got four-to-six-month sentences. Reuters

NINE RAILWAY WORKERS KILLED IN TRAIN CRASH IN CHINA

BEIJING (TIP): A passenger train crashed into railway maintenance workers in northwest China's Gansu province on June 4, killing at least nine people.

The accident occurred around 5:19 am near Jinchang city.

Nine railway workers were killed in the accident, state-run China Daily reported. PTI

NO NEW NATION ON UK'S SAFE TRAVEL LIST

LONDON (TIP): No new countries will be added to Britain's green list for international travel when the number of quarantine-free destinations is updated later on June 3, The Sun reported.

The newspaper, which did not name its sources, also said talks were ongoing to decide whether Portugal, a popular holiday destination for Britons, would remain open for travel.

Airlines and travel companies have been hoping the green list will be expanded, and any failure to add more destinations will be a fresh blow for the tourism industry which had looked to June for a recovery to start.

Britain permitted travel again on May 17 after more than four months of lockdown, but the reopening has to date been very limited, heaping pressure on airlines already weakened by 15 months of lockdowns. Portugal is currently the only popular European destination where Britons can go without needing to quarantine on their return, providing a lifeline for airlines like easyJet and Ryanair and travel companies like. — Reuters

12 AUSTRALIAN MEDIA COMPANIES \$8,42,000 FOR GAG ORDER BREACH IN PELL SEX ASSAULT CASE

MELBOURNE (TIP): An Australian court on Friday ordered a dozen media firms to pay a total of A\$1.1 million (\$842,270) in fines for breaching a suppression order on reporting the conviction of former Vatican treasurer George Pell for child sexual assault. The 12 media outlets, mostly owned by Nine Entertainment Co and Rupert Murdoch's News Corp, pleaded guilty in February to breaching the gag order on reporting on the trial and conviction of the cardinal, after the state agreed to drop all charges against journalists and editors. Supreme Court of Victoria Justice John Dixon convicted the media firms saying they had "frustrated the suppression order as they diminished its purpose or efficacy by reporting information contrary to the terms of the order". Pell's conviction for abusing two choirboys was overturned in April last year after he was jailed for more than a year. Reuters

Rivals sew coalition deal to unseat Netanyahu

JERUSALEM (TIP): Israel's Opposition parties on Thursday set the wheels in motion for a potential national unity government after clinching a last-minute agreement to oust Benjamin Netanyahu, the longest-serving Prime Minister in the nation's history.

Yair Lapid, leader of the centrist Yesh Atid party, announced an eight-party coalition had been formed after tough political negotiations.

Under a rotational arrangement, the head of the right-wing Yamina party, Naftali Bennett, 49, would serve as the Prime Minister first before handing over to Lapid. Lapid, 57, officially informed President Reuven Rivlin and Knesset (Parliament) Speaker Yariv Levin about the deal late Wednesday night, barely half an hour before the midnight deadline.



The announcement came after a series of back-to-back meetings with the leaders of the anti-Netanyahu camp in the 120-member Knesset.

"In accordance with Clause 13(b) of the Basic Law: The Government – I am honoured to inform you that I have succeeded in forming a government...MK

(Member of Knesset) Naftali Bennett will serve as a PM first," Lapid told Rivlin. Lapid will serve as Foreign Minister until the two men swap roles halfway through the term. There still needs to be a parliamentary vote before the government is sworn in.

The President thanked Lapid saying, "We expect the Knesset will convene as soon as possible to ratify the government, as required." The development, seen by some as historic as it includes an Arab party in the coalition, will break an ongoing political impasse that has seen Israel go through four polls yielding inconclusive results in less than two years. Lapid's coalition is composed of Yesh Atid, Yamina, Kahol Lavan, New Hope, Labor, Yisrael Beiteinu, Meretz and United Arab List. PTI

US removes DPA ratings on AstraZeneca, Novavax, Sanofi vaccines

Confident of the availability of Covid-19 vaccines in the country, the Biden Administration has removed Defense Production Act priority ratings on AstraZeneca, Novavax and Sanofi vaccines, a top US official said.

The move would let companies take their own decision on whom they want to sell their vaccines.

"We have secured enough vaccine supply for all Americans. This is a direct result of the president taking aggressive action, including through the use of the Defense Production Act, to mobilise the full force of US vaccine manufacturing and production," White House Covid-19 response coordinator Jeff Zients told reporters during a virtual news conference.

"Because of those actions and the success of US vaccine manufacturers, we are confident in our supply of our authorised vaccines. As a result, we're removing the DPA priority ratings for AstraZeneca, Novavax, and Sanofi.

While the manufacturers will continue to make these three vaccines, this action will allow US-based companies that supply these vaccine manufacturers to make their own decisions on which orders to fulfill first," Zients said.

Global Covid-19 Caseload Tops 172mn

WASHINGTON (TIP): The overall global Covid-19 caseload has topped 172 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 3.69 million, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

In its latest update on Friday, June 4, morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload and death toll stood at 172,005,004 and 3,698,128, respectively.

The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 33,325,514 and 596,395, respectively, according to the CSSE.

In terms of infections, India follows in the second place with 28,441,986 cases.

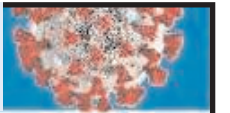
The other worst countries with over 3 million cases are Brazil (16,803,472), France (5,755,554), Turkey (5,270,299), Russia (5,040,390), the UK (4,515,778), Italy (4,225,163), Argentina (3,884,447), Germany (3,701,692), Spain (3,687,762) and Colombia (3,488,046), the CSSE figures showed.

In terms of deaths, Brazil comes second with 469,388 fatalities.

Nations with a death toll of over 100,000 are India (337,989), Mexico (228,146), the UK (128,075), Italy (126,342), Russia (120,604) and France (109,990).

The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 33,325,514 and 596,395.

TRACKING THE VIRUS



GLOBAL

Cases	Deaths
172,005,004	3,698,128

INDIA

Cases	Deaths
28,574,350	340,702



African nations acquire 53.5mn Covid vaccines

African countries have acquired around 53.5 million Covid-19 vaccines so far, according to the continent's health authorities.

The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said on Thursday that 38.1 million Covid-19 doses have been administered till date, Xinhua news agency reported.

Around 0.54 per cent of the population have received a full vaccine regimen, according to the Africa CDC.

It said five member states that are Morocco, Egypt, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe have administered the most doses.

As of Thursday, June 3, evening, the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in Africa has reached 4,867,727 as the death toll from the pandemic stood at 131,441, while 4,404,608 people across the continent have recovered from the disease, according to the agency.

Chile to extend lockdown after Covid cases top 1.4mn

Chile will extend lockdown measures in 16 cities, including the capital

Santiago, due to the increase in Covid-19 infections, which have exceeded 1.4 million cases, Deputy Health Minister Paula Daza has said.

Of the total number of cities that will enter into lockdown starting Saturday, five are in the country's Metropolitan region, including Santiago, Daza said at a press conference on Thursday, Xinhua reported.

The deputy minister of assistance networks, Alberto Dougnac, said 8,150 new cases of Covid-19 were detected in the last 24 hours, meaning a total of 1,403,101 people had tested positive for the virus since March 2020.

Of the new daily cases of infection, 77 per cent had not started or completed their vaccination process, said Dougnac.

In the same 24-hour period, 213 more people died of COVID-19, raising the pandemic death toll to 29,598.

According to Health Minister Enrique Paris, Thursday marked four months since the country's mass vaccination campaign began, and a decline in deaths has been "clearly" seen compared to when "we had no vaccinated people in Chile."

Surge testing expanded as more cases of Delta variant found in UK

UK health authorities on Thursday added another region for surge testing following the identification of a "small number" of confirmed cases of the Delta variant of Covid-19 or the highly transmissible B.1.617.2 mutation first identified in India.

The National Health Service (NHS) Test and Trace system launched additional testing and genomic sequencing at Gamesley Ward in the High Peak area of England's Derbyshire county, in partnership with the local authorities. All the confirmed cases in the area have been instructed to self-isolate, and their contacts have been identified, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) said.

"Everyone aged five and over who lives or works in this area is strongly encouraged to take a Covid-19 PCR test from today, whether they are showing symptoms or not," DHSC said.

"Enhanced contact tracing will be used for individuals testing positive with a variant of concern (VOC). This is where contact tracers look back over an extended period to determine the route of transmission," it added.

Any PCR positive test results will be sent for genomic sequencing at specialist



laboratories to help officials identify Covid-19 cases with a variant of concern and prevent its further spread.

As part of the surge testing system, people are also being encouraged to use the free twice-weekly rapid tests, commonly known as lateral flow devices or LFDs, to be followed up with a PCR test. Several regions across the UK are now covered by the surge testing protocol, including many councils of London, as part of efforts to contain the spread of the Delta variant.

It comes as official figures show that more than half of UK adults have now had both doses of a coronavirus vaccine.

"Now let's finish the job. When it's your turn, get the jab," UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Twitter in reference to the latest figures.

NRI tycoon Yusuffali pays nearly \$1.5 million blood money to save Indian national in the UAE



Indian national in the UAE saved from death row after NRI tycoon Yusuffali pays Rs 1 crore blood money

ABU DHABI (TIP): A 45-year-old Indian, who was on death row in the United Arab Emirates for killing a young Sudanese boy in a road accident in 2012, can't believe that he will be a free man and

can return to the country to be with his family.

Becks Krishnan was saved by prominent NRI businessman and philanthropist M A Yusuffali who helped to pay his "blood money" amounting to nearly \$1.5 million.

Krishnan, who hails from Kerala, was sentenced to death by the UAE Supreme Court after he was found guilty of killing a young Sudanese boy when he recklessly drove and rammed his car into a group of children in September 2012.

Ever since, his family and friends have been trying hard for Krishnan's release without any success, especially as the victim's family had already gone back and settled in Sudan, putting an end to any discussion or pardon.

The Krishnan family then approached

Yusuffali, Chairman of Lulu Group, who went about getting the details of the case and got in touch with all stakeholders.

Ultimately, in January 2021, the victim's family in Sudan agreed to pardon Krishnan. Subsequently, Yusuffali paid 500,000 Dirhams (Rs one crore approximately) as compensation in the court to secure the man's release, the Lulu group said here in a statement.

Talking to the Indian embassy officials yesterday in Al Watba Jail in Abu Dhabi, a highly emotional Krishnan could not believe the turn of events.

"It's a re-birth for me, as I had lost all hope of seeing the outside world, let alone a free life. My only wish now is to see Yusuffali once before flying to my family," Krishnan was quoted as saying in the

statement.

When asked for his comments, Yusuffali simply thanked the almighty for the release of Krishnan and the benevolence of visionary rulers of the UAE for the release of Krishnan and wished him a happy and peaceful life ahead.

All legal procedures related to Krishnan's release have been completed on Thursday, and he is expected to travel back to his hometown in Kerala soon, putting an end to nine years of agony for him and his family, a senior official of the Lulu Group told PTI over the phone.

Abu Dhabi-based Lulu Group, that owns Lulu Hypermarkets and shopping malls, is one of the top retailers in the Middle East and North African region (MENA). - (Source: PTI)

INDIAN-ORIGIN AJITPAL SINGH'S 'FIRE IN THE MOUNTAINS' WINS AUDIENCE AWARD AT IFFLA



Ajitpal Singh's 82-minute feature 'Fire In The Mountains' won Audience Award at IFFLA

LOS ANGELES (TIP): It's interesting to see a self-taught artist coming up with a piece of work that touches the raw nerve with its unschooled freshness. Indian-origin Filmmaker Ajitpal Singh who made his debut Hindi feature 'Fire In The Mountains' has been able to do just that.

Ajitpal Singh's 82-minute feature was the opening film of the 19th Annual Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles (IFFLA). It went on to win the Audience Award for Best Feature at the festival held virtually from May 20 to 27 due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The feature is not new to international accolades as recently it also had its World Premiere at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival 2021 as the only film selected from South Asia in World Cinema Dramatic Competition.

Written-directed by Ajitpal Singh and produced by Jar Pictures, 'Fire in the Mountains' also had some other recognition coming its way.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Taptej Singh hailed as hero for saving lives during San Jose shooting

SAN JOSE (TIP): Indian American Taptej Singh was shot as he ran around warning people to hide during the latest mass-shooting incident in America.

"He's my hero. He's a true Sikh warrior. My heart is broken today," says Santa Monica based TV actor and model Amandeep Singh about Taptejdeep Singh, the Sikh rail driver who was among the nine people killed during America's latest mass shooting incident in San Jose on Wednesday.

"I believe this is an act of heroism it should be acknowledged," said Sandra Douglas Chavez, a community outreach officer from San Jose, California, about the selfless act of the 36-year-old Sikh American father of two.

Recalling an earlier incident of senseless killing of two elderly Sikh men in 2011, Chavez said, "Sad that tomorrow is the dedication of a park in honor of two Sikh men in our town. Every time I drive by there I pray for them. I used to see them walking in the neighborhood, when I would drive to the Lowes."

The 2011 killing of two Sikh men as they were taking a walk in the neighborhood was viewed as a possible hate crime.

The Indian American Sikh community not just in California but across America is mourning the death of Taptejdeep Singh, a driver at Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) killed during the shooting.

Fondly called Taptej by friends and



Taptejdeep Singh, the Sikh rail driver who was among the nine people killed during America's latest mass shooting incident in San Jose, died trying to save lives

colleagues, the heroic valor that he displayed during his last hours, quickly became the talk of the town and tributes and obituaries began pouring in.

Singh, who was caught in the firing, died while trying to save lives during the unfortunate incident. According to eyewitnesses, unmindful of danger to his life, Singh was running around warning people to hide and take shelter while the shooter was on a rampage until a bullet felled him himself. The Sikh community is in deep grief following the news. Milpitas based Sikh entrepreneur Amrit Singh says, "I am hurt beyond words."

"Even though, time and again Sikhs continue to show to America that they are there for their fellow countrymen without flinching a worry about themselves, we are still misunderstood and are victims of hate crime. Not just the community but America will remember the bravery of this Sikh gentleman."

California State Assembly member Bill Quirk wrote in a tribute, "This is Taptejdeep Singh. He was a husband and father of two. I was honored to represent him in the Assembly as a Union City resident. Today his life was cut short. He was one of the VTA employees killed."

"People from all walks of life admired the courage with which he continued to warn others of the shooter in a bid to save lives."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

INDIAN-ORIGIN JOURNALIST TEJINDER SINGH PASSES AWAY; PENTAGON CONDOLES



Veteran Indian-origin journalist Tejinder Singh has passed away

WASHINGTON (TIP): Indian-origin Tejinder Singh, a veteran White House correspondent and founder and editor of the India America Today newswire, has passed away in the US, the publication has announced.

Singh founded India America Today, an independent media organization and news provider based in Washington, DC.

"India America Today is deeply grieved to announce the passing of our Founder and Editor @tejindersingh. He launched IAT in 2012, and we will continue to carry on the work that he started. RIP Editor," the publication said on Twitter on May 29.

Pentagon Press Secretary John F Kirby condoled his death at a press briefing on Tuesday, June 1.

"We here at the Pentagon would like to take a moment to express our condolences and sympathies for the passing of Mr. Tejinder Singh, who many of you know was the founder and editor of India America Today," he said.

"He was a Pentagon Correspondent since 2011, and I dealt with him from this podium, I've dealt with him when I was at the State Department podium, and the one word, I mean, the word one that comes to mind when you think of Tejinder is a gentleman."

"He was a real gentleman, good reporter, damn good reporter. Asked tough questions and produced good stuff, but he was a heck of a man... a gentleman as I said. And we're going to miss him, we're all going to miss him, and I know you guys feel the same way," Kirby said.

He was the Vice-President (Print) for the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA-DC) 2011-12.

Study finds paradoxical relationship between emotions

A paradoxical relationship between the intensity of emotional expressions and how they are perceived, has been explored by a team of international researchers comprised of scientists from the Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics, New York University, and the Max Planck NYU Center for Language, Music, and Emotion (CLaME).

Emotions vary in their intensity. A person being attacked by a house cat may well feel fear, but certainly, their fear would be even greater if a lion or tiger were attacking them. So our emotions differ in terms of degrees of strength. But how does this affect our ability to infer meaning from how emotion is expressed? Research on emotion has so far assumed that emotion expressions become more distinct as their intensity increases. But there is little empirical evidence to support this intuitive-sounding idea.

A team of researchers from Frankfurt am Main and New York has now systematically investigated the role of emotional intensity for the first time. They collected a multitude of nonverbal vocalizations, including screams, laughter, sighs, groans, etc. These sounds all expressed different positive and negative emotions ranging from minimal to maximal emotional intensity. They then examined how listeners perceived these sounds differently depending on the emotional intensity they



expressed. The team came to a surprising conclusion: at first, as the intensity of the emotions increased, participants' ability to judge them also improved, attaining a kind of 'sweet spot' in perceiving moderate to strong emotions. When the emotions became maximally intense, however, their legibility decreased quite drastically. Lead author Natalie Holz of the Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics explains:

"Counterintuitively, we found that maximally intense emotions are not the easiest to infer meaning from. In fact, they are the most ambiguous of all." And the paradox: For extremely intense emotions, neither their individual categories, such as surprise and triumph nor valences, such as pleasantness and unpleasantness, could be distinguished reliably; nor could

they be classified as being more positive or negative. Nevertheless, both the intensity itself and the state of arousal were perceived consistently and clearly.

Holz suggests a reason for this: "At peak intensity, the most vital job might be to detect big events and to assess relevance. A more fine-grained evaluation of affective meaning may be secondary."

The research team's article, just published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, makes clear that emotional intensity is a dominant factor in the perception of emotion, but in a far more complex way than previously thought. This poses a challenge to prevailing theories of emotion. The study of emotional intensity, and of peak emotions, in particular, can enrich our understanding of the affective experience and how we communicate emotion.

Facial hair removal at home using homemade peel off masks

Hair removal is one of the most painful beauty processes. We have time and again struggled with getting an appointment just in time to get rid of everything from our unibrows, upper lip hair, chin hair etc. at the salon. While threading, waxing and even shaving are recommended today, if you're home and don't have access to any of these, we're here to help you out!

Honey and sugar peel off mask

Mix one spoon of honey with two spoons of sugar and water. Heat this up till the sugar dissolves. Once the sugar has dissolved, apply it on the region where you want to get rid of your fine facial hair. Over this, place a thin cotton cloth and once it is cool, pull it off with one quick motion! An easy home solution to waxing.

Cornstarch and egg peel off mask

Separate the yolk and egg white. Add the egg white of one egg to a bowl and mix half a spoon of cornstarch to this. Add one spoon of sugar and heat till the sugar is melted.

Apply this paste on your skin and once it is completely dry, slowly peel it off in the opposite



direction of your hair to get rid of it.

Milk and gelatin peel off mask

In a bowl, add a spoon of unflavoured gelatin powder and three spoons of milk. A few drops of lemon juice is also highly effective. Heat this up till lukewarm and then apply an even layer on your face, on the area where you want to get rid of the hair. Once it is dry, peel it off slowly in the opposite direction of the hair.

FOOD CORNER

Cashew chicken



Ingredients

1 pound chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch pieces, 3 tbsp. arrowroot powder (or cornstarch), 1.5 tbsp. avocado olive oil, ¼ cup low sodium soy sauce, 1/2 cup chicken broth or vegetable broth, 4 garlic cloves, minced, 1 tbsp. brown sugar (or swerve brown granular), 1 tbsp. hoisin sauce (omit for keto), 1.5 tsp. sesame oil, 1 cup whole cashews

Method

Place chicken in a large bowl and toss with arrowroot or cornstarch. Heat avocado oil in a large wok or skillet over medium-high heat; add chicken and cook for 8-10 minutes, or until brown and crispy. While the chicken is cooking, whisk soy sauce, chicken broth, garlic, brown sugar, hoisin and sesame oil in a small bowl. Add to the wok along with the cashews and toss with chicken. Cook until the sauce is thickened, about 5-8 minutes. Enjoy!

Lemon Yoghurt Cake

Ingredients

For the cake

1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, 1 cup plain whole-milk Greek yoghurt, 1 cup sugar, 3 eggs, 2 teaspoons grated lemon zest (2 lemons), 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract, 1/2 cup vegetable oil (or olive oil), 1/3 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice

For the glaze

1 cup confectioners' sugar, 2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice

Method

- For the first step, you will have to preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit or 180 degrees Celcius. Grease and flour the pan.
- For the next step, sift together the flour, baking powder and salt into one bowl. Once you are done with your dry ingredients, in another bowl, you whisk together the yoghurt, 1 cup sugar, the eggs, lemon zest, and vanilla. Mix them continuously until you get a smooth consistency.
- Next, you will have to slowly whisk the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients. Now, using a rubber spatula, fold the vegetable oil into the batter, making sure it's all incorporated.
- Finally, pour the batter into the prepared pan and bake for about 50 minutes, or until a cake tester placed in the centre of the loaf comes out clean.
- For the glaze mix the sugar and the lemon juice nicely. Once your cake comes to room temperature, top with glaze to get that extra tangy taste. This cake is extremely easy to make and the recipe will especially come in handy if you are also a little sceptical about ordering food from outside.

You Can reach me at: www.triptasfoodtunnel.com
Email : triptasfoodtunnel@gmail.com.
Instagram: [@triptasfoodtunnel](https://www.instagram.com/triptasfoodtunnel)

Drug that blocks multiple coronavirus variants in mice identified

Scientists have identified a new drug which is highly effective in preventing severe Covid in mice infected with SARS-CoV-2, and could also treat other respiratory coronaviruses.

The findings, published in the journal *Science Immunology*, suggest that the drug diABZI activates the body's innate immune response, the first line of defence against invading pathogens.

"This paper is the first to show that activating an early immune response therapeutically with a single dose is a promising strategy for controlling the virus, including the South African variant B.1.351, which has led to worldwide concern," said Sara Cherry, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania in the US.

"The development of effective antivirals is urgently needed for controlling SARS-CoV-2 infection and disease, especially as dangerous variants of the virus continue to emerge," Cherry, the senior author of the study, said.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus initially targets epithelial cells in the respiratory tract.

As the first line of defence against infection, the respiratory tract's innate immune system recognises viral pathogens by detecting their



molecular patterns.

The researchers first sought to better understand this effect by observing human lung cells infected with SARS-CoV-2 under the microscope.

They found that the virus is able to hide, delaying the immune system's early recognition and response.

The team predicted that it may be able to identify drugs that could set off this immune response in the respiratory cells earlier and prevent severe SARS-CoV-2 infection.

To identify drugs that would block SARS-CoV-2 infection, the researchers screened 75 drugs that

target sensing pathways in lung cells. They identified nine candidates that significantly suppressed infection by activating STING -- the simulation of interferon genes which plays an important role in innate immunity.

The team tested a newly-developed drug molecule called diABZI, which is currently being tested in clinical trials to treat some cancers.

The researchers found that diABZI potentially inhibits SARS-CoV-2 infection of diverse strains, including variant of concern B.1.351, by stimulating interferon signalling.



Impact of menopause on bone health

Women are 40 per cent more likely to develop knee osteoarthritis and 10 per cent more likely to develop hip osteoarthritis than men. Moreover, 46 million women in India are affected by osteoporosis.

This also contributes to significant morbidity and mortality to postmenopausal women. This is because women have a lower peak bone mass, which is compounded by the hormonal changes that occur at the time of menopause. It is a silent disease until fractures occur, which causes important secondary health problems and even death, says Manish Sontakke, Senior Consultant Orthopedic Surgery, Hiranandani Hospital, Vashi-A Fortis network Hospital. "Especially, in the current pandemic situation, most of us are home bound, so nutritional levels, vitamin balance and physical activity has all been hampered. Plus, women tend to ignore their health or keep the health of their family before their own. Hence, the chance of deteriorating bone health among them is higher than before."

MENOPAUSE CAN TRIGGER OSTEOARTHRITIS AND OSTEOPOROSIS?

Sontakke says, "When a woman reaches menopause, her estrogen levels drop and this can lead to bone loss. For some women, this bone loss is rapid and severe."

TWO MAJOR FACTORS THAT AFFECT BONE HEALTH AMONG WOMEN ARE

The amount of bone you have when you reach menopause. The greater your bone density to begin with, the lower your chance of developing any bone related problems. If you had low peak bone mass or other risk factors that caused you to lose bone, your chance of getting osteoporosis and/or osteoarthritis is higher.

Vitamin D may not provide protection from Covid-19 susceptibility: Study

Observational studies have suggested that increased vitamin D levels may protect against COVID-19. However, these studies were inconclusive and possibly subject to confounding.

A study published in *PLOS Medicine* by Guillaume Butler-Laporte and Tomoko Nakanishi at McGill University in Quebec, Canada, and colleagues suggests that genetic evidence does not support vitamin D as a protective measure against COVID-19.

The ability of vitamin D to protect against severe COVID-19 illness is of great interest to public health experts but has limited supporting evidence. To assess the relationship between vitamin D levels and COVID-19 susceptibility and severity, researchers conducted a Mendelian randomization study using genetic variants strongly associated with increased vitamin D levels.

The authors analyzed genetic variants of 4,134 individuals with COVID-19, and 1,284,876 without COVID-19, from 11 countries to determine whether genetic predisposition for higher vitamin D levels was associated with less-severe disease outcomes in people with COVID-19.

The results showed no evidence for an association between genetically predicted vitamin D levels and COVID-19 susceptibility, hospitalization, or severe disease, suggesting that raising circulating vitamin D levels through supplementation may not improve COVID-19 outcomes in the general population.

However, the study had several important limitations, including that the research did not include



individuals with vitamin D deficiency, and it remains possible that truly deficient patients may benefit from supplementation for COVID-19 related protection and outcomes.

Additionally, the genetic variants were obtained only from individuals of European ancestry, so future studies will be needed to determine the relationship with COVID-19 outcomes in other populations.

According to the authors, "Vitamin D supplementation as a public health measure to improve outcomes is not supported by this study. Most importantly, our results suggest that investment in other therapeutic or preventative avenues should be prioritized for COVID-19 randomized clinical trials."

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

Mars Curiosity Rover snaps shining clouds on Red Planet

NASA's Mars Curiosity rover has captured shining clouds on the Red Planet, which arrived earlier and formed higher than expected.

The atmosphere on Mars is usually thin, dry and cloudy days are rare. And clouds are typically found at the planet's equator in the coldest time of year, when Mars is the farthest from the Sun in its oval-shaped orbit. But the scientists noticed clouds forming over NASA's Curiosity rover earlier than expected, one full Martian year ago - two Earth years.

In late January this year, the team started documenting these "early" clouds. The images show wispy puffs filled with ice crystals that scattered light from the setting Sun, some of them shimmering with colour.

The rover's Mast Camera, or Mastcam snapped colour images and the iridescent, or "mother of pearl" clouds on March 5, 2021, the 3,048th Martian day, or sol, of the mission.

"If you see a cloud with a shimmery pastel set of colors in it, that's because the cloud particles are all nearly identical in size. That's usually happening just after the clouds have formed and have all grown at the same rate," said Mark Lemmon, an atmospheric scientist with the Space Science Institute in Boulder, Colorado.

These clouds are among the more colorful things on the Red Planet, Lemmon added. If you were skygazing next to Curiosity, you could see the colours with the naked eye, although they'd be faint.

Microsoft launches first-ever APAC cybersecurity council



With the aim of building a strong communications channel for addressing cyber threats and sharing best practices across the participating countries, Microsoft has launched the first Asia Pacific Public Sector Cybersecurity Executive Council.

Consisting of policymakers and influencers from Brunei, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, supported by cybersecurity professionals, the council aims to accelerate public-private partnerships in cybersecurity, share threat intelligence, Microsoft said in a statement on Monday.

"Our joint mission is to build a strong coalition, to strengthen our cybersecurity defense," said Sherie Ng, General Manager, Public Sector, Microsoft Asia Pacific.

The APAC countries continue to experience a higher-than-average encounter rate for malware and ransomware attacks—1.6 and 1.7 times higher respectively than the rest of the world.

"This collective marks a significant commitment towards accelerating public-private partnerships in cybersecurity, while promoting a broader sharing of threat intelligence to be better positioned to respond

in the event of an attacks," the tech giant said.

The council is set to meet virtually on a quarterly basis to maintain a continuous exchange of information on cyber threats and cybersecurity solutions.

"This coalition certainly establish stronger partnerships with industry leaders and practitioners that allow us to fortify our security postures and combat cybercrime," said Dato' Ts Dr. Haji Amirudin Abdul Wahab FASc, CEO of CyberSecurity Malaysia.

As part of the council, government agencies and state leaders will join a forum that includes Microsoft and its ecosystem of cybersecurity industry advisors.

"With similar threat landscapes, this partnership will ensure that we are steps ahead of the perpetrators, establishing higher standards for the cybersecurity eco-system as well," added ChangHee Yun, Principle Researcher of AI/Future Strategy Center, National Information Society Agency Korea.

The aim of the forum is to share best practices, learn from Microsoft security certification trainings, dedicated workshops, and hands-on lab sessions, with a goal of driving improvements to the digital skills of the workforce to reduce the talent gap in cybersecurity across the participating nations.

Apple will switch some iPad models to OLED in 2022

While the large iPad Pro 12.9-inch (2021) switched to a mini-LED display, the smaller models may go for OLED, the media reported.

According to Korean publication ETNews reports, Apple will make the jump with iPads coming out in 2022. Those will be the first Apple tablets not to use some kind of LCD (even mini-LED tech is LCD based).

Samsung and LG are the likely suppliers of OLED panels. They are currently working on OLED displays for the iPhone 13 (splitting the order 65/30 with BOE taking up a small 5 per cent share).

Image quality, weight and design were reportedly the key considerations in the decision to move away from LCD, the report said.

However, while phone-sized OLED displays are produced in great numbers, tablet-sized ones are rare, it added.

Some Android tablets do use them, but Apple moves around 50 million iPads a year, so companies will have to invest into expanding the capacity of their factories.

Apple will likely start with a few models at first and add more as capacity expands.

Australia's Nine signs Facebook, Google deals under new licensing regime

Australian broadcaster and publisher Nine Entertainment Co Holdings Ltd said it signed multi-year content-supply deals with Google and Facebook Inc, harnessing tough new licencing laws to bolster profit.

The step means that all of Australia's three largest media firms now have deals with U.S. tech giants that had until this year fiercely opposed laws making them negotiate over the fees they pay for the links driving clicks to their platforms.

The owner of the Australian Financial Review and Sydney Morning Herald newspapers and the Nine free-to-air channel said it would provide articles and clips for Google's News Showcase platform for five years, and to a similar Facebook product for three.

"These deals will contribute to supporting the world-class journalism on which our business thrives," Nine Chief Executive Mike Sneesby told staff in an email, reviewed by Reuters, adding they would also help the firm pursue



growth to underpin its strength in the long term.

A Google spokesman declined to comment, while Facebook was not immediately available for comment.

Rivals Seven West Media Ltd and Rupert Murdoch's News Corp, which dominate Australia's traditional media market, along with Nine, have signed similar deals in recent months.

Like the others, Nine did not disclose financial details of the deals.

NASA's Venus missions to probe divergent fate of Earth's hothouse sister planet

NASA has announced plans to launch a pair of missions to Venus between 2028 and 2030 - its first in decades - to study the atmosphere and geologic features of Earth's so-called sister planet and better understand why the two emerged so differently.

The U.S. space agency said it was awarding about \$500 million each to develop the two missions, dubbed DAVINCI+ (short for Deep Atmosphere Venus

Investigation of Noble Gases, Chemistry and Imaging) and VERITAS (an acronym for Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography and Spectroscopy).

DAVINCI+ will measure the composition of the dense, hothouse atmosphere of Venus to further understand how it evolved, while VERITAS will map the planet's surface from orbit to help determine its geologic history, NASA said.

DAVINCI+, consisting of a fly-by spacecraft and an atmospheric descent probe, is also expected to return the first high-resolution images of unique geological characteristics on Venus called "tesserae." Scientists believe those features may be comparable to Earth's continents and suggest that Venus has plate tectonics, according to NASA's announcement.





Tesla recalls nearly 6,000 cars in US

Tesla Inc is recalling nearly 6,000 US vehicles because brake caliper bolts could be loose, with the potential to cause a loss of tyre pressure.

The recall covers certain 2019-2021 Model 3 vehicles and 2020-2021 Model Y vehicles. Tesla's filing with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it had no reports of crashes or injuries related to the issue and that the company will inspect and tighten, or replace, the caliper bolts as necessary.

It said loose caliper bolts could allow the brake caliper to separate and contact the wheel rim, which could cause a loss of tyre pressure in "very rare circumstances."

US jobless claims drop to 385,000, another pandemic low

The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits fell last week for a fifth straight week to a new pandemic low, the latest evidence that the U.S. job market is regaining its health as the economy further reopens.

The Labor Department said Thursday that jobless claims dropped to 385,000, down 20,000 from the week before. The number of weekly applications for unemployment aid, which generally reflects the pace of layoffs, has fallen steadily all year, though it remains high by historical standards.

The decline in applications reflects a swift rebound in economic growth and the job market's steady recovery from the coronavirus recession. More Americans are venturing out to shop, travel, dine out and congregate at entertainment venues. All that renewed spending has led companies to seek new workers. Employers have added 1.8 million jobs this year — an average of more than 450,000 a month — and the government's May jobs report on Friday is expected to show that they added an additional 656,000 last month, according to a survey of economists by the data firm FactSet. The economy remains down 8.2 million jobs from its level in February 2020, just before the virus tore through the economy.

Yet U.S. employers are posting a record number of available jobs. And many of them have complained that they can't find enough workers to meet rising customer demand.

Banks can sell Mallya's properties, shares worth Rs 5,646 cr to recover dues

NEW DELHI (TIP): Armed with court order, a consortium of lenders led by SBI can now sell certain real estate properties and securities belonging to fugitive Vijay Mallya to recover loans turned bad with failure of Kingfisher Airlines.

A consortium of 11 banks that gave Mallya loans, led by State Bank of India (SBI), had approached a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court seeking restoration of his properties seized by the Enforcement Directorate.

The special PMLA court in Mumbai on Tuesday allowed the restoration of properties worth Rs 5,646.54 crore to banks.

According to an official of lead bank SBI, symbolic possession of properties mentioned in the order would be taken by lenders after following due legal process.

Recovery process in banks are guided by Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002, the official said, adding that



an auction or sale of those properties would be done as per the guidelines in due course of time.

SBI has the highest exposure of Rs 1,600 crore out of original loan of Rs 6,900 crore to the defunct Kingfisher Airlines.

Other banks that have exposure to the airline include Punjab National Bank (Rs 800 crore) and IDBI Bank (Rs 800 crore), Bank of India (Rs 650 crore), Bank of Baroda (Rs 550 crore), Central Bank of India (Rs 410 crore).

Mallya is accused of fraud and money laundering allegedly amounting to around Rs 9,000 crore, which involved his defunct Kingfisher

Airlines.

Last year, Mallya offered to pay back 100 per cent of "public money" to various Indian banks and urged the government to accept his offer, days ahead of a UK court's decision on his plea not to extradite him to India.

The 65-year-old former Kingfisher Airlines boss has been on bail in the UK on an extradition warrant since his arrest in April 2019.

Mallya's extradition was ordered by former Britain Home Secretary Sajid Javid, in February 2019, after a prima facie case of fraud and money laundering was upheld by the UK courts, including on appeals. He remains on bail in Britain while a confidential legal matter, believed to be related to an asylum application, is resolved.

Noting that banks have suffered losses, the PMLA Court on Tuesday said it was impossible to conclude the exact "quantifiable loss" at this stage.

The court, however, said that the banks' claim of losses of over Rs 6,200 crore was not "imaginary".

'SoftBank could invest over \$4 billion in India'

Masayoshi Son-led SoftBank Group Corp. could put more than \$4 billion to work in India in 2021 across myriad technology bets, including software as a service (SaaS), B2B marketplaces, e-commerce, health-tech and ed-tech. The investments will come from Japanese company's Vision Fund 2, which has an investment outlay of up to \$30 billion for the current calendar year.

"In India, we've already invested more than \$2 billion in 8-9 companies in the first five months of this year...a few deals are yet to be announced. And we will continue to invest if we find the right opportunities. We anticipate investing a similar size in the remainder of this year," SoftBank Vision Fund chief executive officer Rajeev Misra said in an interview from London. Among its new bets this year, Vision Fund 2 led a \$300 million investment in Meesho in April, catapulting the social commerce platform's post-money valuation to \$2.1 billion.

Elon Musk compares chip shortage to toilet paper crisis on an epic scale

Tesla CEO Elon Musk has once again raised concerns over the ongoing chip shortage crisis that has hit the carmakers around the world as an added challenge besides the Covid-19 pandemic.

Musk, who recently blamed the crisis behind frequent rise in price of some of the Tesla cars this year, compared it to a hypothetical toilet paper crisis to drive home his point.

Replying to one of the Twitter users in inimical style, Musk tried to show deeply the crisis has impacted the auto manufacturing world. He wrote, "Our biggest challenge is supply chain, especially microcontroller chips. Never seen anything like it. Fear of running out is causing every company to over-order — like the toilet paper shortage, but at epic scale."

Tesla and Elon Musk have been facing questions on social media over price increase on some of the electric vehicle models. Tesla has increased prices of its Model 3 and Model Y electric cars five times in a matter of months. The hikes started in February this year and, since then, price has been increased on these two Tesla electric vehicles every month till June.

According to reports, Tesla is forced to hold around 20,000 units of Model 3 and Model Y cars because of a missing part. Tesla had admitted earlier that it has been going through some of the most difficult supply chain challenges.

Defending the decision to hike price of Tesla cars, Elon Musk had said, "Prices increasing due to major supply chain price pressure industry-wide. Raw materials especially." However, he believes the crisis will not last too long. "That said, it's obv not a long-term issue," Musk wrote in reply on Twitter.



IDBI Bank secures \$239-m debt ruling in UK High Court

LONDON (TIP): IDBI Bank has secured a \$239-million judgment in the High Court of London against a Cypriot subsidiary of India-based Essar Shipping Group.

IDBI had entered into loans totalling \$148 million with two Singapore registered companies — Varada Drilling One Pte Ltd and Varada Drilling Two Pte Ltd — for the construction of two jack up drilling rigs in March 2013.

IDH International Drilling Holdco Ltd (IDH), the parent company of the borrowers, gave a corporate guarantee in respect of the loan. The loan and guarantee were governed by English laws.

"This is an important judgment both in terms of its size and the message it sends to defaulters that Indian banks are willing and able to recover outstanding debts through the English courts," said Nick Curling, legal director at TLT LLP, the London law firm representing IDBI.

Source: PTI



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@bejandaruwalla.com
and on phone**

**+91 8141234275
for astrological
queries**

www.bejandaruwalla.com



Chirag Bejan Daruwalla with his father late Bejan Daruwalla

**TIP brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope by
Astro Friend Chirag - Blessed Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla**

Aries:

Ganesha says this will be an enlightening week for you as you spend your time waiting for your partner to give you time and attention but they won't be able to attend to you at all this week. Midweek you will go through a phase of depression and loneliness, but you will find your way through it all alone and confused. This week will help you feel self-sufficient by the end of the day.

Taurus:

This week will be beneficial in numerous ways for you. You just have to make sure that you are determined to tread ahead with discipline and don't forget to continue with your hard work and efforts. This is the best time to make investments. Hard work and commitment will enable you to earn good money from additional business sources. If you focus all your energies on the goal which you have set for yourself, you are bound to get success. During this time, you will do well in your professional life as financial abundance is in your sign's favor today when comes to your business.

Gemini:

Your Relationships will require more work and effort from you this week. Adjusting to other's needs could make you feel like you're compromising for another person and you're in second place, but it will keep you in your partner's good books. You will have a lot of confidence this that'll guide you to a lot of success and fame in your industry. Although this confidence won't be appreciated by your partner as till the end of the week your behavior might change into being quite egoistic and borderline rude.

Cancer:

As the week starts you would want your partner to tag along with, but you won't find them willing to do so. Do not pressurize them to hang out with you. You can and you will do very well by yourself today and have a great time. You will face some serious and unavoidable obstacles in your business this week. You will find yourself alone in the entire mess as your partner is likely to flee the wrecked ship. Your friends will help you get out of this mess, but they can only help you to a certain level. You will need to pull your weight when it comes to working hard this week.

Leo:

You are likely to get sensitive over the needs of your partner this week. You would also realize an important fact - it is not always possible for both, you and your

partner, to come to the same conclusions, and difference of opinion is very normal. This week you will realize that you have achieved success in your businesses. You will experience extraordinary clarity of thought for the promotion of your projects. Your requirements will be provided for and you may not feel the pinch.

Virgo:

You will get on the correct track in terms of your career today and your love lifewill blossom as well hence all in all this is a great week for you. You might discover a new way to take your business in, one that has the potential to turn your small company into a globally known one. Trust your thoughts during this week. They've got the star's support. Concentrate on little projects that you can plow through rather than expansive plans. A little change can go a long way. Work on your existing clients and improving your knowledge base instead of implementing big dreams and ideas.

Libra:

Your partner will support you as much as they can throughout this week. They won't be able to get out of their work commitments and they will have to be busy at work this week. Even though you will say that you understand and that you're fine without your partner, this week you really do need them by your side for moral support. This situation will create doubts in your mind if they really are the ones you want to be your life partner.

Scorpio:

This will be a quiet and slow week for your work. You will experience frustration build up as no new work arises and although old work is pending it is tedious and boring for you to keep working on it for such a long time. You will receive many good wishes from your employees and they will provide you with much-needed support. Even your partner and your parents will be standing by your side this week. Your business will suffer a major loss this week, which is quite unexpected. Everything seems to be going perfectly well after a mid-week, but your client will abruptly decide to go with your competitor instead at the end of the week. You will need a lot of digging in deep to know what exactly went wrong.

Sagittarius:

Worrying about your loved ones might make you feel disturbed this week. Try to indulge yourself in meditation and yoga as they will help you in achieving a firm focus. Such classes might help you in developing inner peace throughout the week. You may see things

turning out in you for no other reason than sheer luck. Be careful not to get so caught up in the momentum of the events that you overlook your own basic needs and spend your entire week daydreaming.

Capricorn:

You might not be well this week which will make you unable to make good business decisions. You will be in the best state of your health this week which will give you a lot of energy to focus on the other aspects of your life. Continue to take care of your health like you do and you will find yourself succeeding even more because your health favors your hectic schedules. You will have immense support from your partner this week. They will understand your struggles and won't be in your way this week. Use this week to improve your health and learn new skills that you have been wanting to for a long time. Your business requires you to be an all-rounder and focus on it as much as possible.

Aquarius:

You will have a newfound self-confidence that will help you navigate easily through this week. Work on creating more contacts and showcasing more of your work amongst your colleagues. As you have the upper hand at work this week makes sure to help your colleagues who have fallen behind in work. This self-confidence can easily turn into ego if you don't take care, which will only create negative effects. Work on being self-disciplined in terms of healthy eating exercise and work. As the stars are in your favor this week, you will be able to make a lot of profit if you try. Your health will do great throughout the week as you're more likely to stay agile and active. Focus on calming your energies as well, which you can do by learning to meditate.

Pisces:

You need to spend a lot of time with your family and friends just relaxing and letting loose. Your health is in this condition due to overworking for a long time, stressing out about your health will only make it worse. As you practice joy and exuberance throughout each day, your health will improve. If you do not relax this week your health will take a turn for the worse and force you to rest anyway hence listen to your body's sign and cut yourself some slack. Your business will suffer a minor loss this week which will make it hard to resist for you to go back to work, try to do as much as you can with a calm and relaxed approach. Outsourcing and getting work done will work very well in your favor. Your relationship with your partner will be rocky at the starting of the week, but it will be a lot better as the week goes by.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE June 7 - June 13, 2021

By Astro Friend Chirag - Blessed Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

CONTD FROM PAGE 34

June 7

Ganesha says you will get financial & social growth in your business a lot today. Victory over enemies will come today, as you will close a deal with a prospect that a lot of your competitors have been trying to approach. Expect a huge celebration today with your employees and friends for this win. Today will be a great day for you to get to know a lot of people you'll be interested in.

June 8

Your business is doing great today. All those calculated risks that you took turned out to be in your favor and are paying off today. Today you need to cut yourself some slack. Your leadership skills will impress a new prospect today and will yield very positive results with very little of your time and attention needed. You will be very engrossed in your art today. Try to spend as much time as you can do what you love. Enrolling in dance or art classes will consistently keep you happy. That would be a good decision you make today.

June 9

Quite a positive and magical day for you today. You will spend the day feeling content and

grateful. Things, where you were stuck before, will suddenly start clearing up. Your mental health is doing well, and you will be in a good mood throughout the day. Your partner will be very supportive of you and will be a major reason you get through today without any anxiety. Even though you won't have time to love and appreciate your partner as you are busy with your work today make sure to express your feelings whenever you make time.

June 10

You will experience beauty in your life, you might get what you're trying to accomplish. Practice gratitude for what you already have. Today will be easy as your personal life is getting better; a feeling of serenity guides you throughout the day. Prosperity is bright in your sign today as you have worked really hard in your business for a really long time. Sun is in your favor when it comes to your business today. Do not over think and simply focus on being productive.

June 11

You will experience love in abundance today. You will feel blessed to have your partner today. As they will be your biggest support system through all thick and thin, you will realize today that they are a keeper, and you will immediately start planning for your future. You will feel like today

is your day. New opportunities will arise from where you least expect them. Prepare yourself for a lot of hard work and in turn, you will get great profits by the end of the day today.

June 12

You're outgoing and friendly nature ensures that you treat both your staff and customers well. When you go to a meeting or when you discuss with new people about business progress make sure you're keeping in mind that you need to make extremely lucrative decisions for your business that is the way to go for you. You might face some hormonal changes today and you will be susceptible to fatigue today. You sometimes forget to look after yourself when you are busy with work; hence you are vulnerable to health issues today which will be related to your stomach.

June 13

You will come across few people with whom you will instantly confide in. You are most like to spend today with new people only and you will have fun doing so. Make sure you do not listen to advice from people who do not know your life closely. You will need to be responsible and hardworking in terms of your work and your health. You will not achieve anything by slacking off hence start working as early as you can. You will thank yourself later today.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMAH ||



Know/Buy your Lucky Gemstones

From the House of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

To buy any Gemstone, visit www.BejanDaruwalla.com

Contact us for all kind of Astrology Services

Call/ Whatsapp +91 8141234275

Email: info@bejandaruwalla.com



World Famous Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

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

hprealty1@gmail.com

Jeet Dhillon

Licensed Real Estate Broker
New York and Indiana

(516) 830-0352



Hinduism is full of symbolism—arguably no other religion employs the art of symbolism as effectively as the Hindus. Most of these symbols are representative of the philosophies, teachings, omen, and even the gods and goddesses.

In Hinduism, symbols play a major ritual in social life, culture, and rituals. Hinduism is full of powerful theories and philosophies which find similarity with the modern science. Over time many concepts of Hinduism are gaining credibility among modern scientists.

Let us look at major symbols of Hinduism and their deep meaning they convey.

Aum

The Aum (Om)) is the most important spiritual Hindu symbol and its sound is used in meditation. In Hinduism, the word “Om” is the first syllable in any prayer.

More specifically, Om is used to signifying the universe and the ultimate reality. Some people say that this symbol represents the three aspects of God: the Brahma (A), the Vishny (U), and the Shiva (M).

Om is a foundation of Hinduism, where it is considered the very first sound of the universe. “Before the sound Om, there was nothing.” It is sometimes wrongly pronounced as ‘Om.’ The correct pronunciation however is ‘Aum’. The ‘A’ here represents creation, ‘U’ is manifestation, and ‘M’ is destruction.

Lotus

The lotus is a very important symbol of Indian cultural heritage. Hindu scriptures are full of praises of the lotus because it is very sacred to all the Gods.

God Brahma and Buddha are both shown sitting on a lotus. The Sun is also like a red lotus rising from the blue ocean/sky. Lord Vishnu holds a lotus in one of His left hands. Goddess Lakshmi also holds a lotus, presumably because both were obtained from the ocean churning.

It is a water-borne flower, yet not even a drop of water stays on the lotus or its leaf, so it is regarded as the most appropriate symbol of detachment from surroundings.

Tilak, Dot, Bindu

Our ancient human ancestors saw the shape and form of their own body on earth and he also saw the burning ball-like shape of the Sun in the sky.

This was his first acquaintance with shape. Then, they also saw the clouds assuming random shapes and dimensions so they start to give shapes and forms to their own ideas and thoughts and realized that the starting point of all shapes and forms is a point. Geometry recognizes the point as a shape without dimensions which, though it cannot be described, still exists. Every drawn line is a string of points so he conceived a starting point to describe his thoughts, visions, and emotions and to express them with the help of his own sound.

Thus, sound and point became intertwined. A dot or point is the seed of language expressed by sound so it was the finale of the highest attainment.

A dot or point is the abode of Shiva-Shakti, Vishnu-Lakshmi-Shakti. Every person belonging to any society or civilization had an indomitable will and urge to communicate his thoughts, emotions, and experiences to indicate their distinct identity, so symbols were developed.

Swastik

For success in every undertaking human beings pray to God by invoking hymns, singing praise, recitations, etc. The Rishis had determined a shape as a symbol to propitiate cherished desire. The root of Swastik is su + us su means benefic and us means existence; whosoever desires to have glory, prosperity, progress, success, etc. is advised to invoke the Swastik Yantra.

The swastika is also one the most recognized Hindu Symbol outside India. This however has to do with its infamous association with Nazi Germany symbol.

Shree Chakra or Shree Yantra

Sri Yantra – symbol of formed by nine interlocking

Hinduism symbols and their meaning



triangles that radiate out from the central point.

The Garbh-Grah — sanctum sanctorum, of Lord Venkateshwara’s temple in India, has a highly powerful Shreeyantra beneath the foundation, so this temple has become a wish-fulfilling holy place for real devotees. It is the richest temple in India.

It is claimed that a Shree Yantra made with five precious metal alloys in the prescribed composition as laid down by the Rishis and sanctified by a Siddha saint, acquires undisputable potency of bestowing riches on the devotee for several years as per the potency infused in it.

Sir John Woodruff and Dr. N.J. Button of U.K., and Dr. Zejerta of Germany have undertaken a deep study and research on the scientific construction and celestial effects of Shree Yantra. In Russia, Dr. Alexi Kulaicheva has attempted to analyse and study the formation of Shree Chakra or Shree Yantra on a computer to establish its precision and accuracy.

Rudraksha

Rudraksha is the seed (stone) of a fruit of a rare species of a tree found in Nepal, Java, Sumatra and Malaya. In India, it has been found in Haridwar and spotted at some centers in Konkan and Karnataka. It is roundish with a cellular demarcation and has a central bore. Small or unripe, unmatured seeds are of no value.

Rarely, a seed with no bore is also seen but then it becomes a piece of great sanctity value if it has only 1 cell mark. The cellular mark/division varies from 1 to 21 per seed. The Rishis observed these peculiarities and made detailed investigations because they noticed that every seed is a ball of energy but the efficacy quantum differed from piece to piece with different cellular markings but there was no difference in any two identical seeds.

Rudraksha holds a place of pride in the Rigveda, Atharvaveda, Skand Puran, and other scriptures because of their beneficial properties of attracting healthy vibrations. Saints wear it as a necklace; the Rishis had deified it as an ornament of Lord Shiva.

Sacred Thread

To encourage cooperation and establish order in society, Hindus had divided the life span of every

person into four distinct divisions — Brahmacharya — the celebrate life of a student; Grihastha — family life; Vanprastha — the third portion of life when a person should detach himself from family bonds and endeavour to serve the society; and Sanyasa — when a person should finally renounce the world. In this final stage, the person ceases to belong to his family, caste, or creed. Instead, he devotes himself to spread the message of the scriptures of love and benevolence and simultaneously practices Yogic Sadhna to illuminate his own self to attain salvation.

There is no sanction for leading an idle life and becoming a burden on society or to look to pass life in an old-age-home run with the help of others. To make life simpler and enjoyable, Lord Shree Krishna preached secularism, saying, “I have divided mankind in four stages (Ashrams) as per their competence/capability and deeds (calling) or professions so, there is no need for any class conflict, or haves and have-nots in society.”

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

“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.”

LADOO MATRIMONIAL

ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇ ਹੀ ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇ RISTHE HI RISTHE

We Provide Worldwide Services



Jetander Sapra

212-470-7175, 516-309-0236

ladooatrimonial@gmail.com

jetandersapra@gmail.com

261-03, Hillside Ave, Floral Park-11004

www.ladooatrimonial.com

Indian Visa Center

VISA / OCI PIO / PASSPORT
APPLICATION ASSISTANCE CENTER

349 S. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801

DEEPAK BANSAL

Email: 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

www.indousexpress.com

GREAT SERVICE, 7 DAYS A WEEK, 365 DAYS A YEAR!

CALL ABOUT OUR SPECIAL RATES



TO INDIA/WORLDWIDE



Rohan Handa
Executive Partner
New York Life

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

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



**The Indian Panorama
FOR FREE AT**

www.theindianpanorama.news

If you wish to mesmerize yourself with the beauty that nature hides within itself, a Dalhousie travel is something you should plan for. It is an amazing location with raw natural beauty and unprecedented greenery and forest. Furthermore, you have places like Khajjiar and Kalatop Wildlife Sanctuary in the vicinity. What else would any nature explorer want?

KHAJJJAR

Most likely that you would have already seen Khajjiar. This location has been used so many times in movies that you can often recall this destination with breathtaking landscape view. There is a reason Khajjiar is called the Mini-Switzerland in India. This is a destination which will be instantly recommended to you whenever you travel to Dalhousie. Khajjiar is a 21.7 KM drive from Dalhousie.

KALATOP WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Not many people know about this beautiful place near Khajjiar. Kalatop is actually a wildlife sanctuary where you go up to the forest rest house. The rest house is situated approximately 3 KM from the gate. You can stay in the rest house at quite a reasonable price. There is also a jungle walk till Khajjiar from here which is 12 KM of awe-inspiring jungle and adventure of a lifetime. The adventure seekers and true nature lovers must visit the place at least once

SACH PASS

In all accounts, Sach pass is again one of the great destinations near Dalhousie and Khajjiar. It is approximately 70 KM from the district headquarter of Chamba. It is under 100 KM travel from Dalhousie. Sach pass is the raw nature at its best. Snow-capped landscape with streams of water bodies and breathtaking view.

This place, however, is for extreme adventure travelers and you would need an SUV to conquer the treacherous roads. Do not expect urban amenities near this lap of the nature destination. It is, however, worth going for what it offers. Nature at its truest form.

Ganji Pahari

An hour walk i.e almost 5 km away from Dalhousie, located in Bakrota Hills this has the most alluring landscapes and panoramic views you'll ever come across. It was named as the bald hill due to absence of any kinds of plants growing here. This place looks like you've stepped into heaven during winters as it gets completely covered in snow. One of the best places to visit in Dalhousie make sure you don't miss this one.

MALL ROAD

Yes Dalhousie too has a mall road. It is great place to spend some time and shop.

KAILASH VILLAGES

Mostly resting in the middle of lush mountains and dense deodar forests, the laidback and picturesque villages are some of the best places to visit in Khajjiar, to experience the country life. Rota, Ladi etc are some of the most wonderful villages offering clear views of the Mount Kailash, green slopes, and snow-capped peaks you'll want to capture in your camera. These villages are around Khajjiar Ground and are popular for their apple orchards.

If you're willing to stay back to explore the villages of

Dalhousie, Khajjiar: A nature lover's heaven



Khajjiar, then there are homestays where you can comfortably stay with the locals, eat authentic Himachal food, and experience the beauty of the slow life of the mountains.

PANCH PANDAV TREE

Within the thick deodar forests surrounding the Khajjiar Lake, Panch Pandav Tree is one of the unique places to see in Khajjiar. This tree has 6 shoots and locals believe that the same represent 5 pandavas and Draupadi. Panch Pandav tree is located near a rest house, that leads to remote Khajjiar villages. Just about a kilometer from Khajjiar towards Dalhousie, is a giant deodar tree with about 15 shoots of similar height. This one is known as 'Mother Tree' in the region and around.

KHAJJI NAG TEMPLE

Dedicated to Khaji Nag or Lord of Serpents, this is one of the oldest temples of Himachal Pradesh and one of the best Khajjiar places to visit. Khaji Nag temple was built in 12th century and the wood carvings reflect Hindu-Mughal architecture style and pattern. Resting on the bank of Khajjiar Lake, this temple boasts of idols of Shiva, Hidimba, and images of Pandava and Kaurava. The age-old practice of goat sacrifice is still practiced here in the temple.

NINE HOLE GOLF COURSE

Looking for places to visit in Khajjiar that offer a touch of aristocracy and luxury? Well, we solved that issue for you with this suggestion of ours! Nine Hole Golf Course is one of the high class, fancy places in Khajjiar and

indulging in sports here is definitely one of the best ways to enjoy Khajjiar's scenic views and beauty.

DHAULADAR RANGE

If you wish to know about places to visit in Khajjiar for trekking then this is it! The Dhauladar Range in Khajjiar is the perfect location to indulge in it and to give you a sudden adrenaline rush. The snow-capped peaks serving as the perfect backdrop and the mesmerising views are worth dying for! Brace yourselves to witness the mountains in all their glory and have the time of your life!

DAINKUND PEAK

Dainkund Peak is among the most beautiful and scenic places to visit near Khajjiar. It's the highest peak in Dalhousie, which means other high snow-capped peaks are clearly visible on a sunny day. It turns into a white heaven in winter and the lush green meadows welcome tourists during summer. Anyone looking for some great places to visit in Dalhousie in December must not skip this.

SATDHARA FALLS

Amongst all the Dalhousie Tourist places, this is one of the most famous ones. Situated at a height of 2036 metres above sea level the name of the place is defined by the seven beautiful springs. These springs are known to have therapeutic and high medicinal properties for several ailments. So, if you wanna relax and rejuvenate make sure you include this in your itinerary.



CONTD FROM PAGE 1

US VP Harris speaks with PM Modi...

requested vaccines', according to Senior White House Advisor and Chief Spokesperson Symone Sanders.

Thanking Harris, PM Modi tweeted, "I deeply appreciate the assurance of vaccine supplies to India as part of the US Strategy for Global Vaccine Sharing. I also thanked her for the all the support and solidarity from the US government, businesses and Indian diaspora." Modi and Harris also discussed ongoing efforts to further strengthen India-US vaccine cooperation, "and the potential of our partnership to contribute to post-Covid global health and economic recovery", added the prime minister in his tweet.

The prime minister also expressed the hope to welcome Harris in India 'soon after the normalization of the global health situation'. Also Read - Uyghur exiles describe forced abortions, torture in Xinjiang Apart from Modi, Harris also dialed President Andres Manuel López Obrador of Mexico, President Alejandro Giammattei of Guatemala, and Prime Minister Keith Rowley, Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). "The Vice President notified each of the leaders that the Biden-Harris Administration will begin sharing the rest 25 million doses of COVID vaccines to their respective countries and others, as part of the Biden-Harris Administration's framework for sharing at least 80 million vaccines globally by the end of June," the White House said in a statement.

US President Joe Biden on Thursday, June 3, announced his plans to allocate 75 per cent - nearly 19 million of the first tranche of 25 million doses - of unused COVID-19 vaccines through the UN-backed COVAX global vaccine sharing programme to countries in South and Southeast Asia as well as Africa. In a statement, President Biden provided details on how the US will allocate the first 25 million of the vaccines to lay the ground for increased global coverage and to address real and potential surges, high burdens of disease, and the needs of the most vulnerable countries. "At least 75 percent of these doses - nearly 19 million- will be shared through COVAX, including approximately 6 million doses for Latin America and the Caribbean, approximately 7 million for South and Southeast Asia, and approximately 5 million for Africa," Biden said. "The remaining doses, just over 6 million, will be shared directly with countries experiencing surges, those in crisis, and other partners and neighbors, including Canada, Mexico, India, and the Republic of Korea, he said.

The Biden administration had been under pressure to send the excess COVID-19 vaccines with the US to nations like India, which are facing severe vaccine shortages. "We are sharing these doses not to secure favors or extract concessions. We are sharing these vaccines to save lives and to lead the world in bringing an end to the pandemic... And we will continue to follow the science and to work in close cooperation with our democratic partners to coordinate a multilateral effort, including through the G7, Biden added. COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access, abbreviated as COVAX, is a worldwide initiative aimed at equitable access to

COVID-19 vaccines directed by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, and the World Health Organisation.

President Biden on May 17 had said the US will share 20 million more COVID-19 vaccine doses with other countries, taking the total number of such shots to 80 million. Ten million is equal to one crore. The additional 20 million doses will be of the Pfizer Inc/BioNTech, Moderna Inc and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, on top of 60 million AstraZeneca Plc doses he had already planned to give to other countries. Biden said the United States "also recognize that ending this pandemic means ending it everywhere. As long as this pandemic is raging anywhere in the world, the American people will still be vulnerable. And the United States is committed to bringing the same urgency to international vaccination efforts that we have demonstrated at home. (Agencies)

Eager to involve Indian investigators...

the world and the highest number of deaths (611,000), India ranks second on cases (more than 28 million) and third on deaths (338,000), globally.

"International cooperation and collaboration are essential to advance scientific discovery, and to manage global health threats," said Dr. Fauci. "We must address inequities in our health systems, so that future epidemics are not a burden primarily borne by disadvantaged populations. Finally, we all need to make sure that the public receive accurate, evidence-based guidance from health officials, and political leadership," he added.

US Congress tables Bill to remove...

Senate before it can be sent to the White House for the President to sign it into a law.

Its predecessor, the Fairness for High Skilled Immigrants Act, was passed in the House in the 116th Congress with a resounding bipartisan vote of 365 to 65. "We all know that our immigration system is severely broken, and it has been broken for decades," said Lofgren, Chair of the House Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

The basic framework for allocating the immigrant visa dates back to the middle of the 20th century and was last seriously updated in 1990, when the Congress established the worldwide numerical limits on visa and the seven per cent per-country cap that still exists today, she said. Over time, these limitations have led to backlogs that were unimaginable in 1990. The effect has been that countries with relatively small populations are allocated the same number of visas as a relatively large population country.

"The result? A person from a large-population country with extraordinary qualifications who could contribute greatly to our economy and create jobs waits behind a person with lesser qualifications from a smaller country," she added. (Source: PTI)

Supreme Court of India throws out...

Those offences, going by the allegations in the FIR and other attending circumstances, are not made out at all and any prosecution in respect thereof would be

violative of the rights of the petitioner guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution," a Bench headed by Justice UU Lalit said.

Had played govt on YouTube show

- Mar 30, 2020: Dua's YouTube video slams government over nationwide lockdown in 2020
- May 6: FIR against Dua in HP by local BJP leader, alleging sedition
- June 4: Another FIR against Dua in Delhi by a BJP spokesperson
- June 10: Delhi HC stays probe into FIR lodged in Capital
- June 12: HP Police summon Dua
- June 13: Dua moves SC
- June 14: SC restrains HP Police from arresting Dua, but doesn't stay probe
- Sep 16: Centre tells SC Dua's show incited people to migrate during pandemic
- June 3, 2021: SC quashes sedition case against Dua

The Bench, which had reserved its verdict on October 6 last year, said: "We have quashed the proceedings and the FIR. Every journalist will be entitled to protection under the Kedar Nath Singh judgment (on sedition)." While upholding the validity of Section 124A of the IPC (sedition), a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court had in Kedar Nath Singh case (1962) restricted the scope of the law by saying that its application should be limited to "acts involving intention or tendency to create disorder, or disturbance of law and order; or incitement to violence".

The Bench, however, rejected Dua's prayer for setting up of a high-level committee in each state for prior vetting of sedition charges against journalists of 10-year standing, saying that "it will be directly encroaching upon the legislative domain".

The Shimla FIR was registered at the instance of a BJP leader, who filed a criminal complaint against Dua, accusing him of instigating violence against the government by allegedly spreading fake news.

Quoting from its verdict in the Kedar Nath Singh case, the top court said, "A citizen has a right to say or write whatever he likes about the government, or its measures, by way of criticism or comment, so long as he does not incite people to violence against the government established by law or with the intention of creating public disorder."

It said, "It's only when the words or expressions have pernicious tendency or intention of creating public disorder or disturbance of law and order that Sections 124A...of the IPC must step in."

Referring to Dua's alleged seditious statements, the Bench said they could "at best be termed as expression of disapprobation of actions of the government and its functionaries so that the prevailing situation could be addressed quickly."

"They were certainly not made with the intent to incite people or showed a tendency to create disorder or disturbance of public peace. The petitioner was within the permissible limits laid down in the decision of this court in the Kedar Nath Singh case," it said while quashing the First Information Report (FIR). (Source: PTI)

MAKE YOUR
BRAND ROAR
IN THIS
FEROCIOUS
MARKET



Advertise for as little as
\$10.00.
Call 646-247-9458



The Indian Panorama
FOR FREE AT
www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian cricket teams land in England

The Indian men's cricket team arrived here on June 4, for the upcoming World Test Championship final against New Zealand and the subsequent Test series against hosts England.

The men's team was accompanied by the women's team, which is touring England for three ODIs and as many T20Is besides one Test. Both the teams will now travel to Southampton, where they will complete their mandatory quarantine.

Upon completion of the quarantine period and the subsequent Covid-19 test, the Virat Kohli-led men's team will take on New Zealand in the maiden WTC final starting on June 18. The men's team will then face England in a five-match Test series starting August 4.

India likely to send 190-strong contingent to Olympics: Batra

The Indian contingent for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics is expected to be around 190, including over 100 athletes, IOA president Narinder Batra said on Thursday as Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju unveiled the official kits for the country's participants.

So far, 100 athletes have qualified for the Tokyo Games, including 56 men and 44 women.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) expects another 25 to 35 to make the cut for the Games, which open on July 23.

"...we are estimating to touch 125 to 135 (qualified athletes) by the next two to three weeks when the qualification process is over," Batra said during the online ceremony.

French Open: Nadal reaches 3rd round

Amid an unusual silence on an empty center court at the French Open, defending champion Rafael Nadal celebrated his 35th birthday with something very familiar: another victory against Richard Gasquet.

Nadal won 6-0, 7-5, 6-2 against Gasquet to improve to 17-0 for his career against the Frenchman since they first met in 2004. Gasquet hasn't even won a set in the past 12 losses to Nadal and not since 2008.

There were no fans on Court Philippe Chatrier to witness Nadal's 102nd victory at Roland Garros, with all leaving by 9 p.m. because of coronavirus rules.

The 13-time champion won the first set in 24 minutes. "I think I played an amazing first set," Nadal said.

ENG VS NZ 1ST TEST

Devon Conway marks Test debut with record double ton

LONDON (TIP): New Zealand built on test debutant Devon Conway's chanceless double-hundred by taking two early England wickets before Rory Burns and Joe Root mounted a recovery on Day 2 of the first test at Lord's on Thursday, June 3.

Replying to New Zealand's first-innings total of 378 that was anchored by Conway's 347-ball 200, England reached stumps on 111-2 with Burns unbeaten on 59 and Root on 42 not out, their partnership up to 93.

It was England's day at the home of cricket, with Root's team gaining a foothold in the match after an opening day dominated by the New Zealanders.

But it was also another special day for Conway, who resumed on 136 and stayed patient and composed as wickets fell regularly at the other end to eventually become just the second New Zealand batsman to score a double hundred on Test debut.

He reached the milestone with a pull for six and took his helmet off to receive the acclaim of the 25% capacity crowd at Lord's, where his name will be on the storied venue's Honours Board.

Conway didn't face another ball as, in the very next over, he came up just short of the crease as he sprinted back to the non-striker's end for a second run. He was the last man out, leaving No. 11 Neil Wagner on 25 not out off 21 balls – potentially valuable runs at the end of the innings.

Conway, a South African-born opener, was given a standing ovation as he walked back to the pavilion, having made the highest score by a batsman on test debut in England. He broke a 125-year-old record held by former England player K.S. Ranjitsinhji, who scored 154 in Manchester in 1896.

Earlier, the dismissal of Henry Nicholls for 61 triggered the Black Caps' collapse from 288-3 to 319-8, which included a six-over spell by Mark Wood where the paceman took three wickets for seven runs.

"We said yesterday that although we only picked up three wickets, we never let them get away," England batting coach Graham Thorpe said. "We knew if we made inroads today, we could come back in. "To bowl New Zealand out from where we



Devon Conway soaks in the applause for his double-hundred on debut.

were at the start of the day, we're really pleased."

Ollie Robinson, another player making his test debut, had England's best bowling figures of 4-75. After stumps on Wednesday, the paceman was close to tears as he apologized for a string of sexist and racist messages that he posted on Twitter from 2012-14 and which resurfaced over social media while the game was being played.

"Yesterday was a hard day, it tested his personality and character," Thorpe said. "How he responded today, we were really pleased. We have to support him as a player in our team and we were really happy with the way he performed."

Burns justified his recall, having been dropped for the final two tests in India last winter, with an encouraging knock in which he batted fluidly after a nervy start.

He and Root came together on 18-2 after Dom Sibley was trapped lbw to Kyle Jamieson and Zak Crawley got the faintest edge to a heave off Tim Southee, with New Zealand's probing seamers finding early movement.

Top-ranked Ash Barty retires from French Open with hip injury

Bothered by a painful hip, top-ranked Ash Barty retired Thursday from her second-round match at the French Open, leaving the clay-court Grand Slam tournament without any of the top three women in the rankings.

The 2019 champion trailed 6-1, 2-2 when she signaled that she couldn't continue against Polish opponent Magda Linette on Court Philippe Chatrier.

"I was battling the pain, and it just became too severe, and like I said, was becoming unsafe," Barty said of the injury that had flared up during training before the tournament.

In addition to Barty's departure, No. 2 Naomi Osaka withdrew after the first round – she said she is going to take a break from competition for mental health reasons – and No. 3 Simona Halep pulled out before the tournament began because of a leg injury.

In the buildup to this year's French Open, Barty played 13 matches on clay and won 11. She posted a record of 27-5 and won three singles titles before Roland Garros. But she was forced to retire in the quarterfinals in Rome in May because of an injury to her right arm. She said that injury had healed



and did not hamper her in Paris.

"It's heartbreaking," Barty said. "We have had such a brilliant clay-court season, and to kind of get a little bit unlucky with timing, more than anything, to have something kind of acute happen over the weekend and just kind of run out of time against the clock is disappointing."

The Australian started the match with her left thigh bandaged and it was immediately clear she could not move properly. Too slow to chase her opponent's shots, she struggled in long rallies and with her first serve.

FIFA World Cup Qualifiers Highlights: 10-men India lose 1-0 to Qatar

A 10-man India defended creditably well as they suffered a 0-1 defeat to Asian champions Qatar in their World Cup qualifying round match here on Thursday.

Abdel Aziz scored in the 33rd minute in a match completely dominated by the Qataris. The two sides had played out a goal-less draw in their first leg match here in September 2019.

Group toppers Qatar, who are yet to lose a match, had waves of attacks with their eight to nine players in the Indian half for most of the time. Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu had to pull off a series of saves to keep the margin of loss small.

India, however, played with 10 men from the 17th minute onwards after defender Rahul Bheke was red carded after a second booking. He had earlier received a yellow card in the ninth minute.

India did have two good moves in the match from counter attacks with Manvir Singh in the thick of things on both occasions.

India captain Sunil Chhetri, who returned to the team after recovering from COVID-19 infection, was replaced by Udanta Singh at the resumption of second half.

A winless India remained in fourth spot in Group E with three points from six matches.

Igor Stimac's men are two points behind Afghanistan (third with five points) who played out a 1-1 draw against Bangladesh earlier in the day.



GOPIO MANHATTAN & Consulate General of India
The Indian Panorama and Indian American Forum

with

Happy Life Yoga

presents

International Yoga Day 2021

Happy Life Yoga

If You feel You deserve and want to Live Happier ,
 Healthier & More Fulfilling Life , HAPPY LIFE YOGA
 can show you how ? A way of living inspired by the
 wisdom of Ayurveda, Yoga & Indian philosophy

(NO MATS NEEDED)

Guest Speakers

Randhir Jaiswal

Chief Guest

Consul General of India



सत्यमेव जयते
 Consulate General of India
 New York, NY USA



Facebook Live: IndusTV



Prof. Indrajit Saluja



Dr. Bhuvan Lall



Anil Narang



Neil & Andrea



Indu Jaiswal



Sangeeta Agarawal



Ranju Narang



Dr. Renee Mehra



Deborah Fishman



Host

Tirlok Malik

HAPPY LIFE YOGA SPEAKER &
 EMMY NOMINATED FILMMAKER

Saturday, June 19th

10.00 A.M. to 11.15 am EST

(USA/Canada)

UK: 3 PM | India: 7:30 PM

USA: 7 AM PST

Zoom: 825 9465 7441

Passcode: 2021



Guest Singer

Pallavi Verma

Founding LifeMember
 Gopio Manhattan, NYC



FOLLOW US ON
facebook

Facebook Live: IndusTV

www.theindianpanorama.news | <https://indianamericanforum.org>

www.GOPIOMANHATTAN.org

www.HAPPYLIFEYOGA.org

EAST WEST OPTICIANS



***Eye Exam
*Contact Lens
*Eye Glass
*Sunglass**

Authorized Dealer of
Rayban, Prada, G.A.,
Versace, Flexon
& Much More.....

**MOST INSURANCES
ACCEPTED**

DAVIS VISION EYECARE REFRAMED MetroPlus Emblem Health FIDELIS CARE eye med UFT
WellCare Aetna Affinity Health Plan 1199 SEIU vsp Blue Cross BlueShield
Nurses Association healthfirst UnitedHealthcare spectera

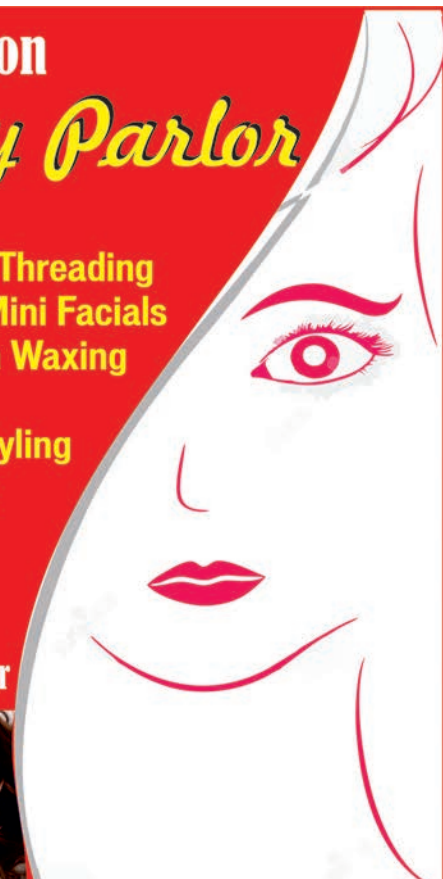
263-18 Hillside Avenue, Floral Park, N.Y. 11004
Phone: 718-335-6000; 718-533-6664
Phone / fax: 718-457-5988, Phone /Text: 718-514-0025

Order Online: www.eastwestopticians.com
Email: 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
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

**Nassau University
Medical Center**
2201 Hempstead Turnpike,
East Meadow, NY 11554
Phone: 516-296-2704
Fax: 516-572-8885

**30 Roosevelt Street,
Glen Cove, NY 11542**
Phone: 516-759-0008
Fax: 516-759-0013

**680 Broadway,
Massapequa,
NY 11758**
Phone: 516-541-4353

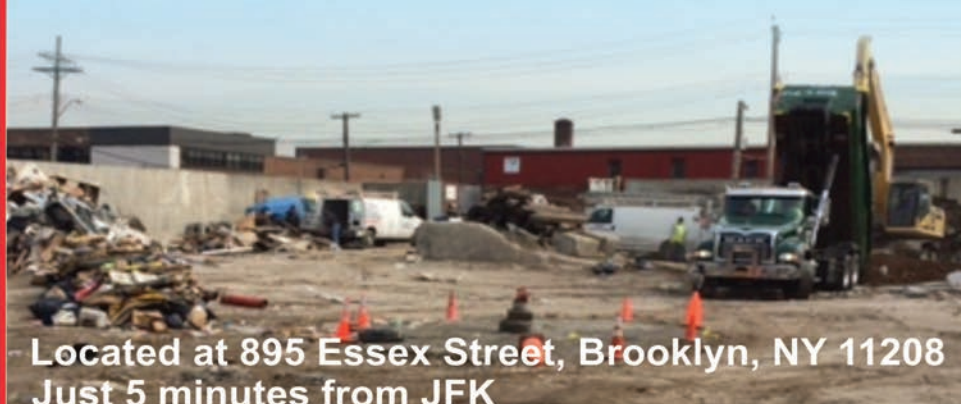
OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT / WALK INS WELCOME

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"

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



**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
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>

To know more about the work of Eye Foundation of America or to donate, visit www.eyefoundationofamerica.org

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah,
सर्वे सन्तु नरामयाः 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